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ROUND 3 WCC TEAMS

SUPER LEAGUE

THE MAGAZINE

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VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

Royce's Panthers Blast

Mal's men on fire...

RED HOT RAIDERS

'KING' ANDY: WIGAN'S BLUEBLOOD

BRONCOS CHASE CRICKET SCORE

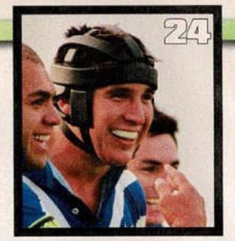
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IF DEFEAT STARES YOU IN THE FACE,

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LAURIE DALEY

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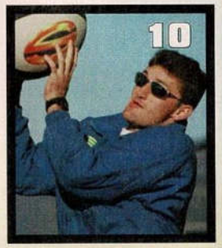
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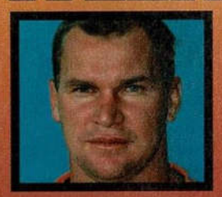


COVER SHOT: Canberra's Ken Nagas who has scored eight tries in two games. Picture by Jay Town

TEAM OF THE WEEK

FULLBACK:	DARREN LOCKYER (BRISBANE)
WINGERS:	LUKE PHILLIPS (NTH QLD)
	HAZEM EL MASRI (CANTERBURY)
CENTRES:	BRETT MULLINS (CANBERRA)
	RYAN GIRDLER (PENRITH)
FIVE-EIGHTH:	LUKE WILLIAMSON (ADELAIDE)
HALFBACK:	ALLAN LANGER (BRISBANE)
LOCK:	TAWERA NIKAU (CRONULLA)
2nd ROWERS:	STEVE KEARNEY (AUCKLAND)
	GORDEN TALLIS (BRISBANE)
PROPS:	STEVE PRICE (CANTERBURY)
	PAUL BROADBENT (SHEFFIELD)
HOOKER:	KERROD WALTERS (ADELAIDE)

MAN OF THE WEEK



Alfie Langer picked a helluva stage to celebrate his 200th first grade game for the Brisbane Broncos. Langer was brilliant as the Broncos destroyed a game Wigan 34-0 on Monday night, joining with fellow partners in crime Kevin Walters and Darren Lockyer to tear apart the Englishmen.

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

ROUND 14
TELSTRA CUP

7.30pm Friday night, July 4
PENRITH V NORTH QUEENSLAND
Penrith Stadium.

5pm Saturday night, July 5
HUNTER V ADELAIDE
Topper Stadium, Newcastle

2.30pm Sunday, July 6
AUCKLAND V CRONULLA
Ericsson Stadium, Auckland

2.30pm Sunday, July 6
BRISBANE V PERTH
ANZ Stadium, Brisbane

7.30pm, Monday, July 7
CANBERRA V CANTERBURY
Bruce Stadium, Canberra

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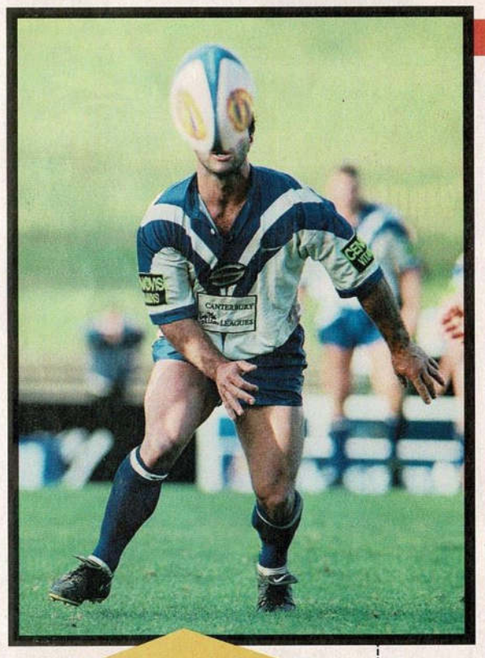
The next generation of game for the PlayStation

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DOGS ON ICE

Oh yes, this game of rugby league can be such fun at times. Just ask Bulldogs Solomon Haumono (left) and James Pickering, as they sat shivering on the bench while the Doggies crushed Halifax last weekend. The urge to take the mickey out of Pickering's nickname has been resisted. "The Fridge" looks unhappy enough as it is.



EYES ON THE BALL

Polly, phone home. There's no doubt about it, as a player Bulldog Craig Polla-Mounter is out there. But how far out? Jay Town snapped Polly as he passed from dummy-half in the game against the Blue Sox. Polly's been playing like a man possessed this season. Now he even looks like he is.

IRONIES OF LIFE

Irony No.1: For the first time this season Mal Meninga has a full squad of stars to pick from now that Noa Nadruku is fit and back on the paddock. So it was a sad Mal who went into hospital this week after a cut toe became infected. It looked for a while there that all the Raiders would turn up for the WCC game against Wigan while the coach stayed in bed. But Mal struggled up and will take his spot on the bench to call the shots.

Irony No.2: After 10 weeks on the sideline after being found guilty of eye-gouging in the Round 5 clash with the Adelaide Rams, Perth Reds enforcer Mark Geyer is set to take his place back in the run-on side when the Reds resume in the ASL next week. As fate would have it, the game is against the Rams.

WOUNDED RHINO

Leeds Rhino assistant coach Damian McGrath, like all the visiting Poms, was looking forward to three weeks Down Under. So far, he's spent two of them in a hospital bed in Townsville. McGrath broke his pelvis when he fell from an inflatable being towed by a speedboat off Magnetic Island. While the rest of the Rhinos charged off to Adelaide, McGrath was left behind.

HELPLESS

There isn't much Raiders coach Mal Meninga can do but applaud. In the past week he's had to sit there while first Brett Mullins and then Laurie Daley passed his try-scoring record for the club. Mal was on 74, Mullins is now 76 and Daley, with three last weekend, leads with 77. Not only that, David Furner has broken Mal's most points record (Furner 876, Meninga 864) and Ken Nagas' six try spree smashed Mal's old record of five in one game. Well, they do say records are made to be broken. Perhaps not all at once though.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If they want to make rugby league an international game, this is the way it has to be done."

- London Broncos coach Tony Currie defending the Visa Club Challenge despite the fact his side have had two hidings.



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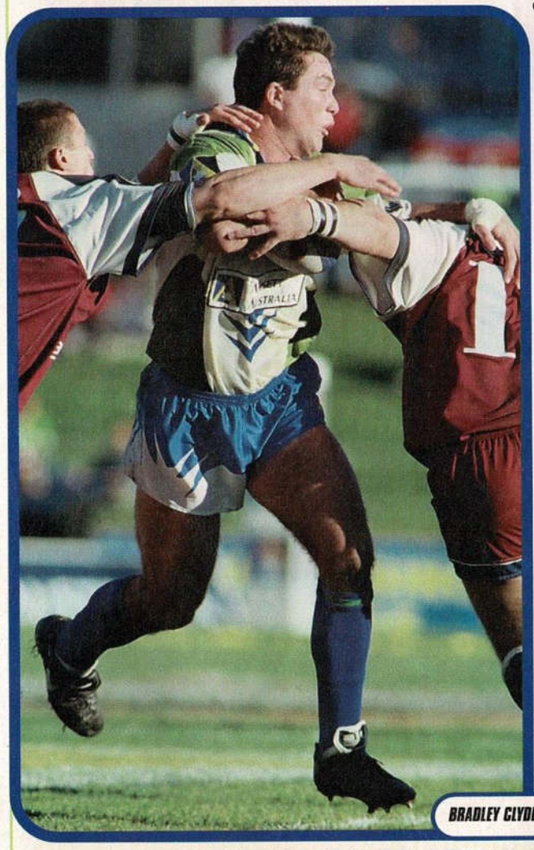
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THE MEAN MACHINE

Raiders get a roll-on

WHO can stop the Raiders? It's not a $64,000 question . . . it's literally a million dollar query!

Along with the Brisbane Broncos, Mal Meninga's rampaging Raiders haven't just thrown down the gauntlet to their Visa World Club Challenge rivals, they've got their Telstra Cup opponents in a spin as well.



BRADLEY CLYDE . . . another Green Machine major cog

After a patchy start to the season, compounded by what was looking suspiciously like a Green Machine injury jinx, Canberra have responded by winning nine of their past 10 matches.

In the Visa Cup alone, they have racked up 136 points from just two matches.

And, more importantly, they are close to fielding a full strength line-up for the first time this season!

Yes, staggering as it seems, the Raiders are yet to put their best team on the paddock. But that could happen as early as this weekend when they face their toughest Visa Cup opponents, Wigan.

Fijian flyer Noa Nadruku is due back, adding to a backline dripping with pace and ingenuity from halves Ricky Stuart and Laurie Daley, reluctant centre Brett Mullins and partner Ruben Wiki through to Nadruku, rookie winger Royston Lightning or Jason Croker and on-fire fullback Kenny Nagas.

And up front, Bradley Clyde is reasserting his dominance of old as young guns such as hooker Luke Priddis, prop Luke Davico and second-rower Ben Kennedy grow in stature with each game. Add in seasoned performers David Furner and Quentin Pongia and the Raiders assume frightening proportions for rivals teams.

Canberra's rampant Visa Cup wins over Halifax and London have the side from the national capital in the box seat to win one of the four WCC finals berths set aside for Australasian teams.

Unless there is a dramatic slip-up against Wigan and again in the return WCC matches in the UK next month against the same opposition, the Raiders are home and hosed - and in with a tremendous shot at the million dollar prizemoney cheque for the Visa Cup winners.

Once the Wigan assignment is completed, Mal's men will refocus for the following three weeks on the Telstra Cup where they currently lie equal second despite that horrific early season setback. They should have too much class for the Hunter Mariners and Canterbury in rounds 13 and 14.

But the clash of the season to date follows in round 15 when the Raiders host the Brisbane Broncos at Bruce Stadium. The Broncos, with skipper Alfie Langer celebrating his 200th first grade game in style, produced their best display of the season in dismissing a powerful Wigan line-up 34-0 at ANZ Stadium on Monday night.

Brisbane's earlier Telstra Cup clash against Canberra back in March was a mismatch with the Raiders straining under the weight of crippling injuries and lack of confidence as the rampant Broncos ran away with the clash.

This time around, with both teams in sensational form, it will be a helluva lot different - and a strong pointer towards overall premiership favouritism.

The resumption of the Telstra Cup will also be intriguing in relation to another club that has clearly got its act together in recent weeks.

The revival of the Auckland Warriors under new coach Frank Endacott will be of concern to rival clubs. The smarties who bagged the WCC because the bottom-placed Australasian side (Auckland) have beaten the reigning Euroleague champions (St Helens) and current leaders (Bradford) on their home grounds obviously didn't watch either match.

The Warriors played like worldbeaters in both, showing tremendous character in particular against Bradford by winning the clash despite playing most of the match with just 12 men. In a nutshell, Auckland are playing nothing like the probable Telstra Cup wooden spooners they looked just a month ago. The semis are probably still out of their reach but they are going to cause some enormous problems for other contenders between now and then.

ANZ wishes The Brisbane Broncos success against Wigan this weekend at ANZ Stadium

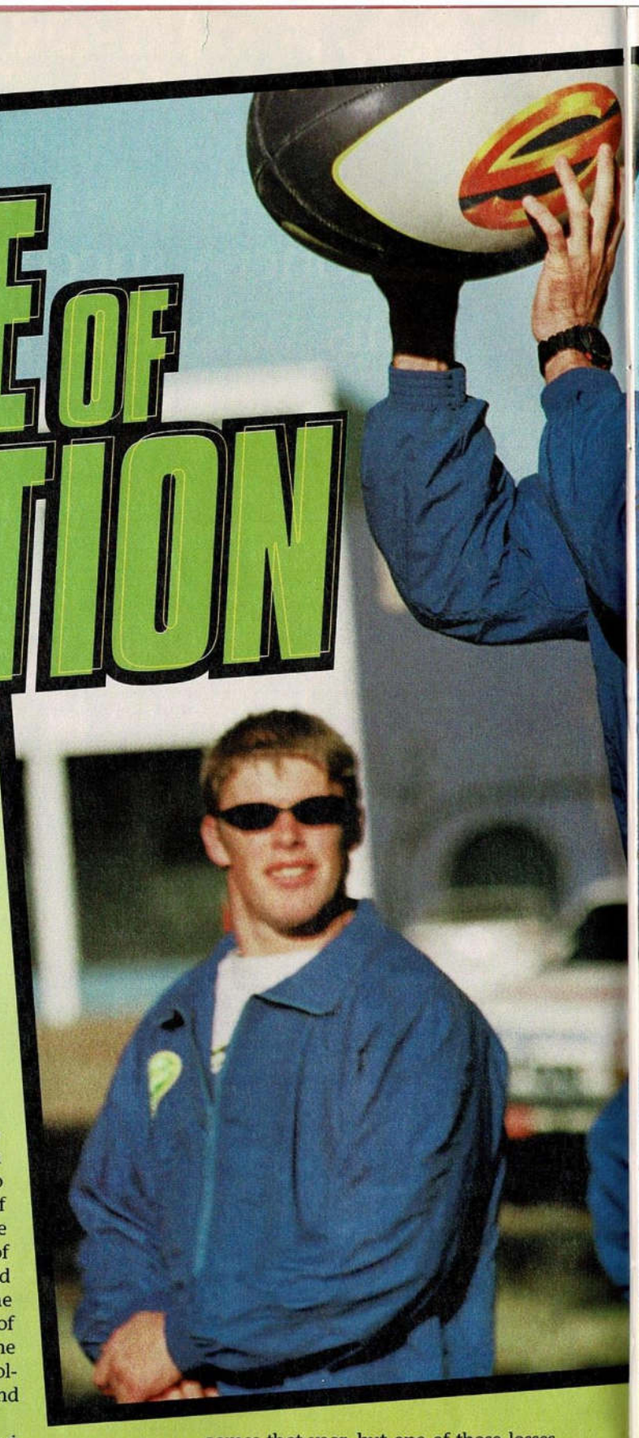
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CENTRE OF ATTENTION

By Greg Prichard



BRETT Mullins might still be the best fullback in the world, but who would know? He doesn't get the chance to prove it these days.

Call him a victim of circumstances: He was in the wrong place at the wrong time and Ken Nagas was the exact opposite. So while Mullins partners Ruben Wiki in the centres for Canberra, Nagas thrives on running from fullback.

It is just another example of the strength of the Raiders when most or all of their stars are available. It is also an example of their new coach, Mal Meninga, putting his stamp on the club.

Remember when Mullins had one of those vintage years the vast majority of footballers can only dream about, in 1994?

If he wasn't scoring length-of-the-field tries he was careering up the centre of the field to score untouched off Ricky Stuart's bombs or linking up on scrum moves to zoom through the created gaps.

Mullins was in breathtaking form and it was no surprise to see him fast-tracked into the Australian team for a home Test against France.

He held the Test fullback spot throughout the Kangaroo tour of England and France later that year as newspaper columns were filled with opinions of how good he was and how much he was worth.

Canberra won the premiership and Australia maintained its position as the number one league-playing nation.

Meninga, who was in last year as a player, was able to observe the form of Mullins from close range as captain of both Canberra and Australia. And he has since kept track of the form of all of the Raiders as a keen follower of the team and now their coach.

Although the opposition worked harder to keep the ball away from Mullins by kicking to Canberra's wingers, he had another strong season in 1995.

The Raiders only lost three out of 24 games that year, but one of those losses came when the finals series was down to the last four and they ran into a revitalised Canterbury and were eliminated.

Last year, though, Mullins lost his way a bit. Injuries kicked in and his form slipped.

He wasn't fit for several crucial matches late in the season and while he was out the Raiders' then coach, Tim Sheens, switched Nagas from the wing to fullback.

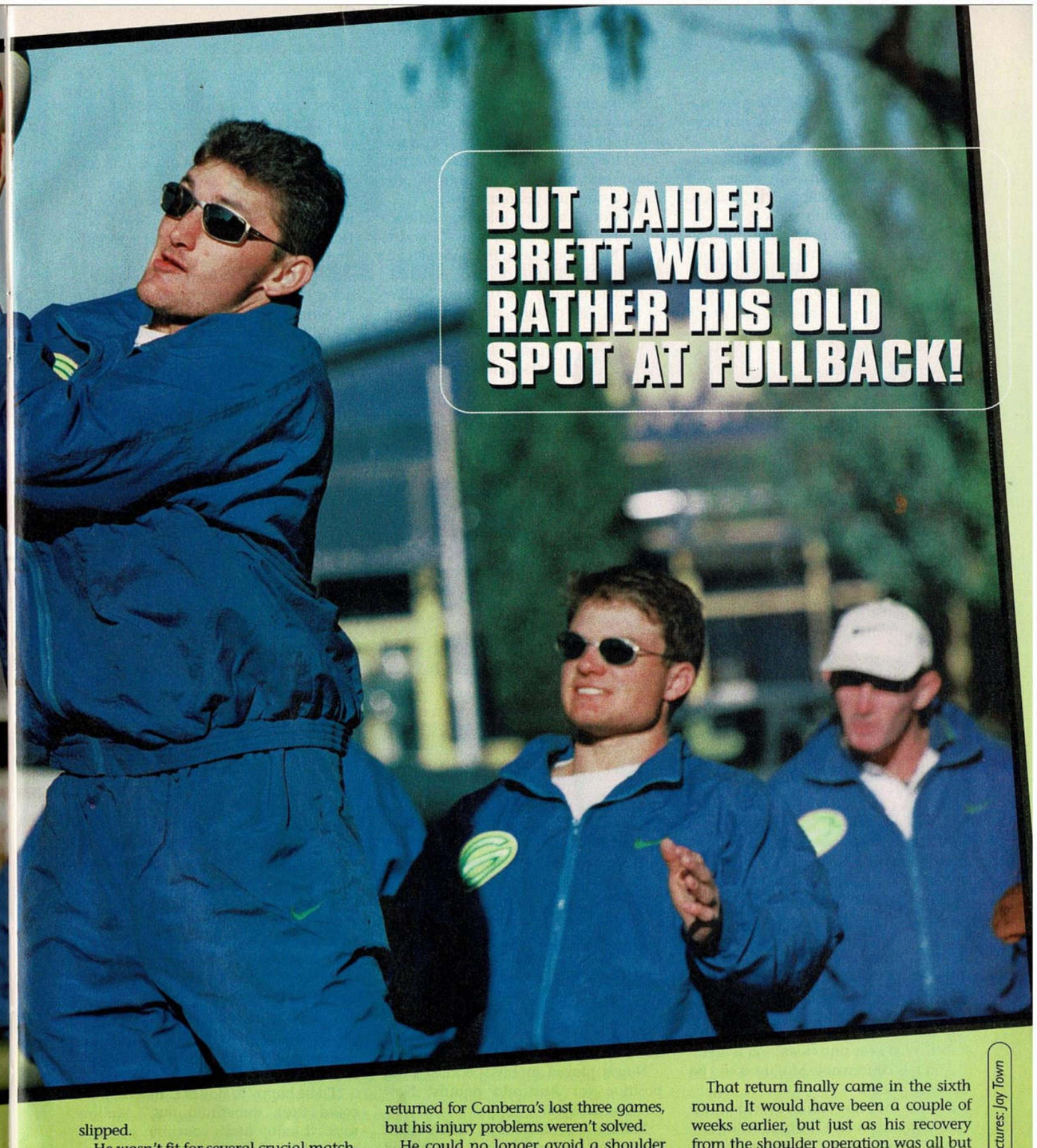
Mullins played in the centres when he returned for Canberra's last three games, but his injury problems weren't solved.

He could no longer avoid a shoulder reconstruction operation and, as it turned out, that was the only advantage Nagas needed to hold the fullback spot into the Super League season and beyond Mullins returning.

That return finally came in the sixth round. It would have been a couple of weeks earlier, but just as his recovery from the shoulder operation was all but complete Mullins was further delayed by a calf muscle injury suffered at training.

The Raiders had lost four of their first five games, but Nagas had been one of their better performers. Mullins came

BUT RAIDER BRETT WOULD RATHER HIS OLD SPOT AT FULLBACK!



Pictures: Jay Town

CENTRE OF ATTENTION

back in the centres and has been there ever since.

"I knew I was going to come back in the centres, because Jason Croker was still out injured," Mullins says. "Mal told me what he was going to do.

"But Jason's back now. He's getting fitter with a bit more time in every match and I'm hoping things change soon.

"I don't mind playing in the centres. I guess it's the old story - it's better than playing reserve grade. I prefer it to playing on the wing. You get too cold out there.

"But sometimes I get a bit lost in the centres. I'm pretty disappointed that I'm not playing fullback and it's only natural. That's where I like to play."

The fact is the Raiders have been looking for a regular centre partner for Ruben Wiki ever since Meninga retired.

And it is conceivable Mullins could be there long-term.

Events in the Visa World Club Challenge haven't helped Mullins' cause. Nagas scored a club record six tries in the first round as the Raiders annihilated Halifax 70-6 at Bruce Stadium.

Mullins was watching from the grandstand that day, having been ruled out because of the lingering effects of a concussion suffered the previous weekend.

The previously media-shy Nagas was even talking up his own case after that game and he had every right to after such a stunning performance.

"I want to keep playing fullback ahead of Brett," Nagas said. "I had to show Mal I could be in the right place at the right time."

Nagas certainly did that, but Mullins is a nagging sort of individual. He doesn't like to give up on something he wants.

"Hopefully Mal will give me a chance at fullback," Mullins says. "I keep getting in his ear about it and he keeps saying: 'I'll give you a run. I'll give you a run'.



'Kenny sure is making it hard for me to get back to fullback. He's playing really well for the team' – Brett Mullins

"Circumstances can change your fortunes a lot in this game. I know that," Mullins said. "I've had a few injury problems, but everyone gets injuries from time to time. I can't use that as an excuse.

"I've just got to keep hammering away and make sure I play well in the centres.

"Kenny sure is making it hard for me to get back to fullback. He's playing really well for the team. He's even talking himself up now. The bloke's come out of his shell, hasn't he?

"We talk about the fullback spot. We're always giving it to each other about it."

Nagas played in his specialist wing position for Australia against New Zealand in April.

Mullins was still out of action when the Test was played. He had also missed the opening game of the Tri-Series for New South Wales, when Nagas again played on the wing.

And when Mullins was available for the Blues he took the other wing spot. It is testimony to the adaptability of the pair that coaches and selectors are confident about their ability to handle more than one position at first-grade level and above.

But while Nagas and Mullins were on the wing, David Peachey (NSW) and Darren Lockyer (Queensland) were getting all the attention as fullbacks.

"It's frustrating," Mullins says. "But I got a bit of time at fullback during the Tri Series final and that was good."

Mullins played his first WCC game against London last weekend and says the public should give the concept time to work.

"This is exactly what the English teams need," he says. "This is a great opportunity for them to find out exactly where they stand and what they need to do.

"They will improve with each chance they get in a series like this and I'd like to think it will continue in some form next season.

"I can tell you the players love it. It's good to break the season up with something fresh and new and it's a great opportunity for players who haven't made rep teams to play some football in England."

This is Mullins' ninth season in grade with the Raiders, but he is still only 25.

Next year is the final year of his current contract and whenever players of his quality come off contract there is obviously considerable interest from rival clubs.

But would he ever genuinely consider leaving Canberra?

"I'd be happy to stay at Canberra if we could work something out," Mullins says. "I enjoy Mal's coaching just as I enjoyed Tim's coaching, so there are no problems there.

"But you always keep your options open. You would be stupid not to."

BULLY BOYS



LOWE

Broncos have a pack who can mix it with anybody

JUST HOW GOOD ARE the Brisbane Broncos?

That's the question I found myself asking after Alfie and the boys put the cleaners through Wigan on Monday night.

Personally, I thought their performance was about as good as I've seen from the Broncos in two years.

