A HISTORY OF BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE (1909-2017)





A celebration of club football in Brisbane



From the Brisbane premiership to the Queensland Cup



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Compiled By

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INTRODUCTION

The Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) competition was in its heyday when I started following it as a boy back in 1980 and, while many Queensland players had followed the poker money offered by the Sydney clubs, many Queensland and Australian test players could still be seen each week playing in the Brisbane club competition.

For my favourite club Souths, we had great players like Mal Meninga, Gary Belcher, Peter Jackson, Bob Lindner, Norm Carr going up against Wynnum with "The King" Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Greg Dowling and Colin Scott and then there was Redcliffe with Artie Beetson and Mark Murray and Valleys who had Ross Strudwick and Wally Lewis before his switch to Wynnum. It was a glorious era but then there came a sad decline to the Brisbane premiership when the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition in 1988.

Before the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition in 1988 the Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) competition shared the top national talent along with the Sydney competition for 80 years. Sadly many scribes, particularly those from Sydney, have treated the Brisbane competition as a footnote in rugby league history and ignored just how strong a competition the BRL competition was, despite many players being poached from the 1960's on with the advent of the poker machine revenue that gave the Sydney clubs a financial advantage over Brisbane clubs.

After the Brisbane Broncos came along interest and attendances for the Brisbane premiership plummeted much to the disappointment of many diehard fans like myself who grew up on the wonderful BRL competition of the 80's. Some clubs have managed to survive and thrive thanks to the introduction of poker machines in Queensland in the 1990's while other clubs like Souths have struggled financially and some grand clubs like Valleys, Brothers and Wests have sadly folded. Gradually there has been a resurgence with the Queensland Cup is which is slowly but surely reviving the interest of league fans seeing the Brisbane clubs battle each other again in the now statewide competition.

In this volume we celebrate the rich history of the Brisbane rugby league competition which began with four clubs (Valleys, South Brisbane, North Brisbane and Toombul) just over a century ago in 1909.

This volume traces the history of the Brisbane competition told mainly through the match reports of each semi-final and grand final as recorded in the Courier Mail and other sources. The final series system that most of us BRL fans were brought up on (The top 4 teams playing a minor semi-final, major semi-final, preliminary final followed by the grand final) was the same finals format for over 50 years with the brief exception of 1975 & 1976 when a top 5 played an additional elimination and qualifying final. The top 4 finals system that most of us grew up with was introduced in 1934, the year after district football regulations were brought in.

In the very early years there were several years that did not have semi-finals (1910, 1912, 1913 & 1916). In most other years up until 1934 (with the exception of 1919 and 1920) there were two straight knockout semi-finals from which the winners would contest the final. If the minor premiers were beaten in either a semi-final or the final an additional final challenge match was played and the winner of this challenge match would be crowned rugby league premiers that year.

Between 1909 and 1933 the minor premiers had the right of challenge if they were beaten in either a semi-final or final. If you weren't the minor premiers and you won both your semi and the final you then had to also beat the minor premiers in a grand final challenge match to win the premiership. The minor premiers would be premiers if they won the challenge match. In 25 years of this system there were 15 grand final challenge matches. Of the grand final challenges the minor premiers won 10 times and the winner of the previous final won only 5 times.

In addition to that, there was one drawn grand final in 1910 which resulted in a grand final replay between the same teams. The competition was run by the QRL up until the split of 1922 when the BRL formed and then managed the competition until peace was made between the two organisations. In 1953 the friction between the Queensland Rugby League and Brisbane Rugby League ended, with the BRL being replaced by the Brisbane division of the QRL.

In 1933 district football was introduced to provide community support and player equalisation. This meant that players had to live within a certain distance of their club. Accordingly Brisbane was divided into Eastern Suburbs (incorporating Coorparoo and Wynnum), Southern Suburbs (incorporating Carltons), Western Suburbs, Northern Suburbs (incorporating Grammars), Fortitude Valley and Past Brothers (whose players had to prove that they had attended a Christian Brothers school).

