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VOL: 1 NO. 17 On sale until June 18, 1997

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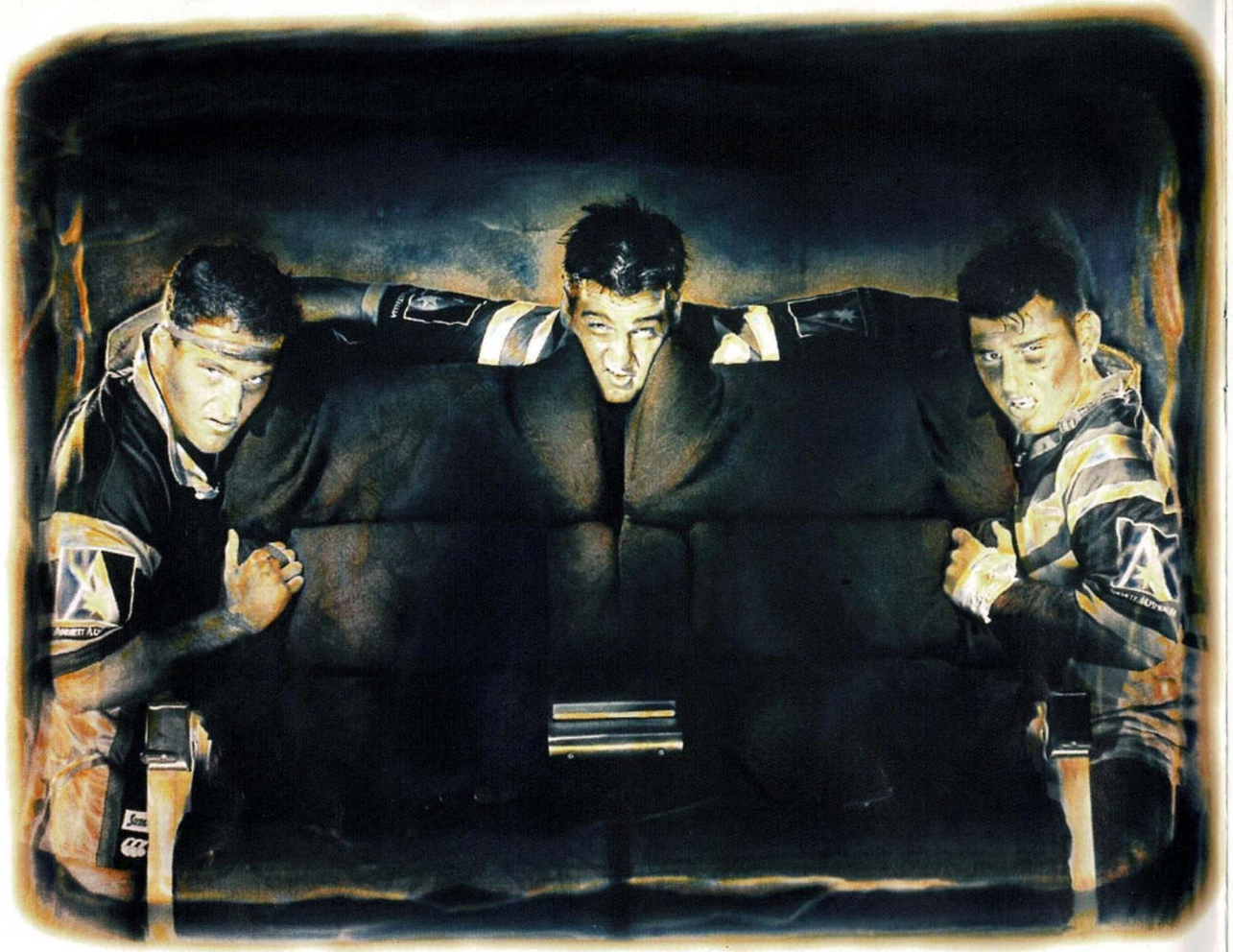
WENDELL'S REVENGE

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CANBERRA'S NEW WAVE

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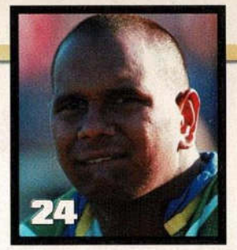
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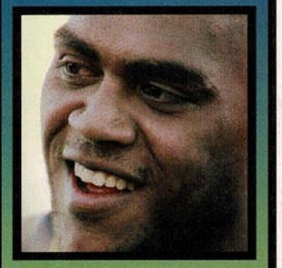
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TEAM OF THE WEEK

Fullback:	Ken Nagas (Canberra)
Wingers:	Sean Hoppe (Auckland), Jason Robinson (Wigan)
Centres:	Russell Richardson (Cronulla), Gary Connolly (Wigan)
Five-eighth:	Nigel Wright (Wigan)
Halfback:	Stacey Jones (Auckland)
Lock:	Neil Piccinelli (Hunter)
Second row:	Denis Betts (Auckland), Mick Cassidy (Wigan)
Props:	Brett Hetherington (Canberra), John Lomax (Nth Qld)
Hooker:	Kerrod Walters (Adelaide)

MAN OF THE WEEK



Canberra's Ken Nagas is all smiles -- and why wouldn't he be? Flash Kenny had just crossed for six tries against hapless Halifax, a new club record for the Raiders.

WANTING TO PLAN YOUR WEEKEND AROUND AN UPCOMING ROUND OF SUPER LEAGUE?

ROUND 10

TELSTRA CUP

7.30pm Friday night, June 27
HUNTER V CANBERRA
Topper Stadium, Newcastle

7.30pm Saturday night, June 28
NORTH QUEENSLAND V CANTERBURY
Stockland Stadium, Townsville

2.30pm Sunday, June 29
PERTH V ADELAIDE
WACA, Perth

2.30pm Sunday, June 29
PENRITH V AUCKLAND
Penrith Stadium

7.30pm Monday night, June 30
CRONULLA V BRISBANE
Shark Park, Sydney

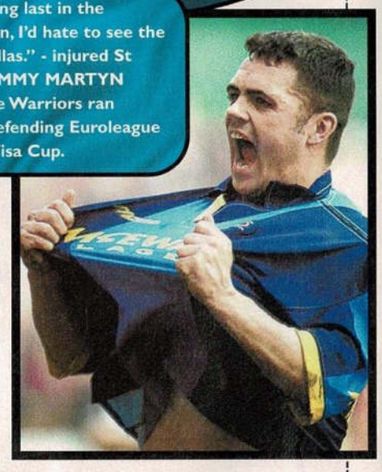


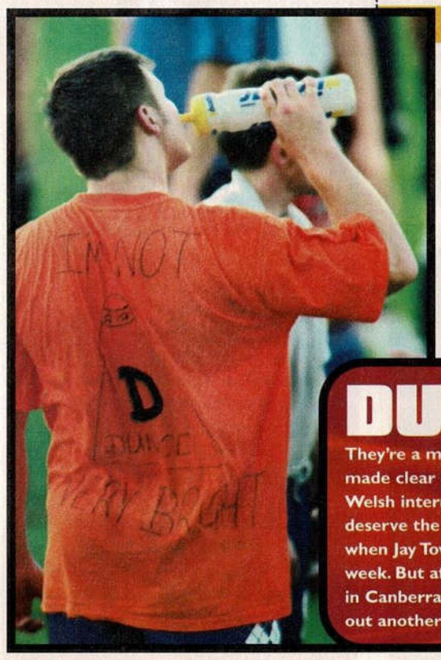
WE DIDN'T KNOW LANG SANG

Canterbury Bulldogs coach Chris Anderson is known to be keen on country and western music. You know, those songs about blokes whose wives have left them, their pick-up trucks are stolen and their dog has died and they drone on about how much they miss their dog. So Anderson must have done a double-take when he saw Jonny Lang's CD "Lie to Me." But no, it's not his rival over at the Sharks, this Lang is a young Yank strummer.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

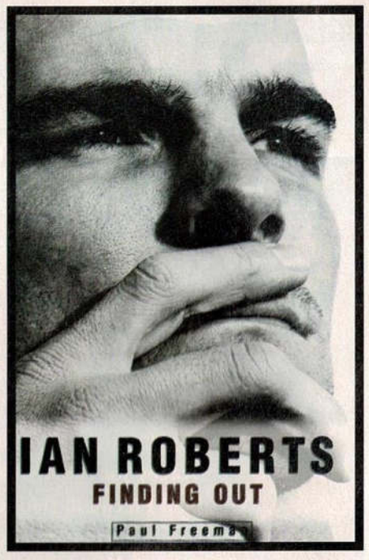
"If Auckland are coming last in the Australian competition, I'd hate to see the Canberras and Cronullas." - injured St Helens five-eighth TOMMY MARTYN watching in awe as the Warriors ran roughshod over the defending Euroleague champs 42-14 in the Visa Cup.





YOU FIND OUT

Super League prop Ian Roberts is a fascinating bloke. And a courageous one too. His book, written by Paul Freeman is out now and it doesn't pull any punches. We have six copies of the biography "Finding Out" to give away. All you have to do to be eligible to win one is write and tell us which team Roberts plays for in the ASL competition. Send your entries to "Finding Out" competition, c/- Super League magazine, 5th Floor 140 William Street Sydney 2000. Entries close midday Wednesday June 25.



DUH, DAIO

They're a mean mob these Poms. It wasn't made clear exactly what it was Halifax and Welsh international utility Daio Powell did to deserve the honour of being dunce of the day when Jay Town snapped him at training last week. But after the smashing Halifax received in Canberra they might think about handing out another 16 orange T-shirts.

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TRUE Brit

Wigan and Bradford breathe life into the Visa Cup

WIGAN and the Bradford Bulls have ensured the Visa Cup has teeth.

The two in-form English heavyweights breathed life into the World Club Challenge on Monday after their Euroleague colleagues bowed the knee, some with barely a whimper, to superior Australasian Super League teams.

But proud Wigan and the front-running Bulls refused to wilt, offering their fellow clubs some hope and ensuring the teams from Down Under won't have it all their way in the preliminary rounds and October finals.

Bradford, playing before a sold-out Odsal Stadium of 20,000 plus, came within a whisker of humbling the Penrith Panthers. It took a try two minutes from fulltime by muscular centre Sid Domic to finally break a 16-all deadlock and get the lucky Panthers home by 20-16.





SIX-PACK . . . Ken Nagas crosses for one of his six tries against Halifax

But it was mighty Wigan who carried the British flag, overpowering Canterbury 22-18 in a scoreline that grossly flattered the Bulldogs. "We were on a mission," said Warriors coach Eric Hughes. "The lads were very conscious of how the other British teams had struggled in their opening matches and we very much felt like we were flying the British flag in this one."

With world class players like Andy Farrell, Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly firing for Wigan and outstanding halves combination Tony Smith and Nigel Wright controlling the game, the Warriors look like giving the Visa Cup a real shake. Their clash in the upcoming round against the Brisbane Broncos should draw a big crowd to ANZ Stadium.

With the exception of Wigan's committed effort, the standout side of the opening round was the Canberra Raiders who walloped Halifax 70-6 at Bruce Stadium with fullback Ken Nagas setting a new club tryscoring record with six touchdowns.

"It was a good start for us and obviously very healthy for our for and against record," noted Raiders captain Ricky Stuart.

"Mal (Meninga) stressed to us before the game how important percentages are in a short competition like this one. For and against could be an important factor if it is tight after the six rounds."

Stuart, though, expects the British clubs to come back stronger after the opening round.

"I think the Euroleague clubs will be better for the run, especially the visiting teams. The pace of the game may have caught them by surprise but the experience will have them better prepared next round."

That includes Salford, well beaten by the Adelaide Rams, and Leeds, who found North Queensland too hot to handle in Townsville.

In Europe, it was a different story. It wasn't just the Penrith Panthers who had to work hard for their competition points. The Hunter Mariners and Perth Reds certainly didn't have things all their way. Paris St Germain actually led the Mariners after 24 minutes but eventually succumbed 28-12.

Perth made heavy weather of putting away the Castleford Tigers who have been rejuvenated by the arrival of Australian coach Stu Raper. The Tigers went down 24-16 but at one stage had reduced an 18-point lead by the Reds to just two points. It took a Perth try eight minutes from fulltime by Matthew Rodwell to finally put the determined Tigers down.

"I told the players at halftime Castleford would come back and we could not give them a sniff, but we gave them a sniff alright," unhappy Reds coach Dean Lance said.

For the Cronulla Sharks, there were no such worries. They led the Warrington Wolves 40-0 after 66 minutes before taking the foot off the accelerator and allowing their opposition two late tries for a final scoreline of 40-12. Cronulla underlined their backline depth with former Australian schoolboys rep Russell Richardson scoring four tries in a performance that will make it very difficult for Queensland Tri Series centre Geoff Bell to win back his first grade berth.

The signs were ominous for the Euroleague clubs as early as the English Friday night game where the Auckland Warriors ran roughshod over St Helens. Bottom-placed Auckland's 42-14 win over the defending Euroleague champs and Challenge Cup winners gave the cynics plenty of ammunition.

But in reality, Saints were always going to struggle to win this one. They were down seven regular first graders after a horrifying spate of injuries. And the Warriors, with Matthew Ridge back in the side, finally played like a team of internationals should.



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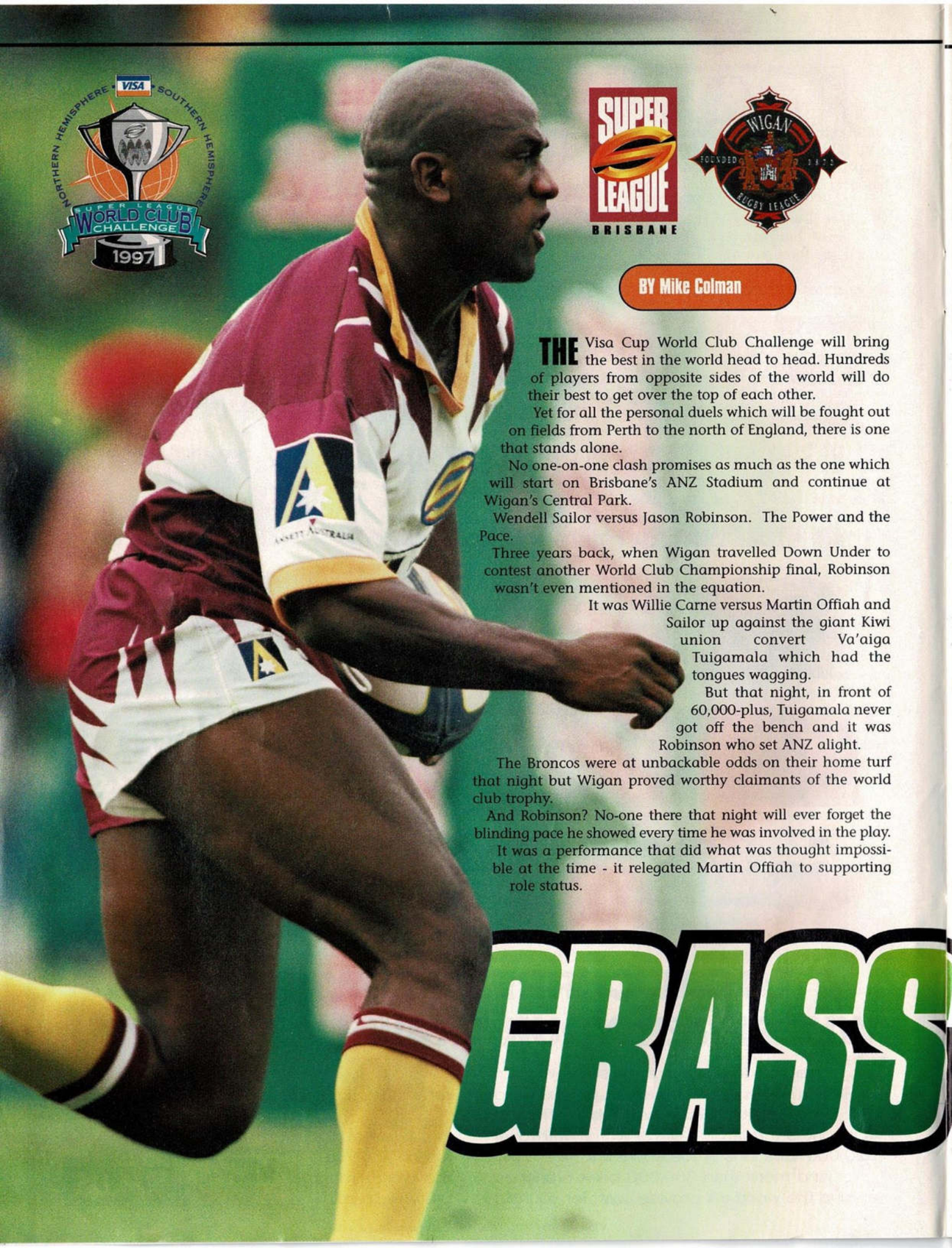
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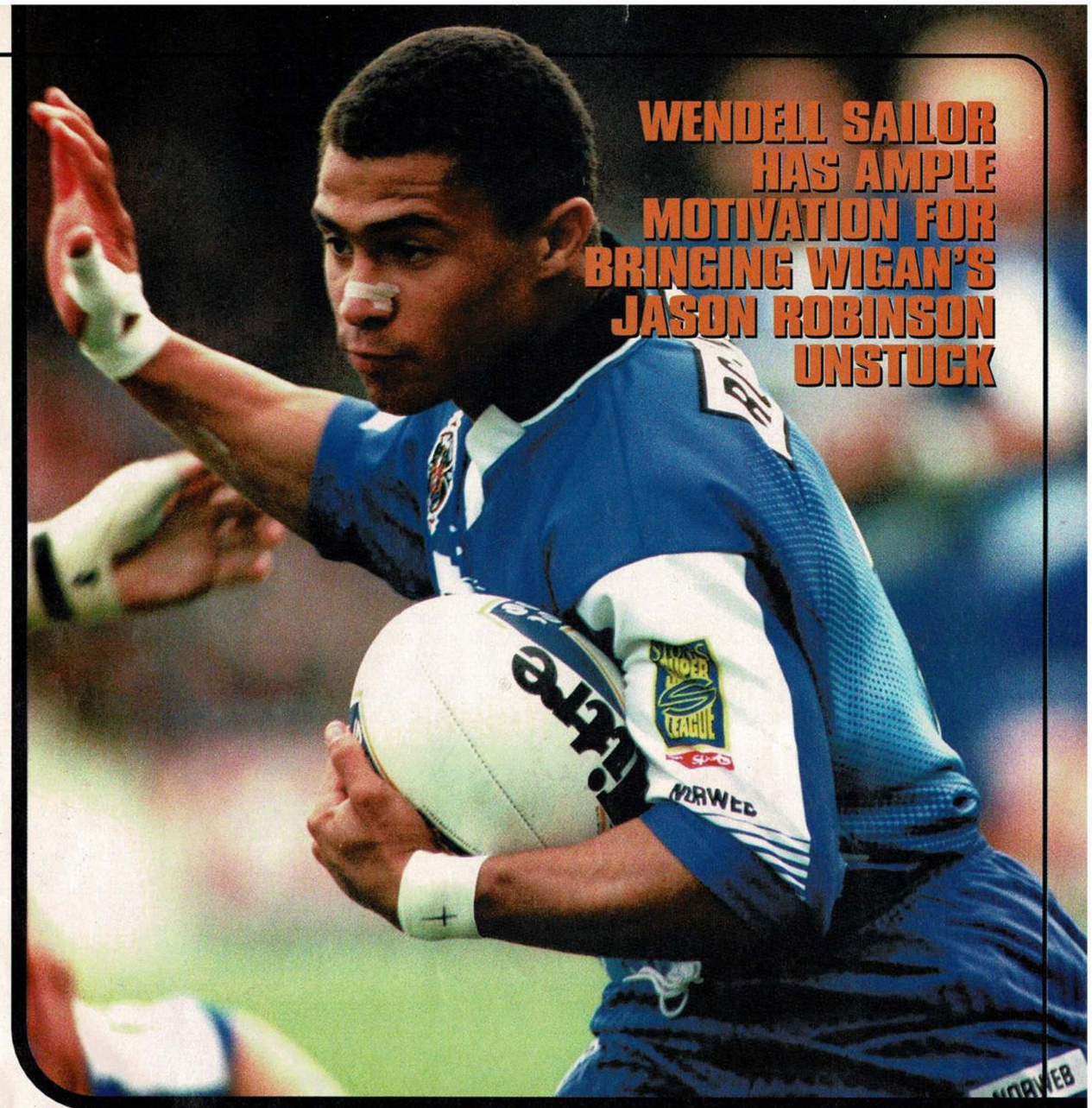
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GRASS BURNERS



WENDELL SAILOR HAS AMPLE MOTIVATION FOR BRINGING WIGAN'S JASON ROBINSON UNSTUCK

BY Mike Colman

THE Visa Cup World Club Challenge will bring the best in the world head to head. Hundreds of players from opposite sides of the world will do their best to get over the top of each other.

Yet for all the personal duels which will be fought out on fields from Perth to the north of England, there is one that stands alone.

No one-on-one clash promises as much as the one which will start on Brisbane's ANZ Stadium and continue at Wigan's Central Park.

Wendell Sailor versus Jason Robinson. The Power and the Pace.

Three years back, when Wigan travelled Down Under to contest another World Club Championship final, Robinson wasn't even mentioned in the equation.

It was Willie Carne versus Martin Offiah and Sailor up against the giant Kiwi union convert Va'aiga Tuigamala which had the tongues wagging.

But that night, in front of 60,000-plus, Tuigamala never got off the bench and it was Robinson who set ANZ alight.

The Broncos were at unbackable odds on their home turf that night but Wigan proved worthy claimants of the world club trophy.

And Robinson? No-one there that night will ever forget the blinding pace he showed every time he was involved in the play.

It was a performance that did what was thought impossible at the time - it relegated Martin Offiah to supporting role status.

GRASS BURNERS

And Wendell Sailor, who alternated between fullback and winger that night, has stored it away in his memory banks.

His determination to turn the tables on the exciting Robinson will ensure that this is a battle royale.

On paper Sailor versus Robinson would appear a mismatch. The giant awesome powerhouse Aussie against the pint-sized Pom. But don't be fooled. The Broncos were once - and they won't let it happen again.

Robinson's explosive acceleration and swerve make him amongst the most dangerous players in the game. While Sailor has earned a reputation for crashing through tackles while maintaining balance and speed, Robinson is just as adept at running around defenders.

Each in their own way, is deadly.

Little wonder they are amongst the highest profile and best paid players in rugby league. And little wonder that this clash is being seen as a match in itself.

But while the personal duel of Sailor and Robinson will no doubt be a highlight of the match, it will really just be a sideshow to what shapes up as one of the best contests of the year.

If the Broncos-Wigan clashes live up to expectations, they will be the perfect example of what the World Club Challenge is all about.

Debates over the virtues of northern and southern hemisphere teams have fuelled bar-room debates for decades.

"Ee, you've got some good players down here, but what about our local lads?"

"Give it a break mate, your blokes couldn't hold a candle to our Aussie players."

Now, in the Visa Cup, we'll see. For the first time, club teams - mid season and in their prime - will have the chance to prove their point.

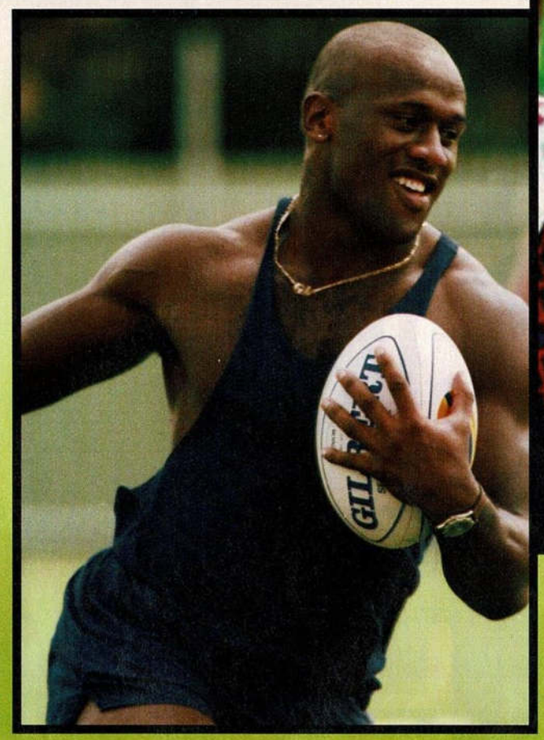
It is a chance the Englishmen intend making the most of.