And with the Canberra Raiders now back to full strength and firing as equally as impressively, I can't wait for the Round 15 Telstra Cup clash between the two in three weeks from now.

As far as I'm concerned, it will be the premiership clash of the season to date in either competition.

The thing that impresses me most about Brisbane this year is that they've added another string to their bow. For the first time in their history, they now have what I call the "bully factor".

In the past, the Broncos have "razzle dazzled" the opposition out of the game. They still do that better than anybody, of course, as Alfie, Darren Lockyer and Kevvie Walters proved last Monday night.

But they haven't always been able to "muscle up" to the opposition and I feel that in recent years Canterbury and North Sydney in particular have both been able to gain their measure in crucial games as a result.

It often seemed that Glenn Lazarus was left to not only be the chief yardage-gainer but also bear the brunt of the necessary physicality in the forward exchanges.

No more.

With players like Peter Ryan, Gorden Tallis, Brad Thorn and Shane Webcke, the Broncos now have a pack who can mix it with anybody. By mixing it, I don't mean standing toe-to-toe and throwing punches as Tallis and Wigan's Terry O'Connor exchanged at ANZ.

I mean the ability to punish the opposition in defence, to make rival forwards think twice while they're hitting it up. Brisbane now have that quality and are an even stronger side for it.

'They have the ability to punish the opposition in defence, to make rival forwards think twice while they're hitting it up'

It's perhaps also a slight edge they have over Canberra, although I believe there's barely a struck match between the two. The Raiders possibly also suffer from an injury curse. I know they've virtually got everybody back on deck from this weekend but they still seem to always suffer an untimely injury to a key player on the eve of a big game whereas Brisbane don't.

Going back to Monday night's game, Wigan were unlucky to be on the end of such an impressive Broncos performance. I think it has now become obvious to everybody that Wigan are the best structured of the English sides and I feel there are many things their fellow Euroleague clubs could learn from them.

It appears to me that Wigan are genuinely trying to build a complete side. But I look at some of the other English clubs and I don't get the same impression. While there are some quality players in different positions, there are a helluva lot of very average players as well.

I think Denis Betts had a fair point during the week when he said he felt there were too many ordinary Australasian players turning out in the Euroleague at the expense of young British talent.

During my coaching experience in England, I found that too many clubs were seduced by an Australian accent which was superior to the player's talent.

I'm not quite sure what the answer is but I do know that the Visa World Club Challenge shouldn't be getting the bagging it deserves from many critics, some of them clearly fuelled by self-interest.

Yes, many of the scorelines have been disappointing but I subscribe to the point of view of London coach Tony Currie when he says that if we want to improve international rugby league, this is the only way to go about.

Last Saturday night, the All Blacks rugby union team walloped Fiji 71-5. I can remember a couple of years ago when the Wallabies put 80 points on Western Samoa. Last year Australia racked up 70 points against Canada.

And they were Tests, not international club matches!

Yet we didn't hear a hue and cry about how bad these results were for the game of rugby union. Quite the contrary in fact. Both the rugby public and the rugby media seemed to recognise that the international game had to be fostered and encouraged and if that meant lop-sided scorelines from time to time, it's a small price to pay.

It's a lesson some of our self-proclaimed impartial commentators in Sydney would do well to learn.

- GRAHAM LOWE

'KING' ANDY

WIGAN'S SKIPPER IS A LEAGUE BLUE BLOOD IF EVER THERE WAS ONE

IF EVER there was a player seemingly born into rugby league royalty, it was Andy Farrell.

Prodigiously talented from his youngest days in football, Farrell always seemed destined for greatness. By his early teens, he had already been earmarked as a future superstar by his Wigan club.

Few were surprised, when at the age of 16, he made his first grade debut for the English champions. He made "two or three" first grade appearances in that 1991-92 season, rubbing shoulders with some of the greatest players in the game. For a lad straight out of the club under 16s, it was one helluva feat.

"I was very fortunate to get that opportunity with such a great side at such an early stage of my career," says Farrell. "Any other club and I don't think it could have been done. To play at that level at just 16 would've been too much. But I was lucky because I came into the side when they just had so many great players.

"It was John Monie's first year there and Wigan had players like Ellery Hanley, Dean Bell and Andy Gregory who were just about at the peak of their powers back then. But there weren't just great players, they were great professionals as well. That's what made it easy for me.It's a lot easier to find your way when you've got some of the best players in the world telling you want to do at any given time in a game. In any other side, it would have been enormously difficult to play first grade at that age."

Maybe so. But even a champion team like Wigan couldn't carry teenage players with nothing to offer. Farrell, youthful and clean cut as he was, obviously had plenty to offer. When he became a regular fixture in Wigan's top team the next season, nobody blinked an eyelid.

A teenage progidy had arrived.

For Farrell, it must have felt like a magic carpet ride. For the next three seasons, Wigan continued on their remorseless march to every major trophy on offer in the northern hemisphere - while also taking off the World Club Championship final against Brisbane in 1995 as well.

Alongside players such as Denis Betts, Shaun Edwards and Martin Offiah, Farrell emerged as a genuine matchwinner, a blockbusting backrower with power, skilful hands and a centre's speed. Not only that, if there was a more experienced teenager in the game, nobody knew of his identity.

Andy Farrell very quickly found himself with a wise head on a very young set of shoulders. And by this time he was also in the Great Britain Test team!

Farrell didn't know it at the time, of course, but his rapid apprenticeship was soon to become a godsend.

Wigan are no longer the unstoppable juggernaut from the northern hemisphere. And after losing to the Kiwis 3-0 last season, Great Britain can no longer consider themselves the No. 2 power in international rugby league behind Australia.

In both cases, the club and the country are looking to one man as the inspirational leader needed to drag them out of the mire and restore credibility. You guessed it....Andy Farrell, just turned 22 years of age.

Farrell senses the responsibility but if he is daunted by the challenge, there's no outward signs. He is now in his second season as captain of a Wigan side which has had to come to grips with both St Helens and Bradford leapfrogging them in status over the past season and other sides like the London Broncos and Leeds attempting to do the same.

"It's a bit funny how things have ended up," Farrell admits of the rapid change in pecking order. "You get used to winning everything but that can't go on forever and you have to adjust. That's what rugby league is all about.

"It's about winning and losing. We've dropped off the pace a little bit but I'm now confident we're turning things around again," he says, pointing to the WCC upset of Canterbury as evidence of his point

Ask why Wigan have hit the slippery slope and Farrell is again direct to the point. "It goes back to my point about great players being great professionals," he explains. "We haven't just lost some great players in the past couple of seasons but also very astute professionals.

'I don't find it frustrating. I find it stimulating' – Andy Farrell

"The fact we had so many professionals was why we were so successful for so long. They passed on to the younger players the attitude and commitment needed to succeed. That was something I experienced.

"Now things have chanced and it's people like me who must now pass on that attitude to the new players who have joined us. Personally, that's a great challenge. I don't find it frustrating. I find it stimulating."

The Wigan experience is not unlike the traumas currently being suffered by Great Britain's national team as well. Farrell was elevated to the Lions captaincy - the youngest ever leader of the national team — when he took away Great Britain on their South Pacific tour of Fiji, Papua-New Guinea and New Zealand last year.

And even though the Kiwis clean swept the three-Test series, Farrell remains positive about the experience and believes Great Britain will quickly regain their standing as an international force.

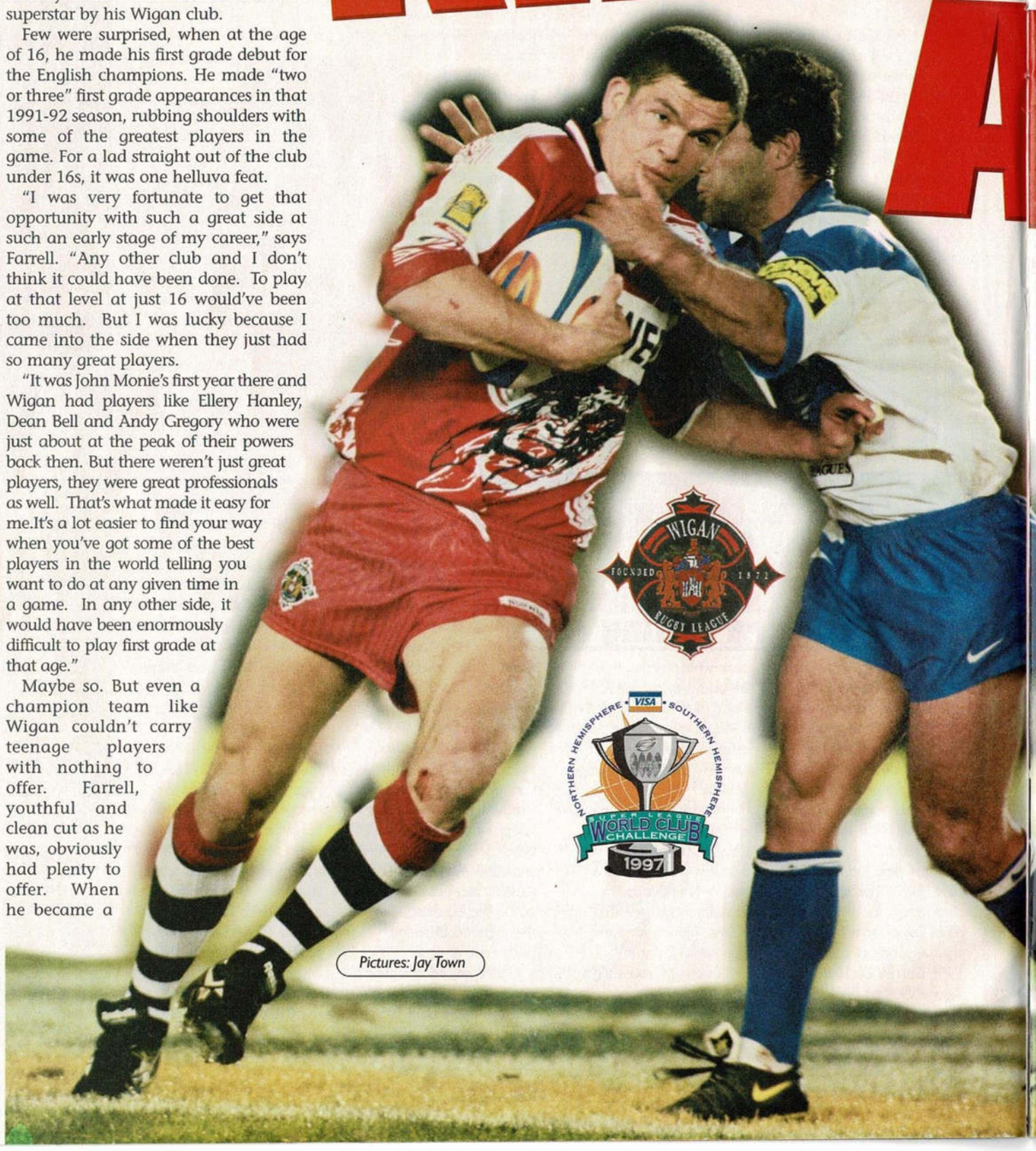
"When we went to New Zealand, we took across so many youngsters it was unbelievable," he says. "Therefore I still regard that tour of New Zealand as very successful because we left a lot of quality players back home whom we can call upon next time. Yet the youngsters who did go on tour picked up valuable experience and widened our base of players to call upon. Put the two together again and we will be in a very strong position."

Farrell also feels the Lions were unlucky not to win two of the three Tests against the Kiwis. "I'm not taking anything away from New Zealand because they are a very good side," he explains. "But we should have won two of those three Test matches. They went right to the wire both times."

Great Britain have a chance to prove their point at the end of the season when Laurie Daley's Australians tour the United Kingdom and play three internationals against the Poms. The current Visa World Club Challenge gives Farrell an opportunity to size up the enemy ahead of time. "Yes, I guess I have one eye on that," he admits. "And this World Club Challenge is good for us because it gives us an idea of what we'll be up against in November when the Australians tour.

"This competition will help us lift our standards and make a big difference in our mental preparation. When the time rolls around, I like to think Great Britain will be very competitive."

And led by a 22-year-old light years ahead of time.



Pictures: Jay Town

VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

TOUGH TIMES

BRONCO PETER RYAN PREPARES FOR AN ASSAULT FROM THE BLUE SOX'S 'RHINO'

By Mike Colman

BRISBANE iron man Peter Ryan is under no illusions. He knows when he and his team-mates run out for their third round Visa World Club Challenge match against Halifax, they'll be in for a rough night.

"I don't know a great deal about them," he said. "But I do know this - they'll be out to belt us. I spoke to some of the London blokes after our first round match and they told me the Halifax guys were absolute monsters. They've got an enormous pack.

"What they are lacking a bit is fitness but usually when you've got a big team like that what they lack in fitness they try to make up in aggression. I'll be going out there prepared for anything."

And Ryan, the recognised hard man of the Brisbane pack is well aware that the Blue Sox have a hard man of their own - Karl "Rhino" Harrison.

"He's a fair lump of a lad isn't he," he said.

"He's their go-forward man. I've heard he does it for Halifax and he's done it for their Test side in wins against Australia.

"If he gets a roll on any team he plays in follows on behind him. We'll have to make sure he doesn't get going."

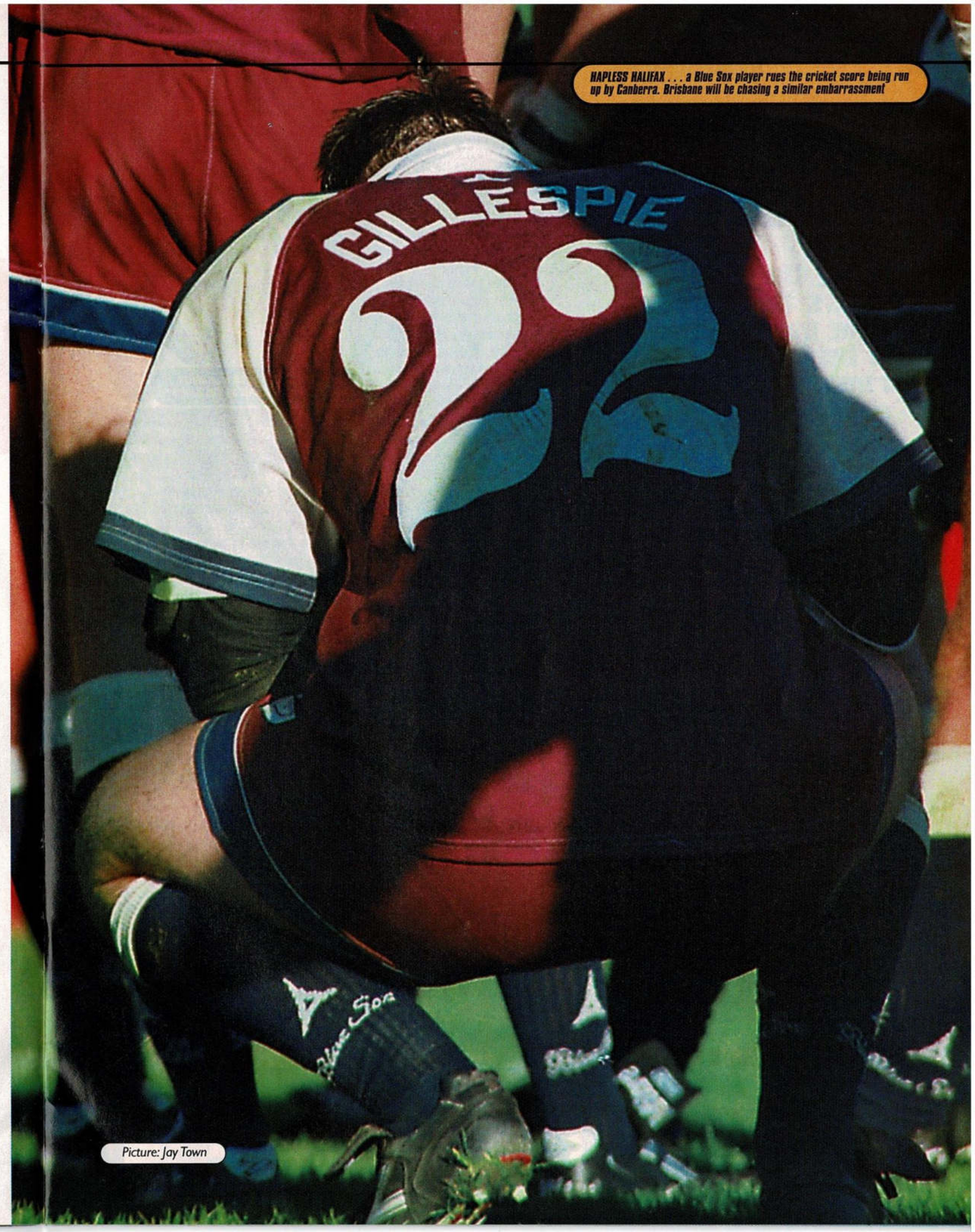
But while the Broncos will have to concentrate on their defence against the giant Halifax prop, such is the format of the World Club Challenge that just winning isn't good enough. The Broncos could theoretically go through their pool matches undefeated and still miss a finals berth to a team which hasn't won a game.

Only three of the six elite Australasian sides in Pool A go through, along with the top three Euroleague sides.

The Broncos' slow start to their match against London sees them chasing a cricket score against Halifax.

"It's a different type of football - real Cup football," Ryan said.

"It's a strange thing to go out knowing you have to score as many points as possible. Getting in front and easing



HAPLESS HALIFAX . . . a Blue Sox player rues the cricket score being run up by Canberra. Brisbane will be chasing a similar embarrassment

Picture: Jay Town

VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

up could see you drop out of the finals.

"You have to change your thinking and do things you wouldn't normally do. Like against London in the first round. Late in the game we were trying short kick-offs to get the ball back. We had to score more points. That's what it is all about."

'What they lack in fitness they try to make up in aggression. I'll be going out there prepared for anything.'
- Peter Ryan

And will become even more so as the competition evolves. Ryan and his team-mates are well aware the Canberra Raiders got a jump on the rest of the pool with their 70-6 score against Halifax in the first round.

"We have to do what Canberra did against Halifax," Ryan said. "We are a similar side to the Raiders, we like to give the ball some air like they do.

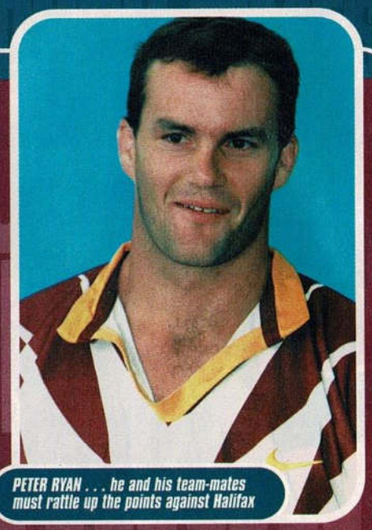
"But you would have to say the odds are against another score like that.

"Halifax are a proud club with a long history. Their pride was dented against the Raiders and they will be out to make sure another score like that doesn't happen again."

For Ryan, whose season has already hit the heights with outstanding club form and a maroon jumper in the Tri Series, the uncertainty and pressure of the Visa World Club Challenge is a whole new ballgame and he is a fan.

"I reckon it's great," he said. "It's the first year and there are bound to be a few hiccups, but the concept itself is just brilliant.

"It really is taking the game international and, as time goes by, the overseas clubs can only get stronger and stronger."

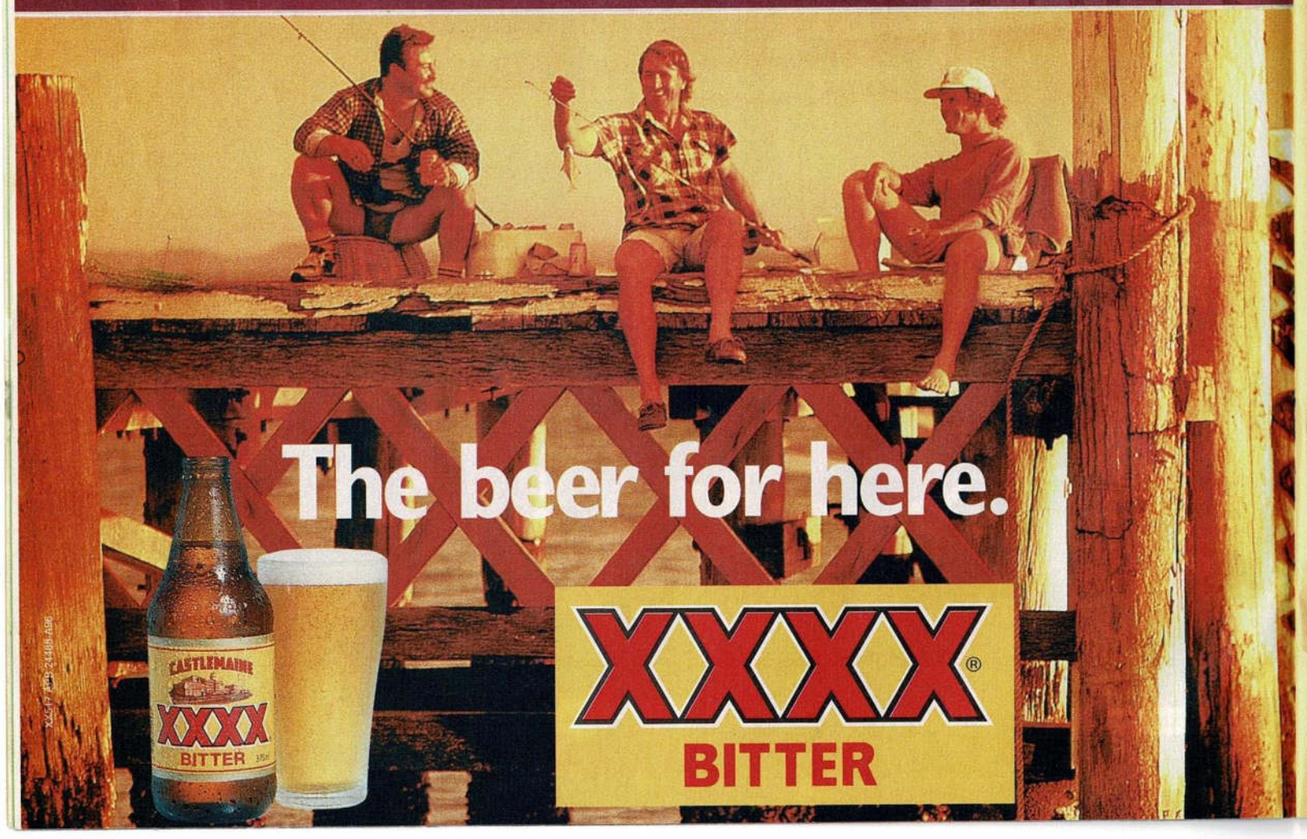


PETER RYAN . . . he and his team-mates must rattle up the points against Halifax

No doubt "Rhino" Harrison and his Blue Sox team-mates will be out to make that prophecy come true.

Sooner rather than later.

And that's a situation which suits Ryan - a man who thrives on the tough stuff - just fine.



COUNT ME IN

MELBOURNE'S RUGBY LEAGUE FRANCHISE IS A GOLDMINE WAITING TO BE TAPPED

THE WHISPERS ARE getting louder. They're becoming almost a roar. A Melbourne Super League team is surely just around the corner.

And why not? To my mind Melbourne is a licence to make money. The Crown Casino might be the high flier for turning over cash but, done properly, a Melbourne franchise in rugby league is another goldmine.

I also make a prediction that when the Melbourne team does happen - and I have no doubt that it will - it will have success and public acceptance far more quickly than the Sydney Swans, the old South Melbourne, ever did.

Having Melbourne in the competition is the final piece of the national competition jigsaw. (We need Perth in there as well).

To me, having a crowd of 6,500 in Perth is far more healthy than getting 2000 at a South Sydney-Balmain game at the SFS. I honestly believe that whoever gets the franchise in Melbourne will find themselves with one of the most profitable organisations in the Australian sporting world.