Brothers rugby union players during the war years of 1917-18 put a team into the Brisbane league competition when there was no rugby competition. To avoid confusion with the union team they called themselves Merthyr where most of their players resided. In 1934 University returned to rugby union.

The first home of Rugby League in Brisbane was the Brisbane Cricket Ground at Wooloongabba. It hosted the most grand finals before Lang Park was acquired by the QRL. Most of the grand finals between 1914 and 1934 were shared between the Exhibition Ground and Davies Park. Former BRL chairman and QRL secretary Ron McAullife secured the use of Lang Park as a permanent home for rugby league in Queensland which hosted its first grand final in 1958 with a record crowd of 20 000. The Gold Coast (known as South Coast at the time) briefly played for 2 years in 1952 and 1953. Wynnum-Manly rejoined the competition in its own right in 1951 after playing previously in 1914 and 1931-32. Redcliffe joined in 1960.

The year 1959 marked not only the 50th anniversary season of the Brisbane club competition (and the State of Queensland's centenary year) it was also the beginning of the remarkable dynasty of six straight premierships for Norths up until 1964. This record run was broken by Redcliffe's first premiership in 1965 when a young Arthur Beetson played for the Dolphins before making his name in the Sydney competition and for Australia. After that win we relive Brothers double in 1967-68 and then the dynasty of Valleys in the early 70's. Following that came the doubles of Wests (1975-76) and Easts (1977-78).

The 1980's saw the titanic struggles between Souths and Wynnum before Brothers claimed the last BRL premiership in 1987 before the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition. The 1980's also saw the birth of a new statewide competition called the Winfield State League played over the first third of the season which was the forerunner to the Queensland Cup.

In the 1980s, two further teams were added to the BRL competition: Ipswich (1986) and Logan (1988). Ipswich had been a part of the competition in the very first few years of the competition picking up their first premiership in 1910. They lost 2 BRL and 2 Qld Cup grand finals after their re-entry before winning the Queensland Cup in 2015.

In the latter part of this volume we continue the story into the post Broncos era of the late 80's and early 90's before the introduction of the Queensland Cup in 1996 where Redcliffe emerged as the most dominant side with 5 Queensland Cup titles. The other titles have been well shared amongst the other teams.

Enjoy this wonderful walk back in time as we trace the birth and development of the Brisbane Rugby League competition through to today's statewide competition!