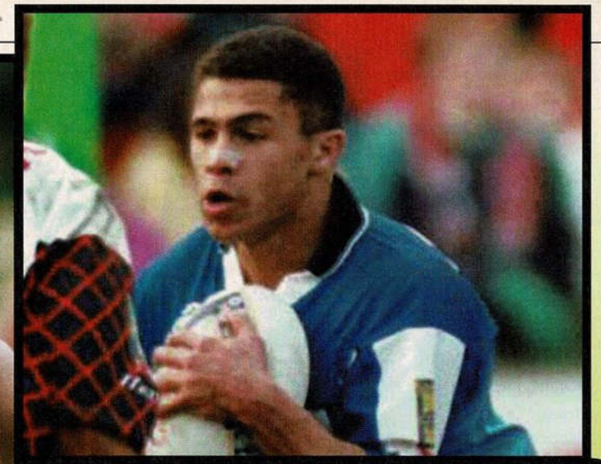
"This means a lot to our players," says Wigan coach Eric Hughes. "I'm surprised to hear some of the Australians saying they don't know much about us. We'll remember that. We've something to prove."

And that's not just talk from the Wigan mentor. For years his red and whites have ruled the roost, but this year they come to Australia out of the running for the Challenge Cup and Euroleague title.

The World Club Championship is last toss of the dice for the team long regarded the best Cup specialists in the world. They aren't used to being left out of the big games and, with money at stake, they'll be giving their all.

Up against them are the Brisbane Broncos, who will remember the night when Wigan climbed into their bus outside the Greenmount Resort at Coolangatta, drove up the expressway - and whooped their butts.





Jason definitely got the points last time he faced Wendell

It is no mere coincidence that Wigan are again staying at the Greenmount.

They want to repeat the dose.

Wendell Sailor and his fellow survivors from three years ago are determined to make the trip back down the coast a lot less joyous than last time.



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LAST LAUGH

HENRY PAUL IS THE WARRIORS' LOSS AND WIGAN'S GAIN

HENRY Paul is a man who likes a challenge.

The bigger the challenge, the more excited Paul gets. This is a man who doesn't lack self-confidence. Some mistake that as arrogance. Those who know Henry Paul say he isn't arrogant. He just knows he's very good at football. And when he sets footballing goals, he'll move heaven and earth to attain them.

An example? Well, back when Paul captained a red-hot Junior Kiwi team on an all-conquering tour of the United Kingdom in 1993, he was signed to the Auckland Warriors on a miserly scholarship along with several other tour stars such as Stacey Jones and Joe Vagana.

But English champions Wigan, who know a gem when they see one, weighed in after the fact with a substantial offer. Paul wanted to take it but was willing to stay if the Warriors - then yet to kick a ball off - upped his contract and gave him some assurance he would get a decent crack at first grade. Auckland said no, perhaps believing they could call Paul's bluff.

But if they thought Henry was willing to cool his heels simply so he could be a Warrior, even if it meant biding his time in the lower grades, they were sadly mistaken. Instead of cooling his heels, Paul dug them in. Eventually, he won the day, joining Wigan when Auckland ran into transfer fee problems over prop Andy Platt with the English champions.

Platt for Paul. It may have seemed a reasonable swap at the time . . . a cocky teenager for an experienced Test prop. Platt had two mixed seasons with the Warriors and is now back in the Euroleague, captaining Salford. Paul set the house on fire from the day he arrived at Wigan and is now a household name in the northern hemisphere game.

1-0 to Henry Paul.

"I had a goal to play for the Warriors, just like any league kid in New Zealand did," he explains. "But they basically didn't want me. They knew I wanted a crack at first grade from the start but they wanted to build their team around seasoned internationals at that time, rather than young kids. I could understand that. But I wasn't going to wait around.

"The only reason I went to England was to play first grade. If I had been given that chance in Auckland, I would've stayed. When I look at how the Warriors are travelling now, it's hard not to have a wry smile to myself."

Indeed. In fact, the rumour-mongers have it that Auckland are about to bust the bank trying to bring Paul back to Ericsson Stadium when his current contract with Wigan lapses at the end of next year. The big plus in their favour is that Frank Endacott, Paul's coach on the ground-breaking Junior Kiwi tour, is now in charge of Auckland.

But then it's hard to see Wigan letting Paul go. He remains, along with his younger brother and fellow Kiwi international, Bradford captain Robbie Paul, one of the genuine excitement machines in the Euroleague, as Australian fans will undoubtedly come to appreciate in the current World Club Challenge.

His versatility and unpredictable skills are his greatest assets. At Wigan, he has played in every position except prop.

"The fact you can move Henry around anywhere on the park and he can still be effective is a huge plus for any coach," says obvious admirer, Frank Endacott.

"Then there's his ability to squeeze something out of nothing. He combines great strength with elusive running. It's a deadly combination."

Endacott says early in Paul's career he was guilty of inopportune individualism.

"Both Robbie and Henry had that problem," he says. "Too often they left their team-mates in the dark and tried to do too much themselves. It's a temptation wonderfully gifted individuals often have. But they've both come to grips with it and are better players for it."

Henry's extravagant skills almost saw him lost to rugby

HENRY PAUL . . . "The only reason I went to England was to play first grade."



ON BROTHER . . . Bradford captain Robbie (left) and brother Henry are house hold names in England

union last year. When English league switched to a summer season, he was wooed to play a short off-season in the winter with English rugby champions Bath, slotting into the centres alongside superstar Jeremy Guscott. Naturally, Paul was a hit.

There was talk he might go to Bath permanently, fuelled by suggestions from Henry that there were not many challenges left for him to conquer in English league. Fortunately, for rugby league, the Visa World Club Challenge came along.

"This is exactly the challenge I need and Wigan needs too," he says. "I only played rugby union because it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to play union and league together in the same year. At the time, the original World Club Challenge competition was postponed for a year because Super League lost its first court battle down in Australia.

"That was disappointing for me and Wigan. But those 18 months since have flown by and here we are in Australia playing in the World Club Challenge. We're now in totally different head-to-head confrontations from what we experience in England and that's great."

'This is exactly the challenge I need and Wigan needs too'
-Henry Paul on the WCC

Paul has heard all the pre-WCC predictions that the English teams will struggle against their Australian opposition and even though he was speaking ahead of the first round, he believes the UK sides will be competitive.

"Our game is different up in the north, there's no hiding that fact," he says. "Our game is more open and maybe the defence isn't as good. All I can say is that Wigan pride themselves on being competitive in all situations. We won't let anybody down.

"One of the reasons I went to Wigan in the first place is I knew that it was a team that would allow me to express myself on the field. It was like that when I first went there and it's still like that now."

If there is one regret from playing in England - and Paul doesn't say so - it's that it's doubly tough to win international honours. Paul did get a call-up when New Zealand captain Matthew Ridge was injured ahead of the Anzac Day Test against Australia but then had to withdraw after hurting his back.

"I was shattered when that happened," he admitted. "Especially because I felt a few people back home might have got the wrong impression when I wasn't available for last year's series against Great Britain (because he was playing rugby union)."

The mention of "home" raises the prospect of Paul playing in the Telstra Cup for either the Warriors or an Australian club. And true to form, it's a prospect definitely on the list of Paul's challenges to conquer.

"The Australian competition is the best in the world and I definitely want to play in it at some stage of my career," he says. "By the end of next year, I will have had four seasons in England so it may be something I look at then, I don't know. I guess playing for Auckland has some sentimental attraction but there are a lot of other things that come into a decision like that than just sentiment.

"I'm not even looking that far ahead, though. For me, Wigan's World Club Challenge is all that's on my mind right now."

MIGHTY WIGAN SHOW THE BRITISH WAY

Belmore was a battle of styles



LOWIE

THEY SAY THERE'S ONLY two certainties in life — death and taxes.

Maybe we should add another . . . knockers.

I wasn't surprised to see the critics come out of hiding after the initial matches of the Visa Cup World Club Challenge. Nor will I attempt to defend some of the Euroleague clubs who clearly came up short in their clashes with their Australasian counterparts.

But the critics loaded the guns too early.

And last Monday night, in both Australia and England, the Brits showed they still have something to offer the international game with Wigan humbling the Bulldogs and Bradford taking Penrith to the wire.

Perhaps it was easy to gain a false impression from the outset when Auckland came out and hammered the defending Euroleague champions and Challenge Cup winners St Helens on their own turf.

Plenty of people obviously thought that if the team that's running last in the Telstra Cup can absolutely wallop the so-called best team in Britain, the Visa Cup was about to degenerate into a farce and the gap between the northern and southern hemispheres was now resembling the Grand Canyon.

But the Auckland result always required closer analysis. I watched it on Fox Sports and Auckland turned in one of the best team performances of the year from any side in either league. With a team crammed full of internationals, the Warriors had to click sooner or later and it was poor old Saints who bore the brunt.

It also should be remembered that Saints were missing seven regular first graders through injury and were deep in a confidence slump after losing three of their four previous matches.

Unfortunately, the perceived gap in standards wasn't helped by the poor performances of Leeds (against North Queensland), Salford (against Adelaide) and Halifax (against rampant Canberra). I won't attempt to defend those sides, other than to say I believe they made the fatal mistake of treating the Australians with too much awe.

'Now I'm not saying Australian league lacks skill or that British football lacks power.'

They were also coming off very hectic domestic schedules and I have no doubt they will be better for the experience and will be far more competitive in this week's second round.

I'd also urge them to take a leaf out of Wigan's book.

I know they're my old club and I'll probably cop a bit of stick for being too sentimental, but I was tremendously proud of the Wigan blokes on Monday night.

To me the game at Belmore was as much a confrontation of styles as it was of two teams from opposite ends of the earth.

Canterbury embraced the time-proven Australian theory of power football eventually wearing the opposition down. And Wigan adopted the best characterisitics of British football — skill and sleight of hand.

Now I'm not saying Australian league lacks skill or that British football lacks power. I am simply commenting on the differing philosophies of the two sides involved on Monday night.

Wigan may not have made the yards up the middle the powerful Canterbury forwards carved out but their use of the ball was outstanding and gave them the field position the Bulldogs were relying on their men up front to achieve.

Another plus in Wigan's favour over some of their fellow Euroleague clubs is their big match experience. While there's been a big turnover of players at Central Park in recent years, there remains a culture within Wigan which ensures they are not daunted by the big occasion.

That's why their clash this Monday night against the Brisbane Broncos is shaping up as a ripper. Individual match-ups like Jason Robinson and Wendell Sailor and Gary Connolly and Steve Renouf are mouth-watering. In fact, both backlines drip with talent.

Such a clash shows the real merit of the World Club Challenge concept.

At a time of the year — after the rep season but before the play-offs — when fans can get a little blase and teams a little complacent, the WCC introduces new teams and new colour.

I suppose some will say the concept would work better if the top four teams from each league simply played off at the end of the year. The major argument supporting this is obviously the cost of the Visa Cup in its current format.

But if the competition can bear the cost, I think the format is outstanding. Sooner rather than later, other Euroleague clubs will lift to Wigan's level and we will have an exciting competition on our hands.

One final point . . . Wigan have already won the World Club Championship twice, albeit under a different format. In fact, I can only ever recall one Australian club winning the trophy. It has basically been dominated by the Pommie clubs.

Interesting fact, eh?

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

CHRIS ANDERSON IS TORN BETWEEN TWO CLUBS

THERE are two rugby league clubs in the world Chris Anderson genuinely loves.

This Sunday they play against each other for the very first time. When the Canterbury Bulldogs run out on to Belmore Sports Ground to meet the Halifax Blue Sox ("they didn't call them that when I was there!"), Bulldogs coach Anderson will find himself in a situation he admits "had never crossed my mind as a possibility."

Canterbury is the club that put Anderson on the map as a player. Halifax is the club that put him on the map as a coach. Until the World Club Challenge his two favourite clubs were worlds apart, now the two worlds are about to collide.

"Yeah, I am looking forward to it more than the other games," admits Anderson. One reason is that he'll catch up with old team-mate John Pendlebury, who now coaches Halifax. And Pendelbury wasn't just any old team-mate. His individual brilliance helped give Anderson one of his greatest moments in rugby league, a Challenge Cup final win at Wembley.

"John kicked a field goal for us to win 18-17 and he also saved a certain try when he knocked the ball out of a St Helens player's hands as he crossed the line," explains Anderson.

Most Australian rugby league fans are probably aware that the current Bulldogs coach earned his coaching stripes in England, but the improbability of the fairytale might surprise many.

Having had a successful off-season stint with Widnes in the mid-70s, Anderson decided to return to the UK in 1984 after a demoralising season at Canterbury.

"I'd broken my arm twice the season before and I wasn't getting on with the coach Warren Ryan. I just felt like getting away," he recalls. "I figured I'd take the wife and kids to England for a year, giving us a chance to look around Europe and all that. It seemed a better idea than getting a fair dinkum job."

He accepted an offer to play five eighth with Hull Kingston Rovers.

Over at Halifax, an old carpet manufacturing town not far from Bradford and Leeds, a few Aussies Anderson knew were having a rough season; Paul Langmack, Michael Hagan, Kevin Moore, Ken Isaacs and Martin Bella were all playing for the "Thrum Hallers" as they were known then. Halfway through the season the club sacked coach Colin Dixon and, in the right place at the right time were Peter "Bullfrog" Moore and Barry "Punchy" Nelson. Management at Thrum Hall asked if they could suggest a replacement and the name Chris Anderson bobbed up.

"I'd never even thought about it," says Anderson of coaching, "but I figured it was worth a try so I took over as captain-coach for the rest of the season."

It was a testing assignment. Halifax had come up from second division that season and had been, as Anderson describes it "a yo-yo side". They'd do well in second division, be promoted, then bomb out badly in first division and be relegated.

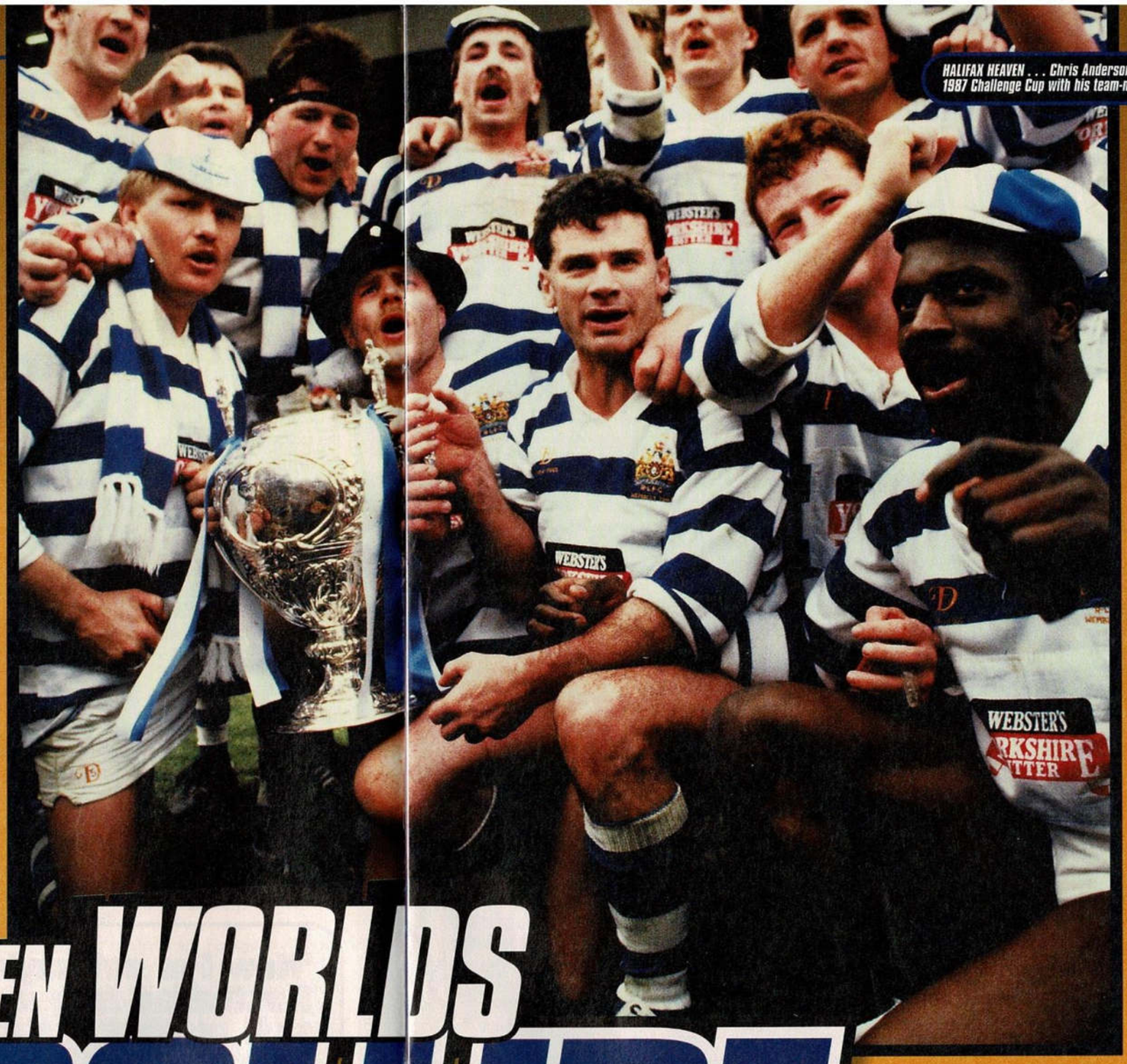
The then curly-haired captain-coach lifted them to 10th on the ladder by the end of his first season. The might not seem like a big deal, but it was a big enough deal to keep the club in first division.

If that result barely made the league world roll over and bat an eyelid, the next year's result had it sitting up and rubbing its eyes in disbelief.

Halifax won the first division title.

It was Anderson's first full year of coaching after basically learning the job on the run the previous season.

"I had no pre-conceived ideas about how the job should be done," he says. "It took a fair sort of effort. And a lot of alcohol," he adds with a grin. "The best thing was being five eighth because they had to run off me whether they liked it or not!"



HALIFAX HEAVEN . . . Chris Anderson celebrates the 1987 Challenge Cup with his team-mates

The first move was glaringly obvious to the former grand final winning winger. He had to get the guys doing some serious training.

"Training there was just an occasional run around the block," he recalls. "When I was at Hull KR were used to go for a 5km run on Tuesday nights. The coach would follow us on his bicycle. He'd been there for 19 years, I think he was on to his fifth bicycle."

That was the problem with rugby league in England, according to Anderson. There'd been the same pool of coaches with the same methods and ideas doing the rounds in the game for years.

"They'd get sacked at one club and just move on to another one. When a club sacked a coach they just replace him with one who had been sacked from somewhere else."

As a result, even in the mid-80s, weight training was a radical concept.

"When I asked them if they'd ever done any weight training a few put up their hands," says Anderson. "When I asked them what kind they said they had a set of dumbbells at home."

A sprint trainer from Leeds was enlisted and the Halifax side had their first real conditioning work. Then, at the end of that first season, Anderson put a broom through a large part of the team and recruited players he knew would "put in."

Players such as Graham Eadie and Joe Kilroy came over from Australia and later Anderson introduced northern England to the wild man of Belmore, Geoff Robinson.

He laughs remembering this.

"They thought 'Robbo' was a Pakistani at first. For months he was getting free onion bhajis," he chuckled. "With his long hair, beard and baby-face he didn't look like a footballer but by the end of the season they were all terrified of him!"

In 1987, after winning Wembley as a player-coach Anderson retired from the playing part of the job. The following year Halifax made the Wembley final again, but lost.

After that it was a case of signing up for another three years or coming home to Australia. With the schooling of three children to consider he and wife Lynne decided Australia was the best option.

Ten years later he has added one ARL grand final win, a minor premiership and a grand final appearance to his CV. And now he's shooting for the inaugural Visa Cup.

Ironically, he'll probably have to beat Halifax twice and out-coach his friend John Pendlebury to do it. He doesn't know much about his former loose forward's coaching style, but hopes it's based on what he learnt at Halifax.

"If they play the way I taught him, I'll know what they're gonna do next," he grins. "He is a cranky bugger though, so I'm guessing he's probably a good coach."

VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

SETTLING THE SCORE

Paul Rowley is back and after revenge

HALIFAX hooker Paul Rowley is back in Australia with a few scores to settle. Not that he would say so in as many words. But you see the determination burning in his eyes.

Rowley came Down Under three years ago with the Junior Lions.

The organisation of the tour was a bit haphazard, although Rowley is not blaming that for the couple of thrashings he and his mates received at the hands of the Junior Kangaroos.

And it wasn't because he and his mates weren't good.

There was lestyn Harris, Wales' hero in the 1995 World Cup and the lynchpin of the current Leeds Rhinos' attack. Then there were English World Cup team-mates Paul Cook and Simon Haughton. Add in another Test player that year, Francis Cummings.

But the Aussie kids were awesome. A 46-8 win in the First Test and 84-10 in the second encounter.

And why not? There was big Adam Ritson, four of the current Broncos (John Driscoll, Anthony Mundine, Brad Thorn and Ben Walker), the Mariners' Robbie Ross, Panthers' Sid Domic, Cronulla's Mat Rogers and three who are doing well in the ARL, Ken McGuinness, Matt Sing and Nathan Barnes.

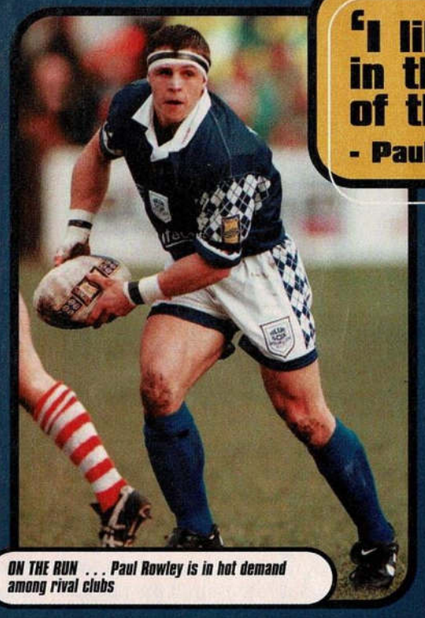
"Imagine coming up against that lot?" smiles Rowley. "But it was damned good experience. Driscoll was the Aussie captain. I'm looking forward to having another crack at him. They say he is a future Australian Test hooker." And a look of anticipation creeps over Rowley's face.

They are predicting Test football for Rowley, too. Maybe against the Australians when they play the three Tests in Britain in November.

"I'd love to . . . but that's still a long way off," says Rowley. "Right now, I'm focussing on the World Club Challenge. And what a challenge it is!

"Everyone in Australia seems to have written off Halifax. But they keep writing us off in England, too, and we keep scaring the top teams. On our day we are capable of knocking off any side in the world. And I mean ANY side. After all, it's only 13 against 13 on the field."

Rowley was discovered by Australian coach Steve Simms, who gave him his chance at Leigh in 1992 before taking him to Halifax when Simms swapped jobs two years later. At Halifax, Rowley displaced Johnny Lewless, who played for England last year.



ON THE RUN . . . Paul Rowley is in hot demand among rival clubs

> **'I like being in the thick of things'**
> **- Paul Rowley**

Now other clubs (with more money than Halifax) are lining up to grab Rowley once his contract expires in November. Warrington have offered to swap two Kiwis for him - Toa Kohe-Love and Richard Henare. No deal!

Wigan are even more interested. They suggested a swap for Test hooker Martin Hall and international forward Neil Cowie plus a $300,000 sweetener.

Cash-strapped Halifax liked the idea for a while. But they are now waiting for a better offer. Maybe $700,000 in cold, hard cash.

It may not come. Rowley is said to be about to challenge the whole deal legally, with a European court decision concerning soccer players as a precedent.

Rowley is tight-lipped:"I hear all these stories about how this club or that club wants to sign me," he says. "It's all very easy for them to talk to the press. But right now I'm a Halifax man. And we're going to give a few Aussie sides a shock. That's what it's all about."

Last year Rowley topped the Halifax tackle count with 482 (that's 23 per match). He was also top of the lists for the number of busts he made - 79 (four a match).

"I like to run and create a few problems for the opposition," he says."And I don't like opponents running past me - so I tackle them. Hard."

"The play-the-balls are quicker out here, so we'll have to speed them up. But they are a hooker's dream. You can run from dummy-half before the opposition has had time to get their defences set."

And as for the Canterbury side he'll be meeting on Sunday: "We've seen they're very tough. But I'm eager. I like being in the thick of things."

AUSSIES IN THE OLD DART

THEY were here one minute, now they're over there, not only having the trip of their lives but also spreading the word. And the word, or words, are Super League.

The Visa Cup World Club Challenge has given Australia's elite young players the chance to not only demonstrate their skills to the fans in England but to also demonstrate what a fast, exciting and go-ahead game rugby league has become.