Sydney is the gateway to Australia but the next business metropolis is Melbourne. National companies in this country have offices in both cities. Corporations will be falling over each other to get in on the act to involve themselves in a different sport in Victoria. The exposure they get from their involvement and the association they get as a spin off for being involved in a winning team as well as being involved with healthy sports people, will be too much to resist.

With that comes money, whoever opens up Melbourne in a private business way will make money, they'll attract crowds and then with that money comes the opportunity to buy big name players.

We all know that Melbourne people are fanatical about their Aussie Rules, but that doesn't mean there aren't others just as fanatical about rugby league living south of the border. There are plenty of expatriates in Sydney who follow Carlton in football or the South East Melbourne Magic in basketball. The same applies in Melbourne where there are hordes of Sydney expatriates who will turn out in all weather to support a local rugby league team. They might still be rabid Cronulla or Penrith fans, but they will also adopt a team based in the city where they've chosen to live. They won't be able to help themselves. If they love the game, they'll warm to their own "hometown" team."

And let's consider this. Despite the ravings of Pauline Hanson and those like her, Australia is a multi-cultural society and it's becoming more so. And there's that buzzword of the 90s "tolerant." That tolerance in a society opens people up to other ideas and in so doing, makes them able to see the merit in something that might at first appear strange to them. I believe then, that Melbourne people will reflect that, they'll take a local side to their hearts. It won't replace the sport they've always loved, but it will allow them to support a "new" sport.

The wonderful part of this is that you will have one team in a city almost as big as Sydney, while up here you have 12 teams unwilling to amalgamate or relocate. What an opportunity Melbourne is for someone with even half an eye for the main chance.

I definitely believe the future in sport is for private or publicly listed ownership of sporting teams. Gone are the days when the committee's of league clubs have their beer and prawns, rely on the poker machines to pay the players and then have the players turn up after a game and that's it. The future is in business and sport as a mix. When you get this you get hunger, creativity and more opportunities to make a dollar and in so doing become successful both on and off the field. I'm not saying it's easy, but it is definitely exciting.

And if the Melbourne franchise does become publicly listed I'm more than happy to put my hand up right now and get involved as a shareholder.

For some reason I can imagine them being called the Melbourne Monarchs. I'm not quite sure why. Perhaps it's because Melbourne is a more regal sort of a town. The people there strike me as being a little more conservative, it's a very pretty place and I think the name of the team should reflect the town.

Finally, the smart person who secures the Melbourne franchise has the chance to learn from the mistakes of others. I think the Swans are a prime example. It's taken more than 10 years for them to become accepted, it won't take Melbourne that long.

Super League kick-started the North Queensland Cowboys when Tim Sheens went there, taking with him established stars such as Ian Roberts, Steve Walters, Owen Cunningham and John Lomax. Melbourne can do the same. Players such as Alf Langer, Laurie Daley, Bradley Clyde, you name them, could be enticed there as they go into the second half of their careers. It will make Melbourne immediately competitive, drag in corporate sponsors, give them a genuine superstar profile and, as a bonus, make the game truly national. Where do I sign?

- STEVE MORTIMER

TURVEY



BUFFALO SOLDIER

BOB MARLEY LOOK-ALIKE MIKE UMAGA KNOWS HIS WAY THROUGH A DEFENCE

RASTAFARIAN-locked Halifax fullback Mike Umaga won't forget his introduction to Australian rugby league for a long time.

The former Western Samoan rugby international whose hair gives him a striking resemblance to the late reggae singer Bob Marley, was the last line of defence for Halifax when they were pummelled 70-6 by the red-hot Canberra Raiders at Bruce Stadium 10 days ago. "I've seen the last I want to see of Ken Nagas for a long time," said Umaga, retaining his sense of humour at recalling Nagas's incredible six-pack of tries against the hapless Blue Sox.

The Canberra fullback's feats perhaps also gave his Halifax opposite a taste of his own medicine. It was Umaga who created a Euroleague try-scoring record last year when he scorched in for five tries against Workington Town. "Now I know how they felt afterwards," he joked.

It was a rude awakening for Halifax in the Visa World Club Challenge and reminded Umaga of the huge gulf between northern and southern hemisphere rugby league. But for all that, Umaga was one of the few Halifax players to emerge from the Raider onslaught with any credibility.

He tried desperately to kick-start his team's attack and never gave up in defence against what must have seemed wave after wave of green jerseys.

Umaga, 30, came to rugby league the long way round. Union was always his game. And he was pretty good at it too. He made his mark playing with former All Black John Schuster in the Wellington team in New Zealand's tough national provincial championship.

Soon after he graduated to international honours, representing Western Samoa who have become one of the heavyweights of the game despite their small population and lack of corporate resources.

The league feelers first came immediately after Umaga had helped the Samoans reach the quarter finals of the 1995 World Cup, only to be knocked out by host country and eventual winners South Africa.

"I was first approached by an agent in Auckland but the Halifax thing only really stepped up when I ran into John Schuster back in Western Samoa," explains Umaga. "He was keen to get me to join Halifax and he made things happen.

"At the time I'd been short-listed to play for the Wellington Hurricanes in the Super 12 but (All Black fullback) Christian Cullen was there and I knew it was going to be very difficult to shift him from the fullback position.

"The fact John was already with Halifax was really the clincher for me. I knew that would help me adjust more quickly."

Now into his third season with the Blue Sox, Umaga is making a positive mark. He is a bright counter attacker and stout defender.

Halifax are one of the toilers of the Euroleague. They get neither the television exposure or crowd support of a St Helens, Wigan or a Bradford. Umaga is not too worried. "Don't forget I come from Samoa . . . you get used to being regarded as the underdogs," he smiles.

It's a tag Halifax have found attached to their name with regularity in the Visa World Club Challenge as well. But again Umaga is not concerned. "It's just great to be part of it," he enthuses. "For me, I can remember back in New Zealand when I would watch big matches like the State of Origin and wonder what it was like to play those guys. And here I am now doing exactly that."

There is some irony in Umaga's revelation that he had never played rugby league before joining the Blue Sox. His younger brother Tana is a former Junior Kiwi who was earnestly chased by Brisbane Broncos coach Wayne Bennett and who was tipped for a huge future in rugby league.

'Don't forget I come from Samoa ... you get used to being regarded as the underdogs'
- Mike Umaga

But then Tana just as suddenly switched to rugby union where he has been a sensation, completing the recent Super 12 as the Wellington Hurricanes' leading tryscorer and the second highest in the overall competition behind the ACT's Joe Roff.

Tana has been so impressive that he has now broken into the all-conquering All Black line-up this year, making his debut last week in a Test against Fiji. Mike is thrilled with his younger brother's progress.

"We keep in regular contact and I watch all his games up in England on pay-TV," said the older Umaga. "I think he's probably lost to league now. He's going really well in union and they're looking after him pretty well financially too."

Nevertheless, at least one Umaga is set to remain in league.

"I've had a couple of feelers from English rugby union clubs but I'm pretty happy at the moment and I'm contracted with Halifax until the end of next year anyway," says Mike. "Plus there's the league World Cup next year too. I really want to play for Western Samoa in that. It's one of my real goals."

MIKE UMAGA . . . holds the Euroleague tryscoring record

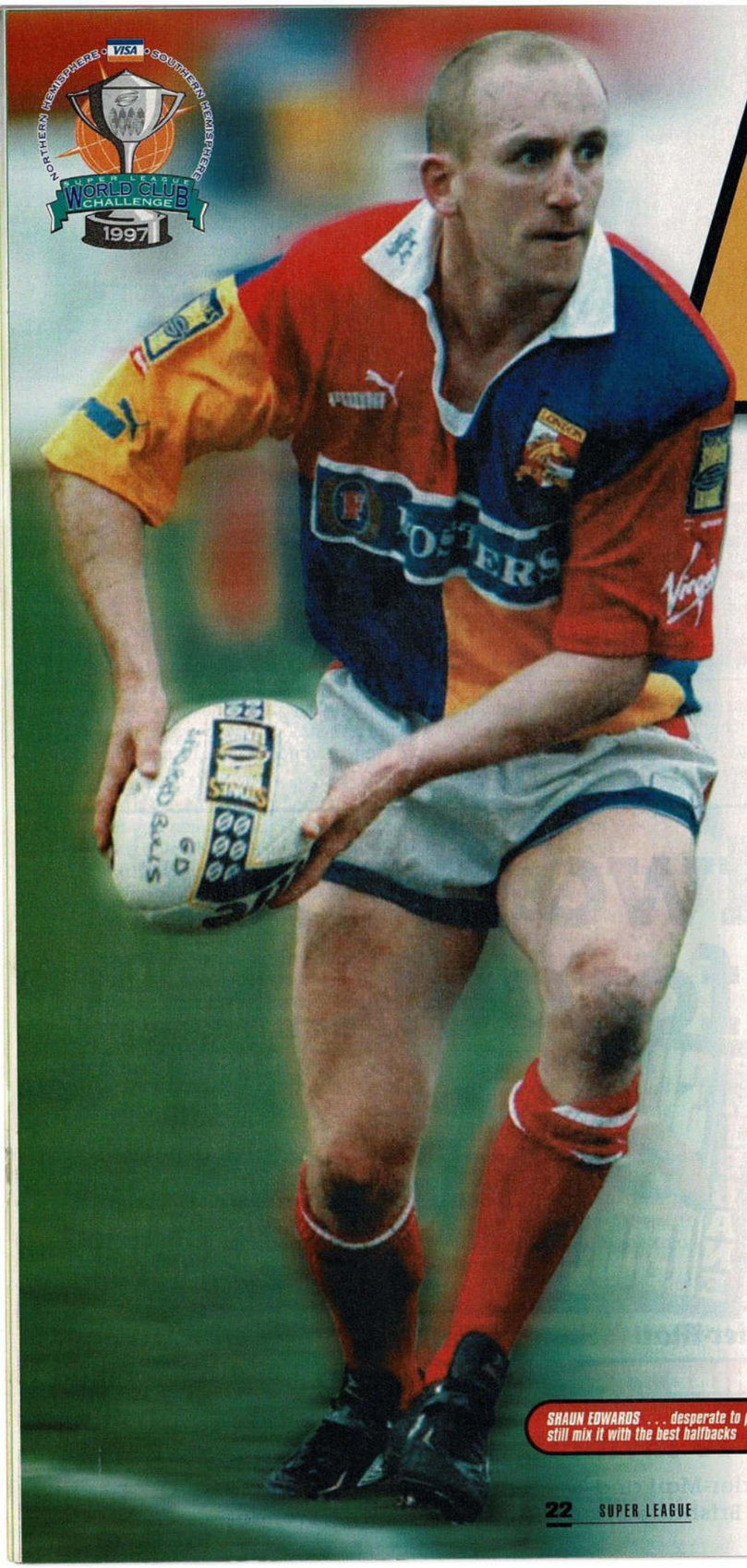
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SHAUN EDWARDS . . . desperate to prove he can still mix it with the best halfbacks

BACK FOR MORE

TWO 'OLD STAGERS' WANT TO TACKLE THE AUSSIES AGAIN

YOU would think that after 37 Test and World Cup games for Great Britain and England you'd be happy to rest on your laurels. Not so Shaun Edwards, who wants another crack at the Aussies when they lob in the Old Dart in November.

And what about his London Broncos and former Wigan team-mate Martin Offiah? He's been capped 36 times.

"I reckon I'd like another go at your fellows," says the man they've dubbed "Chariots." "They want me to play rugby union again. But the opportunity to have a go at the Aussies is very, very tempting."

They may be approaching the twilight of their careers, but the two old stagers are every bit as eager as some of the youngsters who were knee-high to grasshoppers when Edwards and Offiah first burst upon the scene in the mid-1980s.

They know they are getting old. Their legs are getting just that little bit slower. But the speed between their ears is faster than it ever was.

Says London Broncos coach Tony Currie: "They are important to our club. Not only do they give us credibility, they have a wealth of experience to share with the younger players. They have a lot of good football left in them."

And they can win games! If ever evidence was needed it was given by Edwards, who had forsaken Wigan, in the first match of the Visa World Club Challenge against the Brisbane Broncos.

He was not fully fit.

Forget what Currie had said when he suggested Edwards was on the bench because he needed to be injected at the crucial stage just before half-time.



MARTIN OFFIAH . . . has to decide between another off-season of rugby union or a crack at the Aussies

Forget what Currie said about Edwards being Wigan through and through, Lancashire born and bred and needing time to get over the massive culture shock of moving to the British capital.

Currie certainly has a way with words.

Edwards was needed from the start. And once he appeared he showed why.

It was in the 24th minute of play when the shaven features of Edwards first glowered at his old nemesis Allan "Alfie" Langer. Only a momentary glower, it only needed a moment. Within a minute Edwards was racing to the line. Could this be the start of a revival?

You bet it could!

Edwards was cut down, but his run gave London the field position and moments later fullback Andrew Duncan was over for a try. From being down 12-nil when Edwards came on, the London Broncos were 22-18 ahead when he limped off - beaten not by Brisbane, but by his injured hamstring.

"I wanted to prove a point," Edwards explains. "I had wanted to be on from the start. I wanted to show everyone, against one of the best halfbacks in the world, Allan Langer, that I should still be in the Test team.

"I'm 30 now. I take it year by year.

"I've played so many games that it's often hard to get fully motivated. But you know what really motivates me - coming up against great international halfbacks. Allan Langer, Ricky Stuart, Stacey Jones. No, I haven't played against Jones as yet but I want to. Knowing he is on the other team would make sure I'm on my mettle."

> **'As we've shown in recent years, we can give your lads a hiding'**
> **- Shaun Edwards**

Offiah is undecided about his future.

He's had a big offer to return for another season of rugby union. But he is not too impressed with the rah-rah game even though that's where he got his start.

"I'll review the situation at the end of the season," he says. "Yeah, I enjoyed my winter in union. But you know, it made me realise I'm a rugby league man."

Both Edwards and Offiah have been honoured with gongs from Buckingham Palace.

MBE, Member of the Order of the British Empire. Or how about Most Brilliant Entertainers?

Both are disappointed about the performances of several of the British clubs.

"The problem is that in Australia you have about 250-300 players of very high standard," Edwards explains. "In Britain we have about 30.

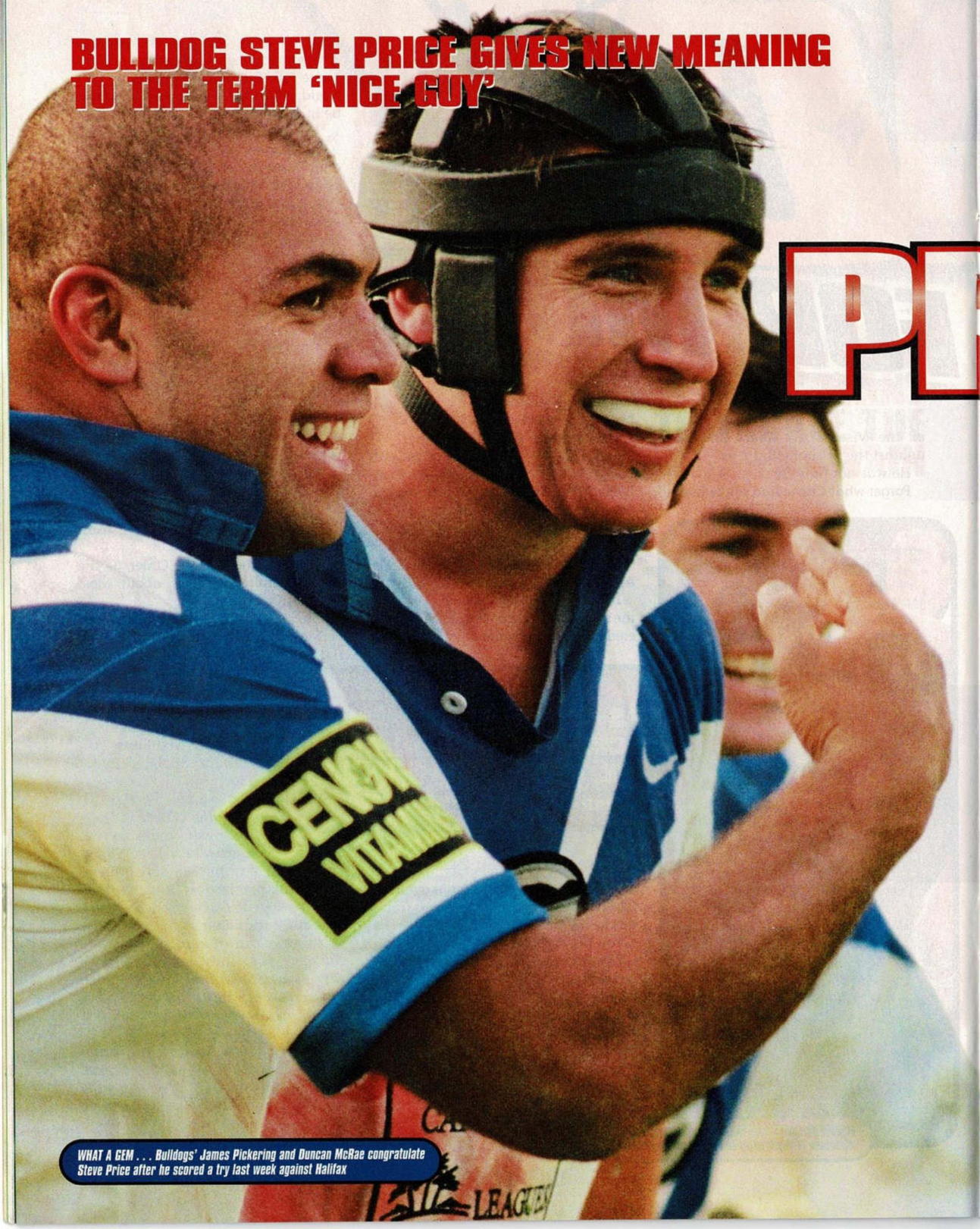
"So only the top two or three clubs can hope to push yours to the limit. Clubs like Wigan. On a good day the London Broncos can be competitive too.

"But when it comes to Tests, it's a very different matter.

"As we've shown in recent years, we can give your lads a hiding. That's why I want to be back in the British squad, because this year we do have enough really good players to match and beat you.

"We've done it the last two times at Wembley. Circle the date, Saturday November 1. I reckon we'll do it again. And I want to be there playing."

BULLDOG STEVE PRICE GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE TERM 'NICE GUY'



WHAT A GEM . . . Bulldogs' James Pickering and Duncan McRae congratulate Steve Price after he scored a try last week against Halifax

PRICE-LESS

EARLIER this season, when a spiteful Commonwealth Bank Cup brawl cost the schoolboys competition its major sponsor, Steve Price was so concerned he rang commentator Peter Sterling to offer help.

"Is there anything I can do?" the 23-year-old Bulldog forward asked. Having played in the final of the television schoolboys' knockout for Toowoomba's Harristown High, Price felt an obligation to do whatever he could to make sure other youngsters had the same opportunity.

"I know how much it meant to me," he explains. "Jo has a little brother who's 15 and he's been talking about winning it and going one better than me for years."

Jo is Steve's wife. They were in the same class at Harristown High and have been best friends since their first year of high school. They now have a baby daughter, Jamie-Lee, who Stave spends much of his time caring for. Jo works Monday to Friday and Steve combines a Mr Mom role with his football training schedule and whatever promotional or media work he can lay his hands on.

Something else Steve makes time for each week is keeping in touch with his best friend, Ian. He and Ian played football together from the day they both pulled on little boots, right up until Steve came to Canterbury. They've each been best man at the other's wedding, and the only thing that could've possibly separated them is football.

Both have done well but the game has flung them well apart geographically. While Steve is in Sydney playing for the Bulldogs, Ian is in Townsville playing first grade for the Cowboys. His brother Andrew also plays for the Cowboys, so you might've guessed by now their surname is Dunemann. Steve calls them "The Doonies" while to them he's "Noddy".

If you've started to get the impression Steve Price is actually a fictional character from some feelgood American sports movie, that's understandable. The strapping country lad with the boyish good looks and sunny disposition who gets the big break in the sport he loves, scores the first try in his team's grand final win as a 21-year-old, marries his childhood sweetheart and then . . . and then he cops the mother of all baggings on a regular basis for being "too nice".

Well, this is rugby league, not some cardigan-infested college campus!

"Ever since I started playing I've been told I need to be more aggressive." he says with a resigned smile.

"He's the kind of guy that will put a good hit on someone and then say 'Sorry'," says Terry Lamb, the legend who took the young kid under his wing almost from day one at Belmore. "He's a pure gentleman. But he could do with a bit more aggression," 'Baa' adds, joining the long list of people who've made that comment about Price.

But the kid who skipped parties as a teenager because he wanted to avoid late nights, booze and cigarettes, who mowed people's lawns to make enough money to buy a home gym, just isn't cut out to be that kind of player.

"I don't want to go out and rip someone's head off," he shrugs. "I want to go out and put some big hard hits on. I love that. But it disappoints me when guys go on with all the other stuff."

Price's "niceness" gives team stirrers a constant source of ammunition.

Sterling mentioned in the Footy Show that the young Canterbury forward had phoned up offering help to ensure the survival of the Commonwealth Bank Cup. So for weeks afterwards team-mates would bleat melodramatically "Is there anything I can do?" at Price whenever they got the chance. Even Ian Dunemann rang him to ask with mock emotion "Is there anything I can do?"

Amazingly, Price tells all these stories at his own expense with a broad grin and obvious good humour.

"It'll take me ages to live that one down" he chirps.

But he's had to live down moments of horrific "niceness" before.

Some weeks into his first year at the Bulldogs he was made captain of under 21s. His first game as skipper was against Souths at the Sydney Football Stadium and he still shakes his head in embarrassment when recalling this rush of good-natured blood to the head.

"At fulltime I turned to the other guys and said *"Three cheers for Souths! Hip-hip..."*

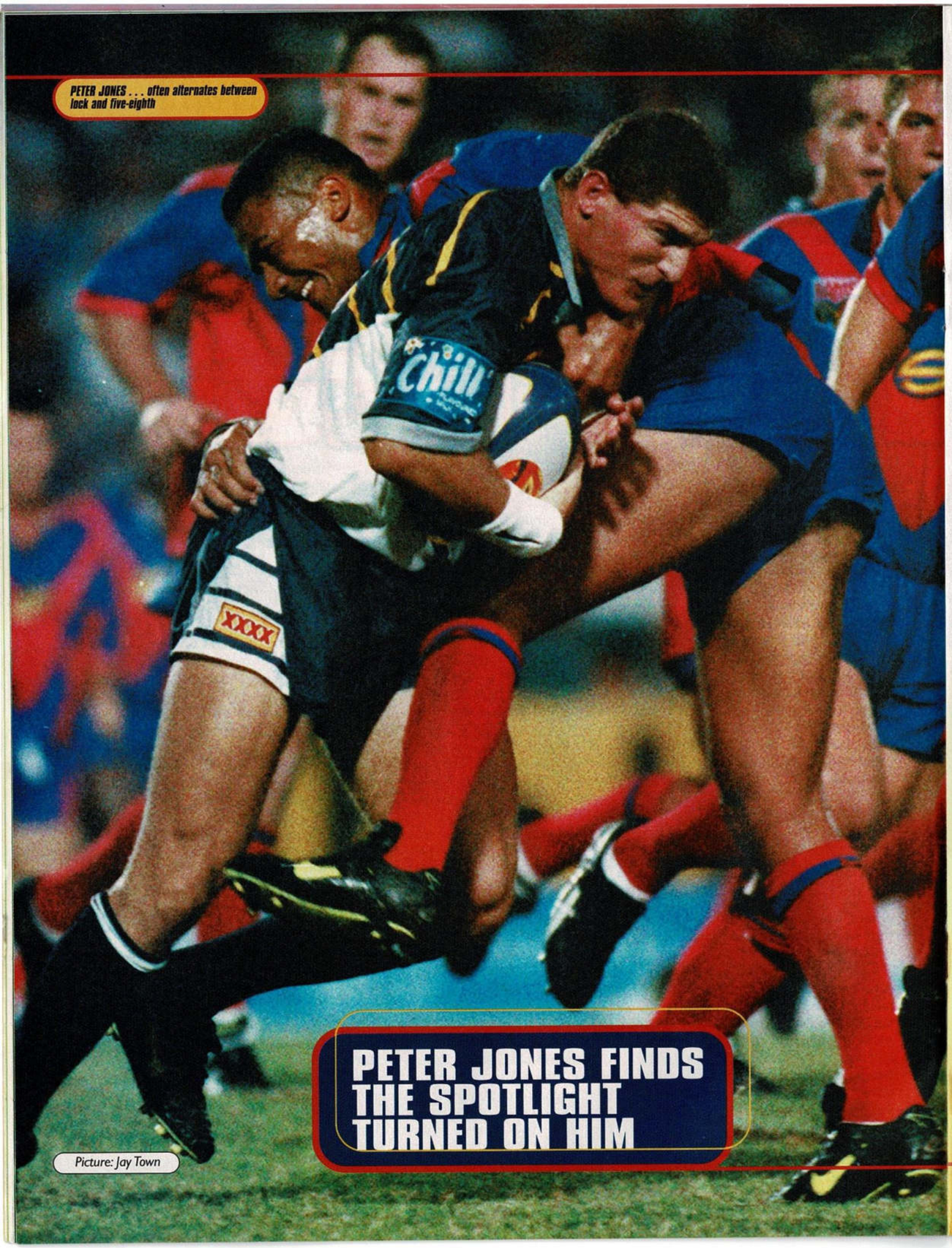
"Players from both sides just stood there and gawked at me as if to say 'Is this guy for real?' I felt so stupid, but it was just something we used to do in schoolboy footy back home."