Roger Waite

BRISBANE GRAND FINAL RESULTS
1909-1997

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1909	Valleys	22-4	South Brisbane	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1910	Ipswich	17-2 *FR	Toombul	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1911	Valley-Toombul	13-2 *W	Ipswich	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1912	Natives	10-0 *S	South Brisbane	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1913	West End	5-2	Natives	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1914	Valleys	18-8	West End	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1915	Valleys	10-9 *S	Wests	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1916	Wests	4-2 *S	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	1 500
1917	Valleys	13-5	Merthyr	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1918	Valleys	16-12 *W	Merthyr	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1919	Valleys	28-2 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	n/a
1920	Wests	16-8	Brothers	Davies Park	6 000
1921	Carltons	12-10 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	n/a
1922	Wests * U	20-9	Coorparoo	Exhibition Ground	n/a
1923	Coorparoo	13-2	Valleys	Exhibition Ground	8 000
1924	Valleys	11-8 *S	Brothers	Exhibition Ground	9 000
1925	Carltons	24-5 *W	Coorparoo	Davies Park	6 000
1926	Brothers	6-5 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	10 000
1927	Grammars	13-11	Wests	Davies Park	n/a
1928	University	10-7 *W	Carltons	Exhibition Ground	n/a
1929	University	12-11	Coorparoo	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1930	Carltons	19-8 *S	Valleys	Davies Park	n/a
1931	Valleys	27-9 *S	Grammars	Davies Park	n/a
1932	Wests	8-7 *S	Grammars	Brisbane Cricket Ground	5 000
1933	Valleys	9-3 *W	Wests	Davies Park	n/a
1934	Norths	7-4	Wests	Davies Park	2 500
1935	Brothers	11-9 *ET	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1936	Wests	13-12	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	2 000
1937	Valleys	9-7	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	2 000
1938	Norths	16-10	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	4 500
1939	Brothers	11-9	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	7 000
1940	Norths	17-11	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	5 000
1941	Valleys	13-7	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	4 200
1942	Brothers	20-11	Souths	Oxenham Park	2 000
1943	Brothers	13-7	Valleys	Exhibition Ground	3 000
1944	Valleys	16-12	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	8 000
1945	Souths	21-11	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1946	**Valleys**	**5-2**	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000
1947	**Easts**	**15-2**	Souths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	9 500
1948	**Wests**	**14-8**	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 000
1949	**Souths**	**22-8**	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 532
1950	**Easts**	**14-10**	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 000
1951	**Souths**	**20-10**	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	7 000
1952	**Wests**	**15-14**	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	9 000
1953	**Souths**	**21-4**	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000
1954	**Wests**	**35-18**	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	8 000
1955	**Valleys * U**	**17-7**	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	14 000
1956	**Brothers**	**17-10**	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	14 000
1957	**Valleys**	**18-17**	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	16 151
1958	**Brothers**	**22-7**	Valleys	Lang Park	20 000
1959	**Norths**	**24-18**	Brothers	Lang Park	18 921
1960	**Norths**	**18-5**	Valleys	Lang Park	14 000
1961	**Norths**	**29-5**	Valleys	Lang Park	19 824
1962	**Norths**	**22-0**	Valleys	Lang Park	17 000
1963	**Norths**	**18-8**	Souths	Lang Park	18 000
1964	**Norths**	**13-4**	Brothers	Lang Park	21 000
1965	**Redcliffe**	**15-2**	Valleys	Lang Park	25 309
1966	**Norths**	**9-6**	Brothers	Lang Park	21 499
1967	**Brothers**	**6-2**	Norths	Lang Park	31 470
1968	**Brothers**	**21-4**	Easts	Lang Park	36 188
1969	**Norths**	**14-2**	Valleys	Lang Park	34 752
1970	**Valleys**	**13-11 *ET**	Norths	Lang Park	30 000
1971	**Valleys**	**18-10**	Easts	Lang Park	37 957
1972	**Easts**	**16-15**	Valleys	Lang Park	37 672
1973	**Valleys**	**15-7**	Redcliffe	Lang Park	42 000
1974	**Valleys**	**9-2**	Brothers	Lang Park	38 000
1975	**Wests**	**26-24**	Redcliffe	Lang Park	41 000
1976	**Wests**	**16-1**	Easts	Lang Park	37 000
1977	**Easts**	**17-13**	Redcliffe	Lang Park	37 000
1978	**Easts**	**14-10**	Valleys	Lang Park	30 000
1979	**Valleys**	**26-0**	Souths	Lang Park	35 000
1980	**Norths**	**17-15**	Souths	Lang Park	32 000
1981	**Souths**	**13-9**	Redcliffe	Lang Park	30 000
1982	**Wynnum Manly**	**17-3**	Souths	Lang Park	36 000
1983	**Easts**	**14-6**	Redcliffe	Lang Park	25 000
1984	**Wynnum Manly**	**42-8**	Souths	Lang Park	25 000