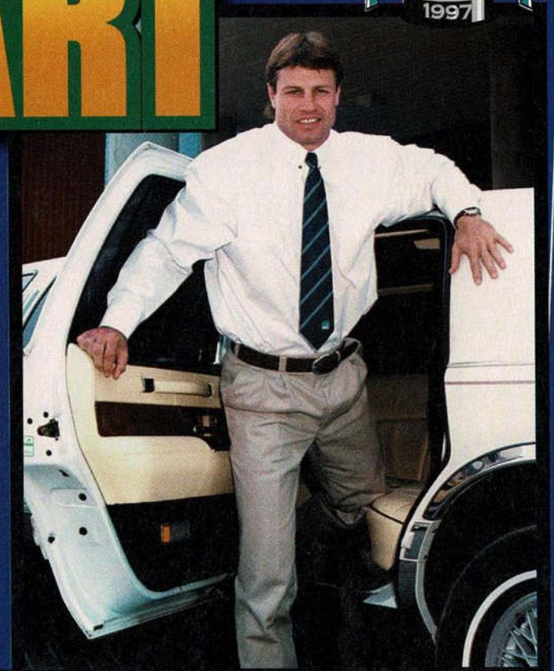
Of course, stars are stars no matter where they are and Andrew Ettingshausen travelled in rock star style before his Cronulla Sharks took the field against the Warrington Wolves.

The stretch limo was stylish, but then so is ET.

Meanwhile, at Hull the Penrith Panthers sent cheerios home by posing for a team shot before they went into battle against the Bradford Bulls.

It was sunny and warm and the Panthers have revelled in the chance to have two summers in one year.

It all looked laid back and just plain fun. But make no mistake, the Sharks and the Panthers are over there on business.





LOSING IS NOT AN EASY PILL FOR THE COWBOYS TO SWALLOW

no medicine

BY GREG PRICHARD

RUNNING ninth when you're so used to winning is a difficult proposition to contemplate. It is like trying to swallow a horse pill. Very hard to take.

North Queensland coach Tim Sheens and his more experienced players - Owen Cunningham, Steve Walters, John Lomax and Ian Roberts - are used to major success.

Sheens with Canberra and then New South Wales in this season's Tri Series. Cunningham with Manly. Walters with Canberra, Queensland and Australia. Lomax with Canberra, Roberts with Manly, NSW and Australia.

Not even a heaped spoonful of sugar would allow failure to go down easily with any of these men. It is a horrible foreign substance to them and that is the biggest advantage North Queensland have got as a young club trying to get somewhere.

Can the Cowboys still make this year's Telstra Cup finals series and Visa World Club Challenge play-offs?

They are four points away from fifth spot in the Telstra Cup with only six rounds to go and they have eight teams ahead of them trying to squeeze into five spots already, so it's a mighty difficult task.

Easy enough for you and I to write them off now, but Sheens and his veteran core look at it differently. Their desire doesn't burn any less brightly in the face of problems, no matter how big they might be.

They would not accept they could no longer make it unless it became mathematically impossible and even then they wouldn't just dump the season where it stood.

Proven winners demand much more of themselves and in doing that they automatically demand much more of team-mates who are yet to experience those highs.

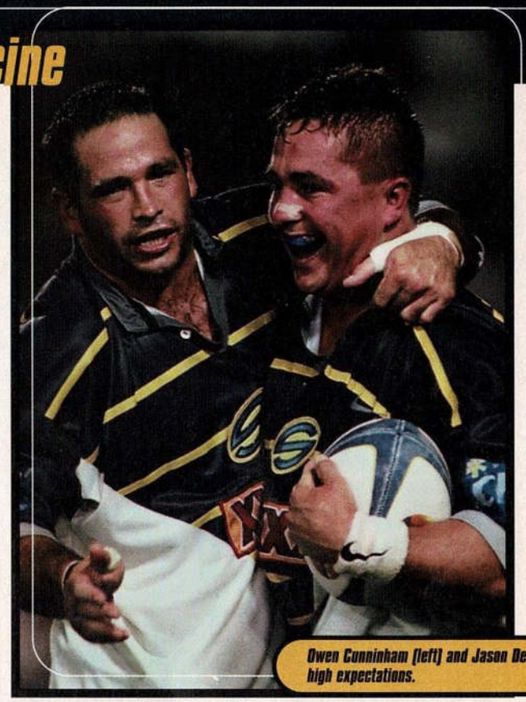
Sheens estimates North Queensland need to win each of their last six matches to make the Telstra Cup finals, so that is what they aim at.

"It's obviously not going to be easy. It's going to be very hard. But we don't just put our hands up and say it can't be done," Sheens says. "We take one game at a time and see what happens."

"Our goal at the start of the year was to make the finals and that is still our goal."

YOUNG TALENT TIME . . . fullback Reggie Cressbrook is one of several younger players coach Tim Sheens is bringing through

Pictures: Jay Town



Owen Cunninham [left] and Jason Death... high expectations.

North Queensland lost both matches narrowly - the first in Townsville and the second in Perth - after leading into the last few minutes.

"Every club has stories to tell about close games. Sometimes they are games you get away from with a win, sometimes a loss," Sheens says.

"Perth got away from both of those games with wins and because we didn't manage the last few minutes well in either match we came away with losses.

"Those two games have made Perth's season because they're up there on 12 points, still with a big chance for the five. We're on eight points and we need to win every game.

"If we had won both those games, as I believe we should have, we would be right in there. Even winning one of the two would have made a huge difference because there are only 18 rounds in this competition."

Second-rower Cunningham, who spent more than a decade with Manly before joining the Cowboys this year, began the season thinking the team would be better placed at this stage.

"I didn't think we would be able to stick with the more established teams," Cunningham says. "But there were plenty of other teams I thought we could beat. We have beaten a few of them, but stupid mistakes have cost us a couple of games.

"It's frustrating. I can see some light at the end of the tunnel, but it's just taking a while. It's hard to get used to being in a side that is finding it's feet, because I've never been in that situation before."

"I had high expectations, but I'm not giving up. We need to win our last six games. We've got a pretty tough draw, so if we managed to do it we would certainly be in great shape going into the finals," said Cunningham.

North Queensland's most encouraging period came in the four rounds before the competition was suspended for the first section of the Visa World Club Challenge.

They beat Auckland 30-22, drew with Adelaide 14-14, drew with premiership leaders Brisbane 20-20 and lost 24-10 to Cronulla.

"We came along in leaps and bounds during that time," Cunningham says.

"Against Brisbane we got a draw and people probably think we should be satisfied with that, but if we had played as well as we could have we probably would have won. There were just a few mental lapses from us and they made a difference.

"Against Cronulla there was nothing in it midway through the second half, but they scored a try off a bomb and got away from us."

One of the major reasons Sheens joined the Cowboys was the challenge of lifting a club from the bottom of the competition table.

He had spent nine years coaching Canberra, where he won three premierships and was critically involved in the development of numerous great players, some of them superstars.

"It's a vastly different challenge and it's one that is really testing me," Sheens says.

"But I'm really enjoying it.The lifestyle is tremendous and the people up here love their football and that's me: I love my football.They don't take their team for granted and they are very supportive of it.

"The biggest positive for me has been the support of the club board and the people in Townsville.

"We knew it was going to be hard because we pulled together a new team this year, with players from many different clubs, but they are not putting unfair pressure on us.

"Their patience will run out eventually, I know, and that is fair enough. Over the next 18 months we have got to become more competitive."

It is a situation that demands a coach as highly rated as Sheens if the club is to prosper. Preparing a team to get the best out of the players he has at his disposal, while at the same time planning for improvement.

Sheens wanted that quartet of veteran forwards - Cunningham, Walters, Lomax and Roberts - to establish a presence up front while promising youngsters were given a chance to develop and eventually succeed them.

But there is a need for further additions.

"We really have no game breaker," Sheens says. "We battled toe-to-toe with Cronulla for 60 minutes and it was really only two players - David Peachey and Andrew Ettingshausen - who made the difference for them.

"We need people who can turn a game and we are trying to develop those people.

"There are some promising young players at this club and it is very encouraging, for instance, that we beat Brisbane in reserve grade and the under-19s in both the rounds we have played against them. It doesn't make the world for us, but it shows we are bringing players through.

"We need more, though, and it is my aim to add six first-graders to our playing squad for next season.

"That won't be simple because the game is at a stalemate at the moment with all the uncertainty, but we have our wish list and we will do our best to get the players we need."

'Its a vastly different challenge and one that is really testing me' - Tim Sheens

Sheens sees the current Visa Cup World Club Challenge as an opportunity for his players to enjoy playing against teams they would not normally meet, but with a serious view to making the finals of this unique format.

"You go for years playing the same teams in the same competition," Sheens says. "This has broken it up a bit for everyone involved and there is a trip to the UK as well. The players love it.

"There have been some very positive signs for the Cowboys this season. Drawing with the Broncos, beating Canterbury away from home with 12 men. I saw plenty of good in our last game against Cronulla as well.

"Hopefully we can build on that form against the Euroleague teams and be ready to have a real shot at making the finals of the Visa Cup and our own competition.

"One thing I can tell you is that we won't be giving up."

RESURRECTION

AFTER TRAGEDY AND LOST YEARS, LUKE GOODWIN IS RE-BORN



FEW in rugby league would begrudge Luke Goodwin an even break.

Goodwin is an exciting talent with an off-field knack of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. He's been to more clubs than Manpower and in some people's eyes may be seen as washed up even though he's only 24 years old.

The son of former St George great Ted Goodwin looked to have a great career ahead of him in his early years at Penrith when the Panthers were assembling what looked like a premiership juggernaut in the early '90s. But then Ben Alexander's tragic death split the club asunder.

The accident deeply affected everybody associated with Penrith. But spare a thought for Goodwin. He was in the car when Alexander died. Such was the emotional trauma surrounding the Penrith club that Goodwin felt he had no choice but to leave.

A couple of lost years followed in 1993 and '94 with Canterbury where he showed glimpses of his potential without fully realising it. Then it was to Parramatta in '95, only to be squeezed out at the end of that season because he had signed a Super League contract and the Eels were committed to the ARL.

He had last season with the Perth Reds but after Peter Mullholland's axing, was a victim of the cleanout in the West. Goodwin's last resort was England.

The Oldham Bears signed him for two years but Goodwin had ample reason to wonder if his luck was ever going to change, spending most of the early rounds of the Euroleague gathering splinters in his backside on the reserves bench.

Then came the even break. Former Great Britain Test forward Andy Goodway was squeezed out as Bears coach and replaced by ex-Australian international star Bob Lindner. Perhaps conscious of Goodwin's inherent talents, Lindner has resurrected the youngster's career in recent weeks.

"Andy was a good coach but I guess Bob has some fresh ideas and I've benefited from that," Goodwin said as the Bears rested up in Cairns awaiting their opening World Club Challenge clash with the North Queensland Cowboys.

"And he's put me in at lock," he adds with a laugh. "My old mate Jim Dymock would have a great laugh about that. I've never played there before but Bob obviously knows a bit about the position."

In reality, about the only time Goodwin plays as a lock is when he sticks his head in the scrum. Lindner basically has him sharing the playmaking duties with five-eighth Francis Maloney, a player Goodwin has a huge wrap on and says is a future Great Britain international.

The shift has seen Goodwin starting in most of Oldham's recent Euroleague matches and assuming the goalkicking duties as well. He is also finding himself increasingly comfortable with the English style of game.

"When I first got here I found it very difficult," he admits."In Australia, you never get games with scorelines like 45-30 and the intensity we're used to at home just isn't there. But the games are just as fast. The attacking side has all the momentum. It's taken a little time for me to adjust to that but now I have I'm really enjoying it. It suits my type of game."

'It's just such a buzz' – Luke Goodwin on playing in the Visa Cup

Oldham, currently hovering near the foot of the Euroleague but performing better each week since Lindner arrived, are perhaps harshly perceived as one of the "bunnies" of the WCC. The curt dismissal of the Bears as a force is something Goodwin has become used to.

"In England, when you turn on the TV for the BBC game, it's always something like Bradford versus St Helens," he explains. "Even on pay TV on BSkyB we never get a game. I guess we're like the Western Suburbs of English league. But it's something that motivates the guys strongly as well.

"We like to think we can go well in the Visa Cup. We've had the advantage of a week off ahead of our opening game against the Cowboys, so we've had extra time to acclimatise while also being able to go along to watch North Queensland's match against Leeds last Saturday night. That's been a bonus. Plus the Visa Cup itself is just such an exciting concept. I can't believe I'm here playing in it - and a lot of the other guys feel the same way. It's just such a buzz."

And a chance for Luke Goodwin to remind Australian fans that he's still got plenty to offer the game of rugby league.

CANBERRA'S NEW WAVE

THE RAIDER ROOKIES HELP MAL'S MEN GET ON A ROLL

WHEN the Raiders steamrolled the Rams in Round 12 of the Telstra Cup, two names appeared on the try scorers list - Lightning and McFadden. Rookies they may be, but they are key men if Mal's team is to go all the way.

In that same game, Luke Priddis the 20-year-old hooker who replaced Steve Walters and forced early favourite for the spot, Simon Woolford, back to the bench, controlled play around the rucks like a veteran.

And in the front row the "veteran" rookie, Luke "Statue" Davico made the hard yards after finally stepping out of the shadow of the departed Johnny Lomax. Youth and experience, talent and toughness, coach Mal Meninga is getting the mix just right.

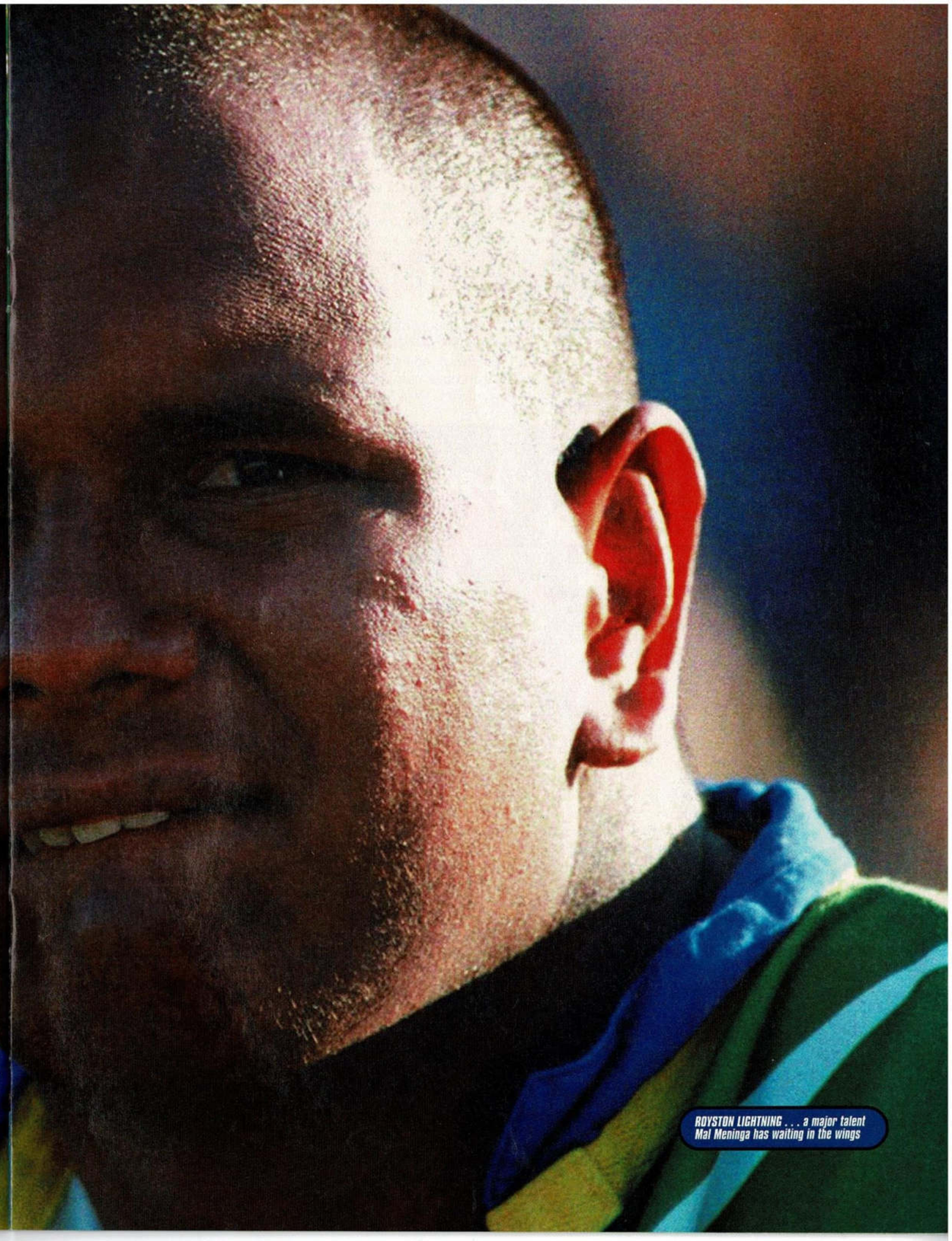
The Raiders looked gone for all money after the sixth round this year. Now, money is being heavily wagered on them to take out the inaugural Super League Telstra Cup. It's a turnaround of monumental proportions. Sure Daley and Clyde, Mullins, Nagas, Furner and the returning Ricky Stuart are still the leaders and game breakers, but the youngsters are right behind them.

Says Big Mal: "One of the positive sides to our bad injury run at the start of the year was the experience gained by our younger players.

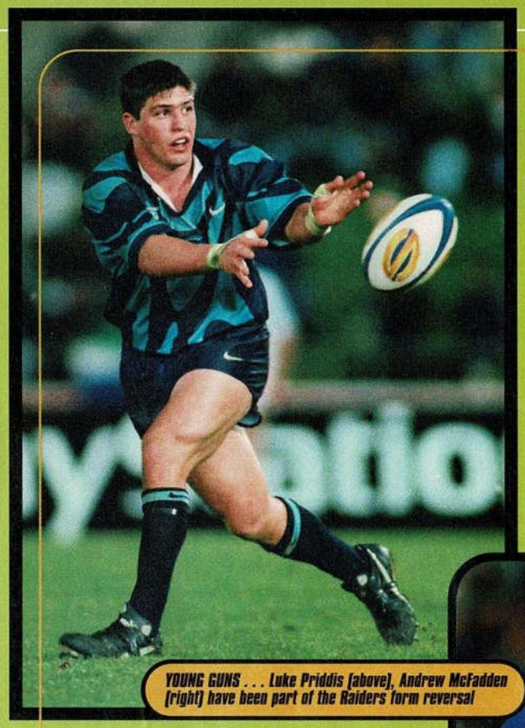
"Luke Priddis started the year in reserve grade and now finds himself in the NSW Tri Series team. He is a very dedicated player and deserves the rewards. We really couldn't have asked more of him. The Raiders have always placed a big emphasis on nurturing junior talent. This year is no exception," said the rookie coach who can only be both relieved and pleased that his team elbowed it's way into the five with a 5-1-5 record as the break for the Visa Cup World Club Challenge arrived.

Along with Priddis, both Royston Lightning and Andrew McFadden can rightly take some of the accolades

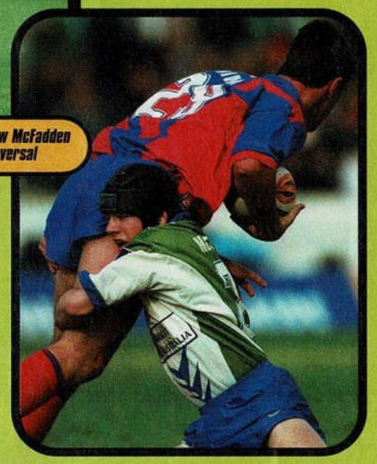
By Graham Bicknell



ROYSTON LIGHTNING . . . a major talent Mal Meninga has waiting in the wings



YOUNG GUNS . . . Luke Priddis [above], Andrew McFadden [right] have been part of the Raiders form reversal



for that reversal of fortunes. Both are grateful for the chances, but both also realise that with players such as Ricky Stuart and Noa Nadruku in the Raiders line-up, they have to take their opportunities for a run in top grade when they present themselves.

Lightning, who must have the perfect name for a winger, has burst on to the scene. With the additional bonus of being a goalkicker, he is progressing fantastically after being spotted by Raider scouts in a schoolboys championship in Adelaide and then enticed down from Ingham in Northern Queensland.

The rock solid, tough and very quick former Herbert River Tiger is delighted with the way life is going in Canberra.

"I was homesick at first, but when Mum and Dad and my brother moved here everything was fine," said Lightning.

Says Mal: "Last year Royston was playing schoolboy football for Erindale College and this year he's been a first grade regular so you can see how far he's come already. He didn't have the most productive off-season but he's fought back well to make it on to a wing."

Unfortunately, Royston will have to vacate that spot with the return of Noa Nadruku. He is ready to take it on the chin.

"I suppose it's between me and David Boyle," he says. "If I go back to reserves or to the bench I won't be terribly disappointed though. I've jumped in and helped in the firsts and I know Mal won't forget about me. I know he won't say: 'Thanks Royston, we don't need you now all the guys are back.' So I'll just wait for my chance again. After all, I'm in the first grade squad."

So is Luke Priddis, who came virtually out of nowhere to not only prove an able replacement for Steve "Boxhead" Walters but also force his way into the NSW Tri Series team.

Priddis, who has put his human biology studies at Canberra University on temporary hold to take advantage of his rapid elevation into the elite ranks, says his opportunities came faster than he ever expected.

"The Tri Series call-up was just a lucky break," says the modest 20-year-old local boy. "Simon Woolford had the jump on me at the start of the year and my aim was just to get into first grade. When the chance came I grabbed it and so far I've been able to stay there."

Priddis, now an integral part of the Raiders machine, says he, along with the rest of the side, had no real explanation for the Canberra side's poor start to the year.

"We don't really know if we struggled because of lack of fitness or a lack of cohesion. But we're coming together now.

"We knew we had to lift. We also realised that we couldn't keep waiting for Ricky or Laurie to get us out of situations, that we had to do it ourselves. We also knew we had to get a roll on before these games in the Visa Cup or we'd be history. Auckland have already found that out."

One player who has delighted Meninga is clever halfback Andrew McFadden. He deputised brilliantly for Stuart when he was injured and turned on a blinder in just his second game in the big time against Adelaide, scoring a great individual try.

A genuine home grown talent, McFadden, another student who has had to put his engineering studies at the Australian National University on the backburner, has loved every moment of his so-far limited opportunities.

"At first it (first grade) was unreal. It was very fast, faster than anything I've ever experienced. I knew I could do it and I had the confidence. But I had so many great players around me it made it easier. I just wanted to get involved."

Of course, with Ricky Stuart back, there just wasn't room for McFadden. Like Lightning, he is philosophical about it.

"It's a best hard to elbow my way past 'Sticky,'" McFadden laughed. "He is the best in the world you know."

Rounding out the "rookies" is Luke Davico. Although he's just notched up his 50th first grade appearance he still sees himself as a learner.

"I guess I've now stepped into Johnny Lomax's shoes. It's taken me a couple of year to do it though," the affable prop confessed. "At the start of 1995 I was in and out of both Johnny's and Quentin's shoes when they were injured or suspended, usually suspended," he laughed.

"Each time one or the other came back I either went to the bench or back to reserves. But Johnny going up north finally gave me the chance to hold down a first grade spot."

He's taken full advantage of his break. Davico is now providing the go-forward the Raiders seemed to be lacking early in this year's competition.

"I don't do too much with the ball. I just cart it up and try to make some yards," he said simply.

In talking to them all, that was the underlying theme from the rookies. They know their tasks and they're prepared to perform them.

Mal Meninga knows what he's doing.



JACKO

A REAL EYEBROW RAZOR

Toothless Jacko takes a bite out of the Poms

BACK IN THE MID TO LATE EIGHTIES there was a flood of Aussie league players migrating to the UK for our off season. There was good money to be earned and the footy and training wasn't that hard.

I thought that was my go so I did a deal with Leeds for the 1987-88 Pommie season.

I told the Canberra Raiders boss at the time, John McIntyre, and he wasn't happy about me going but there was nothing in my contract to say I couldn't. I finally went to see him about it on the way to the airport. He knew there was nothing he could do so I left with the Raiders blessing.

It was a very exciting period of my life, off to play league on the other side of the world for five months. The plan was to leave the Tuesday after the grand final and be playing the following weekend in the UK.

My girlfriend and now wife Siobhan, was to join me six weeks later. If she was worried about me being a naughty boy her concerns would have been dispelled after the first two weeks.

One of my first games was against Hull who, like most of the clubs had a few Aussies in their ranks. I don't remember too much about that particular clash because I was KO'd by Balmain second rower David Brookes. When I came to I realised that both my front teeth had been knocked out. I was never any Tom Cruise but the no-teeth look isn't the go. And there was worse to come.