The incredible twist in the Steve Price feelgood story is that somehow this bright and bushy-tailed youngster has found himself playing front row in recent weeks. And there are those at the club who believe his future could well be in the middle with the big, mean guys.

"To me he plays more like a front rower," observes Lamb. "He's a big, strong build and he runs hard and straight. He's the kind of player that'll make two hit-ups per set of six because he's so fit and enthusiastic. His work rate is as high as a prop he's got some real pace, only Solomon (Haumono) would be quick as him amongst our forwards."

But is there anything we can do about that niceness?

"Maybe I need to sort him out with a bit of the old Western Suburbs face-slapping," says 'Baa' wickedly. "But knowing Pricey, if there was face-slapping before a game, he'd put his head gear on first!"



PETER JONES . . . often alternates between lock and five-eighth

Picture: Jay Town

PETER JONES FINDS THE SPOTLIGHT TURNED ON HIM

Talk OF THE Town

By Peter Frilingos

TOWNSVILLE won't be the only town talking about the Jones boy as the first Super League season continues to unfold.

Powerful North Queensland second-rower Peter Jones found himself unexpectedly pitched into the limelight earlier this year when he was named in the preliminary squad for Queensland's Tri Series campaign.

While Jones failed to make the cut for the Maroon's 17-man line-up to battle NSW and New Zealand, the mere fact that he had been mentioned in the same context as the game's elite players was enough to suggest his star was well and truly in the ascendancy.

Since gaining that recognition from Queensland coach Wayne Bennett and his selectors Greg Viewers and Des Morris, Jones has not allowed the grass to grow under his feet with the Cowboys.

Coach Tim Sheens, the man who master-minded NSW's Tri Series triumph, has always had e keen eye for developing talent and was quick to recognise Jones as a rising star.

Testimony to his faith in the big back-rower comes from his tactical use of him at five eighth in certain situations.

Jones recently played five eighth in the second half of the drawn game against the Broncos at ANZ Stadium and for the entire game against the Canberra Raiders.

"I certainly don't mind playing in other positions, especially five eighth because it gives me the chance to prove I can use the ball," Jones says.

The versatility factor would not have done his representative prospects any harm either, considering any number of elite back-rowers over the years have made touring squads because of their ability to handle a variety of positions.

"It was an honour to make that early Queensland squad and while it did come as a surprise I was aware the selectors had their eyes on me as a possible choice," Jones said.

"I thought my form was pretty good at that stage of the season and I might have even made the 17 had some of the key players become unavailable through injury.

"That selection gave me an additional spur to do well with the Cowboys this season and who knows what might happen next year."

Hailing from the small town of Tully in North Queensland, Jones is a Maroon through and through and is confident the Cowboys will become one of rugby league's most powerful organisations in the near future.

"The signing of many new players for this year including Ian Roberts, Steve Walters, Owen Cunningham and John Lomax has meant a lot to the Cowboys," Jones says.

"Their experience and the guidance of a high profile coach in Tim Sheens has made us competitive and capable of testing the best sides in the competition.

"The knowledge those senior players have gained is being passed on to the younger players and the side is benefiting.

"Tim Sheens is a respected coach who has made a series of obvious changes since the joined the club.

"Tim has left nobody in any doubt that if you don't shape up you're likely to be shipped out and so we all know what's expected of us."

Jones expresses some disappointment about the discernible drop-off in attendance figures at Stockland Stadium this year.

"The players know support for the club is still great in Townsville and surrounding areas but the Super League-ARL war has obviously had an effect on crowds this season," Jones says.

"But having said that our crowds still compare favourably with the majority of others in both leagues.

"People want to get on with the game and have had enough of the war.

"We just want to make sure we perform well so that the Cowboys will be wanted in whatever competition format is around in the years to come."

While there is confidence in some quarters there will only be one premiership next year there is also concern in North Queensland about the level of support the club might get to be part of a unified Super League-ARL competition.

That concern stems from recent revelations that the ARL may not be in favour of retaining the Auckland Warriors if the warring factions come together.

Although the Cowboys were not mentioned in the same context, it is common knowledge in the game that they have been placed in the same category as the Warriors, along with the Perth Reds.

Those sides joined the ARL premiership in 1995 but opted to switch to Super League after only one month of the new 20-team premiership.

Those clubs were merely exercising their legal rights, but the animosity generated by their decision won't go away overnight.

But having said that, the Cowboys in particular look to have a future second to none in whatever premiership format is developed.

Once the side becomes a genuine title contender - and with Tim Sheens at the helm that will happen sooner rather than later - sell-out home games of 30,000 will become routine events.

EMBARRASSED!

Salford coach Andy Gregory is desperate to atone for the thrashing by the Rams

By Graham Bicknell

"EMBARRASSED." It was a word that Salford coach and former Great Britain halfback Andy Gregory used several times. He also used "ashamed."

The nuggety little Pommy playmaker could barely hide his disgust after his Salford side took an almighty thrashing at the hands of the Adelaide Rams in the opening Visa World Club Challenge round last week.

The score was 50-8. It was a shock to Gregory, an affable man who knows his way around a rugby league field. Having played for Widnes, Warrington, Wigan, Leeds, Salford and with a stint for Illawarra thrown in, he can rarely recall being so mortified by a scoreline.

"I'm not taking anything away from Adelaide, they were certainly the better team. But there was no way they were a 50 points better team," said Gregory, speaking from Townsville where he's struggling to get his side into the right form and frame of mind to take on Tim Sheens' Cowboys this Saturday night.

"I'm not whinging, I promise. And I'm not making excuses but I have to say there is a problem with the play-the-ball. Back home we play a totally different game to the one played out here.

"In Adelaide we were absolutely crucified. I rate Kerrod Walters as one of the best dummy-half runners in the game, but I've watched the tape of that match since and I spotted at least eight occasions where he would have been penalised in England.

"It got them on a roll. I have to say we were embarrassed, we were ashamed by what happened in Adelaide. We had a team meeting afterwards and we all knew we'd let ourselves and our supporters down."

The steamrolling Salford received from the Rams didn't destroy them, but it certainly pulled them up short.

"I'm only new to the game of coaching," said Gregory. "But I certainly learned a lot from that game. We know we've got to get used to the play-the-ball, we've got to complete our sets of six and our kicking game has to improve too. If we don't make these adjustments the Cowboys will give us another hammering."

Gregory, who is obviously hoping to go back to England with some points to show for the trip out here, thinks that the boot might be on the other foot when the Rams and the Cowboys go to Salford.

"We certainly don't want anyone coming to Salford and thinking that the points are automatically theirs. But there's no doubt there is a gap between the English and Australian teams.

"I write a daily column back home and I've said in it that the two teams from Great Britain which will do well in this competition are the Bradford Bulls and Wigan. And while I know that people back home will say that I'm writing off our chances already but I firmly believe the winner of the WCC will be an Australian team."

The whispers have been heard that by the time the Australian squad lands in England in November for a three Test series against the Poms Andy Gregory, at age 35, will be the national coach. It's a fair bet, after all he took charge of the Great Britain side for the World Nines earlier this year.

Gregory likes the suggestion, but says there has been no approach, no official word, just rumours.

"I've just signed a new deal with Salford, but of course I'd love the job. There is no higher honour than to play for your country and I was just as honoured to be asked to coach the World Nines team, so when the time comes for the hierarchy to select the Great Britain coach I'd like my name to be up there. If it's not, it won't be the end of the world."

He knows that whoever gets the job will be up against it. He laughed when asked which Australian players had impressed him in his two weeks in the country.

"How much time have you got?" said Gregory. "Not only are there the Langers, Stuarts and Daleys, but there are so many talented youngsters coming through. I really think that Australia could pick two squads to tour the UK.

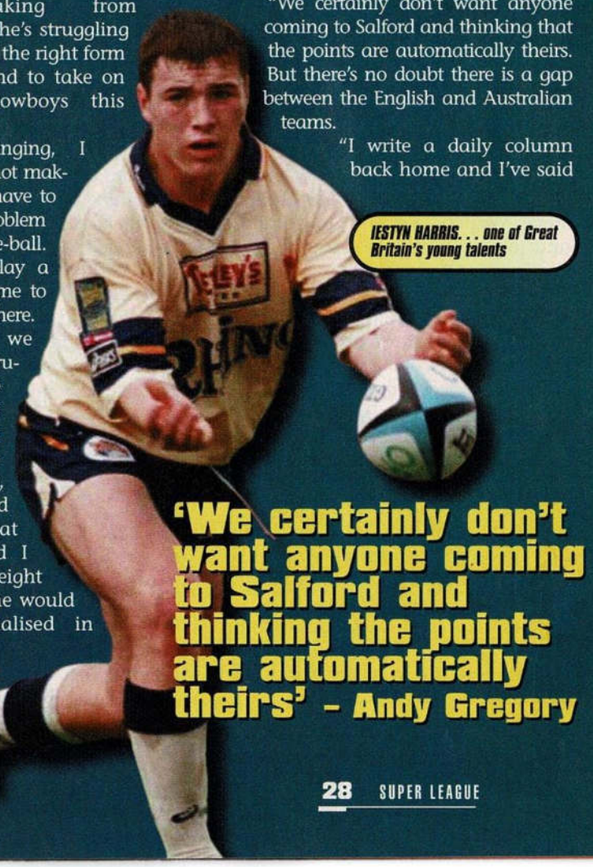
"But, from an Ashes perspective, we've got enough talent too. There's Paul Newlove, Iestyn Harris, Gary Connolly and our captain, Andy Farrell is just 22.

"I really do hope I get the job because I think it will be a smashing series. Hopefully we've got the players to take out the series but I know it will be a massive job considering the players Australia has at their disposal."

Problems with the play-the-ball aside, Gregory believes that the WCC is a sensational concept and hopes it continues.

"A good idea?" he laughed. "Well, I'm lying on my bed as we speak. It's 80 degrees outside, I'm in Townsville and tomorrow I'm going out to have a look at the Great Barrier Reef.

"Yeah, I think it's a fantastic idea."



IESTYN HARRIS... one of Great Britain's young talents

'We certainly don't want anyone coming to Salford and thinking the points are automatically theirs' - Andy Gregory

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

John Lang's workload doubles in the UK

By Graham Bicknell

JOHN Lang is definitely not having a leisurely time as he guides his Cronulla Sharks through their three games in the Visa Club Challenge in England.

If anything, the man also charged with guiding the national team this year is working harder than ever.

Not only does he have to ensure that his Sharks come home with six points from their three games against Warrington, St Helens and Bradford (and that's no easy task) but he's also got to keep an educated eye out for possible contenders for the Great Britain side.

Lang, a determined man who leaves nothing to chance, doesn't want to be the first national Super League coach to drop a series to the Poms when the two nations clash in three Tests in the Old Dart at the end of the year.

To that end, he is catching up on his homework while on tour with the Sharks, going to as many games as he can and spending a great deal of time running games featuring Euroleague teams on his video. And he's impressed by what he sees.

"Looking at the English game, I think they're going to come up with a very strong side if they can manage to field their best players," Lang said from his hotel in Leeds, epicentre of English rugby league.

"Obviously they don't have the same depth as we have. Australia has always had the advantage over other countries because we've just got so many to pick from.

"Take, for example, that Test against New Zealand on Anzac Day. Just prior to it we'd had the first Tri Series game and after that performance many people would have had Greg Alexander in the Australian team. Now whether or not that would have happened we'll never know, but he'd slaughtered Queensland in that game. It would have been a toss-up between Alexander and Langer. Alexander was injured and Langer played in the Test and was one of the stars. And Ricky Stuart was out injured too. You know, that's the advantage we have right there. And that situation applies to most positions."

Lang is quick to underline the message that just because we have the depth and the numbers it doesn't mean Australia just have to get off the plane at Heathrow to waltz away with the Tests.

"I think Great Britain definitely has the chance to pick a good side. Look, they've gone very close to beating Australia on a number of occasions.

"I was in England in 1990 and that was about as close as you could go. Great Britain won the first Test and just before Ricky Stuart made that unforgettable break and Mal ran away and scored, the English crowd had been pointing and laughing at us, they thought they had us.

"And they nearly did. We were on the mat and they had their hands around our throats. So I, for one, won't be underestimating them"

So far, studying the possibles Great Britain can select, Lang outlined a skeleton squad he could expect to come up against in November.

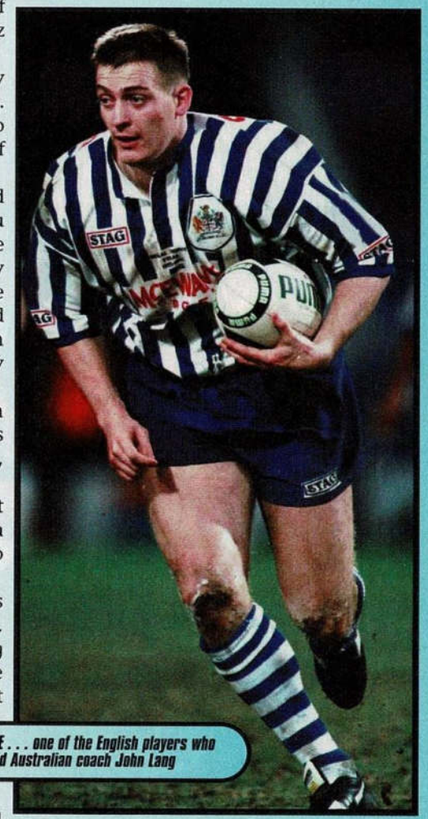
"Steve Prescott from St Helens looks a good player at the back. Jason Robinson is an outstanding winger. I heard Peter Sterling say he is the best in the world and that wouldn't be far from right. Anthony Sullivan from St Helens is very quick and Martin Offiah might be getting on a bit, but he's still a great player and going well with the London Broncos.

"Paul Newlove would be one centre with perhaps Anthony Hunte alongside him. Then there's Iestyn Harris and Bobbie Goulding, Andy Farrell at lock, Denis Betts, Simon Haughton and Gary Connolly. There's a lot of talent there," said Lang.

The Sharks coach has also discovered that there is now a lot of enthusiasm for the game in England. The WCC and the invasion of Australian club teams has lifted the entire profile of the game. Lang found that to be especially so at Bradford where the Bulls have stayed undefeated in the English competition this year.

"I went over to watch Penrith just get past them in the first game," said Lang. "There were 15,000 there which disappointed the Bradford people, but I thought it was a terrific roll-up. The crowd gets right into it, they dress in the Bradford colours and get caught up in what's called 'Bullmania'.

"They're doing all the right things at Bradford. The team is having some success and the club is taking advantage of it. The WCC only helps the game further in the UK, especially if the English club sides can be competitive. And some of them certainly are."



PAUL NEWLOVE... one of the English players who has impressed Australian coach John Lang

SUPER LEAGUE
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BEN KAYO

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SUPER STAR

Picture: Joy Town

RAM ROD STRAIGHT

ROD REDDY HAS FOUND HIS COACHING NICHE IN ADELAIDE

BY DEAN RITCHIE

RAMS coach Rod Reddy reckons the people of Adelaide are just plain "spoilt."

On offer for sport nuts are two AFL teams (Crows and Port Power), a national basketball team, several netball sides, two soccer teams - and now the fledgling Adelaide Rams.

The Rams, as Reddy rightly points out, are the "alternative" to their competitors.

The club has slowly, but certainly, won its initial battle for acceptance in the AFL-mad city. Having gained the public's respect after just three months, the Rams have arrived.

Reddy said: "The people of Adelaide are very lucky. If you're a sports nut down here, you are being a bit spoilt."

The Rams have attracted stunning crowds, most being disillusioned AFL fans or ex-Sydneysiders. In the Telstra Cup competition, the Rams are averaging home crowds of 17,708.

"We are a good alternative," Reddy said this week. "We now have around 8000 to 10,000 real Rams supporters who turn up regardless of how we're going. That's a real strong supporters base. There are still some floating fans out there.

"People like to go and watch winners. But we have had a few hiccups in the past few weeks with losses to Canterbury and Canberra. They showed us up a little. At the same time, Port Power and the Adelaide Crows both won.

That made it tough. But the people of Adelaide know what we're about. But we have to win to get those fringe supporters."

The Rams have won four matches in the Australasian competition and have performed strongly in the Visa World Club Challenge, highlighted by the 50-8 opening win over Salford.

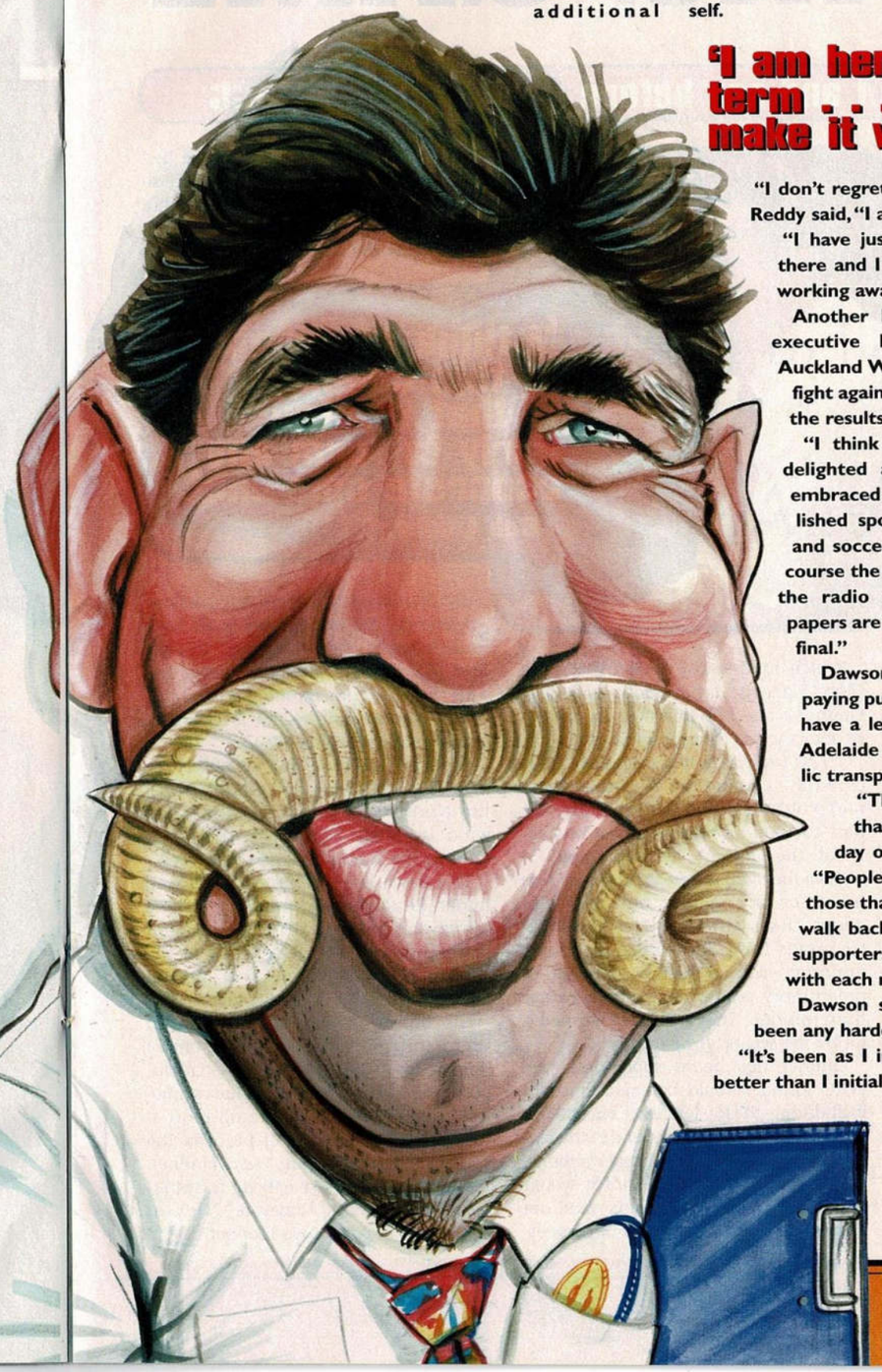
The club is based at Oakden, 15 minutes north of Adelaide city. At their multi-million dollar complex, the club has a training ground, gymnasium and offices.

"We are away from the hustle and bustle of Sydney. The furthest any player has to travel to training is about 20 minutes," Reddy said. "There are certainly no complaints from the players. But we accept we have to work harder. We really don't compete against the Crows or Port Power. There is scope for a rugby league team.

"There are 900,000 people in Adelaide. We only want about 25,000 to 30,000 of those to turn up. We don't want them all. As we get better quality players and our players get better as time goes on, we'll get more people."

The Rams are also competitive in the battle for corporate dollars. The club has attracted some lucrative sponsorship deals - but additional work must be achieved. "Our marketing staff are working hard but there is still a bit of work to do," Reddy said. "We are stacking up reasonably well against the others."

Reddy himself took a huge gamble joining the Rams. He walked out on St George - arguably the world's most famous club - to move to a new club in an AFL city. But the results have been wonderful for Adelaide and Reddy himself.



'I am here for the long term . . . and I plan to make it work' - Rod Reddy

"I don't regret my decision to come to Adelaide," Reddy said, "I am here for the long term.

"I have just bought a house. The challenge is there and I plan to make it work. We will keep working away and make sure it happens."

Another behind the Rams' success is chief executive Liz Dawson, formerly with the Auckland Warriors. Dawson has also waged the fight against the AFL - and she's encouraged by the results.

"I think we are holding our own. We are delighted at how the Adelaide people have embraced us," she said. "There are more established sports down here like AFL, basketball and soccer. But we are going along nicely. Of course the AFL now have two teams. I heard on the radio this morning that the Melbourne papers are tipping the Crows to make the grand final."

Dawson said the feedback from Adelaide's paying public has been positive. The Rams fans have a leisurely walk from the city centre to Adelaide Oval - ensuring most fans avoid public transport problems.