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1985	Souths	10-8	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park	31 000
1986	Wynnum Manly	14-6	Brothers	Lang Park	25 000
1987	Brothers	26-8	Redcliffe	Lang Park	25 000
1988	Valleys-Tweed Heads	17-14	Ipswich	Lang Park	12 000
1989	Valleys	28-4	Ipswich	Lang Park	11 000
1990	Valleys	17-16	Norths	Lang Park	13 000
1991	Easts	25-10	Wests	Lang Park	n/a
1992	Wests	40-10	Easts	Lang Park	n/a
1993	Wests	18-12	Easts	Lang Park	n/a
1994	Redcliffe	24-18	Wests	Lang Park	n/a
1995	Wynnum Manly	32-24	Easts	Lang Park	12 176
1996 †	Redcliffe	16-12	Souths	Lang Park	n/a
1997 †	Redcliffe	35-6	Easts	Lang Park (Renamed in the 1990's to Suncorp Stadium)	n/a

Key to symbols:

* ET	Extra Time	Game decided in extra time.
* FR	Grand Final Replay	The only drawn grand final was in 1910 when Ipswich and Toombul played a 10-10 draw. Ipswich won the Grand Final replay.
*W	Withstood Challenge	Result of the deciding Challenge Final where a team, other than the minor premiers, withstood a challenge by the minor premiers who were beaten in either the semi-finals or the previous final.
*S	Successful Challenge	Result of the deciding Challenge Final where the minor premiers, after being beaten in the semis or the final, exercised their right of challenge and won.
* U	Undefeated	Undefeated throughout whole season
†	Final series only	In 1996 & 1997 running during (as Brisbane clubs were knocked out) and following the QLD Cup final series, a separate final series was played involving the Brisbane clubs based on their position on the QLD Cup ladder for the Brisbane premiership. This was abolished after the same QLD Cup finalists played the Brisbane Grand Final soon after.

STATE LEAGUE FINAL RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up
1982	Easts	23-15	Redcliffe
1983	Valleys	21-12	Easts
1984	Wynnum Manly	21-10	Souths
1985	Wynnum Manly	16-0	Brothers
1986	Wynnum Manly	46-10	Redcliffe
1987	Wynnum Manly	36-14	Redcliffe
1988	Valleys-Tweed Heads	26-10	Easts
1989	Easts	30-4	Central Queensland
1990	Valleys	34-26	Easts
1991	North Queensland	44-30	Central Queensland
1992	Brisbane Capitols	30-10	North Queensland
1993	Mackay	18-12	Wests
1994	Mackay	34-14	Wests
1995	Rockhampton	26-22	Gold Coast

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1996	**Toowoomba**	8-6	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	6 500
1997	**Redcliffe**	18-16	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	n/a
1998	**Norths**	35-16	Wests	Suncorp Stadium	4 283
1999	**Burleigh**	12-10	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	n/a
2000	**Redcliffe**	14-6	Toowoomba	Suncorp Stadium	7 280
2001	**Toowoomba**	28-26	Redcliffe	Dolphin Oval	7 000
2002	**Redcliffe**	34-10	Ipswich	Dolphin Oval	10 000
2003	**Redcliffe**	31-18	Burleigh	Dolphin Oval	8 000
2004	**Burleigh**	22-18 * ET	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	9 398
2005	**North Queensland**	36-6	Burleigh	Suncorp Stadium	6 893
2006	**Redcliffe**	27-6	Toowoomba	Suncorp Stadium	5 538
2007	**Tweed Heads**	28-18	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	7 000
2008	**Souths Logan**	24-18	Ipswich	North Ipswich Reserve	6 706
2009	**Sunshine Coast**	32-18	Northern Pride	Sunshine Coast Stadium	2 500
2010	**Northern Pride**	30-20	Norths	Suncorp Stadium	6 300
2011	**Wynnum Manly**	16-10	Tweed Heads	Suncorp Stadium	6 182
2012	**Wynnum Manly**	20-10	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	9 682
2013	**Mackay**	27-20	Easts	North Ipswich Reserve	6 706
2014	**Northern Pride**	36-4	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	7 135
2015	**Ipswich**	32-20	Townsville	Suncorp Stadium	8 086
2016	**Burleigh**	26-16	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	6 611
2017	**Papua New Guinea**	12-10	Sunshine Coast	Suncorp Stadium	11 260