That year, '87, was the first year of the world club challenge and the ARL premiers Manly, were to take on Wigan at Central Park. My Leeds team-mates Marty Gurr, Peter Tunks and myself decided to go and have a look. To our surprise, Wigan beat the Sea Eagles. But that night the spirits of the Manly boys weren't dampened and we joined in partying until the wee hours of the morning. I woke up on the floor of Mick O'Connor's room the next day and immediately went to wash my face. I looked in the mirror and almost died of fright. Not only were my teeth missing but so too both my eyebrows. Wasn't I looking good? No, teeth, no eyebrows. But there was more to come.

'I looked in the mirror and almost died of fright. Not only were my teeth missing but so too both my eyebrows'

The next day I went to a local gym to pump some iron. I noticed a solarium in one of the rooms and I thought maybe a suntan would help take some of the attention away from my now seriously damaged dial. I jumped in for 30 minutes, got out and once again looked in the mirror to see the results. I couldn't believe what I saw. My eyes were as red as fire engines. Apparently you're supposed to wear protective goggles in the solarium. I didn't. The whites of my eyes were now bright red. So there I was, no front teeth, no eyebrows and eyes like a vampire. I seriously considered wearing a paper bag over my head but my team-mates loved me because I made them all look so good.

On the footy side of things it was like taking a step back in time. Our coach was Maurice Bamford and he had a rule that whatever you were beaten by at the weekend was the amount of 400s you did on Tuesday night. So if you were beaten 10-nil that was 10 400s you did. The first game for Leeds was against the mighty Wigan team, they were virtually the Great Britain side with a couple of Kiwi internationals thrown in. We were getting flogged and with about 20 minutes to go everyone in our side was sore, sorry and very muddy. Except for a big front rower who had hardly done a thing the whole game. As you can imagine I was getting pretty dirty with this bloke, but I was reluctant to say anything, after all it was my first game.

Wigan scored another try and we were standing behind the line and I'd had enough. I said to this big bloke: "What's the story. We're getting flogged, everyone's having a dig except you. What's your go?"

He replied: "Stuff you Jacko, I'm saving myself for training on Tuesday night."

What do you say to that?

That just about sums up the English game. They were 10 years behind Australia back then and there's no doubt they've improved and their elite players can match it with the Aussies.

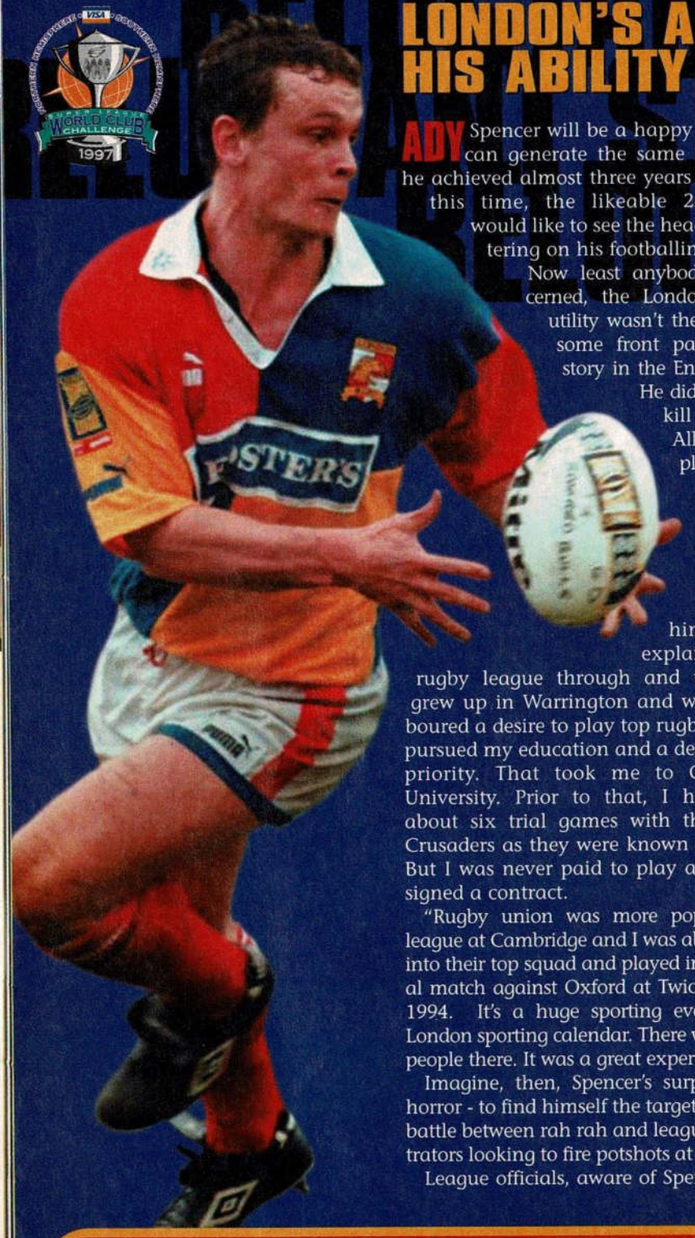
But while their whole scene has gone ahead, so has Australia's. I still think they're. I'm not surprised the Aussie sides are winning but the margins have been a shock.

Canberra beat Halifax 70-6 last weekend. That's a lot of 400s.

- PETER JACKSON

RELUCTANT STIRRER

LONDON'S ADY SPENCER PREFERS HIS ABILITY TO DO THE TALKING



ADY Spencer will be a happy man if he can generate the same media stir he achieved almost three years ago. Only this time, the likeable 24-year-old would like to see the headlines centering on his footballing ability.

Now least anybody be concerned, the London Broncos utility wasn't the subject of some front page tabloid story in the English press. He didn't mug or kill anybody. All he did was play a harmless game of rugby for his university.

Allow Spencer himself to explain. "I am rugby league through and through. I grew up in Warrington and while I harboured a desire to play top rugby league, I pursued my education and a degree as my priority. That took me to Cambridge University. Prior to that, I had played about six trial games with the London Crusaders as they were known back then. But I was never paid to play and I never signed a contract.

"Rugby union was more popular than league at Cambridge and I was able to break into their top squad and played in the annual match against Oxford at Twickenham in 1994. It's a huge sporting event on the London sporting calendar. There were 54,000 people there. It was a great experience."

Imagine, then, Spencer's surprise - and horror - to find himself the target of a cheap battle between rah rah and league administrators looking to fire potshots at each other.

League officials, aware of Spencer's trials with London, revealed the flirtation to the media in a bid to score some points over English rugby officialdom.

The rah-rahs responded by saying they weren't aware that Spencer had trialled for London and that he should have banned for a year before playing for Cambridge. But since he hadn't, they would ban him now for 12 months. Sounds like a bad joke? Spencer though so too.

"At the time I was gutted," he says. "I had assumed that if I went to university I could play any sort of sport there for them. It's not as if I took any money for playing a few trial games for London."

Spencer's case created enormous media interest as commentators debated the rights and wrongs of what had happened to him. The irony is that 10 months into his year-long ban, rugby union went fully professional anyway.

By then, Spencer had completed his degree and was pursuing a career as a chemical engineer. But one person at Cambridge hadn't forgotten him. Bev Risden, a dual international, was in charge of rugby league development at the university and had links to the London club, by then taken over by the Broncos. He asked Spencer to have another series of trials. It was a daunting first-up experience.

"In my first trial game, the opposition included (former Australian international and current London coach) Tony Currie in the centres, Alfie Langer's brother Kevin at halfback and a former English international on the wing," recalls Spencer with a laugh.

But Spencer played well enough to secure a contract for the final three months of last season and this year.

"I only got one first grade game last year because I signed so late in the season but this year I've had four or five starts at either stand-off or hooker and come off the bench in the others so I've very happy," he said. "Then to get to come down here is a dream come true. I'm loving it."

And hoping that the next time his name hits the headlines, it will be for his footballing prowess and not being an unwitting pawn in a battle between codes.

'At the time, I was gutted' - Ady Spencer

ALL WHITE ON THE NIGHT

Josh forces the Broncos to think again

JOSH White could have been forgiven for thinking the London Broncos were trying to shaft him when the Euroleague club signed Great Britain Test star Shaun Edwards from Wigan.

After all the former Australian schoolboys star arrived at London - via Wests and Illawarra - knowing ex-Parramatta Eel Tulsen Tollett was entrenched at five-eighth but fully expected to nail down the halfback role.

And that's exactly how it was for the opening rounds of the Euroleague. But then White heard some disturbing news. Edwards, the crack Wigan and English halfback, was on his way to join the London Broncos. Suddenly White's No. 7 jersey looked in great danger.

"At first it worried me," White candidly admitted. "I didn't know what was going on. I thought they weren't happy with me.

"But I went to (chief executive) Tony Rea and he assured me that they were. The club didn't go looking for a halfback, it was Shaun Edwards who approached them because he wanted to move to London and he wanted to keep playing footy."



White has responded to the challenge the only way he knew how. He's gone out and had blinder after blinder in the Euroleague.

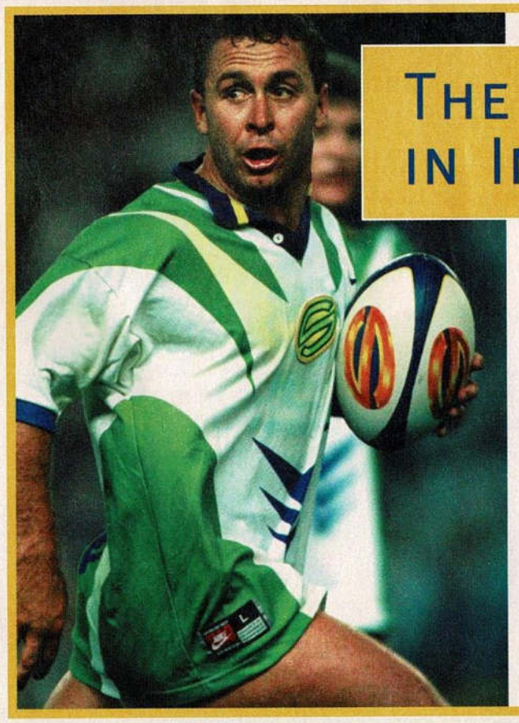
Coach Tony Currie has been so impressed that he has either alternated Edwards with Tollett at five-eighth or placed his highly-regarded Wigan import on the interchange bench as he did in last Friday night's Visa Cup opener against the Brisbane Broncos.

White is certainly enjoying his football in England. He loves London and shares an apartment with former Souths and Manly prop Tony Mestrov.

"A prop and a halfback - guess who eats all the food," he jokes.

"I was a bit worried about coming over here and leaving everybody at home in Sydney but now I'm really enjoying it, and hoping to do enough to earn a contract to stay longer than the one year."

If he keeps up his current form, White will have no trouble on that score.



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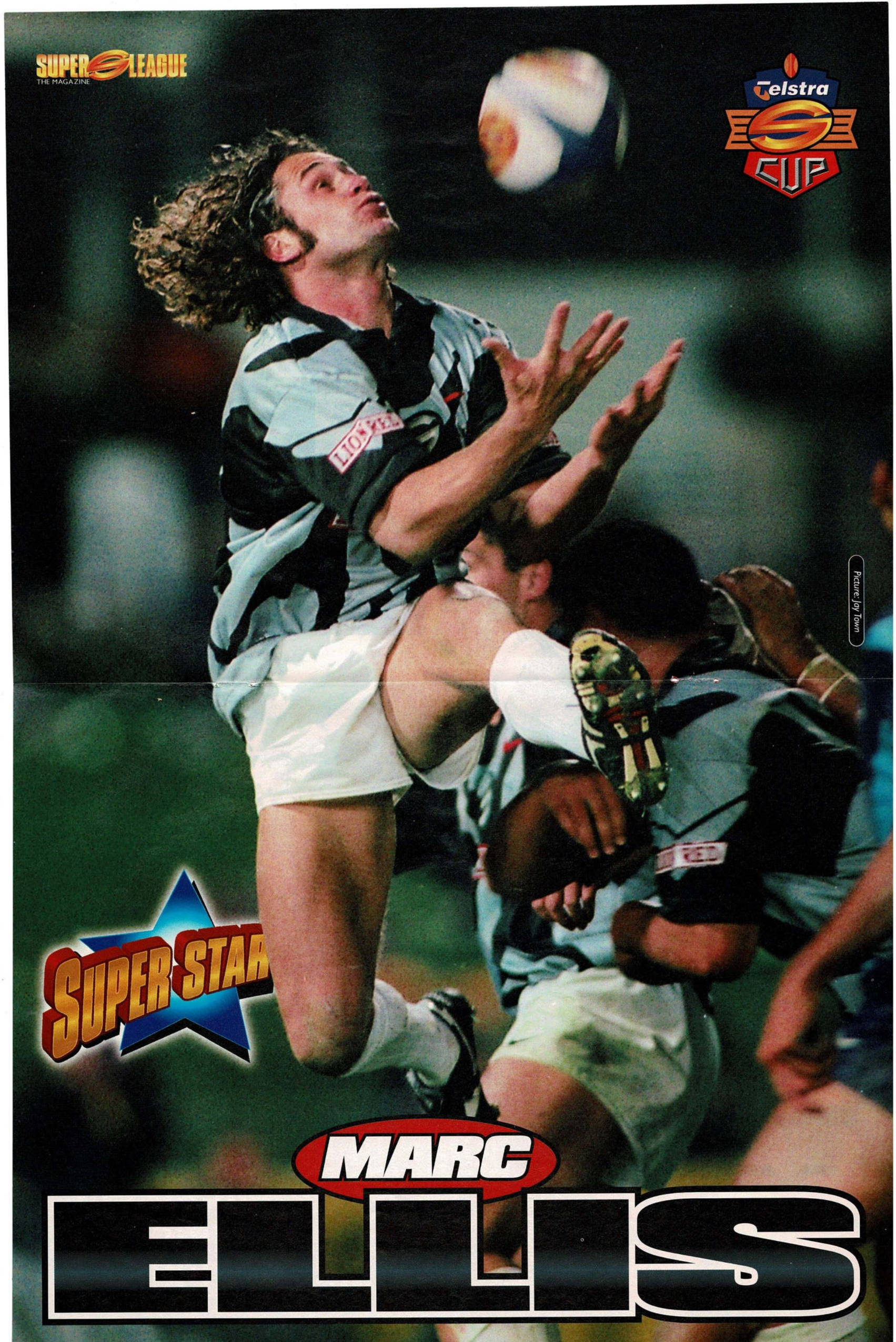
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Picture: Jay Town

SUPER STAR

MARC ELLIS

BRAVEHEART

CAMERON BLAIR'S YELLOW HEADBAND IS MORE THAN JUST A SUPERSTITION

CONSISTENT and persistent – that's the simple philosophy of rugged Adelaide Rams forward Cameron Blair who's now into his 10th season of first grade and showing no signs of slowing.

"It's a terrible thing in rugby league, but when you get to 30 they seem to want to retire you," Blair said. "Sure I've hit the big 'three O' but I'm still physically capable and extremely passionate when it comes to football. I feel I've got this season and at least one more before there's any talk of hanging up my boots."

And it's hard to argue. Blair has found a new lease of life at the Rams where his tough, tenacious approach to the game has made him popular with the fans and media.

"I've never been a flashy player, more a hard tackling, hard-yards man who's never far away from the ball. But most of all I'd like to think I'm a team player. Someone that will help someone else. Like helping a guy out in defence if he's in trouble."

Blair says making the most of what you're "dealt in life" has been the driving philosophy behind his league success.

"I've only been gifted with so much pace, strength and size. Nature has determined that and it's been up to me to push those limits as far as I can. It's just a matter of setting your own high standards and sticking to them. The rewards will eventually come so long as you don't back off."

Blair burst onto the first grade scene with Western Suburbs in 1988 when he was named the Dally M Rookie of the Year. Amazingly, he played three seasons with Wests without missing a senior game before moving on to Parramatta (1992-95), the Western Reds (1996) and now the Rams. Along the way he had a taste of representative football in 1990 with City Firsts.

"I had my window to make the Kangaroo squad that same year, but I just missed out on the train-on squad. It hurt at the time, but when you look back there were some sensational back-rowers back then and coming second to some of them is still pretty good, so I'm happy," he says.

It was during his early years when chasing an Australian jersey that Blair first started wearing his characteristic yellow headband.

"I was doing sports science at Wollongong University and I read where top athletes often have a symbol, like a tattoo or something, to constantly remind them of their goals. At that stage, playing for my country was my ultimate ambition and to me the yellow tape represented the green and gold of Australia. I've just continued to wear it ever since and I can't imagine playing a game without it."

"Have I ever forgotten it? Yeah, I've forgotten to pack it a few times over the years. I've stopped at garages on freeways to pick some up and over the years I've even had to send my Mum out from grounds on a late dash to find some before kick-off time.

"Here at the Rams, they've got to the stage where they keep some in the club kit bag for such emergencies. That's how prepared and professional our coaching team is when it comes to the smallest of details. So yeah, I've forgotten it at times . . . but I've never run out without it."

Blair's yellow headband was "splashed" all over the South Australian media following the Rams' historic first home game back in March, when he went down in the history books as the first hometown player to score a try at Adelaide Oval.

"It didn't sink in until we were walking off. It's one of those little feathers in your cap which doesn't mean a real lot to anyone else, but its something you can personally treasurer forever," he smiles.

Blair has always played the game with a passion, even when he was five-years-old running around for Springwood in the Blue Mountains. But few would have picked him as potential forward.

"Because I was a tall, lanky kid back then I first started playing at centre or five-eighth," he explains.

"Basketball was also pretty high on my interests but by the time I'd turned 17, I decided to drop everything else and go full steam at a league career. I've always decided where I wanted to play and I've always made decisions comfortable to me as a person and for the benefit of my family."

Blair says juggling full-time Super League with married life requires a fine balancing act, but fatherhood has helped settle him away from the playing field.

"With children (Sam and Olivia) comes responsibility and I enjoy that. The kids keep my wife (Michelle) and I occupied and I've found that with less spare time, I don't sit around any more chewing up nervous energy before a big game."

Blair certainly hasn't lost any of his "fire" on the paddock.

"I still enjoy the training and preparation during the week, and I'd like to think I play to win whether we're up by 30 points or down by 30 points. It's all about controlled aggression and a focus on power tackling and running. I have standards and if I can sleep well after a game knowing I've done my best, I haven't got a problem."

Blair says his main goal this season is to perform well at every opportunity.

"My contract with the Rams is up at the end of this year and if talk of amalgamation between the two leagues next season is true, I've got to convince the Rams, or another club, that I've got another year left in me."

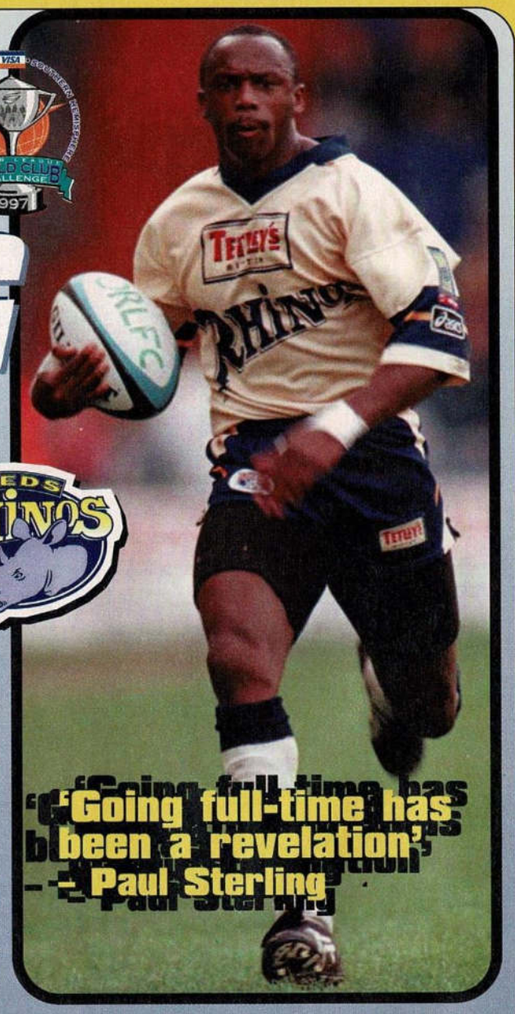
"The passion to play first grade still burns within, and I've made it fairly clear this is the club where I want to play my career out, so the ball's in my court. It's a long season with the English games and I want to be able to put my hand up at the end of the year and say I'm still of value. I feel I've got plenty to offer the younger guys here.

"They're a great bunch of players and I couldn't think of a better club to finish out my career. And that's important because you're a long time retired."

'I've only been gifted with so much pace, strength and size. Nature has determined that and it's been up to me to push those limits as far as I can.'

VINTAGE STERLING

THE LONGER THE LEEDS WINGER GOES, THE BETTER HE GETS



WINE isn't the only thing that gets better with age.

So too does Leeds Rhinos winger Paul Sterling. The 31-year-old flankman has arrived in Australia with coach Dean Bell's Visa Cup World Club Challenge squad and while his name may not be known among fans Down Under, his exploits for Leeds this season have quickly reached the ears of opposition coaches. Adelaide Rams boss Rod Reddy whose side locks horns with the Rhinos on Friday night is well aware of him.

Sterling is the second highest tryscorer in the Euroleague behind Warrington's Kiwi import Nigel Vagana. Not bad for a bloke considered washed up just a couple of seasons ago.

The elusive winger was a latecomer to rugby league. He played rugby union until his late twenties, only switching four seasons ago when he joined Hull. For a while it looked like Sterling might not have the goods to make it in the top league and he spent two lengthy periods on loan to lower division club Hunslet after Hull discarded him.

But 13 tries in 12 games for Hunslet last year ensured he caught the eye of coach Bell, the former New Zealand Test and Auckland Warriors captain and a man who knows his way to the tryline.

Since joining Leeds, Sterling has been a revelation on the end of a slick Rhinos backline which is firing brilliantly following two other major off-season signings, current Great Britain Test five-eighth Iestyn Harris and former Auckland Warrior and Kiwi Test centre Richie Blackmore.

Sterling says his stint with Hunslet gave him the confidence to return to the Euroleague and hold his own.

"At the lower level you get more space and more running opportunities," he explained. "I was doing big yardage breaks and lots of work.

"In Super League, there's less space to work in, and fewer opportunities - you have to make the most of every chance you get. But playing for Hunslet helped me to learn to read the game.

"I'm still learning. Going full-time has been a revelation. For the first time I've been able to work on specific parts of my game, all the little things that players who've been in the game since their early teens take for granted."

Sterling believes Leeds are close to breaking through as one of the Euroleague heavyweights.

"This year we are building," he says. "Next year we'll have even higher expectations.Then we'll expect to get some silverware.

"Iestyn Harris has helped pull us together. He's a class player, and gives us so many more options. With one touch he can change a game. Richie Blackmore is a world class centre and a winger's dream with his presentation of the ball.

"It might sound corny but the whole team is a pleasure to play with."

Leeds' WCC clash with the Rams features some intriguing personal matchups including Sterling's clash with Adelaide's flying Fijian winger Joe Tamani who is not unknown to the Rhinos. Tamani had a great year with the Bradford Bulls last season before returning to Australia to join the Rams.

Up front, Rams coach Rod Reddy will be looking to his tough props Kevin Campion and Mark Corvo to contain rugged Leeds prop Barrie McDermott, a fiery customer who doesn't mind a running battle with his rival front rowers. The Leeds pack also contains another tough customer in former Balmain and Illawarra enforcer Martin Masella.



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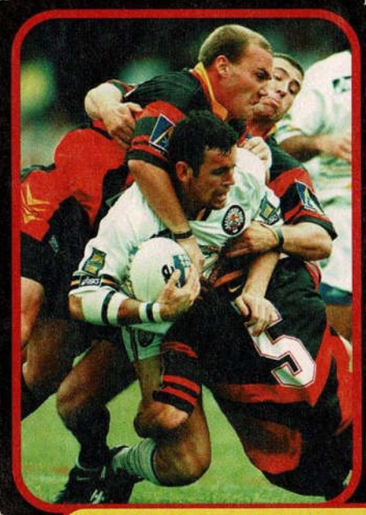
Perth's youngsters enjoy a one-off chance to tour England

ONE month ago, Matthew Geyer was wondering just how he might earn a crust away from rugby league.

But right now he is enjoying his own version of the impossible dream - a three-week tour of England and France as part of the Visa Cup World Club Challenge.

The 21-year-old brother of Perth captain Mark Geyer, Matthew had just been told he was on the bench for reserve grade when the Reds were to host Penrith at the WACA.

"First grade was the last thing on my mind at that stage," Geyer said from his hotel room in Leeds. "I'm completing a TAFE course in cartography at the moment and I was thinking I would have to make sure I got good marks in that because my footy wasn't really going as I had hoped."