"The comments that get back to us are that going to watch the Rams is a good day out or a good evening out," she said. "People wander down from the city and those that want to keep socialising can simply walk back up to the city after the game. The supporters are getting to know the game better with each match."

Dawson said the battle against AFL has not been any harder or easier than first anticipated.

"It's been as I imagined. But the response has been better than I initially thought," she said. "The supporters love backing a winning team rather than one that isn't going that well. South Australians take their sport to heart. They are a group of people who like to see their team be successful."

Illustration: Scott Bailey

VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

WAITING GAME

Bob Lindner says wait and see before deciding on the WCC

FEW people are better qualified to comment on the merits of the Visa World Club Challenge than former Australian international Bob Lindner.

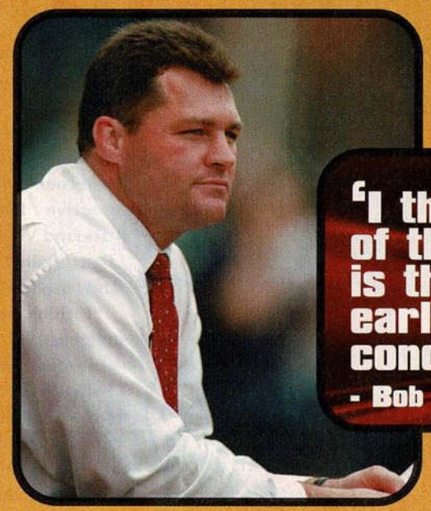
For starters, Lindner brings very little baggage or vested interests to the debate. In fact, he was firmly in the ARL's corral at the height of the Super League split because of his relationship with the South Queensland Crushers.

But now Lindner is part of the Super League family as coach of the Oldham Bears in the Euroleague. The champion lock played an off-season for the Bears in 1993-94, taking over as captain-coach for the last 13 games of the season. And three years on, he has returned, answering an SOS to coach his former English club.

So now Lindner finds himself in Australia on the Bears' WCC campaign. And he remains optimistic about England's future in the grand scheme of things. "There's definitely been an increase in the standard of the game in England since I was last there," he reports. "Oldham have moved to a new stadium where the facilities are better and the team itself is better skilled and conditioned than a few years ago.

"From what I can make out, the game is definitely headed in the right direction over there. The gap that existed between Wigan and the next level is now gone. There's really a big four now of Bradford, St Helens, Wigan and Leeds. But what is also encouraging is there's no longer a huge gap between those top teams and the rest of the pack."

Lindner also lauded the move to a summer season. "That has been an excellent move," he said. "The only downside is that the juniors still play in the winter. That's something that must be addressed. But once they do that, they'll be off and running. In



'I think the reality of this concept is that it's too early to form any concrete opinions'
- Bob Lindner

Which brings us full circle to the World Club Challenge. It has had its critics but Lindner is one who falls into the category of giving the concept a fair go.

"The way I see it the English clubs currently playing in Australia have had problems in two distinct areas - the play-the-ball and the relentless intensity of the game," he explained. "I believe they will adapt. It might take as many as five games but they will adapt. That's why I think you'll see better results from the Euroleague teams during the second three-week period of preliminary games next month rather than this one. They will have learned a lot by the second time around."

Lindner has heard suggestions the WCC format should be streamlined to include only the top four teams from each hemisphere meeting at the end of the season. He counsels against hasty decisions.

"My concern would be that it would only be the top four teams that are hauled up to that next level of competing at the same standard as the best Australian sides. The rest of the English teams would get left behind and that wouldn't be good for the game there."

"I think the reality of this concept is that it's too early to form any concrete opinions. It's far smarter to sit back and analyse it when it's all over. It's only then that we'll know which concept best suits the development of the game."

But Lindner admits he is enjoying being involved in the WCC.

Oldham had their first hit-out in the Visa Cup last Saturday night against the North Queensland Cowboys and wind up their Australian campaign against the Adelaide Rams this week.

The Bears have definitely improved under Lindner's stewardship. There are several players within the Oldham team that Lindner believes have the potential to play for Great Britain against Australia later this year.

His halves combination of Martin Crompton and Francis Maloney, one of the few all-British duos in those crucial positions within the Euroleague competition, has been impressive all season. "They wouldn't be out of place in the Test team, that's for sure," says Lindner.

The other impressive Bear is string-bean fullback Paul Atcheson. "He's an interesting player," says Lindner.

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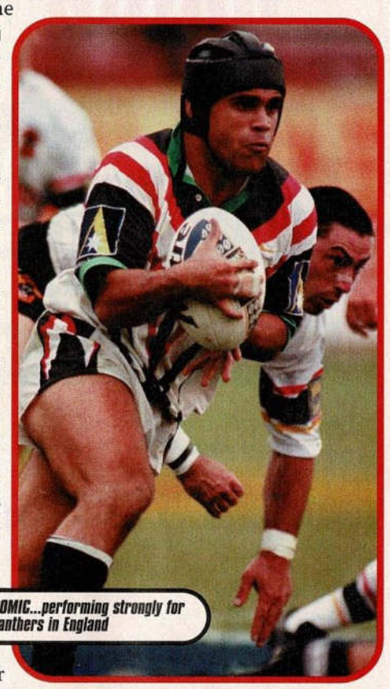
Defence upsets Panthers mastermind

IN normal circumstances, a coach would be more than happy with a winning 52-22 scoreline. Not Royce Simmons though.

The Penrith Panthers off-field general was furious after the Panthers let in four tries against Warrington.

"I told them I'd have been happier to score less and have a closer result rather than let them get 22 points," Simmons said after the second round Visa World Club Challenge match.

The win puts Penrith into a position as strong, and in some cases stronger, as the other ASL winning clubs including runaway leaders Canberra and Adelaide.


SID DOMIC...performing strongly for the Panthers in England

But, with the game against the unpredictable St Helens coming up this weekend before the Panthers head back to the foot of the mountains, Royce is in no mood for complacency creeping in.

"We should have done better," he said bluntly. "There's nothing wrong with the attacking machine but we lapsed in defence and we just can't afford to let that happen.

"St Helens are a proud club and they wouldn't have been happy with their first up loss to Auckland.

Given the fact that the Warriors are on the bottom of the ladder in the ASL I suspect the Saints were looking for a win there.

"So we're certainly not going there expecting to walk away with it. I'll be working on our defensive patterns through the week and we'll be much tighter next time."

But, while there were elements of the Panthers performance which didn't please Simmons, he was pleased with the performances of Ryan Girdler,Steve Carter and Sid Domic.

Girdler had a blinder with three tries and seven goals from eight attempts although he did blot his copybook in the 74th minute when he received five minutes in the sin bin for being offside.

Carter is improving with every run after his long lay-off. His game against Warrington pushed Girdler for man of the match honours.

"Yes, I'm very happy with our attack," Royce conceded. "And with Matt Adamson back this week after a one match suspension I'm sure our defence will be beefed up."

Aussies on tour

FIGHTING SWANNS

AUCKLAND Warriors centre Anthony Swann scored two tries and set up two others against St Helens in the opening Visa World Club Challenge match in England. He also lashed out at an opponent holding him without the ball and ended up on a report.

No player likes to get suspended. But in Swann's case, sweating on the punishment was tougher than one would generally expect.

If Swann had been given more than a week for his injudicious strike he would have missed out on playing against his older brother Willie, a utility with Warrington, the Warriors' final opponent in their three-match English tour.

Thankfully, Swann's suspension was only limited to one week and he will line up against not only his "bro", but a clutch of countrymen.

In fact, the 22-year-old centre should be marking his ex-Warrior centre partner Nigel Vagana, an assignment which looms as difficult considering Vagana's try-scoring feats this season — he heads the Euroleague's try-scoring charts with 14 tries in 13 games, a major feat given the Wolves' less than impressive record.

Other Aucklanders of Polynesian persuasion in Wolves' clothing include five-eighth Kelly Shelford, a mercurial ball-player, and the second row partnership of tough-tackling George Mann and long-striding Tony Tatupu. All three players are former Kiwis, although Mann and Shelford haven't donned a black jersey for the best part of a decade.

ALL AHEAD SLOWLY

SO FAR, it's been a good trip for the Cronulla Sharks. Two wins from two starts in the Visa World Club Challenge and a glowing report from a London hotelier.

It could all come unstuck though when the Sharks play Euroleague leaders the Bradford Bulls at Odsal Stadium in their final assignment on the other side of the world.

The Bulls were rampaging in the Euroleague before the three-week break for the WCC. They'd gone 13 games without lowering the colours and had their fans, who turn out in impressive (and loud) numbers, beginning to believe they were unbeatable.

But first Auckland and then Penrith took them down, but only by 20-16 both times. They are close to a win and Sharks coach John Lang is well aware of the danger.

"We've gone pretty well although I wasn't happy with our level of intensity dropping off in the last part of the game against Warrington in the first round," said Lang.

"But against St Helens we played with more commitment and finished full of running, which made me much happier."

Probably most pleasing was the return of Paul Green to his sparkling best. He has been threatening to exhibit some of his organisational skills and has now turned the corner, according to reports.

So too has Tawera Nikau. But quite obviously there is harmony and cohesion in the team. In the break between rounds one and two of the WCC, the Sharks officials let the players go off en masse and unescorted for two days in London.

When the boys returned to Leeds after the sojourn, Sharks Chief Executive Shane Richardson received a call from the owner of the hotel where the team had stayed.

He said he just called to congratulate Cronulla on the exemplary behaviour of the tourists. A happy team is obviously a winning team.

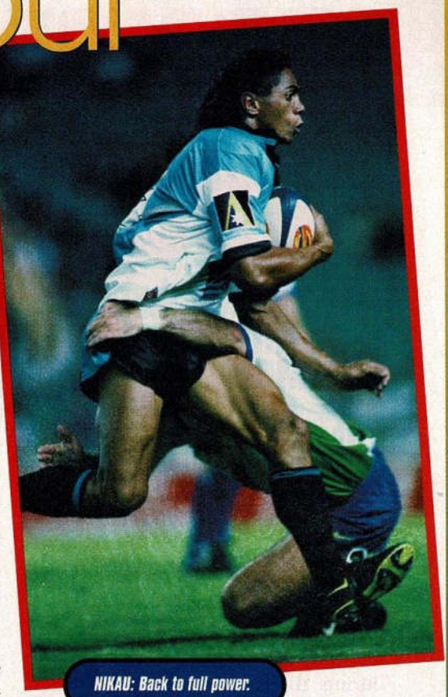
CRUNCH TIME

Two wins from two starts. It's a perfect record but the Hunter Mariners are not satisfied.

Their opening salvoes in the Visa World Club Challenge have featured wins over Paris St Germain and Castleford, but with only one qualifier from Pool B going through to the semis, the Mariners can't afford to relax.

Mariners media relations officer and former Queensland five eighth Michael Hagan acknowledges that their game this weekend against the Sheffield Eagles is crunch time.

The Eagles, struggling near the bottom of the Euroleague table with five wins from 13 were not considered too much of a threat for the powers from Down Under.


NIKAU: Back to full power.

Not until last weekend that is, when they rolled the Perth Reds and effectively ruined the Sandgropers' chances in the WCC inaugural year.

Said Hagan: "To be honest, Sheffield don't boast a lot of quality names, but obviously after getting up to beat Perth they now have to be watched closely. We can't afford a slip-up now."

Looking through the Eagles side Hagan picked out a few players who could prove thorns in the side of the touring Mariners.

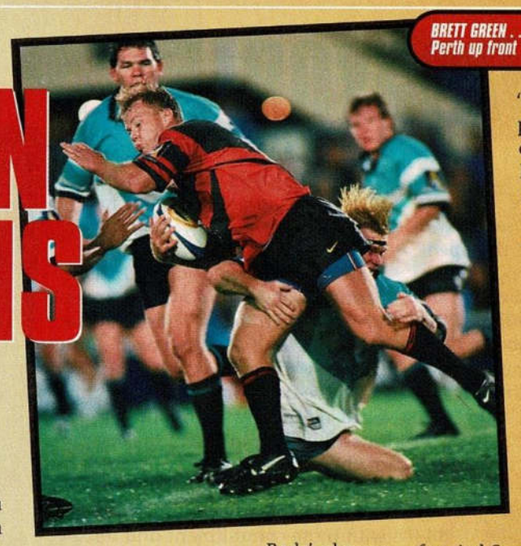
Thinking ahead, Hagan also pointed out that coach Graham Murray now has to get his run-on side settled before they come home to face Canberra in Round 13.

"Graham has made an effort to make sure everyone gets some football on tour but now he has some tough decisions to make in a side which has been going well.

"If we beat Sheffield we'll be coming up to six wins on the trot when we face Canberra. We want to keep that streak going."

FOREIGN COUSINS

PERTH AND PARIS FIND MUCH IN COMMON



BRETT GREEN . . . vital to Perth up front

THE two clubs might well be on opposite sides of the globe but in many ways Perth and Paris, who clash at Charlety Stadium this weekend, share a number of striking similarities.

Both are relatively new clubs attempting to establish themselves in an environment where rugby league is considered anything but the top sporting dog. Both felt the pain of heavy defeat by more established adversaries during their formative years, Peter Mulholland has been at the helm of both teams and each of the two first grade sides boast a similar amount of Australian players.

"In some ways it has been a little easier preparing for the Paris match as opposed to the English teams because we know how a lot of the Paris guys play because of the heavy Australian influence," said Reds halfback Matthew Rodwell.

"You have blokes like Tony Priddle who did well with St George, Jason Martin who is a dangerous attacking halfback and David O'Donnell who just keeps on working throughout an entire match.

"It will also seem a bit like a bit of a mini re-union because four former Reds' players are now doing the rounds with Paris - Jason Eade, Paul Evans, David Lomax and Jamie Olejnik."

Of course, the Reds should also have a fair indication of just what sort of playing style the French club has adopted given the fact Mulholland was in charge of the St Germain side until recently replaced by former Oldham mentor and Great Britain representative Andy Goodway.

Perth, still recovering from a surprise loss to the Sheffield Eagles last weekend, is preparing for the clash as if it were a normal away match in the domestic Telstra Cup competition. The team will not leave its Leeds base until Friday morning before catching a short flight across the English Channel to arrive the day before the match. Coach Dean Lance said the itinerary disrupted the players as little as possible.

"The guys have settled in pretty well here at Leeds and it makes sense to move them around as little as possible before a match," Lance said. "The other thing you have to remember is this would be one of the most ideal 'away games' we've ever played, we're used to getting on a plane for at least four hours when we're back in Perth.

"It would be a great experience to spend a week in Paris but we're not over here to sip on red wine and sample cheese - we're here to win a game of rugby league."

Given such a single-minded directive and an emerging crop of talented young players, Perth is well on the way to establishing itself as a formidable force among more fancied Super League rivals. The rejuvenation of players such as Scott Wilson, Paul Bell and Jon Grieve, along with the continued development of Robbie Kearns, Brett Green, Greg Fleming and company has seen the side gradually meld into a team worthy of recognition.

But at times this season, inconsistency has been a notable companion upon the road to respect, with some one-sided defeats scattered among some impressive displays against quality opposition. One defeat can cause significant damage and when taking on Paris, the perils of distraction remain a dormant evil.

"It is difficult not to get distracted at time because everything you do reminds you that you're in a foreign place," said centre Tim Horan. "There's different food, different money, unfamiliar training facilities, funny accents and, of course, lousy weather.

"But you just have to keep reminding yourself as to the real reason why you've come over here. It would be a hell of a long flight back to Perth if we went down to Paris this weekend."

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* rrp only



SPILLANE

BREAKING THE MOULD

The days of the 'meatheads' are now history

Meatheads, yobs, thugs, bull-necked boofheads, neanderthals . . . how many people do you know who would use one of the above terms to describe rugby league players?

If I had a dollar for every time someone has symphathised with me for "having to work with those dumb footballers," (or words to that effect) I'd have enough money to keep Tim Brasher from feeling ripped off.

Maybe I'm going out on a limb here, but I've got this sneaking suspicion rugby league has an image problem.

Not the image problem connected to the split in the game, although credibility has taken a beating in this area. I'm talking more basic image problems.

I'm talking about the perception the person on the street has of your average rugby league player as a brain-dead brute with no working parts above the waistline other than elbows, fists and forearms.

It's not hard to work out where this image comes from. It's been pushed at the public since the days of Meapro ham and Patra orange juice giveaways on Rex Mossop's Sunday morning sports show in Sydney.

League players are boofy back-slapping blokes who enjoy a beer, a meat pie, a bit of biff and a bald joke. They will only take off their thongs to slip on the footy boots, their noses are spread liberally around their faces, and missing teeth or cauliflower ears are almost compulsory .

Now think about how that image is re-inforced. Rugby league mainstream media is dominated by men who fit in with that image.

They like a drink, they like schoolboy humour, they are fair-dinkum Aussie blokes, the kind that stand 'round the keg in their stubbies in summer talking about "good sorts" and the big chunder they had during the last session of the cricket.

They appeal to that kind of viewer, listener and reader and they reassure themselves by gravitating around players who fit their limited stereotype.

Players who are outside the stereotype are often joked about or ignored. Those who are offered the chance to be admitted to the inner-circle and have an IQ higher than a winger's tackle count usually refuse to play along because they're embarrassed, insulted or bored by the style of media they're being asked to contribute to.

Trouble is many of the "blokes' blokes" who paint the images are trapped somewhere back in the '70s. They think of the days they had the moustache, the side levers and the Holden Monaro as "the good old days".

They long for rugby league to return to the sort of game that brought mates together for a run through a couple of suburbs, a few belts on the tackle bag and a post-training session up the pub. The days when Big Artie could scoff a dozen pies at halftime and rely on his sheer size and exceptional ball-playing skills to get him through the second half. The days when "Satts" played with a broken jaw, Tommy would wallop Turvey senseless on the blind side of the scrum and you had time to really reef away at an opponents' face while you laid on him for 10 or 15 seconds after effecting the tackle.

While Aussie Rules stars have been commonly feted as athletes and citizens and rugby union stars assumed to be tertiary educated stockbrockers or lawyers burning off testosterone and networking for business purposes, the typical characterisation of the rugby league player has been the working class dumb ox who wants an excuse to belt somebody on the weekends and get away from the missus and kids a few nights a week.

Well, I'm sorry to spoil the illusion, however attractive it may be to some, but that image is about as relevant to many of today's league players as flares,body shirts and Boney M.

How do you fit Wendell Sailor, Hazem El Masri, Ian Roberts, Ken Nagas, Paul Green, Bruce Mamando or Solomon Haumono into that worn out Bazza-McKenzie-with-biceps-mould?

Do you think intelligent, articulate players like Glenn Lazarus, Matthew Rodwell, Simon Gillies, Robbie Kearns, Sean Hoppe or Matt Ryan enjoy being promoted as part of a meatheads game?

How is it the ocker boofhead image (which we'd describe as "the ugly Australian" if we saw it overseas) has been so fondly protected and revered in rugby league media?

Why is it that professional coaches are portrayed as level-headed bores who insist on being scientific and analytical while the "real characters" will light up a fag, bawl out a few players, bag the ref and talk about the fact it's a game for men, not girls?

Just recently a TV reporter turned up to Belmore Sports Ground wanting an interview with Bulldogs captain Simon Gillies. "I want to get him sitting in front of his locker after the game," he explained.

When shown to the actual first grade dressing room the clean, carpeted, freshly painted facility and the modern built in lockers didn't live up to the image the reporter wanted.

He wanted to find one of the old metal lockers, the type you head-butted in the good old days. Something scratched and battered that looked like it would have a girlie calendar from a panel-beater's shop on the inside. Reality wasn't good enough.

It's all about the stereotype the media thinks the public want. But isn't it time to broaden the appeal and break the stereotype, or even recognize that the stereotype has been irrelevant for some time?



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

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

PANTING PANTHER

Sir,
First off, I want to say thanks for a great magazine. Could you please tell me if the Penrith Panthers will be playing the Broncos before the season is over? When will they be playing. Also, I'm a huge fan of Ryan Girdler's so can you give me any information on how to get any posters of him?
Kelly
Maroochydore
Queensland
Ed: Kelly, the Panthers play the Broncos at ANZ Stadium in Round 16, August 8-11. For posters of Ryan Girdler write to the Panthers c/- Mulgoa Rd, Penrith 2750

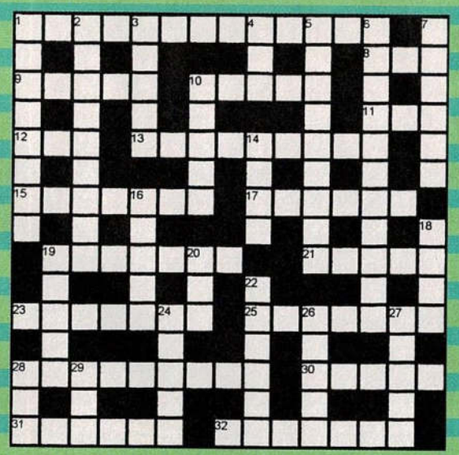
QUAD SERIES

Sir,
I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank Super League for a fantastic Tri Series competition. The addition of New Zealand was a great success. The Queensland-New Zealand match was a classic (like many of their battles in the 80s) and one couldn't have hoped for a better final in terms of high quality football (except I wish Queensland had potted that field goal). What a superb match!
I truly hope that if Super League and the ARL manage a compromise that New Zealand are included in the State of Origin format. On the other hand I'm still a great believer in retaining the traditional three match series between Queensland and NSW. If Super League and the ARL want to retain both then the best answer to the problem is to bring in a fourth team.
Borrowing from the Aussie Rules format I'd love to see an Australian Allies team comprising the best players from the ACT (Those who played their first football for Canberra) as well as the best from Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne. Thanks again for a great series.
Roger Waite
Spring Hill
Queensland

LAURIE FAN

Sir,
Firstly, I would like to congratulate Super League for a magazine that's too good to resist buying and giving us a game the ARL never could. The articles in the magazine are extremely well written and just as importantly, interesting. As for the pictures, what more can I say besides they're excellent and I can't get enough.
On that note, may I ask if I have been so ignorant not to realise a Raiders team picture has been printed? Or, when can I an the other hundreds of thousands of Raiders supporters expect to see our favourite team featured in the magazine?
I was recently at the Tri Series final and was so happy when NSW won. Finally, my dream was made true when I met Laurie Daley at City Rowers that night. All I can say is thank you to all the players who gave up their time to mix with their devoted fans.
It's really appreciated.
Susan Chung
Sunnybank
Queensland
Ed: We published a Raiders team shot in edition three. There's a copy on the way to you Susan

SUPER X-WORD



ACROSS

1. Super League's Under-19s competition. (3, 7, 3)
8. Playing Card. (3)
9. Andrew -.Cronulla hooker 1994-95, then joined the Western Reds. (5)
10. Kangaroo prop 1986 and 1990. (5)
11. Dally M prop 1995. (3)
12. A Victorian country racecourse. (3)
13. Kiwi Tri-Series winger 1997. (4, 5)
15. Wade -. Brisbane Broncos winger. (7)
17. A Group 1 team in northern NSW. (6)
19. Canberra Raiders hooker. (7)
21. Troy -. Hunter Mariners forward. (5)
23. Hunter Mariners centre. (7)
25. First name of Raiders three-quarter Lightning. (7)
28. Kevin -. Great Britain hooker played for the Canberra Raiders 1985. (9)
30. First name of referee Grant. (5)
31. Bob -. Penrith Panthers coach 1971. (7)
32. Penrith Panthers second-rower. (7)

DOWN

1. Canberra Raiders winger. (8)
2. Terry -. Bulldogs prop 1983-84. (9)
3. Odds of one-to-one. (5)
4. Australian Test centre 1962 or first name of former test wicketkeeper Langley. (3)
5. Competition winners. (9)
6. Canberra Raiders second-rower 1984-87. (4, 7)
7. Michael -. Broncos utility back. (6)
10. First name of Warriors prop Malam. (5)
14. War dance performer by Kiwi representative teams. (4)
16. First name former Kangaroo winger Lumsden. (5)
18. First name of 1995 Warriors captain Bell. (4)
19. Newtown captain 1955, he was a 1956 Kangaroo three-quarter. (5)
20. First name of Cowboys halfback Dunemann. (3)
22. Clayton -. Kiwi halfback 1985-88. (6)
24. Steve -. Cowboys prop 1996. (5)
26. Former SCG barracker who has had a selection of the outer named after him. (5)
27. Playing fields. (5)
28. First name of Hunter Mariners general manager Ferris. (3)
29. - Blacks. New Zealand rugby union team. (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



SUPER KIDS

NEWS, GAMES, INFO AND STUFF!