*** ET** **Extra Time** **Game decided in extra time.**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up	Venue
2014	**Northern Pride (QLD)**	32-28	**Penrith (NSW)**	Stadium Australia
2015	**Ipswich (QLD)**	26-12	**Newcastle (NSW)**	Stadium Australia
2016	**Illawarra (NSW)**	54-12	**Burleigh (QLD)**	Stadium Australia
2017	**Penrith (NSW)**	42-18	**PNG Hunters (QLD Cup winners)**	Stadium Australia

PREMIERSHIPS BY CLUB

Valleys 24:	Pre-BRL (7)	1909, 1911 (shared as part of Valley-Toombul), 1914, 1915, 1917, 1918, 1919
	BRL (17)	1924, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1941, 1944, 1946, 1955 (Undefeated), 1957, 1970, 1971,
	inc 3 post-Broncos	1973, 1974, 1979, 1988 (shared as part of Valleys-Tweed Heads), 1989, 1990
Norths 15:	BRL (14)	1911, (shared as part of Valley-Toombul), 1927 (as Grammars), 1934, 1938, 1940, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 (Record of 6 in a row), 1966, 1969, 1980
	QLD Cup (1)	1998
Wests 12:	Pre-BRL (2)	1916, 1920
	BRL (10)	1922 (Undefeated), 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1954, 1975, 1976, 1992, 1993
	inc 2 post-Broncos	
Souths 11:	Pre-BRL (2)	1913 (West End), 1921 (as Carltons)
	BRL: (8)	1925 (as Carltons), 1930 (as Carltons), 1945, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1981, 1985
	QLD Cup (1)	2008 (as Souths Logan)
Brothers 10:	BRL (10)	1926, 1935, 1939, 1942, 1943, 1956, 1958, 1967, 1968, 1987
Easts 8:	BRL (8)	1923 (as Coorparoo), 1947, 1950, 1972 1977, 1978, 1983, 1991
	inc 1 post-Broncos	
Redcliffe 7:	BRL (2)	1965, 1994
	inc 1 post-Broncos	Not included above are their 1996 & 1997 BRL Grand Final wins as neither were a truly separate season premiership to the Queensland Cup competition won in 1996 by Toowoomba and in 1997 by Redcliffe
	QLD Cup (5)	1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006
Wynnum 6:	BRL (4)	1982, 1984, 1986, 1995
	inc 1 post-Broncos	
	QLD Cup (2)	2011, 2012
Burleigh 3:	QLD Cup (3)	1999, 2004, 2016
Ipswich 2:	Pre-BRL (1)	1910
	QLD Cup (1)	2015
University 2:	BRL (2)	1928, 1929
Toowoomba 2:	QLD Cup (2)	1996, 2001
Tweed Heads 2:	BRL (1)	1988 (shared as part of Valleys-Tweed Heads)
	post-Broncos	
	QLD Cup (1)	2007
Northern Pride 2:	QLD Cup (2)	2010, 2014
North Qld 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2005
Natives 1:	Pre-BRL (1)	1912
Sunshine Coast 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2009
Mackay 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2013
PNG Hunters 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2017

1909

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Brisbane	6	4	0	2	60	33	8
Fortitude Valley	6	4	0	2	59	34	8
North Brisbane	6	2	0	4	34	50	4
Toombul	6	2	0	4	27	63	4

Inaugural Round - North Brisbane 8 v Toombul 0 & South Brisbane 12 v Valleys 2

THE RUGBY LEAGUE

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

The Queensland Rugby League opened their fixtures on the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when there was a fair attendance of spectators. The Brisbane Concert Band was present, and played throughout the afternoon.

NORTH BRISBANE v. TOOMBUL

The first match of the afternoon was between the two senior teams of the North Brisbane and Toombul Clubs.