CAPTURED TIGER . . . Castleford's David Chapman is crunched in last Sunday's clash won 24-16 by the Reds

But if cliches become tiresome it is due only to their accuracy, for in this case it is certainly true that one man's loss was indeed another man's gain.

Perth fullback Julian O'Neill was stood down for that match and subsequently released from a lucrative long-term deal. Greg Fleming was handed the first grade spot and Geyer was handed a chance.

He took it with both hands, impressing the coaching staff enough to snare a place on the reserves bench in Perth's last home match against the Auckland Warriors. A 10-minute run in first grade and less than 24 hours later, Geyer was on the plane to England.

And that's what the World Club Challenge is all about. Reds coach Dean Lance said the bold new competition offered people at club level (players, supporters and sponsors alike) a crack at international level which might previously have been out of reach.

"If you look at guys like Matt Geyer, Chris Dever and Matthew Daylight - with the utmost respect to those players - they are probably never going to play for Australia," Lance said.

"But here they have the opportunity to be able to tour England and France for a few weeks as a professional sportsman - that's a great experience for those players to be able to enjoy."

Lance said he had been impressed with the way the WCC had been accepted, following the club's arrival in the Old Dart early last week. The Reds were also hard pressed to win their Visa Cup opener, seeing off a competitive Castleford Tigers 24-16 at Wheldon Road.

"From the time we had the official launch last week, I have been amazed with how the media have embraced this competition," Lance said.

"It just shows what an exciting initiative can do because the enthusiasm and willingness to be part of this concept has left me pleasantly surprised."

On the field, the task remains a difficult one, especially given the extra burden of dealing with foreign conditions, parochial English crowds, differing rule interpretations and countering an unaccustomed style of play.

"There is certainly more emphasis on attack over here and the referees don't seem to worry about getting them back 10 metres so much in the English game," Lance said.

"The sides tend to give away a little more of the ball because they like to throw it around but that also tends to make them more dangerous, so we have to make sure we come up in defence and shut down any of their second phase play."

The English game tends to suit big, ball-playing forwards, giving the likes of Peter Shiels and Jon Grieve the chance to showcase their talents. Likewise, nippy backs who threaten the line and challenge lumbering forwards or weaker defensive patterns could well excel. On that note, watch for the likes of Scott Wilson and Tim Horan to figure prominently.

It also gives youngsters and players who might be perceived as fringe first graders the chance to prove they are capable of making the grade in the international arena. Off the field, the WCC provides a unique opportunity to sample the culture and class of a perhaps otherwise unobtainable land.

Players from each and every club will be doing their utmost to bask in the experience provided by a competition of somewhat mind-boggling magnitude. Despite the fun and fanfare, however, it is difficult to sway the attitudes of those with pure Aussie breeding.

"I'd never been out of Australia until this year but we're in England at the moment, then Paris, hopefully followed by Auckland when we play them later in the season, and then I'm planning a holiday in Bali with my girlfriend at the end of the year," Geyer said.

"I'd like to come back to England at some stage and have a good look around, although I'd never want to live here. The place is too cluttered and there's too many people . . . you'd never want to be a Pom."

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MATE AGAINST MATE

Stacey Jones and Robbie Paul go head to head

IT'S the grudge match of the English-based games in the second round of the Visa Cup. Stacey Jones versus Robbie Paul. Kiwi versus Kiwi. Bradford Bulls versus the Auckland Warriors in the World Club Challenge.

Jones and Paul are friends. More than that, actually. They're very close mates who, when brought together in New Zealand colours for the Anzac Day Test against Australia earlier this year, deliberately went out of their way to spend a lot of time together.

"We pretty much came up through the ranks together," explains Jones, the quicksilver Auckland halfback. "We always seemed to be in the same age group teams. One year I'd be captain, and the next Robbie would be."

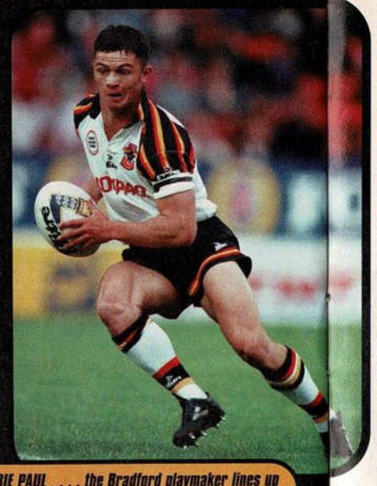
Now there are growing suggestions the two good mates could be rivals for the New Zealand Test No. 7 jersey — and quite possibly the Warriors halfback position as well.

Paul made his Kiwi debut against Australia on Anzac Day, the only English-based New Zealander to make the side. He came off the bench late in the game with Australia already with the game in the bag but still made an impression, scoring a well-taken individual try.

Paul's feats for the front-running Bradford Bulls in the Euroleague have been capturing increasing attention within New Zealand and in recent weeks there have even been suggestions that the Kiwi selectors should consider him ahead of Jones for the return international against Australia in Auckland on October 17.

That will sound strange to many Australian observers who have seen Jones score some crackerjack individual tries for the Warriors this season.

But there is a growing belief in New Zealand league circles that Jones is not a playmaker, and that he is too quiet on the field. Some critics claim he is better suited to a support player role, running off ball-playing forwards like Steve Kearney and using his speed and step from there to bamboozle the cover defence.



ROBBIE PAUL . . . the Bradford playmaker lines up against his old friend in Stacey Jones

Perhaps Paul playing at five-eighth — also a problem area for the Kiwis, and Auckland — is with Jones remaining at halfback is the answer.

Then there's the suggestion Paul could be approached to return to Auckland.

There are growing rumours that the Warriors intend to use the funds saved by the release of million dollar man Denis Betts back to Wigan to chase several talented New Zealanders playing in England such as Robbie, his older brother Henry and Warrington's Nigel Vagana.

However the future unfolds, this weekend's game between the Bulls and the Warriors could be a sneak preview of an intriguing battle between two good mates.

THE GOOD OLD BAD OLD DAYS

Sharks hard men go back to their old stamping ground

TOMMY Bishop and Cliff Watson were a pair of mean, rip-and-tear Sharks. Pain meant nothing, inflicting it was part of the game. And they played no differently for St Helens.

Their steely resolve, never-give-an-inch attitudes at both clubs were legendary. Finally, when Cronulla meet St Helens this week at Knowsley Road in the Visa Cup World Club Challenge, the two stalwarts are to be honoured.

Watson, who played 372 games for St Helens from 1960-70 and then 38 games for Cronulla from 1971-73 and Bishop, 135 games for St Helens and 60 for Cronulla between 1969-73 are to be inducted into the English Rugby league Hall of Fame.

Both men, who settled in Australia after their playing careers ended, will also be guests of honour at the Visa Cup game when the clubs they literally bled for clash in round two.

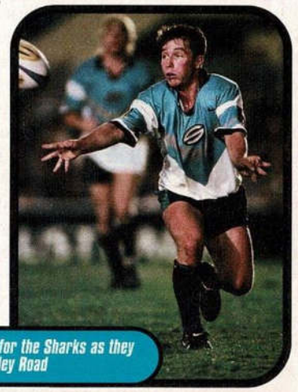
Said Bishop: "It couldn't be better. Fancy these two clubs finally meeting and I'm lucky enough to be there.

"It should be a great game. Of course, a lot of things have changed since Cliff and I played but rugby league will always be rugby league. Obviously my loyalties will be divided. But as a half back I guess I'll be watching the Sharkies Paul Green pretty closely. He's got a lot of talent. I'm not even game to predict a winner though."

Cliff Watson, one of the toughest men ever to play the game, is just happy to be going back. He was surprised to get the invitation, happy to accept and is just looking forward to meeting old friends and seeing a great game of football.

"It's not the game I played. It's fast now, very fast. In my day we didn't have all the advantages they have now. We just got out there and played it hard."

Played it hard? Watson's amazing record speaks for itself. He was also the man suspected of flattening the equally menacing Mal Reilly when the Sharks and Manly clashed in the 1973 grand final.



PAUL GREEN . . . key player for the Sharks as they take on St Helens at Knowsley Road

It happened in back play, one minute Reilly was on his feet, the next he wasn't and the culprit was never identified. But Watson was always the chief suspect.

But - like the shooting of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, are there UFOs and how could the Poms ever beat us at cricket? -the answer may never be known.

"It wasn't me," said the now 57-year-old Sydney resident. "I think it was a square-up, but I don't know who did it."

BRING ON THE 'ASSASSIN'

If it happens, Piccinelli will be ready

HUNTER Mariner Neil Piccinelli doesn't go looking for trouble. But he won't walk away from it either.

This weekend the Mariners lock comes up against Castleford's "baby faced assassin" Brendan Tuuta. Keep an eye on this clash. The game will be broadcast live on Fox Sports in the early hours of Saturday morning and repeated at 9.30 that night.

Tuuta, who played here with Western Suburbs and also represented New Zealand was recognised as a hothead. Apparently nothing much has changed.

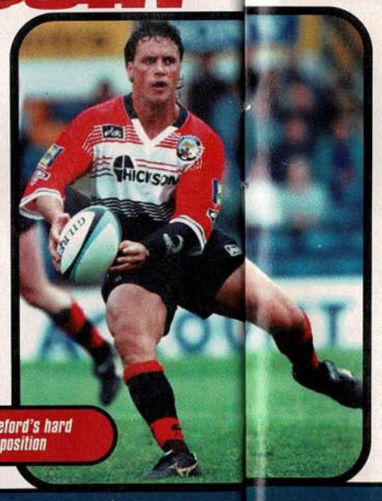
When he played against Bob Fulton's Australians in 1989 the Aussie coach all but stated that Tuuta was more concerned with running around and biffing anyone in sight rather than playing the game.

If he tries it against the Mariners, Piccinelli will be more than willing to "accommodate him" according to Mariners' media relations officer and former Queensland utility Michael Hagan.

So how tough is Piccinelli? "Extremely," laughed Hagan. "If Tuuta wanted to try something on Neil would handle it. 'Pinch' is a no-nonsense footballer and he's not a bloke who would go out of his way to create any problems. He's an extremely honest and hard-working forward but you could never doubt his toughness. He's played 159 first grade games.

"He was the cornerstone for the Illawarra pack for a number of years and he's among our leading tacklers this year. He's one of those players who does a lot of work without really being noticed. But the other blokes on the park certainly know he's there."

Hagan, like Mariners coach Graham Murray, believes that the Mariners have a better than average chance of coming out of their France and England stint on the right side of the ledger. He feels a win against the Castleford Tigers is on the cards.



BRENDAN TUUTA . . . Castleford's hard man facing some tough opposition

"They're struggling and they've got a few blokes still going round who were playing when I was over with Halifax in 1994 and 95. Lee Crooks, Graham Steadman and Dean Sampson must be pushing 35, so youth isn't on their side in some respects.

"But they are playing at Wheldon Road, their home ground. Another factor is that if there's any sort of Cup game on where there might be something at the end of the day for English players then they'll lift themselves beyond belief and the crowd will get right behind them. So, we can't take anything for granted," said Hagan.

INTO THE WOLVES DEN

THE PANTHERS ARE IN NO MOOD TO BE SAVAGED

WHEN the Euroleague kicked off this season the Warrington Wolves looked to be the "dark horse" in the pack. So far it hasn't turned out that way. It doesn't mean though that Royce Simmons is going to take them lightly.

Simmons' Panthers take them on this week at the Wolves home ground, Wilderspool. If they're not careful, the Panthers could be savaged.

"Johnny Dorahy's got a pretty good side there," said Simmons. "And you always have to be on your guard in England because their home ground advantage means exactly that.

"They copped a shocking smashing from Leeds a couple of weeks ago and I'm always wary of sides coming off a belting."

Fortunately for Royce, his Panthers come into the game with a week of English acclimatisation under their belts. All they're missing is Greg Alexander's presence. But with Craig Gower calling the shots the coach can hardly complain.

"We're OK around the rucks. There are just a few Warrington players we'll have to keep an eye on.

"Nigel Vagana can be dangerous and we'll have to watch and shut down Kelly Shelford and Paul Sculthorpe."

The Panthers, with their Telstra Cup form gradually returning after late hiccups, are favourites on paper. It's a win they must grab if they're going to be in contention for the Visa Cup World Club Challenge finals in September.

"We're going for it," said Royce. "We didn't fly all this way to fail."

WCC ROUND 1 REVIEW

HOLD onto your hats, maybe it's not going to be one-way traffic after all. The critics were out in their hundreds after the first few matches but the tune is changing. Wigan and Bradford have shown they will be competitive in the Visa Cup, even if it takes some of their fellow Euroleague clubs a little longer. And, of course, some of the Pommie sides were woeful. We listened into the talk around the pubs and clubs for our review of round one of the World Club Challenge.

Oh boy, it doesn't look good for our Pommie mates does it?

You betcha. Nine out of 10 after round one won't be sitting well with them at all. Especially after all that gloating over the cricket.

Wigan held up the Pommie end though. Was Mike Atherton playing for them?

No, but a bloke named Jason Robinson was. Along with Gary Connolly, he showed us what a truly class player he is and it will be a treat to see him come up against Wendell Sailor when they take on the Broncos.

It looked as if the Canterbury Bulldogs thought they just had to turn up to win it. D'ya reckon that's the way it was?

It sure looked that way. Taking a tap from a penalty in front of the posts in the opening minutes certainly reflected a cocksure attitude. By the time they decided to shift out of third gear the Warriors had bolted. Wigan are a side with great pride and tradition. Take them lightly at your peril.

Bradford put up a fair showing against Roycie Simmons' Panthers over there in Pomgolia as well?

Yeah, the Bulls were always going to be hard to beat, especially in front of their own fans. They haven't lost a game in Euroleague this year so it was a good effort by the Panthers.

It was a nail-biter though.

Too right. Bradford led 16-2 at half-time and you'd have put your house on them at that stage. It was 16-all with two minutes to go when Syd Domic got over. Domic had a blinder too.

Who were the most impressive of our lot then?

Undoubtedly Canberra, although Auckland shot out of the gate and impressed a lot of doubters. But what about the Raiders? Kenny Nagas's six-pack, prop Luke Davico almost going all the way for a runway try, big Mal with a huge smile on the sideline . . . it was just like the old days for the rampaging Raiders. March and those four opening losses in a row must seem like a long time ago now. Sure, Halifax were ordinary. The Blue Sox obviously think "defence" is the structure that runs around the field. But, phew, those Raiders were red-hot. Mark them down for Visa Cup favouritism.

You mentioned Auckland. Why?

Because of the way they put St Helens to the sword. OK, they could just as easily fall over next week but for once Auckland played like a team of internationals should. A team with that much individual class has got to strike paydirt at some stage and against the Saints they did. Matthew Ridge made a power of difference and some of the tries the Warriors ran in were spectacular.

Jeez, it doesn't say much for the standard of Pommie football, though, when the team that will probably win the wooden spoon here can put on 40 points against the defending Euroleague champions.

You're being a bit harsh. St Helens have an horrendous injury list. They were down seven key players against the Warriors including Test centre Paul Newlove and brilliant five-eighth Tommy Martyn. It'd be a bit like taking Paul Green, E.T, Les Davidson, David Peachey and Mat Rogers out of the Cronulla line-up and still expecting them to fire.

The game just looks too quick for the Poms, though.

Fair point. Although Auckland found themselves caned by the referee for not playing the ball correctly on a number of occasions. The Poms are losing that extra half second because their refs are obviously demanding the ball be played properly. Our blokes aren't as strict in that area and the Australian sides are exploiting it.

Any Pommie players catch your eye?

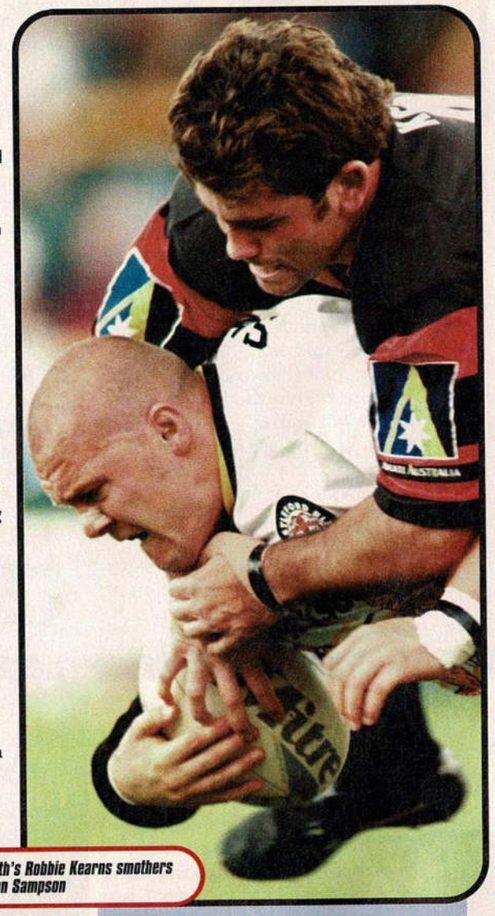
Young Leeds halfback Ryan Sheridan looks a good player, former Australian centre David Krause was outstanding for the London Broncos and Halifax hooker Paul Rowley looks a goer too. Other than that the pickings seemed pretty slim.

It seems like there's a good chance a number of Australasian teams in both Pool A and Pool B will wind up undefeated after the preliminary rounds. How will they decide which four teams from down here qualify for the finals then?

It will be decided on points differential. On that basis, Canberra, Auckland and Cronulla have the jump on Pool A rivals Brisbane and Penrith. And in Pool B, Adelaide and North Queensland have the early lead over the likes of Hunter and Perth following the opening round results.

Which are the big games this week?

Bradford and Auckland in England and down here obviously the Wigan-Broncos clash. Both should be rippers.



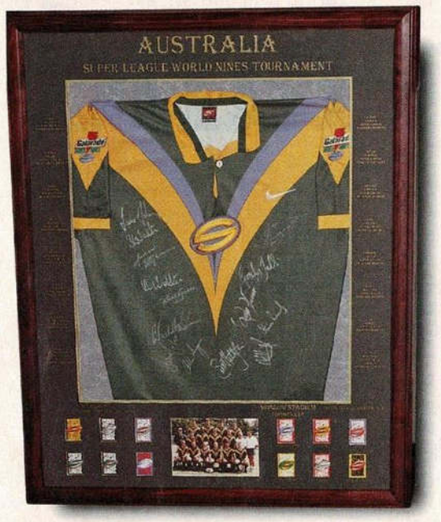
GOTCHA . . . Perth's Robbie Kearns smothers Castleford's Dean Sampson

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WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO ENGLAND!

THIS is it folks . . . the grand prize for the winner of our Super Interactive Fantasy Football competition.

The lucky reader whose Interactive Team tops the premiership table will be jetting off to the United Kingdom on Cathay Pacific Airlines to see a Super League Test between Australia and Great Britain at the world famous Wembley Stadium in London in November. And they will be taking a friend with them.

PlayStation

Traveland has joined Sony PlayStation as the major sponsor of our exciting Super League Interactive competition. And not only have they kindly supplied us with two return air fares but also five nights accommodation in a top London hotel as well!

Add in the $1000 of Sony PlayStation games and accessories for the overall winner and it's quite a grand prize.

Don't forget, we will also have a weekly winner for the 12 weeks the competition runs. Each week a Sony PlayStation console worth $299 will be given to the reader whose "Interactive Team" scored the most points in that round. That means that even if you're out of the running for the overall prize, you can still win the weekly competition. In the event of a tie for either the weekly prize or the overall prize, a draw will be made to determine our winner.



This competition started last Friday night when the London Broncos took on the Brisbane Broncos in the opening round of the Visa World Club Challenge.

The Game includes rounds 13-18 of the Telstra Cup Australasian premiership and the Visa World Club Challenge preliminary rounds.

HOW TO SCORE

Points are awarded for individual tasks - such as tries scored, goals, hit-ups and tackles.

Scoring is based on Super League's official statistics, provided by I&T Rugby League Statistics.

Tables 1 to 5 are for players who we have nominated as tryscorers. Tables 1-3 are exclusively reserved for Australian players, while Tables 4 and 5 are reserved for the top European players. Each time one of these players scores a try, they will be awarded 40 points.

Tables 6 to 8 are for players we have nominated as hit-up players. Tables 6 and 7 are for Aussies, while Table 8 is for the European players. Each hit-up is worth 3 points.

Tables 9 and 10 are for players we have nominated as tacklers. Table 9 for Aussies and Table 10 for European players. Each tackle will be worth 2 points.

Table 11 is for players we have nominated as goalkickers. The top Australian and European goalkickers are shown. Goals kicked by Australians will be worth 10 points, while goals kicked by Europeans will be worth 20 points as they only play in half as many games as their counterparts.

Field goals do not count.

Traveland

SUPER INTERACTIVE

PlayStation

GAME 1 PROGRESS

SUPER LEAGUE ROUNDS 13-18 AND WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE ROUNDS 1-6

LEADING ENTRANTS

OUR leading entrant after the first round of Super Interactive, Tim Thornhill from Orange, NSW wins a Sony PlayStation worth $299.

Tim's team is: Ryan, Kennedy, Ross, Robinson, Sterling, Macnamara, Lazarus, Mestrov, Treister, Cassidy and Girdler who scored 595 points between them.

Our Perfect Team (771) shows the players who have scored the most points in their respective tables.

Watch for our next update, and another winner of a SonyPlaystation next week.

595	Tim Thornhill, NSW	525	100092
586	100348	524	100256
570	100426	521	100450
565	100149	520	100395
562	Eric Lewis, NZ	518	100239
556	100211	518	Paul Fenning, Qld
550	100492	518	Damian Jeffrey, ACT
546	Peter Flew, NSW	517	100135
544	100400	517	100397
544	100531	516	100469
543	100285	516	Michael Ryan, Qld
542	100101	515	100251
542	100358	515	A Samsworth, WA
539	100535	514	100124
538	100227	514	100147
538	100260	514	Jenni Byrom, WA
537	Heath Trahair, NSW	514	Brett Smith, NSW
536	100134	513	Stuart Duff, NZ
536	Rachael Adair, WA	512	100501
536	S. Dickinson, NSW	511	D Chamberlin, NSW
533	100109	510	Adrian Harch, Qld
533	100207	510	N Langham, NSW
533	Mr. G.W. Marsden, SA	508	100264
531	Emma Paterson, Qld	508	Alan Currie, SA
531	David Simpson, NSW	506	Russell Guse, Qld

CATHAY PACIFIC

TABLE 1: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

1	John Carlaw	-
2	Tonie Carroll	40
3	Hazam El Masri	-
4	Andrew Hinson	-
5	Sean Hoppe	80
6	Brett Mullins	-
7	Noa Nadruku	-
8	Steve Renouf	40
9	Matthew Ryan	40
10	Wendell Sailor	40

TABLE 2: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

11	Keith Beauchamp	40
12	Geoff Bell	-
13	Greg Fleming	-
14	Craig Gower	-
15	Michael Hancock	-
16	Ben Kennedy	40
17	Allan Langer	-
18	Luke Phillips	40
19	Darren Smith	-
20	Jason Williams	-

TABLE 3: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

21	Steve Carter	-
22	Laurie Daley	-
23	A. Ettingshausen	-
24	David Furner	-
25	Chris McKenna	-
26	David Peachey	40
27	Iva Ropati	-
28	Robbie Ross	40
29	Gavin Thompson	-
30	Kevin Walters	80

TABLE 4: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

31	Phil Bergman	-
32	Richie Blackmore	-
33	Jean-Marc Garcia	-
34	Alan Hunte	40
35	Paul Newlove	-
36	Martin Offiah	-
37	Robbie Paul	-
38	Jason Robinson	80
39	Darren Rogers	-
40	Nigel Vagana	40

TABLE 5: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

41	Gary Connolly	-
42	Shaun Edwards	-
43	Jason Flowers	-
44	Luke Goodwin	-
45	Richard Henare	-
46	Jamie Olejnik	-
47	Danny Peacock	40
48	Martin Pearson	-
49	Fata Sini	-
50	Paul Sterling	80

TABLE 6: AUST HIT-UPS (3pts)

51	Matt Adamson	30
52	Denis Betts	39
53	Brett Green	36
54	Stephen Kearney	63
55	Bruce Mamando	66
56	Carl Macnamara	60
57	Tawera Nikau	36
58	Andrew Pierce	-
59	Troy Stone	42
60	Joe Tamani	-

TABLE 7: AUST HIT-UPS (3pts)

61	Bradley Clyde	33
62	Mark Corvo	51
63	Luke Davico	27
64	Soloman Haumono	48
65	Glenn Lazarus	33
66	John Lomax	48
67	Nathan Long	-
68	Mitch Newton	45
69	Peter Shiels	54
70	Tiaan Strauss	-

TABLE 8: EURO HIT-UPS (3pts)

71	Cliff Eccles	48
72	Steve Edmed	-
73	Ian Gildart	-
74	Martin Masella	57
75	Tony Mestrov	66
76	Sonny Nickle	-
77	Terry O'Connor	-
78	Apollo Perelini	81
79	Tony Priddle	39
80	Brendon Tuuta	54

TABLE 9: AUST TACKLERS (2pts)

81	Kevin Campion	-
82	Syd Eru	54
83	Simon Gillies	56
84	Mark Horo	26
85	Robbie Kearns	56
86	Neil Piccinelli	62
87	Ian Roberts	-
88	Brad Thorn	38
89	Dean Treister	58
90	Kerrod Walters	26

TABLE 10: EURO TACKLERS (2pts)

91	Mick Cassidy	78
92	Peter Edwards	74
93	Anthony Farrell	44
94	Brett Goldspink	-
95	Karl Harrison	48
96	Chris Joynt	40
97	James Lowes	46
98	David O'Donnell	60
99	Steve Rosolen	40
100	Paul Sculthorpe	58

TABLE 11: GOALKICKERS (*)

101	Mark Aston	-
102	Steve Blakeley	40
103	Andy Farrell	40
104	Ryan Girdler	20
105	Bobbie Goulding	40
106	Daryl Halligan	30
107	Iestyn Harris	40
108	Darren Lockyer	70
109	Matthew Ridge	70
110	Mat Rogers	40

*Aust 10pts, Euro 20pts

PERFECT TEAM (771)

5	Hoppe	80
11/16/18	3 tied	40
30	Walters	80
38	Robinson	80
50	Sterling	80
55	Mamando	66
69	Shiels	54
78	Perelini	81
86	Piccinelli	62
91	Cassidy	78
108/109	2 tied	70

$15,000 WORTH OF PRIZES

OUR WINNER

Our winner will be the entrant whose Interactive team scores the highest aggregate number of points.