SWITCHED ON ROD

Adelaide Rams fullback Rod Maybon is having a great season. Super Kids spoke to him this week...

DO you enjoy the responsibility of fullback?
"Yes I do. It's probably the most responsible position on the field because it's the last line of defence and if you drop your guard or make a mistake, it can cost the team a try.
"You have to be switched on for every single play, either talking up the defence or running across from one side of the field to the other."

What's running through your mind when you are running the ball back?
"You have to be prepared to put your body on the line and back yourself.
"I look to where there is a hole and I'll try and run to it, or maybe run towards the smaller guys and hopefully break a tackle or two."

Are you happy with your form at the moment?
"I'm reasonably happy, but I think I was playing better at this time last year.
"I'm still not 100 percent right following a calf muscle injury earlier in the season.
"It needs about three or four months rest , so I'll do that in the off-season. It has probably cost me a yard in pace."



ROD MAYBON . . . prepared to put his body on the line

What aspect of your game do you work hardest on at training?
"For me, it really is a case of of working on everything because there's nothing I'm perfect at.
"I like to be fitter than most other guys and that means doing a lot of extra sprint work.
"I also spend a lot of time just catching 'high bombs' and working on defence.

What do you hate the most about playing rugby league?
"I'd say it's when we travel. I don't like sitting around hotels for a day or two waiting for the game to come around.
"I prefer to just get there, play the game and get the job done."

How do you relax away from the game?
"I like to get out and watch a movie, play golf, maybe have a bet at the races or watch other sports, either at the game or on television."

What has been the highlight so far of playing with the Rams?
"I'd have to say our first home game against the Hunter Mariners.
"We'd waited so long to actually play a game for points and when 27,000 fans turned up, the atmosphere was just electric.
"It was like playing a grand final, and to top the night off, we won!"

How have you found the Visa World Club Challenge series?
"I think it's a great concept. The Euroleague clubs are probably not as intense but I believe it's a wonderful opportunity to play clubs from other countries, and we're looking forward to the return matches in England."

inside

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43 Chilling out with Tony Mestrov
43 Milestones
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SUPER KIDS

TALKING TO MY HERO



Dear Solomon Haumono,
I admire your talent and I was wondering how do you get prepared before the game. Was there any particular reason you chose the number 50 as your personal number? What's your favourite sport other than league? Do you have any favourite TV programs? Were you born in Australia? Congratulations also on making the NSW and Australian sides.
— Daniel Rumbel, Dungog, NSW.

"Dear Daniel,
Thank you for your letter. Hope you're well.
Mate, for me usually pre-game preparation involves going through in my head my role in the team, what I have to do, where I have to be in a team play and I set personal goals for myself to achieve in the match.
The number 50 jersey was one of the last ones available at the Bulldogs and I took it because I didn't think too many players in Super League would have that number.
My other sporting interests are basketball and boxing and my favourite TV show is "Friends."
I suppose I was born with some ability but it has also been a lot of hard work to get to where I am. I've been lucky to have the encouragement of my parents and a family sporting background.
I was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and migrated to Australia when I was only one year old. Take it easy." — Solomon Haumono.

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 FACT DID YOU KNOW?

By beating the Brisbane Broncos 24-6 a couple of weeks ago, the Hunter Mariners created an Australasian record for a first season club. It was the Mariners' fifth win in a row, beating the previous record of four successive victories set by the Perth Reds in 1995. Even Brisbane could not win more than three home games in a row when they entered the top grade in 1988.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Which Australian Super League referee is nick named "Hollywood"?
2. Bobby Goulding is captain of which Euroleague team?
3. Warrior Sean Hoppe played for which two clubs before joining Auckland?
4. Johnny Lang's son recently made his first grade debut for Cronulla. What's his Christian name?
5. Who are the two North Queensland brothers who have played in the halves for the Cowboys this season?

Answers: 1 Bill Harrigan 2 St Helens 3 Canberra and North Sydney 4 Martin Lang 5 Andrew and Ian Dunemann

SAINTS

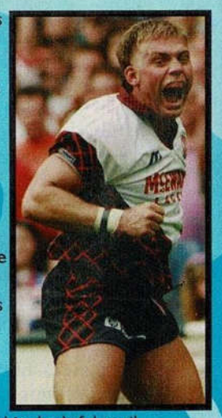
SAINT Helens skipper Bobbie Goulding likes to give his team-mates a hard time. That's the impression Super Kids gets from the run-down Goulding provided on his club-mates for the recent Wembley Challenge Cup final. Witness the following:

On winger Danny Arnold: "We call him 'Goose'. He's one of those who has done everything better than anyone else. If you think you're a good golfer or tennis player, Danny will say he's better."

On Test centre Paul Newlove: "The 'Sunbed King' because of how incredibly white he is...I can imagine Newy sitting on Bridlington Beach with his trousers rolled up and a knotted hankie on his head."

On prop Ian Pickavance: "The blokes call him 'Carp'. Picky thinks he's a male model and loves wearing flashy clothes, including very tight trousers!"

On full-back Steve Prescott: "'Preckle' is one of those who has a niggling injury all week and is doubtful until just before kick-off but then gives a man-of-the-match performance. His nickname is Mr Doubtful."



They're his friends...we'd hate to see what Bobby has to say about his enemies!

THE BIG O

He's loud, he's controversial and he's staying

HE'S known as Rodney O and he's the ground announcer at Penrith Stadium.

Sounds innocent enough, doesn't it? Yet Rodney, a tall American with a booming voice to match his height, has created all sorts of controversy since taking on the job this year. While some fans enjoy his antics on the mike, others seemingly can't stand him. His 'style' has generated heated talkback on radio stations and a mountain of mail to Penrith.

Those who criticise him for allegedly knowing nothing about rugby league are ignorant of the fact Rodney has followed the game for several years now, listing players such as Anthony Mundine, Solomon Haumono and Brad Fittler as close friends.

And don't describe him as an American either. He's been living and working in Australia for more than 12 years now and very much regards himself as an 'Aussie'.

Rodney says he was 'honoured' when the marketing team at Panthers asked him to become the club's ground announcer. My sole reason for being involved with the Panthers is to help them win," he says. "So when I tell people in the stadium what a knock-on is, it is to incite them, to get a reaction from them.

"I know some of the older people who follow the game say: 'We know what a knock-on is Rodney, we don't need you to tell us the obvious' - but I do tell them. It also makes them stand up and take notice of the Penrith Panthers which is the whole point. Meanwhile, the new fans who don't know what a knock-on is have it explained to them."

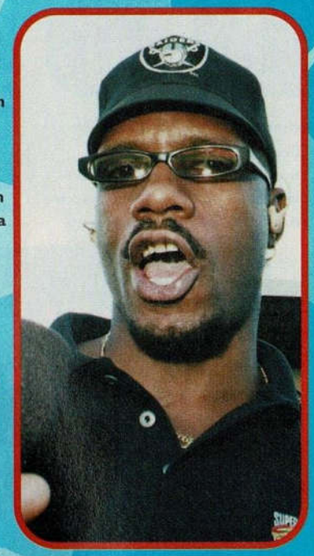
Rodney O has toned down his act in recent Penrith home games, not dominating the microphone quite as much as he did earlier in the season. The mix now seems to be working better for fans.

"A lot of the criticism levelled at me by the general public has rolled off my back," he says. "That's because the majority of people who have been complaining about me don't know me personally and don't know what my involvement with the sport of rugby league was before this season."

The passionate Rodney believes that if the Panthers are to win the Telstra Cup this year, all Penrith fans must unite for the common cause, hence his enthusiasm at the mike.

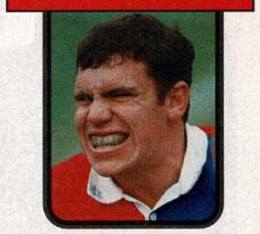
"When you are united no one can stop you," he said. "Against the Broncos everybody came together and cheered as one voice. We let the boys know we were behind them and that helped lift them and win the match.

"As long as we can put our differences behind us and get on the same side there's nothing we can't do."



CHILLING OUT WITH TONY MESTROV

BRONCOS



Nickname: Messy.
Born: March 11, 1970 in Sydney.
Previous clubs: South Sydney and Manly.
League heroes: Graham Eadie, the former Manly and Halifax coach. As a kid, when I was growing up in the seventies, he was the big Manly hero. I used to love the way that he ran over the top of players.
League influences: I would have to say that it is Graham Lowe. He gave me my initial taste of first grade footy at Manly.
Most memorable game: This would have to be when I was with South Sydney. We beat the Brisbane Broncos in the pre-season Challenge Cup back in 1994. That would rank alongside my debut first grade game for Manly in 1990.
Off field pursuits: The main thing I like to do when we aren't playing or training is to get on the nerves of my room-mate Josh White as much as I can. He hates all my music and I get off on annoying him. I also like golf and tennis.
What was the last CD you brought?: Jamiroquai and the Ministry of Sound Annual II.
Best holiday: Corfu, back in 1995. We had some time off, so about five of us went there for a 10-day break. I think the locals were glad to see the back of us when we went back to the Broncos.
What's a good night out?: Start off in Richmond in London for a few beers. Then move to Covent Garden for a few more. After that, a nightclub.
Who is your favourite Spice Girl?: How many can I pick? I like them all, but it would have to between Sporty and Posh. Actually I think it will have to be Victoria...despite the fact she's going out with a soccer player.
Goals for '97: Personally, I would like to have a successful year and become the best prop in Super League.

MILESTONES

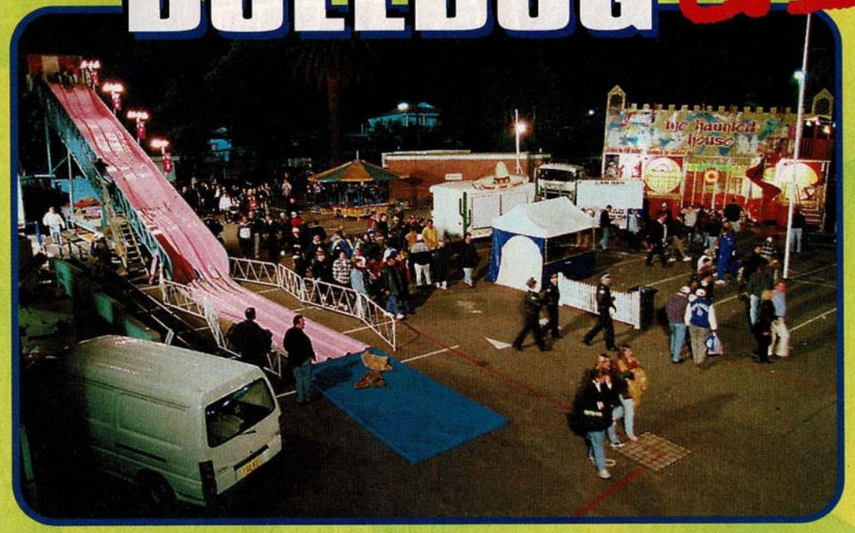
KEN NAGAS broke Mal Meninga's Canberra club try-scoring record when he scorched across for six tries against Halifax at Bruce Stadium. Big Mal set the previous mark of five touchdowns in the Raiders' 66-4 hammering of Eastern Suburbs (now the Sydney City Roosters) back in 1990.

The last player to score six tries in a first class match was JACK TROY for Newtown in 1950 against hapless Easts.

The record for the most tries in one game is held by FRANK BURGE who crossed eight times for the now defunct Glebe in their 41-0 win over Sydney University in 1920.

OWEN CUNNINGHAM brought up his double century of first grade appearances when he turned out for the North Queensland Cowboys against Oldham in Townsville last Saturday night.

BULLDOG alley



"GO past the stage where the band is playing, in between the Hot Potato & Nachos van and the giant pink slippery dip then turn left."

At what other stadium besides Belmore Sports Ground would you find yourself giving directions like that on how to get to the football office.

Of course it's not like that every day of the week, but on match day or night "Bulldog Alley" comes alive.

If you cross a carnival with a football match you get some idea what it's like at Belmore Sports Ground when "the Alley" is in full swing.

There's the Haunted House, the carousel, the face-painting stall, the Bulldogs' history display and an assortment of colourful clowns (the circus type, not the other!)

"Bulldog Alley" was developed by club marketing manager, Lynne Anderson, so it's no co-incidence the mini-sideshow is designed for the football-going parent with young children. Lynne has had years of first hand experience dealing with mums and kids at football matches. As the daughter of former Bulldog chief executive, Peter Moore, she spent much of her childhood at the footy. She has eight brothers and sisters, and three children of her own who spent more than the odd winter weekend hanging out around Bulldogs' games watching their dad, Chris Anderson, playing and later, coaching both here and in northern England.

She knows the natural enemy of the football-loving parent is the wriggling, squirming child bleating "I'm bored".

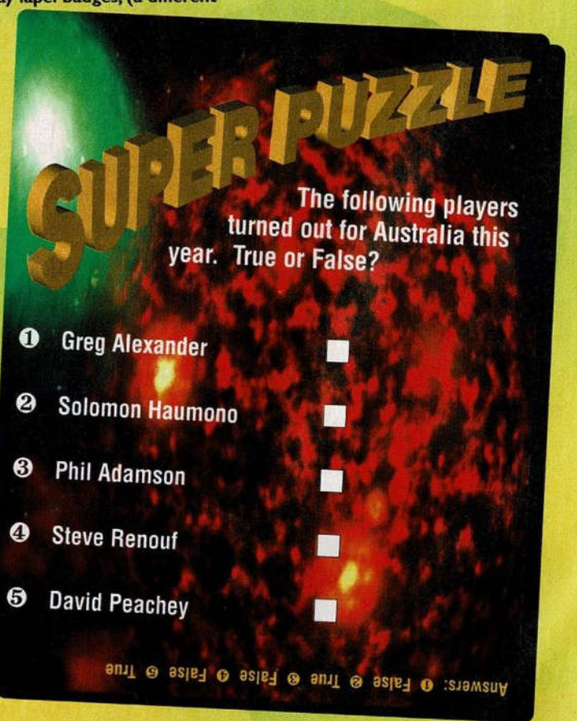
While the kids are cutting loose on the free rides, maybe even playing "Pass the Ball" with Bulldog players or checking out some of the visiting displays like the mobile mini-farm, Mum and/or Dad can enjoy a capuccino and munch on a variety of snacks at the sidewalk cafe setting in the middle of the Alley while listening to some live jazz or pop.

The Alley is also the place to check out the latest Bulldogs Supporters gear. The Bulldog Pro-Shop there stocks everything from the big-ticket items like replica jerseys and bomber jackets, down to souvenirs for under $5 like match-day lapel badges, (a different one for each game), key-rings and autograph books. Of course there's always a wide range of caps, T-shirts and footballs at the Pro-Shop as well.

After the game the party keeps going. The player presentations are made on the main stage, you might get a chance to spin the Bulldog Chocolate Wheel and you'll get top class entertainment. Already this season the Alley centre stage has featured Human Nature, Mark Williams, Nathan Cavallieri and Richard Clapton.

Bulldog Alley is behind the grandstand at Belmore Sports Ground, you're in the middle of the fun and party atmosphere as soon as you walk through the turnstiles on the Belmore side of the ground.

And kids, if you're after an autograph, the Alley is the place to go hunting.





Life is tackling your thirst head on.



Thirst Tackler, the new flavour from Gatorade®. Official sports drink of Super League.

Life is a sport
Drink Gatorade it up™
Thirst Quencher

Traveland

SUPER INTERACTIVE

PlayStation

CATHAY PACIFIC

TWO TIE FOR LEAD

TWO entrants are tied for the lead after the second round of Super League Interactive, both on 1106 points.

Our leading entrant from last week, Tim Thornhill from Orange NSW, holds his position with his team of Ryan, Kennedy, Ross, Robinson, Sterling, Macnamara, Lazarus, Mestrov, Treister, Cassidy and Girdler.

He is joined by Mr. G.W. Marsden from South Australia who has as his team Ryan, Kennedy, Daley, Hunte, Sterling, Macnamara, Shiels, Perelini, Piccinelli, Lowes and Halligan.

Our weekly winner of the Sony PlayStation for the entrant who scores the most points in the round is a phone entry, 100186. He scored 587 points with his team for a grand total of 933 after two rounds.

His team is Mullins, Langer, Daley, Hunte, Pearson, Kearney, Lazarus, Mestrov, Gillies, Harrison and Rogers.

1106 Mr. G.W. Marsden, SA
1106 Tim Thornhill, NSW
1015 Andrew Johnston, Qld
1003 100260
994 A Eppelstun, NSW
988 100177
987 100542
976 Brad Lloyd, ACT
975 100358
969 100227
960 100397
959 Heath Trahair, NSW
957 M Grantham, ACT
955 Ryan Connors, NSW
953 100543
952 100306
946 100323
946 Brett Smith, NSW
942 100256
938 Avel Aretas, SA
934 Michael Ryan, Qld
933 100186
930 Vince Koh, Qld
929 100437
928 100264
928 John See, NSW
925 Alan Maher, Vic
924 100169
920 David Street, NSW
918 100426
918 Perry Makkink, NSW
916 100104
915 Josh Cooke, NSW
914 Hannah Lotz, Qld
914 Ryan Nixon, NZ
912 100459
910 Peter Flew, NSW
909 100072
909 Darryl Far, NZ
906 100395
905 100101
905 100285
904 Grant Dunkley, NSW
903 100218
903 Terry Kavanagh, NZ
901 100147
901 100197
901 A Guelman, ACT
900 100236
900 Rachael Adair, WA
898 100119
898 100432
897 100025
894 Troy Coney, NSW
894 Antony Rogers, NSW
891 100057
890 100310
888 Jenni Byrom, WA
888 Mike Maurice, WA
887 Rod Wilkinson, NZ
886 100092
885 100029
885 S. Dickinson, NSW
883 100019
883 100548

GAME 1 PROGRESS

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

TABLE 1: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

1	John Carlaw	80
2	Tonie Carroll	80
3	Hazam El Masri	80
4	Andrew Hinson	40
5	Sean Hoppe	80
6	Brett Mullins	80
7	Noa Nadruku	-
8	Steve Renouf	40
9	Matthew Ryan	120
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	40
18	Luke Phillips	80
19	Darren Smith	-
20	Jason Williams	-

TABLE 3: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

21	Steve Carter	-
22	Laurie Daley	120
23	A. Ettingshausen	-
24	David Furner	-
25	Chris McKenna	-
26	David Peachey	40
27	Iva Ropati	-
28	Robbie Ross	120
29	Gavin Thompson	-
30	Kevin Walters	120

TABLE 4: TRYSCORERS (40pts)

31	Phil Bergman	-
32	Richie Blackmore	-
33	Jean-Marc Garcia	-
34	Alan Hunte	80
35	Paul Newlove	-
36	Martin Offiah	40
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	105
53	Brett Green	72
54	Stephen Kearney	111
55	Bruce Mamando	129
56	Carl Macnamara	120
57	Tawera Nikau	66
58	Andrew Pierce	-
59	Troy Stone	84
60	Joe Tamani	-

TABLE 7: AUST HIT-UPS (3pts)

61	Bradley Clyde	66
62	Mark Corvo	96
63	Luke Davico	69
64	Soloman Haumono	87
65	Glenn Lazarus	78
66	John Lomax	48
67	Nathan Long	-
68	Mitch Newton	54
69	Peter Shiels	90
70	Tiaan Strauss	24

TABLE 8: EURO HIT-UPS (3pts)

71	Cliff Eccles	48
72	Steve Edmed	60
73	Ian Gildart	39
74	Martin Masella	72
75	Tony Mestrov	114
76	Sonny Nickle	-
77	Terry O'Connor	15
78	Apollo Perelini	138
79	Tony Priddle	39
80	Brendon Tuuta	87

TABLE 9: AUST TACKLERS (2pts)

81	Kevin Campion	-
82	Syd Eru	80
83	Simon Gillies	76
84	Mark Horo	72
85	Robbie Kearns	104
86	Neil Piccinelli	88
87	Ian Roberts	-
88	Brad Thorn	84
89	Dean Treister	130
90	Kerrod Walters	58

TABLE 10: EURO TACKLERS (2pts)

91	Mick Cassidy	134
92	Peter Edwards	74
93	Anthony Farrell	92
94	Brett Goldspink	38
95	Karl Harrison	114
96	Chris Joynt	66
97	James Lowes	110
98	David O'Donnell	60
99	Steve Rosolen	40
100	Paul Sculthorpe	90

TABLE 11: GOALKICKERS (*)

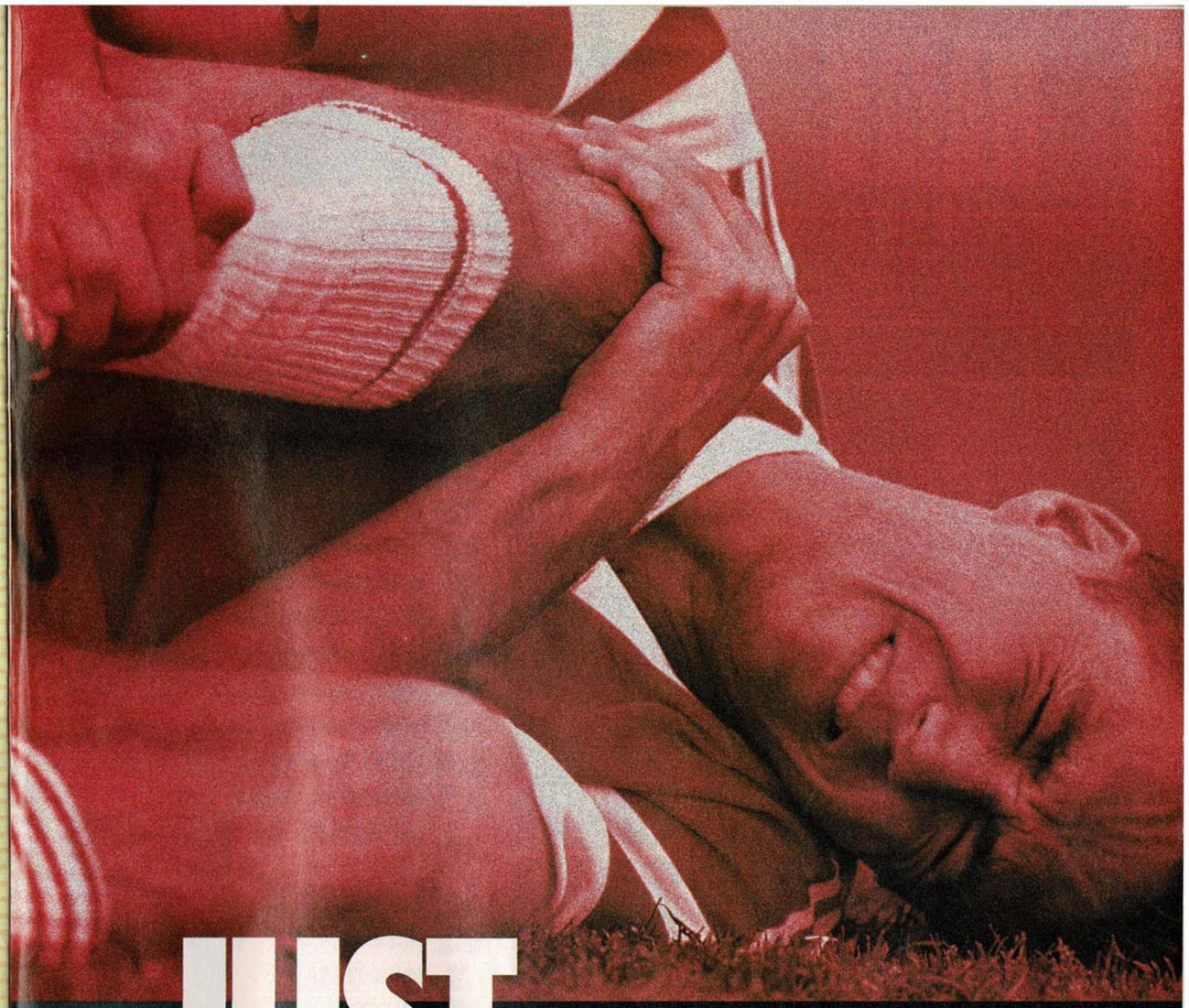
101	Mark Aston	100
102	Steve Blakeley	40
103	Andy Farrell	40
104	Ryan Girdler	90
105	Bobbie Goulding	40
106	Daryl Halligan	120
107	Iestyn Harris	40
108	Darren Lockyer	120
109	Matthew Ridge	110
110	Mat Rogers	120

PERFECT TEAM (1227)

9	Ryan	120
18	Phillips	80
22/28/30	3 tied	120
34/38	2 tied	80
50	Sterling	80
55	Mamando	129
62	Corvo	96
78	Perelini	138
89	Treister	130
91	Cassidy	134
106/108/110	3 tied	120

*Aust 10pts, Euro 20pts

882 Peter Hastil, WA
881 100216
879 100112
879 100288
878 100239
878 Michael Sinclair, NSW
877 Brendon Chant, Qld
877 Mathew Olive, NSW
876 100301
876 100503
876 G Georgievski, NSW
875 100418
873 Betty Crockett, Qld
873 Ian O'Rourke, NSW
870 100017
870 100149
869 100135
869 D Chamberlin, NSW
867 100299
867 Tony Crawford, NSW
866 100552
863 100361
861 100328
859 100050
858 Alan Currie, SA
856 John Shaw, NSW
855 100225
855 100298
855 100303
853 A Samsworth, WA
852 Gary Schouten, Qld
851 100348
851 100460
850 100368
850 Brendon Chant, Qld
850 Eric Lewis, NZ
849 100080
849 100166
849 100360
848 100430
848 100492
848 Jenni Byrom, WA
848 Conrad 3 Lienert, NZ
847 100309
847 Geoff Moyle, NSW
845 100109
845 Desi Cooke, NZ
844 100427
843 100129
843 100252
843 100263
843 100489
843 Joshua Price, NSW
840 100450
839 100138
839 100148
839 Dean Paech, SA
838 100486
838 Andrew Granmann, NSW
838 Jason Mills, Qld



JUST DONE IT!