Sit back and enjoy as we do all the had work in publishing player's points as well as the top 100 entrants as the game progresses.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

WRITE TO SUPER LEAGUE THE MAGAZINE, 140 WILLIAM STREET, SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

HANG ON TO RODNEY

Sir,
I am writing in response to the letter about Rodney O (SL #13).
I have been following Penrith since 1967 and think we need someone like Rodney to put some life into the crowd.
I think we have too many supporters who are old and won't join in the fun and the yelling. But when we lose they start to whinge about it.
I believe Super League is better than the ARL because of the entertainment and the faster games. We also get to yell more but we need more supporters like me, my Mum and my son.
Mrs D McGuire
Blaxland, NSW

COME ON POMS

Sir,
Congratulations on a great magazine, sent to me by my sister-in-law who recently moved to Australia and is already a Panthers supporter.
I have assured her and can assure all your Australian readers that the Australian club sides will dominate the WCC this year.
Our lads will be 100 per cent but I predict they will not win a game on Australian soil and maybe just four at home.
Here's hoping I'm wrong though.
Steve Firth
Culcheth near Warrington, England

YOUNG SHARK

Sir,
I am a Super Sharks fan and I'm 10 years old. Dad takes me to Shark Park for most games. Your magazine is good and I love the competitions.
The Tri Series final was great, I couldn't sleep for ages after it. I was too excited. The Sharks will be back soon.
Nicole Niland
Oyster Bay, NSW

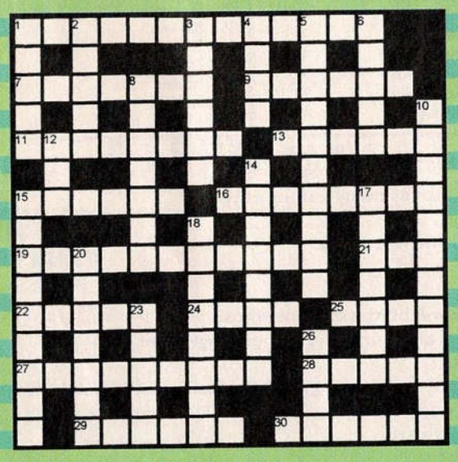
MULLINS MANIA

Sir,
I have recently become a fan of the Canberra Raiders and especially Brett Mullins. I noticed him only recently after he played against Penrith.
I was an ARL fan but converted to Super League after seeing Brett.
Could you tell me if you have done any stories on him? If not, would you consider doing one in your magazine? I would be so grateful because I am having trouble obtaining any information or pictures of him as I live in the Penrith area.
Gail Herbert
Colyton, NSW
Ed: Brett was injured during the early part of the season but keep an eye on this magazine as we have a feature planned on him which will appear soon

JUST ONE COMP

Sir,
We definitely need one comp next year, but I hope we don't go back to the bad old days just for the sake of tradition.
Super League has come a long way in a short time and what Super League has done for league is what day-night matches have done for cricket.
Super League has created a nationwide competition with faster games, improved jerseys and a ripper Tri Series final.
As for the Rams not being competitive, quite the contrary. ARL had its chances and they wasted them.
Nick Rhodes
Miranda, NSW

SUPER X-WORD



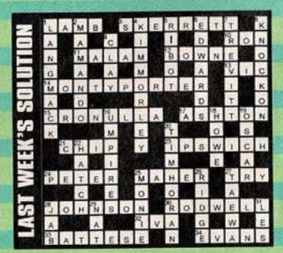
ACROSS

1. Penrith Panthers three-quarter. (5, 8)
7. NSW Super League prop 1997. (7)
9. Queensland Super League winger 1997. (6)
11. Queensland representative lock 1976-82. (4, 4)
13. Val - Panthers second-rower 1984-85. (6)
15. Perth Reds prop. 6)
16. See - Auckland Warriors prop 1995. (8)
19. North Queensland Cowboys centre. (4, 7)
21. Required when there is an uneven number of teams in a competition. (3)
22. Bradford Stadium held 102,574 to watch the 1954 Challenge Cup replay between Warrington and Halifax. (5)
24. Piccinelli. Hunter Mariners. (4)
25. Match result. (4)
27. Great Britain forward 1982-92. (3, 6)
28. Illegal type of tackle. (5)
29. Aaron - Auckland Warriors hooker 1996. (6)
30. North Queensland Cowboys halfback. (6)

DOWN

1. Hunter Mariners prop. (5)
2. Adelaide Rams lock. (5)
3. Auckland Warriors second-rower. (6)
4. First name of Hunter Mariners reserve grade coach Wrinkler. (4)
5. Defeated Fairfield Patrician Brothers 28-12 to win the 1991 Commonwealth Cup. (2, 8)
6. Herb - Kangaroo forward of the 1930s who held an Australian boxing title. (5)
8. Also known as a club's reserve grade side. (7)
10. Auckland Warriors lock and New Zealand reserve forward 1995. (5, 7)
12. Number of points for a field goal. (3)
14. Queensland and Australian second-rower 1970. (3, 5)
15. Hunter Mariners halfback. (9)
17. Paul - Canberra Raiders prop 1992-94. (7)
18. North Queensland Cowboys threequarter. (4)
20. Cronulla halfback 1985-91, he won the Rothmans Medal 1998. (7)
23. MCC headquarters. (5)
26. Wimbledon men's singles champion 1975. (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



SUPER KIDS

NEWS, GAMES, INFO AND STUFF!

BIG BEN

AFTER a slow start to the year, punctuated by injury and perhaps second year syndrome, Ben Kennedy is now back to his best with the Canberra Raiders. Super Kids spoke to him this week.

How are you finding your second season in league?

I am happy with the way our season is unfolding after a rusty start. Personally, it was a bit like starting all over again. My first season was cut short because I broke my arm but I feel like I am getting back on my feet again.

So there are no regrets about switching from rugby union?

No, not at all. The Raiders are an excellent club and a terrific bunch of blokes. I am enjoying my football here and learning all the time. It's a privilege to be playing alongside guys like Daley, Stuart and Clyde. They are three of the best players to lace on a boot and they are great leaders. When I was a kid all my heroes were league players so I knew I would end up switching one day.

Was there a bit of pressure in the camp early in the year?

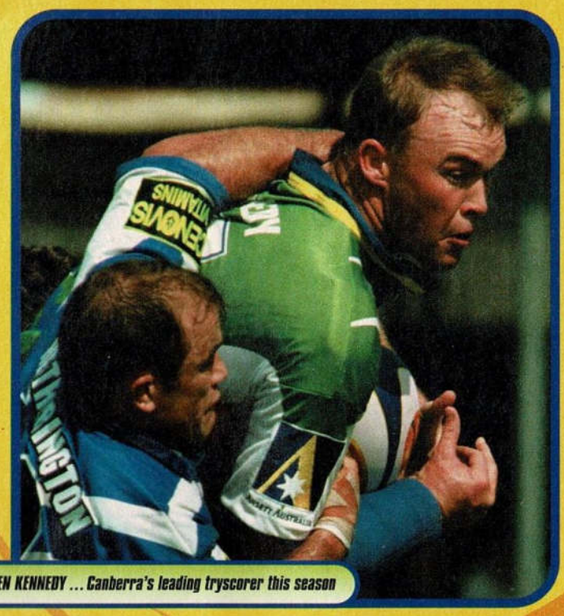
Like I say, we started rusty but that is now out of the system. We are lucky to have some composed, experienced leaders showing the way. We always knew we could get out of trouble. It was a case of having to put our heads down and work hard.

Are you surprised to find yourself the leading tryscorer for Canberra this year?

Yeah, I suppose I am. But I don't think I would be in front if blokes like Noa Nadruku and Brett Mullins had been on the paddock for the full season. They have got plenty of time to catch me too, don't worry. Everyone likes to score tries and I'm no different. Part of my job in a good attacking side like Canberra is to back up and one my aims is to continue to do that.

Was there any unnecessary expectation placed on you after the winning the Rising Star Award last year?

Not really. That was a big honour but I knew it wouldn't count for much when it



BEN KENNEDY ... Canberra's leading tryscorer this season

inside

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46 Quick Quiz
46 Chilling out with Mick Cassidy
46 Team Gear Winners
47 Winning the pain game
47 Talking to my Hero
48 My Secret Passion: Anthony Mundine
48 Super Puzzle
48 Milestones

came to competing for a place in the Raiders side. We have a lot of forwards in the club so you have to train and play to the best of your ability every week to stay in the team.

Rumour has it that you are about to join the growing fathers' club at the Raiders?

That's right. My partner Emma is due any day now, We are both excited about the arrival of our first child. The baby won't be short of playmates because there are plenty of my teammates with babies and toddlers.

QUICK QUIZ

1. **Which Euroleague team does Martin "Chariots" Offiah play for?**
   .....
2. **Bulldog Solomon Haumono wasn't born in Australia. Which country was he born in?**
   .....
3. **The Kiwis tried to claim two Brisbane Broncos as their own for the Tri Series. Who were they?**
   .....
4. **Perth Reds and Australian prop Rodney Howe has been sidelined for the season with what sort of injury?**
   .....
5. **Who was the British referee who controlled the Anzac Day Test?**
   .....

Answers: 1 London Broncos 2 New Zealand 3 Tonie Carroll and Brad Thorn 4 Knee 5 Stuart Cummins.

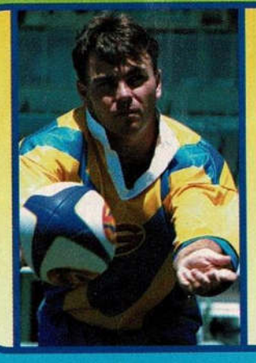
CHILLING OUT WITH MICK CASSIDY

WIGAN



Name: Mick Cassidy
Nickname: Cass
Born: July 3, 1973 at Wigan. I'm Wigan born and bred.
League heroes: Andy Platt and Dean Bell. Both of them are winners — no matter what the score is, or was, they would both go at it for 80 minutes. They never give up!
League influences: I would have to say (former Wigan coach) Graeme West. He's been at the club all the time I have, until recently obviously, and has spearheaded my professional career.
Most memorable game: Wigan's World Club Championship final victory in Brisbane against the Broncos. Prior to the game people were writing us off through injury, our backs were really against the wall. We stuck at it, though, and came through.
What's the last film you saw?: Ransom, with Mel Gibson. It's a good, tense thriller.
What's the last CD you bought?: Alanis Morrisette. I like listening to a lot of music, especially in my car.
Who's your favourite Spice Girl?: The dark haired one, Victoria. She's the best looking.
What's a good night out?: I like to go out with my wife. We like a bit of cabaret. You can't beat going to a concert, a few drinks, a live band
Best holiday: Our honeymoon when we went to Italy two years ago. We went to see Pompeii, Vesuvius. Italy's a great country for sightseeing.
Off-field: I like fishing, sea fishing mainly. I love it, especially when the weather's good. I like to do a bit wherever I go, even when I'm away on tour. I went fishing in PNG last year. We met a couple who had a boat at a yacht club in Lae and went out with them.
Goals for '97: To finish the Euroleague season well and end up in the top four, team wise. We also want to do well here in Australia to show that we're closing the gap. A lot of teams could come unstuck over here because they don't have the experience. These are one-off matches, though, and we have got a lot of experience at Wigan, so hopefully we'll be in with a show.

WIN YOUR FAVOURITE TEAMS SUPPORTER GEAR



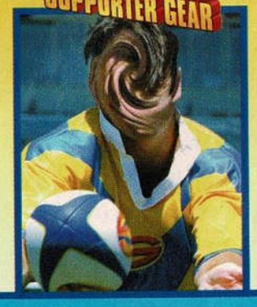
YEP most of you successfully guessed the identity of our morphed Hunter Mariners Super League player. It was ace Mariners halfback and NSW Tri Series hero Noel Goldthorpe.

We drew five lucky winners out of our mountain of mail. They are:

RACHEL CARGILL of Glengowrie in South Australia
JACK BROUGHAN of Exmouth in Western Australia
JOSHUA COMERFORD of Raceview in NSW
JADE LINTER of Redhead, NSW
PATRICK DANIELS of Sherwood, Queensland

Congratulations, you've each won a Top Heavy Super League supporters shirt of the team of your choice. We'll be in contact with you by mail to find out your shirt size and favourite club.

Thanks for entering everybody. And look out for future Morphing Competitions in upcoming issues of Super Kids.

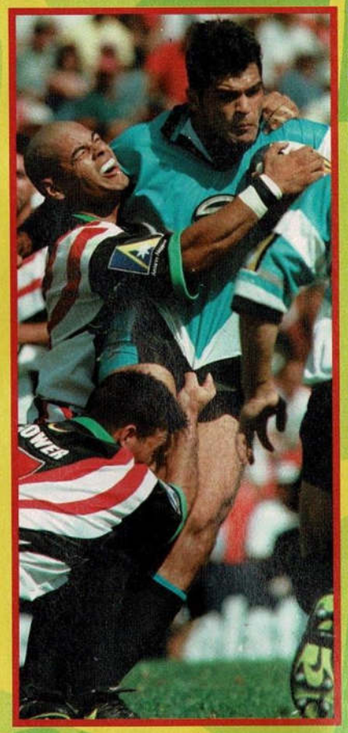


WINNING THE PAIN GAME

The trick is patience

AARRGGHHH!!!!!!

You can almost read the pain on the face of Penrith Panther Morvin Edwards as he wrenches his knee in this Telstra Cup match against the Cronulla Sharks.



Unfortunately for Edwards, he suffered a severe knee injury which looks like keeping him on the sideline for the rest of the Super League season.

Injuries are part and parcel of rugby league. But the way they are managed can play a vital part in how quickly you get back on the field for your team. Not many footballers are lucky enough to have a skilled medical team offering treatment and advice and administering rehabilitation. Most of us have to make do with our own knowledge. And often we don't know enough.

A vast number of the one million Australians who sustain sports injuries each year remain largely unaware of the need to reduce inflammation to optimise pain relief and recovery. Sydney-based sports physician Dr Jonathan King claims inflammation not only causes pain but can interfere with rehabilitation if it is ignored in sporting injuries.

"When treating sports injuries it is important to reduce the inflammation first and foremost, for effective pain relief and faster recovery," said Dr King. "Muscoloskeletal injuries, such as torn ligaments and pulled muscles, trigger an inflammatory response which causes swelling and extreme tenderness.

"Inflammation is a part of the body's response to injury. It is very painful and can interfere with rehabilitation if it's not treated."

According to Dr King, a high level of confusion exists among sports people over the difference between anti-inflammatory sports rubs and heat rubs.

"The treatment of choice to temporarily relieve the symptoms associated with soft tissue injuries such as a torn ligament or pulled muscle is an anti-inflammatory rub," he said. "One of the biggest mistakes sportspeople can make is to apply a heat rub to a sports injury straight after it has occurred."

Heat rubs can aggravate inflammation by increasing the blood flow to the injured area, which in turn increases swelling and pain. The heat sensation in the skin caused by the heat rub overrides pain without actually treating its source — the inflammation.

"If sports people can remember that injury means inflammation, they're heading in the right direction. The next step is remembering to use an anti-inflammatory rub on injuries," Dr King said.

Difflam 3% Gel and Cream contain the anti-inflammatory ingredient benzydamine hydrochloride which is well absorbed into the skin and accumulates in inflamed tissue to reduce inflammation and provide pain relief.

According to Dr King, ice should be applied to the injured area as soon as possible to prevent excessive swelling. An anti-inflammatory rub can then be applied, followed by bandages, which should provide pressure to the area to minimise swelling. The injured area should be rested and elevated if possible.

Dr King warned that sports injuries can be aggravated if strenuous activity is continued or repeated before the injury has fully healed.

In other words, resist the temptation to return to the field too quickly.

TALKING TO MY HERO



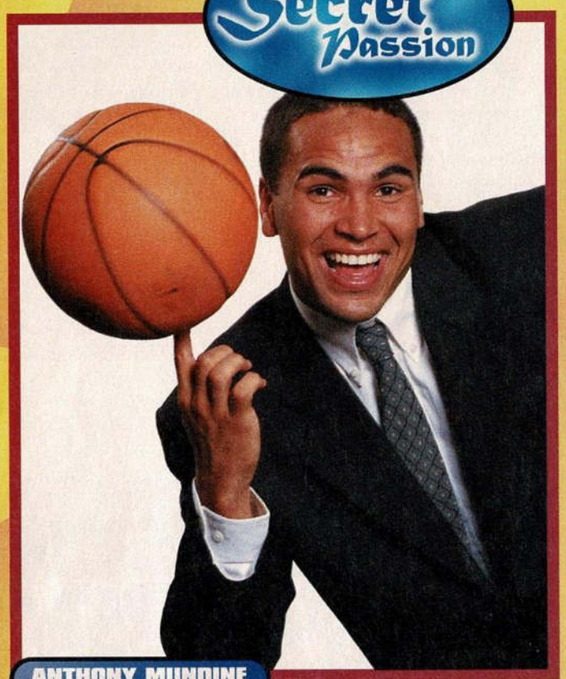
To Bradley Clyde,
I think you are the best footballer ever! For my birthday, I'm going to watch the Raiders play at Bruce Stadium with my Mum, Dad and a friend. I would like to know why you chose No. 13 as your jersey number, what you think of Mal Meninga as a coach, how old you are and whether you played footy as a kid. I play all the time. I hope I get the chance to meet you on my birthday."
— Luke Miller, Bega, NSW.

Bradley Clyde replies: "Dear Luke, Thanks for your letter, champ. And also for your support of my mighty Raiders. I chose to wear No. 13 this year because it is the traditional jumper worn by rugby league locks. This is my favourite position, it is the jumper I always aspired to wear in first grade so I did not want to give it up.
I am 27 years old and I began playing football when I was seven for a Canberra team called Belconnen United.
A lot of people ask me how I think Big Mal is going as a coach. He is doing a great job and we are all enjoying our football playing under him.
I hope you have a great birthday and we will do our best to have a win for you. Have a safe trip from Bega, Luke."

If you want to write to your favourite footballer, drop us a line at: Talking To My Hero, Super League Magazine, PO Box 2077, Strawberry Hills 2013. Print your name, address and age and we'll pass your letter on to your favourite player for a reply.

SUPER KIDS

My Secret Passion



ANTHONY MUNDINE

WHEN Anthony Mundine isn't cutting the opposition up on the rugby league field, he's doing it on the basketball court.

Basketball is Mundine's "second game" and one of his great passions.

Predictably, he's very good at the hoops game. Hardly surprising. This multi-talented athlete is also an outstanding boxer, singer and composer.

From the moment he could talk, mother Lyn says Anthony was a dynamo. By four, he was scoring tries all over the place for South Sydney juniors. By 10, he'd been selected in his first representative team.

Mundine was born into a sporting world. Father Tony was the former Australian, Oceania and Commonwealth light-heavyweight champion and a national sporting legend.

Anthony at one stage exchanged the football for boxing gloves and proved to be a quick learner. In New Caledonia. he won four amateur bouts, trouncing his opponents and earning the nickname "The Black Snack" from locals impressed with the swiftness of his fights and the venom in his gloves.

Then there was basketball. It's growing popularity held great attraction for Mundine who was blessed with boundless energy and tremendous athleticism. "I just love the game," he says.

And he was so good at it that he got to tour the USA with an Australian talent squad, was offered an American college scholarship and an NBL contract with the Sydney Kings.

Instead, Anthony chose rugby league. Basketball and boxing were the losers.

But that doesn't mean Anthony Mundine doesn't grab every opportunity he can for a bit of "backyard hoops".

SUPER PUZZLE

Here's the nickname. Tell us their real names.

1. Canterbury's "El Magic" ■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■■
2. Canberra's "Sticky" ■■■■■ ■■■■■■
3. Cronulla's "Peach" ■■■■■ ■■■■■■■
4. North Queensland's "Boxhead" ■■■■■ ■■■■■■■
5. Penrith's "Jorgo" ■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■

Answers: 1 Hazem El Masri 2 Ricky Stuart 3 David Peachey 4 Steve Walters 5 Peter Jorgensen

MILESTONES

'ROCKET' ROD SILVA chalked up his 200th grade game when he turned out for the Canterbury Bulldogs against Wigan at Belmore last Monday night.

Brilliant Auckland Warrior **STEVE KEARNEY** is just one game away from racking up a century of first grade appearances with Wests and his current club.

Adelaide's Mr Fix-It **STEVE STONE** needs just one more appearance in a Rams jersey to register 200 grade matches with Canberra and his new club.

RAMS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 2ND
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LUKE WILLIAMSON 12
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SOLOMON KIRI 2

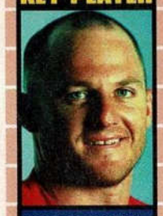
FOX SPORTS:
LIVE 8.30pm (AET)
FOX SPORTS:
RPT JUNE 14 6.30pm

LEEDS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 18TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: PAUL STERLING 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: PAUL STERLING 2

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: FRIDAY, JUNE 13, ADELAIDE OVAL. KICK-OFF: 8.00PM (SA TIME)
REFEREE: STEVE CLARK TOUCH JUDGES: DAVID GOENER & MICHAEL THOMPSON VIDEO REF: IAN PARNABY

KEY PLAYER



KERROD WALTERS: Has led the Rams astutely and sure to go well again from the front.

ROD MAYBON	1	FULLBACK
WAYNE SIMONDS	22	WING
CHRIS QUINN	6	CENTRE
SOLOMON KIRI	25	CENTRE
MICHAEL MAGUIRE	3	WING
LUKE WILLIAMSON	51	FIVE-EIGHTH
DEAN SCHIFILLITI	21	HALFBACK
CAMERON BLAIR	10	LOCK
BRUCE MAMANDO	23	2ND ROW
DAVID BOUGHTON	13	2ND ROW
MARK CORVO	30	PROP
KERROD WALTERS (C)	27	HOOKER
ALAN CANN	8	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
STEVE STONE	9	
KEVIN CAMPION	36	
ANDREW HICK	11	
KURT WRIGLEY	33	
COACH		
ROD REDDY		

'97 FORM

Rd 1 lost to Nth Qld 16-24
Rd 2 lost to Brisbane 12-28
Rd 3 beat Hunter 10-8
Rd 4 beat Auckland 18-16
Rd 5 lost to Perth 16-18
Rd 6 lost to Canterbury 34-22
Rd 7 lost to Brisbane 20-10
Rd 8 beat Cronulla 29-18
Rd 9 beat Penrith 22-16
Rd 10 draw Nth Qld 14-14
Rd 11 lost to Canterbury 42-22
Rd 12 lost to Canberra 18-34
WCC 1 beat Salford 50-8

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
LEEDS +10.5

5	DAMIAN GIBSON	
2	PAUL STERLING	
15	PHIL HASSAN	
4	FRANCIS CUMMINS	
22	LEROY RIVETT	
13	IESTYN HARRIS	
7	RYAN SHERIDAN	
24	GARY MERCER (C)	
12	ANTHONY FARRELL	
11	ADRIAN MORELLY	
10	BARRIE McDERMOTT	
9	WAYNE COLLINS	
8	MARTIN MASELLA	
	INTERCHANGE	
14	GRAHAM HOLROYD	
31	ANDY HAY	
20	JAMIE MATHIOU	
21	TERRY NEWTON	
	COACH	
	DEAN BELL	

KEY PLAYER



BARRIE McDERMOTT: Tough prop loves to mix it with the Aussies.

'97 FORM

Rd 1 beat Oldham 32-22
Rd 2 beat Paris 28-18
Rd 3 beat Castleford 24-21
Rd 4 lost to Halifax 18-24
Rd 5 lost to Wigan 16-17
Rd 6 beat St Helens 13-12
Rd 7 beat Sheffield 30-18
Rd 8 lost to London 16-40
Rd 9 beat Salford 33-20
Rd 10 beat Oldham 43-26
Rd 11 beat Paris 30-2
Rd 12 draw Castleford 30-30
Rd 13 beat Warrington 50-12
WCC 1 lost to Nth Qld 42-20

CURTAIN RAISER: KICK-OFF 6.00PM

RAMS U19s

TRENT SKINNER	1	FULLBACK
JESSE TRANKOVIC	2	WING
DAVID KIDWELL	3	CENTRE
JOHN BRUCE	4	CENTRE
ODELL HARRIS	5	WING
KELSO MCEWAN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH
JASON DORAHY	7	HALFBACK
JOHN TOELUPE	8	PROP
JOSH THOMSON	9	HOOKER
JAMIE McDONALD	10	PROP
ADAM PEEK (C)	11	2ND ROW
TROY GIBBONS	12	2ND ROW
SHANE WILSON	13	LOCK
INTERCHANGE		
PHIL SHEAD	14	
BEN O'CALLAGHAN	15	
SHANE MAHONY	16	
ADAM GLOVER	17	

COACH JASON GREGORY

ALICE SPRINGS

1	MATT BEATTIE
2	LUKE WESSELL
3	JUSTIN PARSON
4	DAMIEN WILLIE
5	JETHRO LAIDLAW
6	NOEL SOLOMON
7	DANIEL FORRESTER
8	PETER WINTON
9	DENNIS SAWTELL
10	BOB WONG
11	DAMIEN CERNI
12	CALVIN POMARE
13	MICHAEL POLHNER
	INTERCHANGE
14	IAN LEMON
15	CRAIG HOLTHAM
16	DARREN WILLIAMS
17	STUART BAIRD

COACH DAVID HAMILTON

COWBOYS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 5TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LUKE PHILLIPS 14
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: GLEN MURPHY 2

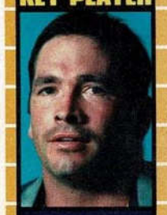
FOXTEL:
LIVE 7.30pm (AET)
FOX SPORTS:
RPT JUNE 15 6am

OLDHAM

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 11TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2 (BYE)
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: BYE
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: BYE

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: SATURDAY, JUNE 14, STOCKLAND STADIUM. KICK-OFF: 7.30PM
REFEREE: GRAHAM ANNESLEY TOUCH JUDGES: ROSS PICARD & STEVE NASH VIDEO REF: JACK DANZEY

KEY PLAYER



OWEN CUNNINGHAM: Uncompromising defender who will make life difficult for Lindner's attackers.

REGGIE CRESSBROOK	14	FULLBACK	1 PAUL ATCHESON
LUKE PHILLIPS	28	WING	2 BOB MYLER
MARK SHIPWAY	20	CENTRE	3 VINCE FAWCETT
SCOTT MAHON	22	CENTRE	4 HOWARD HILL
SHANE VINCENT	41	WING	5 ALFEI LEUILA
IAN DUNEMANN	23	FIVE-EIGHTH	6 FRANCIS MALONEY
ANDREW DUNEMANN	6	HALFBACK	7 MARTIN CROMPTON
KYLE WARREN	1	LOCK	13 LUKE GOODWIN
OWEN CUNNINGHAM	13	2ND ROW	12 MATT MUNRO
PETER JONES	21	2ND ROW	11 PAUL DAVIDSON
*10 MARTIN LOCKE/IAN ROBERTS (C)	31	PROP	10 BRETT GOLDSPINK
STEVE WALTERS	49	HOOKER	9 DAVID STEPHENSON
JOHNNY LOMAX	8	PROP	8 IAN GILDAR
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
GLEN MURPHY	27		14 GARY LORD
JOHN DOYLE	24		15 JOE FAIMALO
BERT TABUAI	30		16 JOHN CLARK
RAY MERCY	34		17 PAUL TOPPING
COACH TIM SHEENS			COACH
*One to be omitted			BOB LINDNER

KEY PLAYER



LUKE GOODWIN: Ex-Penrith boy who will be keen to show he's a loss to the ASL.

'97 FORM

Rd 1 beat Adelaide 24-16
Rd 2 lost to Perth 20-22
Rd 3 lost to Penrith 12-19
Rd 4 lost to Hunter 10-38
Rd 5 beat Canterbury 16-14
Rd 6 lost to Brisbane 42-16
Rd 7 lost to Perth 6-4
Rd 8 lost to Canberra 40-16
Rd 9 beat Auckland 30-22
Rd 10 draw Rams 14-14
Rd 11 draw Brisbane 20-20
Rd 12 lost to Cronulla 10-24
WCC 1 beat Leeds 42-20

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
OLDHAM +14.5

'97 FORM

Rd 1 lost to Leeds 32-22
Rd 2 lost to Bradford 30-18
Rd 3 lost to Salford 35-26
Rd 4 lost to London 32-22
Rd 5 lost to Warrington 28-18
Rd 6 beat Paris 19-18
Rd 7 lost to Wigan 44-10
Rd 8 lost to Halifax 30-29
Rd 9 beat Sheffield 18-14
Rd 10 lost to Leeds 43-26
Rd 11 lost to Bradford 42-28
Rd 12 beat Salford 19-10
Rd 13 draw Castleford 12-12
WCC 1 BYE

CURTAIN RAISER: KICK-OFF 5.20PM

COWBOYS RESERVE GRADE

SHAUN IRELAND	51	FULLBACK	1 STEPHEN CRAIG
KRIS TASSELL	2	WING	2 GRAHAM LYONS
DION COPE	25	CENTRE	3 RAY GAGAI
PAUL BOWMAN	3	CENTRE	4 RENAE ORCHARD
JIM AHMAT	38	WING	5 ALF SONGARA
JOHN SKARDON	35	FIVE-EIGHTH	6 STEVE DOWDEN
JASON FERRIS	7	HALFBACK	7 RICHARD IRELANDES
JASON RYAN	4	LOCK	13 CLINT CONNELL
LUKE SCOTT	17	2ND ROW	12 KAHU TWEEDIE
TYRAN SMITH	12	2ND ROW	11 DAVE CINDRIC
JASON ADAMS	18	PROP	10 DALLAS HANNAY
JASON DEATH	9	HOOKER	9 STEVE WILKINSON
MARTIN LOCKE	10	PROP	8 SEAN WORSELY
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
CAMERON McNAB	33		14 BRAD PIKE
NATHAN BOURKE	45		15 BEN MEDHURST
ANDREW BULMER	55		16 MICHAEL HARRIS
NIXON KOI	54		17 DARREN SMALLHORN

COACH MURRAY HURST

MACKAY A GRADE

BULLDOGS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 13TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: DARYL HALLIGAN 6
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: MATTHEW RYAN 1

FOX SPORTS:
LIVE 2.30pm (AET)
REPLAY 8.30pm
ABC TV:
DELAYED 5pm-7pm

HALIFAX

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 22ND
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: CARL GILLESPIE 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: CARL GILLESPIE 1

BLUE SOX HALIFAX R.L.F.C.

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: SUNDAY, JUNE 15, BELMORE SPORTS GROUND. KICK-OFF: 2.30PM
REFEREE: BRIAN GRANT TOUCH JUDGES: MICHAEL BUNNAGE & COLIN TURNELL VIDEO REF: CHRIS WARD

KEY PLAYER



MATTHEW RYAN: Continues to have a great season and always threatens the try-line.

MATTHEW RYAN	33	FULLBACK	1 MIKE UMAGA
HAZEM EL MASRI	20	WING	4 ASA OMONE
SHANE MARTEENE	35	CENTRE	15 DAIO POWELL
JOHN TIMU	22	CENTRE	19 DAVID BOUVENG
DARYL HALLIGAN	11	WING	23 FERETI TUILAGI
CRAIG POLLA-MOUNTER	1	FIVE-EIGHTH	6 MARTIN PEARSON
DUNCAN McRAE	24	HALFBACK	14 CRAIG DEAN
TRAVIS NORTON	42	LOCK	13 MARTIN MOANA
SIMON GILLIES (C)	25	2ND ROW	12 SIMON BALDWIN
ROBERT RELF	23	2ND ROW	21 MICHAEL JACKSON
STEVE PRICE	13	PROP	22 CARL GILLESPIE
JASON HETHERINGTON	19	HOOKER	9 PAUL ROWLEY
MITCH NEWTON	5	PROP	8 KARL HARRISON
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
BARRY WARD	47		24 CHRIS CHESTER
JAMES PICKERING	34		26 RICHARD MARSHALL
SOLOMON HAUMONO	50		25 MICHAEL SLICKER
BARRY BERRIGAN	4		11 PAUL HEIGHTON
COACH			COACH
CHRIS ANDERSON			JOHN PENDLEBURY

KEY PLAYER



MIKE UMAGA: Former Samoan Rugby international scored five tries in a game last year.

'97 FORM

Rd 1 beat Hunter 20-16
Rd 2 lost to Cronulla 12-13
Rd 3 beat Canberra 38-26
Rd 4 lost to Perth 6-34
Rd 5 lost to Nth Qld 14-16
Rd 6 beat Adelaide 34-22
Rd 7 beat Cronulla 16-6
Rd 8 beat Auckland 38-24
Rd 9 lost to Brisbane 34-16
Rd 10 beat the Mariners 48-36
Rd 11 beat Adelaide 42-22
Rd 12 lost to Penrith 28-20
WCC 1 lost to Wigan 22-18

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
HALIFAX +20.5

'97 FORM

Rd 1 lost to Wigan 18-20
Rd 2 beat Sheffield 18-16
Rd 3 beat Leeds 24-18
Rd 4 beat Castleford 29-12
Rd 5 lost to Salford 16-28
Rd 6 draw London 24-24
Rd 7 beat Castleford 28-12
Rd 8 beat Oldham 30-29
Rd 9 lost to Bradford 26-28
Rd 10 beat Warrington 42-30
Rd 11 beat Sheffield 49-24
Rd 12 lost to Bradford 26-30
Rd 13 lost to St Helens 18-26
WCC 1 lost to Canberra 70-6

CAN THE DOGGIES SAVAGE THE BLUE SOX?

WATCH THE VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE BETWEEN CANTERBURY AND HALIFAX ON FOX SPORTS AT 2.30PM & ON ABC TV AT 5.00PM

RAIDERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 1ST
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: KEN NAGAS 24
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KEN NAGAS 6

FOX SPORTS: DELAYED 4.30pm (AET) REPLAY 10.00pm

LONDON

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 17TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: SCOTT ROSKELL 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SCOTT ROSKELL 2

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: SUNDAY, JUNE 15, BRUCE STADIUM. KICK-OFF: 2.30PM
REFEREE: TIM MANDER TOUCH JUDGES: RUSSELL LEIS & IAN MACKINTOSH VIDEO REF: JOHN GOCHER

KEY PLAYER



BRADLEY CLYDE: One of many stars the Londoners will have to overcome.

KEN NAGAS	2	FULLBACK	28 ANDREW DUNCAN
ROYSTON LIGHTNING	22	WING	22 SCOTT ROSKELL
BRETT MULLINS	1	CENTRE	3 DAVID KRAUSE
RUBEN WIKI	4	CENTRE	6 TULSEN TOLLETT
DAVID BOYLE	16	WING	5 MARTIN OFFIAH
LAURIE DALEY	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	13 TERRY MATTERSON
RICKY STUART (C)	7	HALFBACK	7 JOSH WHITE
BRADLEY CLYDE	13	LOCK	9 PETER GILL
DAVID FURNER	12	2ND ROW	24 RUSSELL BAWDEN
BEN KENNEDY	15	2ND ROW	19 ANDREW HAMILTON
BRETT HETHERINGTON	11	PROP	18 MATT DUNFORD
LUKE PRIDDIS	17	HOOKER	26 ROBBIE BEAZLEY
LUKE DAVICO	10	PROP	10 TONY MESTROV
INTERCHANGE		INTERCHANGE	
SIMON WOOLFORD	9		31 TONY MARTIN
JASON CROKER	3		17 MATTHEW SALTER
DAVID WESTLEY	14		20 GREG BARWICK
QUENTIN PONGIA	8		15 ADY SPENCER
COACH		COACH	
MAL MENINGA			TONY CURRIE

FOOTY TAB POINTS START: LONDON +17.5

KEY PLAYER



JOSH WHITE: Former Australian Schoolboys halfback who has found his feet with the Broncos.

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Cronulla 4-26
Rd 2	lost to Penrith 20-33
Rd 3	lost to Canterbury 26-38
Rd 4	lost to Brisbane 8-24
Rd 5	beat Hunter 18-12
Rd 6	lost to Auckland 31-24
Rd 7	beat Penrith 30-20
Rd 8	beat Nth Qld 40-16
Rd 9	beat Perth 30-10
Rd 10	beat Cronulla 22-8
Rd 11	beat Auckland 20-10
Rd 12	beat Adelaide 34-18
WCC 1	beat Halifax 70-6

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to St Helens 24-28
Rd 2	beat Warrington 38-18
Rd 3	beat Paris 28-10
Rd 4	beat Oldham 32-22
Rd 5	lost to Bradford 14-19
Rd 6	draw Halifax 24-24
Rd 7	beat Salford 48-12
Rd 8	beat Leeds 40-16
Rd 9	lost to Wigan 10-38
Rd 10	draw St Helens 22-22
Rd 11	beat Warrington 30-6
Rd 12	beat Paris 20-16
Rd 13	beat Sheffield 32-12
WCC 1	lost to Brisbane 42-22

MAL MENINGA CUP: KICK-OFF 12.40PM

RAIDERS U19s			BULLDOGS U19s
DAVID MULHALL	1	FULLBACK	1 BRENT SHERWIN
TIM HOGAN	2	WING	2 MOHAMMED ABBAS
MATT GAFA	3	CENTRE	3 VAINE KINO
RYAN CAPELLO	4	CENTRE	4 WES DOYLE
AARON MULLINS	5	WING	5 PIERRE HOLA
JASON FRUEND	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6 MATTHEW LANG
LINCOLN WITHERS	7	HALFBACK	7 COREY HUGHES (C)
MICHAEL BRADDON	8	PROP	8 LAFI MANUA
NATHAN HOLLINGSWORTH	9	HOOKER	9 ADAM PERRY
TROY THOMPSON	10	PROP	10 DAVID THOMPSON
MATTHEW KEARNS	11	2ND ROW	11 JAMIE FEENEY
JEREMY SOUTHWELL	12	2ND ROW	12 STEVE JOHNSON
BRAD KELLY	13	LOCK	13 TRENT RUNCIMAN
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
MATTHEW FORD	14		14 DEAN BROOKS
SCOTT O'NEALL	15		15 CRAIG GAMBLE
SIMON DIXON	16		16 DANIEL WARNECKE
TERRY MARTIN	17		17 TERENCE VAITUSI

COACH MARK GREER

COACH STAN CUTLER

BRONCOS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 6TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: DARREN LOCKYER 18
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KEVIN WALTERS 2

CHANNEL NINE: DELAYED 9.30pm (AET)

WIGAN

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 9TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: JASON ROBINSON 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: JASON ROBINSON 2

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: MONDAY, JUNE 16, ANZ STADIUM. KICK-OFF: 7.30PM
REFEREE: BILL HARRIGAN TOUCH JUDGES: BRUCE STONE & ROBERT KIDDLE VIDEO REF: BARRY BARNES

KEY PLAYER



GLENN LAZARUS: The 'Brick' will take it up to them all night.

DARREN LOCKYER	1	FULLBACK	6 HENRY PAUL
TONIE CARROLL	15	WING	2 JASON ROBINSON
STEVE RENOUF	3	CENTRE	4 GARY CONNOLLY
ANTHONY MUNDINE	4	CENTRE	1 KRIS RADLINSKI
WENDELL SAILOR	5	WING	15 ANDY JOHNSON
KEVIN WALTERS	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	20 NIGEL WRIGHT
ALLAN LANGER (C)	7	HALFBACK	30 TONY SMITH
DARREN SMITH	13	LOCK	13 ANDY FARRELL (C)
GORDEN TALLIS	11	2ND ROW	9 MICK CASSIDY
BRAD THORN	10	2ND ROW	11 SIMON HAUGHTON
ANDREW GEE	23	PROP	29 LEE HANSEN
JOHN DRISCOLL	14	HOOKER	27 MARTIN HALL
GLENN LAZARUS	8	PROP	8 NEIL COWIE
INTERCHANGE		INTERCHANGE	
SHANE WEBKE	21		21 DARRYL CARDIS
PETER RYAN	12		25 GAEL TALLEC
JOHN PLATH	9		17 STEPHEN HOLGATE
MICHAEL DEVERE	18		18 STU LESTER
COACH		COACH	
WAYNE BENNETT			ERIC HUGHES

FOOTY TAB POINTS START: WIGAN +8.5

KEY PLAYER



JASON ROBINSON: Showed in the opening game that he's a world class winger.

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Auckland 14-2
Rd 2	beat Adelaide 28-12
Rd 3	beat Perth 26-16
Rd 4	beat Canberra 24-8
Rd 5	beat Cronulla 14-12
Rd 6	beat Nth Qld 42-16
Rd 7	beat Adelaide 20-10
Rd 8	lost to Penrith 27-26
Rd 9	beat Canterbury 34-16
Rd 10	beat Auckland 34-18
Rd 11	draw Nth Qld 20-20
Rd 12	lost to Hunter 6-24
WCC 1	beat London 42-22

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Halifax 20-18
Rd 2	beat Castleford 22-14
Rd 3	lost to St Helens 22-10
Rd 4	lost to Warrington 35-24
Rd 5	beat Leeds 17-16
Rd 6	lost to Bradford 22-18
Rd 7	beat Oldham 44-10
Rd 8	lost to Salford 14-4
Rd 9	beat London 38-10
Rd 10	beat Halifax 46-18
Rd 11	beat Castleford 48-8
Rd 12	beat St Helens 65-12
Rd 13	beat Paris 58-20
WCC 1	beat Canterbury 22-18

CAN THE BRONCOS STAMPEDE THE WIGAN WARRIORS?

SEE IT ON CHANNEL NINE AT 9.30 PM

CASTLEFORD

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 15TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: IAN TONKS 6
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: DAVID CHAPMAN 1

FOX SPORTS:
LIVE JUNE 14
4.00am (AET)
REPLAY 9.30pm (AET)

JASON FLOWERS	21	FULLBACK
JASON ROACH	5	WING
DAVID CHAPMAN	3	CENTRE
JASON CRITCHLEY	32	CENTRE
CHRIS SMITH	2	WING
ADRIAN VOWLES	6	FIVE-EIGHTH
MIKE FORD	31	HALFBACK
BRENDAN TUUTA	12	LOCK
IAN TONKS	30	2ND ROW
ANDREW SHICK	18	2ND ROW
DEAN SAMPSON	10	PROP
RICHARD RUSSELL	9	HOOKER
(C) LEE CROOKS	8	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
JASON LIDDEN	11	
DANNY ORR	28	
NATHAN SYKES	16	
RICHARD MCKELL	15	
COACH		
STU RAPER		

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Salford 4-0
Rd 2	lost to Wigan 22-14
Rd 3	lost to Halifax 29-12
Rd 4	lost to Bradford 38-12
Rd 5	lost to Sheffield 42-20
Rd 6	lost to Warrington 24-8
Rd 7	lost to Leeds 24-21
Rd 8	lost to Halifax 28-12
Rd 9	lost to St Helens 42-16
Rd 10	lost to Paris 13-8
Rd 11	beat Salford 12-10
Rd 12	lost to Wigan 48-8
Rd 13	draw Leeds 30-30
Rd 14	draw Oldham 12-12
WCC 1	lost to Perth 24-16

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
CASTLEFORD +7.5

MARINERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 7TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: NEIL PICCINELLI 12
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: ROBBIE ROSS 1

1	ROBBIE ROSS	FULLBACK
5	JOHN CARLAW	WING
6	BRADLEY GODDEN	CENTRE
4	KEVIN IRO	CENTRE
22	GAVIN THOMPSON	WING
21	SCOTT HILL	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	NOEL GOLDTHORPE (C)	HALFBACK
15	WILLIE POCHING	LOCK
12	PAUL MARQUET	2ND ROW
11	TONY IRO	2ND ROW
10	TIM MADDISON	PROP
20	BRETT KIMMORLEY	HOOKER
14	TROY STONE	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
31	ANTHONYBRANN	
13	NEIL PICCINELLI	
2	KEITH BEAUCHAMP	
16	DARRIEN DOHERTY	
	COACH	
	GRAHAM MURRAY	

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Canterbury 16-20
Rd 2	lost to Auckland 14-18
Rd 3	lost to Adelaide 8-10
Rd 4	beat Nth Qld 38-10
Rd 5	lost to Canberra 12-18
Rd 6	lost to Penrith 36-24
Rd 7	beat Auckland 18-10
Rd 8	beat Perth 36-16
Rd 9	lost to Cronulla 26-0
Rd 10	lost to Canterbury 48-36
Rd 11	beat Penrith 30-6
Rd 12	beat Brisbane 24-6
WCC 1	beat Paris 28-12

BRADFORD

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 14TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: STEVE MCNAMARA 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: JON SCALES 1

FOX SPORTS:
LIVE JUNE 15
3.00am (AET)
REPLAY JUNE 20
5.00pm (AET)

STUART SPRUCE	28	FULLBACK
MATT CALLAND	20	WING
PAUL LOUGHLIN	24	CENTRE
DANNY PEACOCK	6	CENTRE
JON SCALES	5	WING
GLEN TOMLINSON	2	FIVE-EIGHTH
(C) ROBBIE PAUL	1	HALFBACK
BRIAN MCDERMOTT	22	LOCK
JAMES LOWES	25	2ND ROW
PAUL ANDERSON	17	2ND ROW
MIKE FORSHAW	14	PROP
GRAEME BRADLEY	3	HOOKER
STEVE MCNAMARA	26	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
SIMON KNOX	18	
NATHAN GRAHAM	10	
PAUL MEDLEY	12	
TAHI REIHANA	27	
COACH		
MATTHEW ELLIOTT		

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Warrington 58-20
Rd 2	beat Oldham 30-18
Rd 3	beat Halifax 28-26
Rd 4	beat Castleford 38-12
Rd 5	beat London 19-14
Rd 6	beat Wigan 22-18
Rd 7	beat Paris 30-18
Rd 8	beat Sheffield 54-10
Rd 9	beat St Helens 38-18
Rd 10	beat Warrington 38-14
Rd 11	beat Oldham 42-28
Rd 12	beat Halifax 30-26
Rd 13	beat Salford 40-24
WCC 1	lost to Penrith 20-16

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
BRADFORD +6.5

WARRIORS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 3RD
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MATTHEW RIDGE 14
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SEAN HOPPE 2

1	MATTHEW RIDGE	FULLBACK
2	SEAN HOPPE	WING
3	TEA ROPATI	CENTRE
23	ANTHONY SWANN*	CENTRE
15	MARC ELLIS	WING
6	GENE NGAMU	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	STACEY JONES	HALFBACK
11	DENIS BETTS	LOCK
12	STEPHEN KEARNEY	2ND ROW
13	TONY TUIMAVAVE	2ND ROW
8	JOE VAGANA	PROP
9	SYD ERU	HOOKER
16	BRADY MALAM	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
18	SHANE ENDACOTT	
29	METI NOOVAO	
17	BRYAN HENARE	
14	MARK HORO	
	COACH FRANK ENDACOTT	

*Subject to judiciary

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Brisbane 2-14
Rd 2	beat Hunter 18-14
Rd 3	lost to Cronulla 8-34
Rd 4	lost to Adelaide 12-16
Rd 5	beat Penrith 16-14
Rd 6	beat Canberra 31-24
Rd 7	lost to Hunter 18-10
Rd 8	lost to Canterbury 38-24
Rd 9	lost to Nth Qld 30-22
Rd 10	lost to Brisbane 34-18
Rd 11	lost to Canberra 20-10
Rd 12	lost to Perth 24-12
WCC 1	beat St Helens 42-14

WARRINGTON

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 19TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LEE BRIERS 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KELLY SHELFORD 1