Crunch, you hit the deck, for a moment it doesn't hurt. then the throbbing begins, the pain seems to grow with every heartbeat. You clasp the area and can feel the swelling. What you may not know is that the swelling which causes pain is due to inflammation. So by reducing inflammation you reduce both swelling and pain.

Some medications reduce pain temporarily without treating the inflammation. Difflam not only has analgesic and anaesthetic actions but also reduces the inflammation which in turn reduces pain.

This soothing, heat free pain relieving gel acts fast to reduce swelling and pain whilst assisting the recovery process. Difflam is an effective pain relieving gel available without a prescription. So see your pharmacist because you never know when pain is going to strike. Use only as directed. Also available as a cream.

Available only from your pharmacy.



Anti-inflammatory action.

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3M Health Care Group 3M Australia Pty Limited (ACN 000 100 096) 9-15 Chilvers Road Thornleigh, NSW 2120

3M Pharmaceuticals

GreyHC:M0091

RAMS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 1ST (AUS POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LUKE WILLIAMSON 26
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: ROD MAYBON 3

FOX SPORTS:
LIVE 8.30pm (AET)
RPT JUNE 21
6.30am

OLDHAM

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (EURO POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LUKE GOODWIN 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: DAVID JONES 1

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 3: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, ADELAIDE OVAL. **KICK-OFF:** 8.00PM (SA TIME)
REFEREE: GRAHAM ANNESLEY **TOUCH JUDGES:** ROSS PICARD & STEVE NASH **VIDEO REF:** JACK DANZEY

ROD MAYBON	1	FULLBACK	1	PAUL ATCHESON	
WAYNE SIMONDS	22	WING	5	BOB MYLER	
CHRIS QUINN	6	CENTRE	22	VINCE FAWCETT	
SOLOMON KIRI	25	CENTRE	16	HOWARD HILL	
MICHAEL MAGUIRE	3	WING	20	ALFI LEUILA	
LUKE WILLIAMSON	51	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	FRANCIS MALONEY	
DEAN SCHIFILLITI	21	HALFBACK	7	MARTIN CROMPTON	
ELIAS PAIYO	4	LOCK	26	LUKE GOODWIN	
BRETT GALEA	12	2ND ROW	14	MATT MUNRO	
DAVID BOUGHTON	13	2ND ROW	15	PAUL DAVIDSON *Subject to judiciary	
MARK CORVO	30	PROP	23	BRETT GOLDSPINK	
KERROD WALTERS (C)	27	HOOKER	27	DAVID STEPHENSON	
ALAN CANN	8	PROP	8	IAN GILDART	
INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE	
BRUCE MAMANDO	23		11	GARY LORD	
ANDREW HICK	11		12	JOE FAIMALO	
STEVE STONE	9		9	JOHN CLARKE	
KURT WRIGLEY	33		4	PAUL TOPPING	
COACH				COACH	
ROD REDDY				BOB LINDNER	

KEY PLAYER



ROD MAYBON: Has been the springboard for the Rams counter-attack this season.

KEY PLAYER



BRETT GOLDSPINK: Ex-Perth Reds prop will be fired up to notch a win.

'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
WCC 2	beat Leeds 34-8

'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
WCC 2	lost to Cowboys 54-16

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
OLDHAM +23.5

CURTAIN RAISER: KICK-OFF 6.00PM

RAMS U19s

LUKE DODSON	1	FULLBACK
SHANE MAHONY	2	WING
DAVID KIDWELL	3	CENTRE
JOHN BRUCE	4	CENTRE
KAINE MCGOVERN	5	WING
BEN O'CALLAGHAN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH
JASON DORAHY	7	HALFBACK
JOHN TOELUPE	8	PROP
JOSH THOMSON	9	HOOKER
PHIL SHEAD	10	PROP
ADAM PEEK	11	2ND ROW
JAMIE McDONALD	12	2ND ROW
SHANE WILSON	13	LOCK
INTERCHANGE		
TROY GIBBONS	14	
KEVIN McINERHENEY	15	

SA OPEN SCHOOLBOYS

DARRIN HYATT	1	
LES COE	2	
ODELL HARRIS	3	
JESSE TRAJKOVIC	4	
TEVITA RAIKIWASA	5	
KELSO McEWAN	6	
TRENT SKINNER	7	
ALISTAIR PRAGNELL	8	
RHYS HARRISON	9	
GLEN METCALF	10	
GREG SZOLLOSI	11	
ADAM GLOVER	12	
ADAM COX	13	
INTERCHANGE		
DANIEL WORTLEY	14	
CAMERON MOSS	15	
BEN COOMBES	16	
JAMIE CARPENTER	17	

COWBOYS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 2ND (AUS POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LUKE PHILLIPS 32
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: GLEN MURPHY 3

FOXTEL:
LIVE 7.30pm (AEST)
FOX SPORTS:
RPT JUNE 22 6am

SALFORD

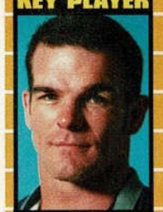
WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (EURO POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: STEVE BLAKELEY 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: GARY BROADBENT 1

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 3: SATURDAY, JUNE 21, STOCKLAND STADIUM. **KICK-OFF:** 7.35PM
REFEREE: BRIAN GRANT **TOUCH JUDGES:** BRUCE STONE & ROBERT KIDDLE **VIDEO REF:** NOEL BISSETT

REGGIE CRESSBROOK	14	FULLBACK	25	GARY BROADBENT	
LUKE PHILLIPS	28	WING	2	FATA SINI	
MARK SHIPWAY	20	CENTRE	4	NATHAN McAVOY	
SCOTT MAHON	22	CENTRE	5	DARREN ROGERS	
ADAM WARWICK	16	WING	29	RICHARD SMITH	
IAN DUNEMANN	23	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	STEVE BLAKELEY	
ANDREW DUNEMANN	6	HALFBACK	7	MARK LEE	
KYLE WARREN	1	LOCK	15	DAVID HULME	
OWEN CUNNINGHAM	13	2ND ROW	11	PAUL FORBER	
PETER JONES	21	2ND ROW	23	ESENE FAIMALO	
*MARTIN LOCKE 10/JOHN LOMAX	8	PROP	10	CLIFF ECCLES	
STEVE WALTERS	49	HOOKER	9	PETER EDWARDS	
IAN ROBERTS (C)	31	PROP	8	ANDY PLATT	
INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE	
GLEN MURPHY	27		13	CRAIG RANDALL	
JOHN DOYLE	24		16	LOKENI SAVELIO	
PAUL BOWMAN	3		17	ANDY BURGESS	
RAY MERCY	34		18	IAN WATSON	
COACH TIM SHEENS				COACH	
				ANDY GREGORY	

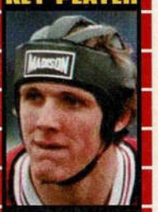
*One to be omitted

KEY PLAYER



IAN ROBERTS: Will make it tough for the Salford props, but then he makes it tough for any opponents.

KEY PLAYER



GARY BROADBENT: Hard runner who has quickly adapted to league Australian style.

'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
WCC 2	beat Oldham 54-16

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Castleford 4-0
Rd 2	lost to St Helens 12-19
Rd 3	beat Paris 27-26
Rd 4	beat Oldham 35-26
Rd 5	beat Halifax 28-16
Rd 6	beat Sheffield 17-16
Rd 7	lost to London 12-48
Rd 8	beat Wigan 14-4
Rd 9	lost to Leeds 20-33
Rd 10	lost to Castleford 10-12
Rd 11	beat St Helens 39-26
Rd 12	lost to Oldham 10-19
Rd 13	lost to Bradford 24-40
WCC 1	lost to Adelaide 50-8
WCC 2	BYE

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
SALFORD +20.5

CAN THE COWBOYS ROPE IN THE REDS?

FIND OUT ON FOXTEL EXCLUSIVELY
LIVE FROM 7.30PM (AET)

RAIDERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 1ST (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: DAVID FURNER 36
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KEN NAGAS 8

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

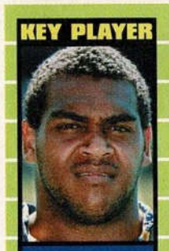
WIGAN

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 1ST (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: JASON ROBINSON 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: JASON ROBINSON 2

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 3: SUNDAY, JUNE 22, BRUCE STADIUM. KICK-OFF: 2.30PM
REFEREE: BILL HARRIGAN TOUCH JUDGES: MICHAEL BUNNAGE & COLIN TURNELL VIDEO REF: BARRY BARNES

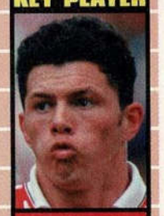
	KEN NAGAS	2	FULLBACK	28	PAUL KOLOI
	NADRUKU 5/LIGHTNING	22	WING	2	JASON ROBINSON
	BRETT MULLINS	1	CENTRE	4	GARY CONNOLLY
	CROKER 3/BOYLE	16	CENTRE	1	KRIS RADLINSKI
	RUBEN WIKI	4	WING	15	ANDY JOHNSON
	LAURIE DALEY	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	HENRY PAUL
	RICKY STUART (C)	7	HALFBACK	30	TONY SMITH
	BRADLEY CLYDE	13	LOCK	13	ANDY FARRELL (C)
	DAVID FURNER	12	2ND ROW	9	MICK CASSIDY
	BEN KENNEDY	15	2ND ROW	11	SIMON HAUGHTON
	BRETT HETHERINGTON	11	PROP	29	LEE HANSEN
	LUKE PRIDDIS	17	HOOKER	27	MARTIN HALL
	LUKE DAVICO	10	PROP	8	NEIL COWIE
	INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE
	SIMON WOOLFORD	9		21	DARYL CARDISS
	DAVID WESTLEY	14		25	GAEL TALLEC
	QUENTIN PONGIA	8		17	STEPHEN HOLGATE
	JASON BURNHAM	20		18	STU LESTER
	COACH MAL MENINGA				COACH
	*Two to be omitted				ERIC HUGHES

KEY PLAYER



KEN NAGAS: Eight tries in two games! How many today?

KEY PLAYER



HENRY PAUL: Genius footballer. Watch the sparks fly.

'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
WCC 2 beat London 66-20

'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
WCC 2 lost to Brisbane 34-0

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
WIGAN +7.5

MAL MENINGA CUP - UNDER 19s: KICK-OFF 12.40PM

RAIDERS U19s					BRONCOS U19s
	DAVID MULHALL	1	FULLBACK	1	LOTE TUQIRI
	TIM HOGAN	2	WING	2	JUSTIN MURPHY
	MATT GAFA	3	CENTRE	3	JOSH O'FARRELL
	RYAN CAPELLO	4	CENTRE	4	DANNY BURKE
	AARON MULLINS	5	WING	5	DAVID PARKER
	JASON FRUEND	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	CHRIS WALKER
	LINCOLN WITHERS	7	HALFBACK	7	SHAUN BERRIGAN
	MICHAEL BRADDON	8	PROP	8	DEAN BENSLEY
	NATHAN HOLLINGSWORTH	9	HOOKER	9	LUKE CAPLICK (C)
	TROY THOMPSON	10	PROP	10	DAVID GOODRIDGE
	MATTHEW KEARNS	11	2ND ROW	11	SEAN ALLWOOD
	JEREMY SOUTHWELL	12	2ND ROW	12	RICHARD ALLWOOD
	BRAD KELLY	13	LOCK	13	SHANE WALKER
	INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE
	MATTHEW FORD	14		14	PAUL DYER
	SCOTT O'NEALL	15		15	NATHAN McKENZIE-ROSS
	SIMON DIXON	16		16	JEFF JOHNSON
	TERRY MARTIN	17		17	GARETH TURTON
COACH MARK GREER					COACH STEVE CALDER

BRONCOS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 3RD (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: DARREN LOCKYER 36
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KEVIN WALTERS 3

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

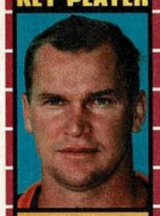
HALIFAX

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 6TH (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-2
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MARTIN PEARSON 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: CARL GILLESPIE 1

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 3: SUNDAY, JUNE 22, ANZ STADIUM. KICK-OFF: 2.30PM
REFEREE: TIM MANDER TOUCH JUDGES: RUSSELL LEIS & IAN MACKINTOSH VIDEO REF: JOHN GOCHER

	DARREN LOCKYER	1	FULLBACK	1	MIKE UMAGA
	TONIE CARROLL	15	WING	4	ASA AMONE
	STEVE RENOUF	3	CENTRE	15	DAIO POWELL
	ANTHONY MUNDINE	4	CENTRE	19	DAVID BOUVENG
	WENDELL SAILOR	5	WING	23	FERETI TUILAGI
	KEVIN WALTERS	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	MARTIN PEARSON
	ALLAN LANGER (C)	7	HALFBACK	14	CRAIG DEAN
	DARREN SMITH	13	LOCK	13	MARTIN MOANA
	GORDEN TALLIS	11	2ND ROW	12	SIMON BALDWIN
	PETER RYAN	12	2ND ROW	21	MICHAEL JACKSON
	ANDREW GEE	23	PROP	22	CARL GILLESPIE
	JOHN DRISCOLL	14	HOOKER	9	PAUL ROWLEY
	GLENN LAZARUS	8	PROP	8	KARL HARRISON
	INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE
	SHANE WEBKE	21		24	CHRIS CHESTER
	JOHN PLATH	9		26	RICHARD MARSHALL
	BEN WALKER	16		25	MICHAEL SLICKER
	BRAD THORN	10		11	PAUL HIGHTON
	COACH				COACH
	WAYNE BENNETT				JOHN PENDLEBURY

KEY PLAYER



ALLAN LANGER: Freakish performance to rip Wigan apart. In sensational form.

KEY PLAYER



PAUL ROWLEY: Will have to fire up to match John Driscoll.

'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
WCC 2 beat Wigan 34-0

FOOTY TAB POINTS START

'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 6-70
WCC 2 lost to Canterbury 6-58

CURTAIN RAISER COCA-COLA/BRONCOS 7s FINAL: KICK-OFF 1.40PM

BROTHERS LOGAN					SOUTHERN SUBURBS
	DUSHAN RAVEENDRAKURN	1		1	MANFRED MUNKER
	BEN REIS	2		2	RICKY KROSEN
	TYSON HEPI	3		3	IAN McDONALD
	KANE TREW	4		4	ANTHONY McCORMACK
	BRAD FITZGERALD	5		5	RAY TURNER
	BEN SELLARS	6		6	SCOTT CARKETT
	LUCAS RIDGWAY	7		7	JASON WORTH
	INTERCHANGE				INTERCHANGE
	JAMIE AUMANN	8		8	JASON PLOEG
	CLINTON EDWARDS	9		9	MATT WHEELER
COACH STEVE HURLEY	WAYLON BEKUE	10		10	JACOB CHRISTIE
	JAMES JOHNSTONE	11		11	TONY GREEN
					COACH DANIEL COX

BULLDOGS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 6TH (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: DARYL HALLIGAN 28
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: MATTHEW RYAN 3

CHANNEL NINE:
DELAYED 9.30pm (AET)

LONDON

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-2
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: SCOTT ROSKELL 12
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SCOTT ROSKELL 3

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 3: MONDAY, JUNE 23, BELMORE SPORTS GROUND. **KICK-OFF:** 7.30PM
REFEREE: STEVE CLARK **TOUCH JUDGES:** DAVID GOENER & MICHAEL THOMPSON **VIDEO REF:** IAN PARNABY

KEY PLAYER



CRAIG POLLA-MOUNTER: The driving force behind the Doggies forward surges.

MATTHEW RYAN	33	FULLBACK
HAZEM EL MASRI	20	WING
SHANE MARTEENE	35	CENTRE
JOHN TIMU	22	CENTRE
DARYL HALLIGAN	11	WING
CRAIG POLLA-MOUNTER	1	FIVE-EIGHTH
DUNCAN McRAE	24	HALFBACK
TRAVIS NORTON	42	LOCK
SIMON GILLIES (C)	25	2ND ROW
ROBERT RELF	23	2ND ROW
STEVE PRICE	13	PROP
JASON HETHERINGTON	19	HOOKER
MITCH NEWTON	5	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
JAMES PICKERING	34	
BARRY WARD	47	
SOLOMON HAUMONO	50	
BARRY BERRIGAN	4	
COACH		
CHRIS ANDERSON		

'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
WCC 2	beat Halifax 58-6

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
LONDON +20.5

31	TONY MARTIN	FULLBACK
22	SCOTT ROSKELL	WING
3	DAVID KRAUSE	CENTRE
6	TULSEN TOLLETT	CENTRE
5	MARTIN OFFIAH	WING
1	SHAUN EDWARDS	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	JOSH WHITE	HALFBACK
13	TERRY MATTERSON	LOCK
9	PETER GILL	2ND ROW
11	STEVE ROSOLEN	2ND ROW
17	MATTHEW SALTER	PROP
26	ROBBIE BEAZLEY	HOOKER
10	TONY MESTROV	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
28	ANDREW DUNCAN	
8	MATT DUNFORD	
20	GREG BARWICK	
15	ADY SPENCER	
	COACH	
	TONY CURRIE	

KEY PLAYER



MARTIN OFFIAH: Still fast, still dangerous and knows where the line is.

'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
WCC 2	lost to Canberra 66-20

RESERVE GRADE: KICK-OFF 5.30PM

BULLDOGS RESERVE GRADE

CRAIG SMITH	44	FULLBACK
DAMIEN FORD	39	WING
KEVIN SCHRAADER	12	CENTRE
STEVEN HUGHES	26	CENTRE
GAVIN LESTER	32	WING
BRENT SHERWIN	51	FIVE-EIGHTH
COREY HUGHES	52	HALFBACK
TONY GRIMALDI (C)	15	LOCK
BEN ROARTY	36	2ND ROW
MATUA PARKINSON	8	2ND ROW
ROBERT TOCCO	17	PROP
ROBERT MEARS	21	HOOKER
DAVID LUCKWELL	31	PROP
INTERCHANGE		
BEN GILLIES	2	
ADAM PERRY	53	
DAVID THOMPSON	54	
LAFI MANUA	55	

COACH STAN CUTLER

51	SHAUN LAURIE	
52	JASON EDWARDS	
19	FRED PETERSEN	
44	SHANE ELFORD	
34	CHRIS HICKS	
36	CHRIS LEVY	
3	GAREN CASEY	
48	NED CATIC	
23	GORDON FALCON	
30	LEE HOPKINS	
24	FA'AUSU AFOA	
15	LEVI RUSSELL	
37	JARROD PRIOR	
	INTERCHANGE	
32	JASON THORNE	
54	FRANK PULETUA	
14	RHYS WESSER	
49	TONE KOPELANI	

PANTHERS RESERVE GRADE

COACH LEN STACKER

SHEFFIELD

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 1ST (EURO POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MARK ASTON 10
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: NICK PINKNEY 2

LYNTON STOTT	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
WCC 2	beat Perth 26-22

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
SHEFFIELD +16.5

MARINERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 3RD (AUS POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: NOEL GOLDTHORPE 14
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: ROBBIE ROSS 3

1	ROBBIE ROSS	FULLBACK
2	KEITH BEAUCHAMP	WING
37	CRAIG WISE	CENTRE
4	KEVIN IRO	CENTRE
5	JOHN CARLAW	WING
21	SCOTT HILL	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	NOEL GOLDTHORPE (C)	HALFBACK
15	WILLIE POCHING	LOCK
13	NEIL PICCINELLI	2ND ROW
11	TONY IRO	2ND ROW
31	ANTHONY BRANN	PROP
9	ROBBIE McCORMACK	HOOKER
16	DARRIEN DOHERTY	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
14	TROY STONE	
3	NICK ZISTI	
20	BRETT KIMMORLEY	
12	PAUL MARQUET	
	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
WCC 2	beat Castleford 42-12

BRADFORD

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 2ND (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-2
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: STEVE McNAMARA 10
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: JON SCALES 1

FOX SPORTS:
LIVE JUNE 21
4.00am (AET)
REPLAY 9.30pm

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
*Subject to fitness test C) ROBBIE PAUL	1	HALFBACK
STEVE MCNAMARA	26	LOCK
GRAEME BRADLEY	3	2ND ROW
PAUL ANDERSON	17	2ND ROW
MIKE FORSHAW	14	PROP
JAMES LOWES	25	HOOKER
BRIAN MCDERMOTT	22	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
WCC 2	lost to Warriors 20-16

FOOTY TAB POINTS START
BRADFORD +11.5

SHARKS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 2ND (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MAT ROGERS 32
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: RUSSELL RICHARDSON 5

21	DAVID PEACHEY	FULLBACK
45	MAT ROGERS	WING
3	ANDREW ETTINGSHAUSEN (C)	CENTRE
33	RUSSELL RICHARDSON *Subject to fitness test	CENTRE
23	RICHIE BARNETT	WING
6	MITCH HEALEY	FIVE-EIGHTH
7	PAUL GREEN	HALFBACK
13	TAWERA NIKAU	LOCK
22	WADE FORRESTER	2ND ROW
14	NICK GRAHAM	2ND ROW
40	JASON STEVENS	PROP
9	DEAN TREISTER	HOOKER
8	DANNY LEE	PROP
	INTERCHANGE	
27	MARTIN LANG	
17	GEOFF BELL	
26	TIAAN STRAUSS	
10	BEN SAMMUT	
	COACH	
	JOHN LANG	