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE • SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE 1997

LEE PENNY	1	FULLBACK
CHRIS RUDD	17	WING
JON ROPER	4	CENTRE
NIGEL VAGANA	6	CENTRE
MARK FORSTER	2	WING
KELLY SHELFORD	16	FIVE-EIGHTH
LEE BRIERS	37	HALFBACK
PAUL SCULTHORPE	13	LOCK
TONY TATUPU	12	2ND ROW
PAUL HULME	11	2ND ROW
GARY CHAMBERS	10	PROP
WILLIE SWANN	7	HOOKER
SALESI FINAU	19	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
TONY THORNILEY	39	
SEAN GERITAS	38	
CHRIS HIGHTON	36	
GEORGE MANN	18	
COACH		
DARRYL VAN DE VELDE		

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Bradford 58-20
Rd 2	lost to London 38-18
Rd 3	lost to Sheffield 32-18
Rd 4	beat Wigan 35-24
Rd 5	beat Oldham 28-18
Rd 6	beat Castleford 24-8
Rd 7	lost to St Helens 60-16
Rd 8	beat Paris 37-34
Rd 9	lost to Halifax 42-30
Rd 10	lost to Bradford 38-14
Rd 11	lost to London 30-6
Rd 12	lost to Sheffield 38-12
Rd 13	lost to Leeds 50-12
WCC 1	lost to Cronulla 40-12

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
WARRINGTON +12.5

PANTHERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 10TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: RYAN GIRDLER 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: PETER JORGENSEN 1

4	PETER JORGENSEN	FULLBACK
5	ROBBIE BECKETT	WING
20	SID DOMIC	CENTRE
13	RYAN GIRDLER	CENTRE
43	JASON WILLIAMS	WING
6	STEVE CARTER	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	CRAIG GOWER	HALFBACK
33	DARREN BROWN	LOCK
21	MATT ADAMSON*	2ND ROW
50	JODY GALL	2ND ROW
25	PHIL ADAMSON	PROP
9	DANNY FARRAR	HOOKER
11	CARL MACNAMARA	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
38	ANDREW HINSON	
17	DUNCAN MacGILLVRAY	
18	BRAD DREW	
8	DAVE ALEXANDER	
	COACH ROYCE SIMMONS	

*Subject to judiciary

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Perth 30-20
Rd 2	beat Canberra 33-20
Rd 3	beat Nth Qld 19-12
Rd 4	beat Cronulla 38-10
Rd 5	lost to Auckland 14-16
Rd 6	beat Hunter 36-24
Rd 7	lost to Canberra 30-20
Rd 8	beat Brisbane 27-26
Rd 9	lost to Adelaide 22-16
Rd 10	lost to Perth 20-35
Rd 11	lost to Hunter 30-6
Rd 12	beat Canterbury 28-20
WCC 1	beat Bradford 20-16

SHEFFIELD

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 12TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: BYE
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: BYE
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: BYE

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LYNTON SCOTT	3	FULLBACK
WHETU TAEWA	22	WING
NICK PINKNEY	23	CENTRE
KEITH SENIOR	4	CENTRE
JEAN-MARC GARCIA	5	WING
WAYNE FLYNN	18	FIVE-EIGHTH
MARK ASTON	7	HALFBACK
MARTIN WOOD	24	LOCK
DANNY MCALLISTER	16	2ND ROW
PAUL CARR	11	2ND ROW
STEVE EDMED	20	PROP
JOHNNY LAWLESS	9	HOOKER
PAUL BROADBENT	8	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
DAVID MYCOE	14	
JASON ERBA	27	
WILLIE MORGANSON	21	
ALEX THOMPSON	25	
COACH		
JOHN KEAR		

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Paris 18-4
Rd 2	lost to Halifax 18-16
Rd 3	beat Warrington 32-18
Rd 4	lost to St Helens 32-12
Rd 5	beat Castleford 42-20
Rd 6	lost to Salford 17-16
Rd 7	lost to Leeds 30-18
Rd 8	lost to Bradford 54-10
Rd 9	lost to Oldham 18-14
Rd 10	beat Paris 32-16
Rd 11	lost to Halifax 49-24
Rd 12	beat Warrington 38-12
Rd 13	lost to London 32-12
WCC 1	BYE

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
SHEFFIELD +10.5

REDS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 8TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: CHRIS RYAN 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SCOTT WILSON 1

48	GREG FLEMING	FULLBACK
3	CHRIS RYAN	WING
5	PAUL BELL	CENTRE
6	TIM HORAN	CENTRE
16	MATTHEW DAYLIGHT	WING
26	SCOTT WILSON	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	MATTHEW RODWELL	HALFBACK
13	DALE FRITZ	LOCK
37	PETER SHIELS	2ND ROW
24	JON GRIEVE	2ND ROW
8	ROB KEARNS	PROP
9	MATTHEW FULLER	HOOKER
10	BRETT GREEN	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
43	CORIN RIDDING	
50	DAMIEN CHAPMAN	
15	MATTHEW GEYER	
14	CHRIS DEVER	
	COACH	
	DEAN LANCE	

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to Penrith 20-30
Rd 2	beat Nth Qld 22-20
Rd 3	lost to Brisbane 16-26
Rd 4	beat Canterbury 34-6
Rd 5	beat Adelaide 18-16
Rd 6	lost to Cronulla 20-6
Rd 7	beat Nth Qld 26-24
Rd 8	lost to Hunter 36-16
Rd 9	lost to Canberra 30-10
Rd 10	beat Penrith 35-20
Rd 11	lost to Cronulla 32-2
Rd 12	beat Auckland 24-12
WCC 1	beat Castleford 24-16

ST HELENS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 20TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: BOBBIE GOULDING 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: ANTHONY SULLIVAN 1

STEVE PRESCOTT 1	FULLBACK	21 DAVID PEACHEY
DANNY ARNOLD 14	WING	45 MAT ROGERS
ANDY HAIGH 18	CENTRE	3 ANDREW ETTINGSHAUSEN (C)
ALAN HUNTE 21	CENTRE	33 RUSSELL RICHARDSON
ANTHONY SULLIVAN 5	WING	23 RICHIE BARNETT
JASON JOHNSTON 35	FIVE-EIGHTH	6 MITCH HEALEY
BOBBIE GOULDING 7	HALFBACK	7 PAUL GREEN
CHRIS MORLEY 24	LOCK	13 TAWERA NIKAU
SIMON BOOTH 12	2ND ROW	31 CHRIS McKENNA
CHRIS JOYNT 11	2ND ROW	14 NICK GRAHAM
JULIAN O'NEILL 15	PROP	40 JASON STEVENS
KEIRON CUNNINGHAM 9	HOOKER	9 DEAN TREISTER
APOLLO PERELINI 8	PROP	8 DANNY LEE
	INTERCHANGE	INTERCHANGE
IAN PACKAVANCE 10		27 MARTIN LANG
PAUL ANDERSON 25		17 GEOFF BELL
VILA MATUTIA 22		22 WADE FORRESTER
DEAN BUSBY 13		*PLUS one to be named
	COACH	COACH
SHAUN McRAE		JOHN LANG

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat London 28-24
Rd 2	beat Salford 19-12
Rd 3	beat Wigan 22-10
Rd 4	beat Sheffield 32-12
Rd 5	beat Paris 44-6
Rd 6	lost to Leeds 13-12
Rd 7	beat Warrington 60-16
Rd 8	beat Castleford 42-16
Rd 9	lost to Bradford 38-18
Rd 10	draw London 22-22
Rd 11	lost to Salford 39-26
Rd 12	lost to Wigan 65-12
Rd 13	beat Halifax 26-18
WCC 1	lost to Auckland 42-14

FOX SPORTS:
REPLAY 10.30pm (AET)
JUNE 20

FOOTY TAB
POINTS START
ST HELENS +11.5

SHARKS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: RUSSELL RICHARDSON 16
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: RUSSELL RICHARDSON 4

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Canberra 26-4
Rd 2	beat Canterbury 13-12
Rd 3	beat Auckland 34-8
Rd 4	lost to Penrith 10-38
Rd 5	lost to Brisbane 12-14
Rd 6	beat Perth 20-6
Rd 7	lost to Canterbury 16-6
Rd 8	lost to Adelaide 29-18
Rd 9	beat Hunter 26-0
Rd 10	lost to Canberra 22-8
Rd 11	beat Perth 32-2
Rd 12	beat Nth Qld 24-10
WCC 1	beat Warrington 40-12

SUPER LEAGUE THE MAGAZINE
is a weekly publication produced for Super League by Pacific Client Publishing.

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Film reproduction by **Show-Ads Pty Ltd** (02) 9427 1333

Pacific Client Publishing is a division of Pacific Publications Pty Limited ACN 053 814 878

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* rrp only

SUPERSTATS

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

ROUND 1 - POOL A

BRISBANE 42 (Kevin Walters 2, Wendell Sailor, Darren Lockyer, Steve Renouf, Anthony Mundine, Tonie Carroll tries; Darren Lockyer 7 goals) d. **LONDON 22** (Scott Roskell 2, Andrew Duncan, Robbie Beazley tries; Greg Barwick 3 goals) at ANZ Stadium. H-T: London 18-12 Crowd: 18,193 Penalties: Brisbane 9-2 Scrums: Brisbane 13-8 Referee: Bill Harrigan

AUCKLAND 42 (Anthony Swann 2, Sean Hoppe 2, Stephen Kearney, Stacey Jones, Tea Ropati tries; Matthew Ridge 7 goals) d. **ST HELENS 14** (Anthony Sullivan, Alan Hunte tries; Bobbie Goulding 2, Paul Anderson goals) at Knowsley Road. H-T: Auckland 20-8 Crowd: 8911 Penalties: St Helens 12-4 Scrums: Auckland 9-8 Referee: Stuart Cummings

CANBERRA 70 (Ken Nagas 6, Jason Croker 2, Brett Hetherington, David Boyle, Ben Kennedy, David Westley, Simon Woolford tries; David Furner 7, Royston Lightning, Luke Davico goals) d. **HALIFAX 6** (Carl Gillespie try; Martin Pearson goal) at Bruce Stadium. H-T: Canberra 38-6 Crowd: 7780 Penalties: Canberra 8-3 Scrums: Halifax 9-8 Referee: Brian Grant

CRONULLA 40 (Russell Richardson 4, David Peachey, Wade Forrester, Mat Rogers, Richard Barnett tries; Mat Rogers 4 goals) d. **WARRINGTON 12** (Nigel Vagana, Kelly Shelford tries; Lee Briers 2 goals) at Wilderspool. H-T: Cronulla 26-0 Crowd: 3378 Penalties: 5-all Scrums: 5-all Referee: Russell Smith

WIGAN 22 (Jason Robinson 2, Simon Haughton, Andy Johnson tries; Andy Farrell 2, Henry Paul goals) d. **CANTERBURY 18** (Jason Hetherington, John Timu, Matthew Ryan tries; Daryl Halligan 3 goals) at Belmore Sports Ground. H-T: Wigan 10-0 Crowd: 10,680 Penalties: Canterbury 7-2 Scrums: Canterbury 9-6 Referee: Graham Annesley

PENRITH 20 (Peter Jorgensen, Ryan Girdler, Darren Brown, Sid Domic tries; Ryan Girdler 2 goals) d. **BRADFORD 16** (Jon Scales, Danny Peacock, Stuart Spruce tries; Steve McNamara 2 goals) at Odsal Stadium. H-T: Bradford 16-6 Crowd: 14,378 Penalties: Bradford 11-4 Scrums: 6-all Referee: David Campbell

POOL B

ADELAIDE 50 (Solomon Kiri 2, Rod Maybon 2, Kerrod Walters, Steve Stone, Cameron Blair, Bruce Mamando tries; Luke Williamson 6, Kurt Wrigley 3 goals) d. **SALFORD 8** (Gary Broadbent try; Steve Blakeley 2 goals) at Adelaide Oval. H-T: Adelaide 16-6 Crowd: 11,346 Penalties: 7-all Scrums: Salford 3-2 Referee: Tim Mander

NORTH QLD 42 (Glen Murphy 2, Reggie Cressbrook, Peter Jones, Luke Phillips, Mark Shipway, Bert Tabuai, Adam Warwick tries; Luke Phillips 5 goals) d. **LEEDS 20** (Paul Sterling 2, Damien Gibson, Wayne Collins tries; Ietyn Harris 2 goals) at Stockland Stadium. H-T: North Qld 26-10 Crowd: 4,561 Penalties: North Qld 9-7 Scrums: Leeds 9-7 Referee: Stephen Clark

PERTH REDS 24 (Peter Shiels, Jon Grieve, Scott Wilson, Matthew Rodwell tries; Chris Ryan 4 goals) d. **CASTLEFORD 16** (Jason Critchley, Ian Tonks, David Chapman tries; Ian Tonks, Danny Orr goals) at Wheldon Road. H-T: Perth 18-4 Crowd: 3590 Penalties: Perth 5-3 Scrums: Castleford 12-10 Referee: Robert Connolly.

HUNTER 28 (Keith Beauchamp, Robbie Ross, Brad Godden, Anthony Brann, Scott Hill tries; Neil Piccinelli 4 goals) d. PARIS **SAINT GERMAIN 12** (Dion Bird, Fabien Devecchi tries; Matt O Connor 2 goals) at Charlety Stadium. H-T: Hunter 16-6 Crowd: 3500 Penalties: Paris 5-4 Scrums: 6-all Referee: Steve Presley

SHEFFIELD AND OLDHAM BYE

POOL A

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
CANBERRA	1	1	0	0	70	6	2
AUCKLAND	1	1	0	0	42	14	2
CRONULLA	1	1	0	0	40	12	2
BRISBANE	1	1	0	0	42	22	2
PENRITH	1	1	0	0	20	16	2
WIGAN	1	1	0	0	22	18	2
CANTERBURY	1	0	0	1	18	22	0
BRADFORD	1	0	0	1	16	20	0
LONDON	1	0	0	1	22	42	0
WARRINGTON	1	0	0	1	12	40	0
ST HELENS	1	0	0	1	14	42	0
HALIFAX	1	0	0	1	6	70	0

*Top three teams from each hemisphere qualify for play-offs.

POOL B

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
ADELAIDE	1	1	0	0	50	8	2
NORTH QLD	1	1	0	0	42	20	2
HUNTER	1	1	0	0	28	12	2
PERTH REDS	1	1	0	0	24	16	2
SHEFFIELD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OLDHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CASTLEFORD	1	0	0	1	16	24	0
PARIS	1	0	0	1	12	28	0
LEEDS	1	0	0	1	20	42	0
SALFORD	1	0	0	1	8	50	0

* Top team only from each hemisphere qualifies for play-offs.

ATTACK (tries scored)

CANBERRA	13
CRONULLA	8
NORTH QLD	8
ADELAIDE	8
AUCKLAND	7
BRISBANE	7
HUNTER	5
PENRITH	4
PERTH REDS	4
WIGAN	4
LONDON	4
LEEDS	4
CANTERBURY	3
BRADFORD	3
CASTLEFORD	3
ST HELENS	2
WARRINGTON	2
PARIS SG	2
SALFORD	1
HALIFAX	1
SHEFFIELD	0
OLDHAM	0

DEFENCE (tries conceded)

CANBERRA	1
ADELAIDE	1
HUNTER	2
CRONULLA	2
AUCKLAND	2
PERTH REDS	3
PENRITH	3
WIGAN	3
BRISBANE	4
CANTERBURY	4
NORTH QLD	4
BRADFORD	4
CASTLEFORD	4
PARIS SG	5
ST HELENS	7
LONDON	7
WARRINGTON	8
LEEDS	8
SALFORD	8
HALIFAX	13

(SHEFFIELD AND OLDHAM HAD THE BYE)

TOP POINTSCORERS

		Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total
KEN NAGAS	(CANBERRA)	6	0	0	24
DARREN LOCKYER	(BRISBANE)	1	7	0	18
RUSSELL RICHARDSON	(CRONULLA)	4	0	0	16
LUKE PHILLIPS	(NORTH QLD)	1	5	0	14
MATTHEW RIDGE	(AUCKLAND)	0	7	0	14
DAVID FURNER	(CANBERRA)	0	7	0	14
MAT ROGERS	(CRONULLA)	1	4	0	12
LUKE WILLIAMSON	(ADELAIDE)	0	6	0	12

Round 1 WCC Points Whiz
Ken Nagas (Canberra) produced 24 points from an amazing six tries against Halifax

TOP GOALKICKERS

	Attempts	Kicks	%
DARREN LOCKYER (BRISBANE)	7	7	100%
MATTHEW RIDGE (AUCKLAND)	8	7	88%
DAVID FURNER (CANBERRA)	10	7	70%
LUKE WILLIAMSON (ADELAIDE)	6	6	100%
LUKE PHILLIPS (NORTH QLD)	10	5	50%
CHRIS RYAN (PERTH REDS)	4	4	100%
NEIL PICCINELLI (HUNTER)	5	4	80%
MAT ROGERS (CRONULLA)	8	4	50%
DARYL HALLIGAN (CANTERBURY)	3	3	100%

Round 1 WCC Radar Whiz
Luke Williamson (Adelaide) was spot on with six goals from six attempts

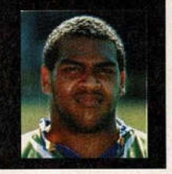
TOP TRYSCORERS



KEN NAGAS	(CANBERRA)	6
RUSSELL RICHARDSON	(CRONULLA)	4
KEVIN WALTERS	(BRISBANE)	2
ANTHONY SWANN	(AUCKLAND)	2
SEAN HOPPE	(AUCKLAND)	2
JASON CROKER	(CANBERRA)	2
SOLOMON KIRI	(ADELAIDE)	2

ROUND 1 SuperStat

KEN NAGAS (CANBERRA)



6 TRIES, 24 TACKLES, 4 TACKLES, 8 LINE BREAKS, 17 HIT-UPS, NIL DROPPED BALL, NIL MISSED TACKLES.

ROD MAYBON	(ADELAIDE)	2
JASON ROBINSON	(WIGAN)	2
SCOTT ROSKELL	(LONDON)	2
PAUL STERLING	(LEEDS)	2
GLEN MURPHY	(NORTH QLD)	2

Round 1 WCC Try King
Ken Nagas (Canberra) set a club record with six tries against Halifax

TOP TACKLERS



MICK CASSIDY	(WIGAN)	39
PAUL MARQUET	(HUNTER)	37
PETER EDWARDS	(SALFORD)	37
MATT FULLER	(PERTH REDS)	34
WAYNE EVANS	(PERTH REDS)	34
RUSSELL BAWDEN	(LONDON)	34
MIKE FORSHAW	(BRADFORD)	34
JULIAN O NEILL	(ST HELENS)	34

Round 3 Tireless Tackler
Matt Fuller (Perth Reds) 36 v Brisbane

MOST HIT UPS



APOLLO PERELINI	(ST HELENS)	27
JULIAN O NEILL	(ST HELENS)	24
HENRY PAUL	(WIGAN)	24
CHRIS JOYNT	(ST HELENS)	23
BRUCE MAMANDO	(ADELAIDE)	22
TONY MESTROV	(LONDON)	22
STEPHEN KEARNEY	(AUCKLAND)	21
DAVID HULME	(SALFORD)	20
KARL HARRISON	(HALIFAX)	20
GARY MERCER	(LEEDS)	20
GLEN MURPHY	(NORTH QLD)	20
CARL MCNAMARA	(PENRITH)	20

Round 1 WCC Iron Man
Apollo Perelini (St Helens) 27 vs Auckland

MOST LINE BREAKS

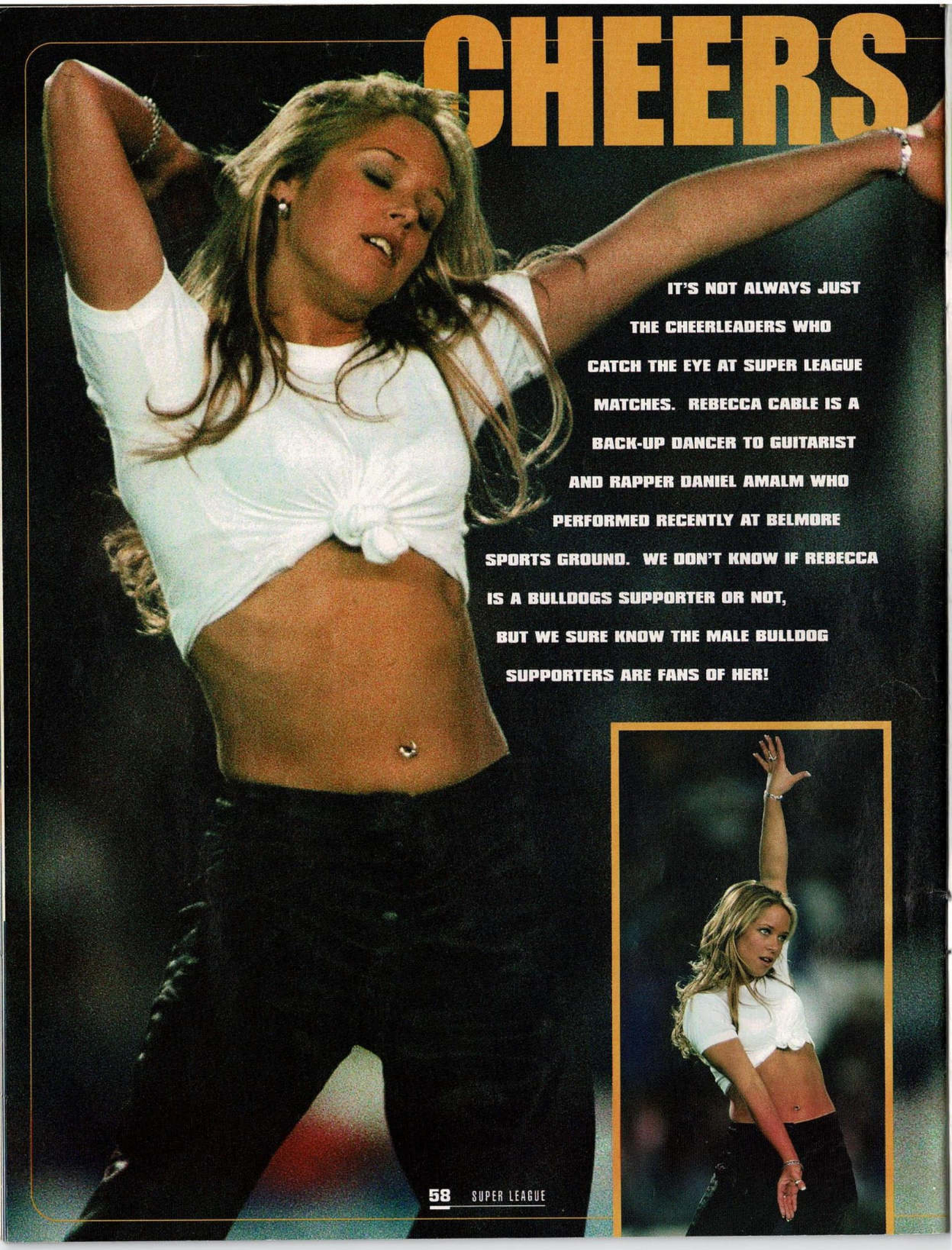


KEN NAGAS	(CANBERRA)	8
KEITH BEAUCHAMP	(HUNTER)	5
RUSSELL RICHARDSON	(CRONULLA)	5
JASON CROKER	(CANBERRA)	4
SID DOMIC	(PENRITH)	4
ANTHONY MUNDINE	(BRISBANE)	3
ROD MAYBON	(ADELAIDE)	3
STACEY JONES	(AUCKLAND)	3
ANTHONY SWANN	(AUCKLAND)	3
JON GRIEVE	(PERTH REDS)	3
JASON CRITCHLEY	(CASTLEFORD)	3
DAVID PEACHEY	(CRONULLA)	3
MAT ROGERS	(CRONULLA)	3
PHIL BERGMAN	(PARIS)	3
JASON ROBINSON	(WIGAN)	3
TONY SMITH	(WIGAN)	3

Round 1 WCC Line Breaks Whiz
Ken Nagas (Canberra) 8 vs Halifax

SUPPLIED BY I & T RUGBY LEAGUE STATISTICS

CHEERS



IT'S NOT ALWAYS JUST THE CHEERLEADERS WHO CATCH THE EYE AT SUPER LEAGUE MATCHES. REBECCA CABLE IS A BACK-UP DANCER TO GUITARIST AND RAPPER DANIEL AMALM WHO PERFORMED RECENTLY AT BELMORE SPORTS GROUND. WE DON'T KNOW IF REBECCA IS A BULLDOGS SUPPORTER OR NOT, BUT WE SURE KNOW THE MALE BULLDOG SUPPORTERS ARE FANS OF HER!



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