'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
WCC 2	beat St Helens 48-8

PARIS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 2ND (EURO POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MATT O'CONNOR 4
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: DEON BIRD 1

PSG RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE • SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE 1997

REDS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (AUS POOL B)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 1-1
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: CHRIS RYAN 18
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SCOTT WILSON 2

DEON BIRD 1	FULLBACK	48	GREG FLEMING
JASON EADE 20	WING	3	CHRIS RYAN
JAMIE OLEJNIK 3	CENTRE	5	PAUL BELL
PIERRE CHAMORIN 12	CENTRE	6	TIM HORAN
PHIL BERGMAN 23	WING	16	MATTHEW DAYLIGHT
MATT O'CONNOR 25	FIVE-EIGHTH	26	SCOTT WILSON
JASON MARTIN 7	HALFBACK	7	MATTHEW RODWELL
DAVID LOMAX 13	LOCK	13	DALE FRITZ
ADAM PETERS 12	2ND ROW	37	PETER SHIELS *Subject to fitness
WAYNE SING 11	2ND ROW	24	JON GRIEVE
JASON SANDS 10	PROP	8	ROB KEARNS
DAVID O'DONNELL 9	HOOKER	9	MATTHEW FULLER
TONY PRIDDLE 8	PROP	10	BRETT GREEN
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
CRAIG MENKINS 14		43	CORIN RIDDING
MICHAEL HOGUE 15		50	DAMIEN CHAPMAN
ANTHONY HANCOCK 16		15	MATTHEW GEYER
NICK HYDE 17		14	CHRIS DEVER
COACH			COACH
ANDY GOODWAY			DEAN LANCE

'97 FORM

Rd 1	beat Sheffield 18-4
Rd 2	lost to Leeds 28-18
Rd 3	lost to London 28-10
Rd 4	lost to Salford 27-26
Rd 5	lost to St Helens 44-6
Rd 6	lost to Oldham 19-18
Rd 7	lost to Bradford 30-18
Rd 8	lost to Warrington 37-34
Rd 9	beat Castleford 13-8
Rd 10	lost to Sheffield 32-16
Rd 11	lost to Leeds 30-2
Rd 12	lost to London 20-16
Rd 13	lost to Wigan 58-20
WCC 1	lost to Mariners 28-12
WCC 2	BYE

FOOTY TAB POINTS START PARIS +14.5

'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
WCC 2	lost to Sheffield 26-22

WARRINGTON

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 3RD (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-2
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: LEE BRIERS 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: KELLY SHELFORD 1

WARRINGTON RUGBY LEAGUE WOLVES

FOX SPORTS: REPLAY 9.30pm (AET) JUNE 27

WARRIORS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: MATTHEW RIDGE 26
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: SEAN HOPPE 2

LEE PENNY 1	FULLBACK	1	MATTHEW RIDGE
CHRIS RUDD 17	WING	2	SEAN HOPPE
JON ROPER 4	CENTRE	3	TEA ROPATI
NIGEL VAGANA 6	CENTRE	23	ANTHONY SWANN
MARK FORSTER 2	WING	15	MARC ELLIS
KELLY SHELFORD 16	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	GENE NGAMU
LEE BRIERS 37	HALFBACK	7	STACEY JONES
PAUL SCULTHORPE 13	LOCK	11	DENIS BETTS
TONY TATUPU 12	2ND ROW	12	STEPHEN KEARNEY
PAUL HULME 11	2ND ROW	13	TONY TUIMAVAVE
GARY CHAMBERS 10	PROP	8	JOE VAGANA
WILLIE SWANN 7	HOOKER	9	SYD ERU
SALESI FINAU 19	PROP	16	BRADY MALAM
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
TONY THORNILEY 39		18	SHANE ENDACOTT
SEAN GERITAS 38		29	METI NOOVAO
CHRIS HIGHTON 36		17	BRYAN HENARE
GEORGE MANN 18		14	MARK HORO
COACH			COACH
DARRYL VAN DE VELDE			FRANK ENDACOTT

'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
WCC 2	lost to Panthers 52-22

FOOTY TAB POINTS START WARRINGTON +12.5

'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
WCC 2	beat Bradford 20-16

ST HELENS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 5TH (EURO POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 0-2
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: ALAN HUNTE 8
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: ALAN HUNTE 2

ST HELENS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

FOX SPORTS: LIVE JUNE 23 3.30am (AET) REPLAY JUNE 27 6.00pm (AET)

PANTHERS

WCC CURRENT POSITION: 4TH (AUS POOL A)
WCC WIN/LOSS: 2-0
WCC LEADING POINTSCORER: RYAN GIRDLER 34
WCC LEADING TRYSCORER: RYAN GIRDLER 4

STEVE PRESCOTT 1	FULLBACK	4	PETER JORGENSEN
DANNY ARNOLD 14	WING	5	ROBBIE BECKETT
ANDY HAIGH 18	CENTRE	20	SID DOMIC
ALAN HUNTE 21	CENTRE	13	RYAN GIRDLER
ANTHONY SULLIVAN 5	WING	43	JASON WILLIAMS
JASON JOHNSTON 35	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	STEVE CARTER
SEAN LONG 3	HALFBACK	7	CRAIG GOWER
CHRIS MORLEY 24	LOCK	33	DARREN BROWN
SIMON BOOTH 12	2ND ROW	21	MATT ADAMSON
CHRIS JOYNT 11	2ND ROW	50	JODY GALL
JULIAN O'NEILL 15	PROP	25	PHIL ADAMSON
KEIRON CUNNINGHAM 9	HOOKER	9	DANNY FARRAR
APOLLO PERELINI 8	PROP	11	CARL MACNAMARA
INTERCHANGE			INTERCHANGE
IAN PICKAVANCE 10		38	ANDREW HINSON
PAUL ANDERSON 25		17	DUNCAN MacGILLVRAY
VILA MATAUTIA 22		18	BRAD DREW
DEAN BUSBY 13		8	DAVE ALEXANDER
COACH			COACH
SHAUN McRAE			ROYCE SIMMONS

'97 FORM

Rd 1	lost to 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
WCC 2	lost to Cronulla 48-8

FOOTY TAB POINTS START ST HELENS +9.5

'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
WCC 2	beat Warrington 52-22



WCC ROUND 2 REVIEW

VISA WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

VISA Cup round two and it's still trying times for the Euroleague outfits. Twenty matches down and still only two Pommie winners - Wigan in the first round and the Sheffield Eagles in the second. This weekend's round ends the first leg of preliminary World Club Challenge matches with the resumption of the Telstra Cup and Euroleague premierships in each hemisphere before the return preliminary matches kick off again on July 18.

As always, we cocked an ear to what they're saying in the pubs and clubs following the WCC second round.

Gee, it's not much fun being an Englishman right now is it?

Revenge is sweet after the cricket. It was a tough round for the Pommies. Wigan played better than the scoreline against a red-hot Broncos suggests. But St Helens were again a major disappointment and Bradford couldn't put away a 12-man Auckland outfit either.

Whose form has impressed you the most?

Against token opposition, Canberra have been rampant and look great now they've got all their best players back. But Brisbane's display against Wigan was arguably their best in two years. Go the Broncs!

Explain to me again how the eight finalists are determined?

There are two pools of seeded teams. The top three Pool A Australasian teams after the six preliminary rounds qualify for the October finals as do the top three Pool A Euroleague teams. In Pool B, only the top qualifying Australian team reaches the finals while the top-placed Euroleague Pool B team plays the fourth-placed Euroleague Pool A side for the last remaining finals berth.

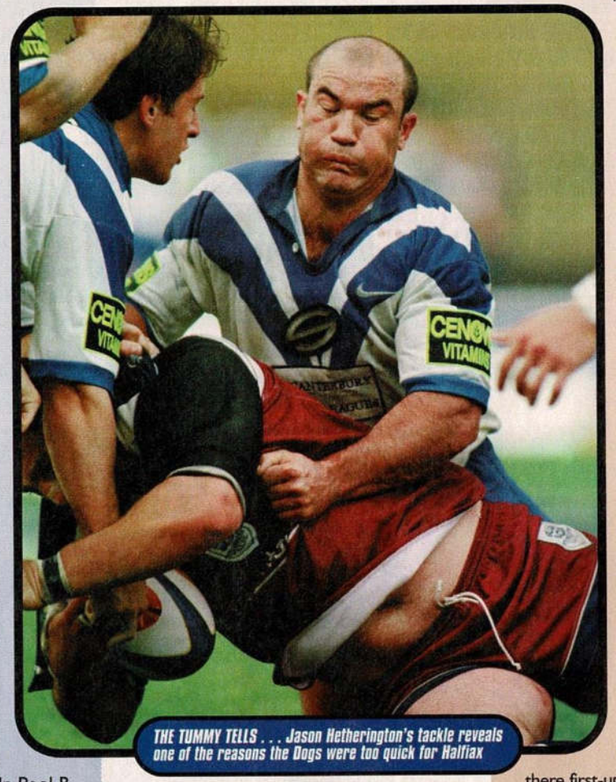
So you wind up with four Australasian teams and four Euroleague teams in the finals which are straight knockout, culminating in an October 11 Grand Final.

So doesn't that mean that some Australasian clubs could win all of their preliminary matches yet still not qualify for the finals at the expense of an Euroleague club which hasn't won many of its games?

Potentially, that's right. Which is why for and against points differential is going to be crucial to all sides involved. There's a good chance a number of Australasian teams in both pools are going to finish unbeaten in preliminary matches. It's how many points they've scored and conceded that is going to be the determining factor.

Well, on that basis who's got the inside running so far?

Let's look at Pool A first because the bulk of qualifiers will come from there. Canberra definitely have the inside running so far. They've racked up 136 points and conceded just 26 in only two matches. Wigan might not offer them the same opportunity to run amok in the upcoming round and in the UK next month, but given the Raiders face Halifax and London again in the return preliminary matches, I think you can just about write the Green Machine down for one spot.



THE TUMMY TELLS . . . Jason Hetherington's tackle reveals one of the reasons the Dogs were too quick for Halfiax

What about the other five Australasian Pool A sides?

Well, you can virtually count Canterbury out after that loss to Wigan. That reduces it to Brisbane, Penrith, Auckland and Cronulla chasing the remaining two Australasian Pool A finals spots.

Like the Raiders, Brisbane also have an advantage in the draw. Their three Euroleague opponents of Wigan, London and Halifax are collectively a less daunting challenge than the Bradford-St Helens-Warrington treble Penrith, Cronulla and the Warriors face.

Brisbane should be able to rack up big wins in their remaining matches which will earn them a finals berth. Then it will be up to Auckland, Penrith and Cronulla to see who can put on the most points and concede the least amount against Saints, Bradford and Warrington. Personally, I favour Cronulla.

And Pool B?

Like Canterbury, you can virtually count the Perth Reds out after their slip-up last weekend against the Sheffield Eagles.

North Queensland and Adelaide are setting the pace in Pool B. They've both had huge wins over token Euroleague opposition and there's little between them in points differential.

But over in the UK, the Hunter Mariners are worth keeping an eye on. They've had strong wins over Castleford and Paris with Sheffield to come. The teams that have played their opening matches in the UK probably also have a slight advantage. They get to face the Pommie sides over there first-up whereas by the return preliminary matches, the Euroleague teams will have learnt a lot more and will be tougher to beat on their home grounds.

On that basis, the Mariners are worth a sly bet to fill the Pool B Australasian berth.

Who among the Poms look like making it then?

Any of them that can get a win basically!

Wigan and Sheffield look good bets at the moment while Bradford have pushed both Penrith and Auckland to the wire and on points differential alone, are still in a healthy position despite dropping both of their opening games.

SUPERSTATS

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

ROUND 2 - POOL A

AUCKLAND 20 (Matthew Ridge, Stacey Jones, Paul Staladi tries; Matthew Ridge 4 goals) d. **BRADFORD 16** (Mike Forshaw, Graeme Bradley tries; Steve McNamara 3, Paul Loughlin goals) at Odsal Stadium. H-T: Auckland 8-2 Crowd: 13,133 Penalties: Auckland 15-14 Referee: Russell Smith.

CANTERBURY 58 (Matthew Ryan 2,Hazem El Masri 2, John Timu, Daryl Halligan, Duncan McRae, Craig Polla-Mounter, Steven Price, Barry Ward tries; Daryl Halligan 9 goals) d. **HALIFAX 6** (Michael Jackson try; Martin Pearson goal) at Belmore Sports Ground. H-T: Canterbury 26-2 Crowd: 5034 Penalties: Canterbury 8-7 Scrums: Halifax 8-4 Referee: Brian Grant.

CANBERRA 66 (Laurie Daley 3, Brett Mullins 2, Ken Nagas 2, Ruben Wiki 2, Royston Lightning, Luke Davico tries; David Furner 11 goals) d. **LONDON 20** (Martin Offiah, Scott Roskell, Josh White, Terry Matterson tries; Terry Matterson 2 goals) at Bruce Stadium. H-T: Canberra 24-8 Crowd: 6471 Penalties: Canberra 6-3 Scrums: Canberra 13-7 Referee: Tim Mander.

PENRITH 52 (Ryan Girdler 3, Robbie Beckett 2, Darren Brown, Jody Gall, Andrew Hinson, Danny Farrar tries; Ryan Girdler 7, Brad Drew goals) d. **WARRINGTON 22** (Shaun Geritas, Mark Foster, Toa Kohe-Love, Willie Swann tries; Lee Briers 2, Chris Rudd goals) at Wilderspool. H-T: Penrith 28-10 Crowd: 3850 Penalties: Warrington 10-5 Referee: Robert Connolly

BRISBANE 34 (Darren Lockyer 2, Kevin Walters, Tonie Carroll, Allan Langer, Gorden Tallis tries; Darren Lockyer 5 goals) d. **WIGAN 0** at ANZ Stadium. H-T: Brisbane 10-0 Crowd: 14,833 Penalties: 4-all Scrums: 8-all Referee: Bill Harrigan

CRONULLA 48 (Tawera Nikau 2, Russell Richardson, Richard Barnett, Mat Rogers, Jason Stevens, Wade Forrester, Paul Green tries; Mat Rogers 8 goals) d. **ST HELENS 8** (Alan Hunte try; Sean Long 2 goals) at Knowsley Road. H-T: Cronulla 30-2 Crowd: 8039 Penalties: St Helens 14-3 Scrums: St Helens 8-6 Referee: David Campbell

POOL B

ADELAIDE 34 (Chris Quinn 2, Steve Stone 2, Luke Williamson, Rod Maybon tries; Luke Williamson 5 goals) d. **LEEDS 8** (Ryan Sheridan, Leroy Rivett tries) at Adelaide Oval. H-T: Adelaide 8-4 Crowd: 14,630 Penalties: Adelaide 11-5 Scrums: Adelaide 7-5 Referee: Stephen Clark

NORTH QLD 54 (Reggie Cressbrook 2, Steve Walters 2, Shane Vincent 2, Glen Murphy, Luke Phillips, Andrew Dunemann, Mark Shipway tries; Luke Phillips 7 goals) d. **OLDHAM 16** (David Jones, John Clarke, Alfei Leuila tries; Luke Goodwin 2 goals) at Stockland Stadium. H-T: North Qld 20-4 Crowd: 12,631 Penalties: Oldham 9-8 Scrums: North Qld 12-9 Referee: Graham Annesley

HUNTER 42 (Robbie Ross 2, John Carlaw 2, Noel Goldthorpe, Tony Iro, Scott Hill, Troy Stone tries; Noel Goldthorpe 5 goals) d. **CASTLEFORD 14** (Andrew Shick, Chris Smith, Mike Ford tries; Ian Tonks goal) at Wheldon Road. H-T: Hunter 16-6 Crowd: 3087 Penalties: 8-all Referee: Stuart Cummings

SHEFFIELD 26 (Nick Pickney 2, Willie Morganson, Lynton Scott tries; Mark Aston 5 goals) d. **PERTH REDS 22** (Paul Bell, Matthew Rodwell, Chris Ryan, Scott Wilson tries; Chris Ryan 3 goals) at Don Valley Stadium. H-T: Perth 22-8 Crowd: 3500 Penalties: Sheffield 12-7 Referee: John Connolly

SALFORD AND PARIS SAINT GERMAIN BYE

POOL A AUSTRALASIAN

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
CANBERRA	2	2	0	0	136	26	+110	4
CRONULLA	2	2	0	0	88	20	+68	4
BRISBANE	2	2	0	0	76	22	+54	4
Penrith	2	2	0	0	72	38	+34	4
Auckland	2	2	0	0	62	30	+32	4
Canterbury	2	1	0	1	76	28	+48	2

Top three teams in Pool A progress to quarter-finals

POOL B AUSTRALASIAN

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
ADELAIDE	2	2	0	0	84	16	+68	4
North Qld	2	2	0	0	96	36	+60	4
Hunter	2	2	0	0	70	26	+44	4
Perth Reds	2	1	0	1	46	42	+4	2

Top team in Pool B progresses to quarter-finals

POOL A EURO-SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
WIGAN	2	1	0	1	22	52	-30	2
BRADFORD	2	0	0	2	32	40	-8	0
WARRINGTON	2	0	0	2	34	92	-58	0
London	2	0	0	2	42	108	-66	0
St Helens	2	0	0	2	22	90	-68	0
Halifax	2	0	0	2	12	128	-116	0

Top three teams in Pool A progress to quarter-finals.

POOL B EURO-SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
SHEFFIELD	1	1	0	0	26	22	+4	2
Paris	1	0	0	1	12	28	-16	0
Castleford	2	0	0	2	30	66	-36	0
Oldham	1	0	0	1	16	54	-38	0
Salford	1	0	0	1	8	50	-42	0
Leeds	2	0	0	2	28	76	-48	0

Top team in Pool B play-off with 4th placed team in Euro-Super League

Pool A to decide who progresses to quarter-finals.

ATTACK (tries scored)		DEFENCE (tries conceded)	
CANBERRA	24	CRONULLA	3
NORTH QLD	18	ADELAIDE	3
CRONULLA	16	BRISBANE	4
ADELAIDE	14	AUCKLAND	4
HUNTER	13	SHEFFIELD	4
PENRITH	13	CANBERRA	5
CANTERBURY	13	HUNTER	5
BRISBANE	13	CANTERBURY	5
AUCKLAND	10	PARIS SG	5
PERTH REDS	8	PERTH REDS	7
LONDON	8	PENRITH	7
LEEDS	6	NORTH QLD	7
CASTLEFORD	6	BRADFORD	7
WARRINGTON	6	SALFORD	8
BRADFORD	5	WIGAN	9
WIGAN	4	OLDHAM	10
SHEFFIELD	4	CASTLEFORD	12
ST HELENS	3	LEEDS	14
OLDHAM	3	ST HELENS	15
PARIS SG	2	WARRINGTON	17
HALIFAX	2	LONDON	18
SALFORD	1	HALIFAX	23

TOP POINTSCORERS

	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total
DAVID FURNER (CANBERRA)	0	18	0	36
DARREN LOCKYER (BRISBANE)	3	12	0	36
RYAN GIRDLER (PENRITH)	4	9	0	34
KEN NAGAS (CANBERRA)	8	0	0	32
LUKE PHILLIPS (NORTH QLD)	2	12	0	32
MAT ROGERS (CRONULLA)	2	12	0	32

Round 2 WCC Points Whiz
Ryan Girdler(Penrith) produced a club record of 26 points from three tries and seven goals

TOP GOALKICKERS

	Attempts	Kicks	%
DAVID FURNER (CANBERRA)	21	18	86%
DARREN LOCKYER (BRISBANE)	14	12	86%
LUKE PHILLIPS (NORTH QLD)	20	12	60%
MAT ROGERS (CRONULLA)	17	12	71%
DARYL HALLIGAN(CANTERBURY)	15	12	80%

Round 2 WCC Radar Whiz
David Furner (Canberra) kicked 11 goals from 11 attempts against London

TOP TRYSCORERS

KEN NAGAS (CANBERRA)	8
RUSSELL RICHARDSON (CRONULLA)	5
RYAN GIRDLER (PENRITH)	4
KEVIN WALTERS (BRISBANE)	3
ROD MAYBON (ADELAIDE)	3

ROUND 2 SuperStat

MAT ROGERS
(CRONULLA)



1 TRY, 8 GOALS FROM 9 ATTEMPTS, 20 POINTS, 4 TACKLES, 5 LINE BREAKS, 11 HITUPS, NIL DROPPED BALL, NIL MISSED TACKLES, 79 METRES GAINED FROM 4 RETURN KICKS

LAURIE DALEY (CANBERRA)	3
SCOTT ROSKELL (LONDON)	3
REGGIE CRESSBROOK(NORTH QLD)	3
GLEN MURPHY (NORTH QLD)	3
ROBBIE ROSS (HUNTER)	3
MATTHEW RYAN (CANTERBURY)	3
DARREN LOCKYER (BRISBANE)	3



Round 2 WCC Try King
Laurie Daley (Canberra) beat Mal Meninga's all-time club record with a hat-trick against London

TOP TACKLERS

STEVEN PRICE (CANTERBURY)	69
MICK CASSIDY (WIGAN)	67
DEAN TREISTER (CRONULLA)	65
JULIAN O'NEILL (ST HELENS)	65
MATT FULLER (PERTH REDS)	63



Round 2 WCC Tyro Tackler
Steven Price (Canterbury) 38 vs Halifax

MOST HIT UPS

APOLLO PERELINI(ST HELENS)	46
BRUCE MAMANDO (ADELAIDE)	43
GARY MERCER (LEEDS)	43
JASON ROBINSON (WIGAN)	43
KARL HARRISON (HALIFAX)	41



Round 2 WCC Iron Man
Martin Locke (North Qld) 24 vs Oldham

MOST LINE BREAKS

KEN NAGAS (CANBERRA)	12
MAT ROGERS (CRONULLA)	8
RUSSELL RICHARDSON (CRONULLA)	7
JASON CROKER (CANBERRA)	6



Round 2 WCC Line Breaks Whiz
Mat Rogers (Cronulla) 5 vs St Helens

MAL MENINGA CUP U19 TRIAL

CANTERBURY 36 (Mohammed Abbas 3, Wes Doyle 2, Corey Hughes, Adam Perry tries; Brent Sherwin 4 goals) d. **CANBERRA 22** (David Mulhall, Aaron Mullins, Jeremy Southwell, Todd Payten tries; Matthew Gafa 3 goals) at Belmore Sports Ground.

U19 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
PENRITH	12	9	1	2	332	236	19
AUCKLAND	12	9	0	3	354	254	18
PERTH REDS	12	7	2	3	360	299	16
CANTERBURY	12	6	1	5	369	288	13
Cronulla	12	6	0	6	228	302	12
Adelaide	12	5	0	7	234	253	10
North Qld	12	5	0	7	276	300	10
Canberra	12	5	0	7	262	288	10
Brisbane	12	3	0	9	218	313	6
Hunter	12	3	0	9	226	326	6

SUPPLIED BY I & T RUGBY LEAGUE STATISTICS

Cheers!

THE RAIDERS AND THE BULLDOGS ARE EQUAL SECOND AT THE HALF WAY STAGE OF THE TELSTRA CUP. AND THEIR CHEERLEADERS ARE NECK AND NECK WHEN IT COMES TO ATTRACTING THE LENS OF SUPER LEAGUE PHOTOGRAPHER JAY TOWN. LIKE THE TEAMS THEY FLING THEMSELVES AROUND FOR, IT'S TOO CLOSE TO CALL.



Pictures: Jay Town



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