During the earlier portion of the game, the play was very even, and the ball was kept close to the half-way line. As the match progressed, however, it worked up and down the field. After several minutes' play, the North Brisbane men forced their way through, and after a perilous run, Evans got over near the side line. P. Dwyer goaled. North Brisbane 5, Toombul 0. Shortly afterwards, Evans again scored in almost the same spot as before, after a run of almost the whole width of the field. Dwyer failed to goal. North Brisbane 8, Toombul. 0. This was the closing score.

VALLEY v. SOUTH BRISBANE

The second match was between the First Grade Senior Valley and South Brisbane teams.

The ball within a few minutes of the commencement of play was taken down to South's line, but saved, and a little later the performance was repeated. The game then continued uneventful except for some good passing by the South Brisbane backs. A sharp run led to a score by Boyd. Afterwards Sewell got away and crossed the line, but Boyd did not succeed in converting. South Brisbane 6 points, Valley 0. A penalty awarded to Valley yielded a score, Cartmill making a fair kick from almost half way. South Brisbane 6 points, Valley 2 points. The count was further altered by Hazelton, who made a dash from the 25-line and added three points for South Brisbane. Another short and sharp bout of ruck work ended in Ellis crossing, but the attempt at goal was again a failure, making the score : South Brisbane 12 points, Valley 2 points. This was the concluding score.

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BRL Semi-Finals - Valleys 30 v Toombul 0 &
South Brisbane 21 v North Brisbane 11

THE LEAGUE GAME

THE SEMI-FINALS.

The semi-finals in the League Game were played on the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when Toombul again met Valley, and North Brisbane played South Brisbane.

NORTH BRISBANE v. SOUTH BRISBANE.

During the earlier portion of the first half Nicholson and Finlay scored for South Brisbane, and a little later Ross crossed for Norths, making the score 6 points to 3 in South's favour. After this G. Allingham, kicking a penalty for Norths, Evans shortly after following with a try, which was unconverted. This left the count at the end of the first half North Brisbane 6, South Brisbane five points.

Early in the second half Pound scored for Souths, and Brackenrigg converted. Hazleton added another, 3, Brackenrigg again kicking. South Brisbane 16, North Brisbane 8. Then Rousell scored, Maurice adding extra points. A little later Hastie scored for Norths, making the final score South Brisbane 21, North Brisbane 11. During the match the South Brisbane team all wore black bands upon their arms, a relative of the captain, Anderson, having died on Friday night.

Mr. Jack Fihelly refereed.

TOOMBUL v. VALLEY.

Shortly after the opening, N. M'Gregor scored a try for Valley. Lovell and Dickens scored tries, which were converted by Kelly and M'Gregor respectively. Half time scores: Valley 13, Toombul nil. During the second half the scorers were: Harvey (Valley), Buckley (Valley), Morley (Valley), Dickens (Valley), and W. M'Gregor (Valley), the final score being Valley 30, Toombul 0.

1909

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 23 v SOUTH BRISBANE 4

THE LEAGUE GAME

PREMIERSHIP FINAL.

The final in the League senior grade premiership was played on the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when South Brisbane met Valley. The attendance was fairly large, and was chiefly comprised of barrackers for the opposing teams, who were vigorous in their comments throughout the game. Following were the teams:—South Brisbane: Full back, W. Weston; three-quarters, A. Dreverson, P. Gault, D. Hazleton, G. Rousell; five-eighth, W. Sewell; half, P. Maurice; forwards, H. Nicholson, V. Anderson, H. Brackenrigg, A. Boyd, G. Pounds, A. White. Valley: Full back, D. M'Gregor; three-quarters, G. Hooker, N. M'Gregor, W. Lovell; five-eighths, H. Dickens, W. Abrahams; half, D. Kelly; forwards, A. Harvey, E. Buckley, A. Mosley, J. Carmody, G. M'Theiney, and P. M'Laughlin.

For the first twenty minutes of the game, although the play was mostly in Valley's ground, there was no score. Eventually Brackenrigg, from a mark, kicked a penalty goal for South Brisbane. South Brisbane 2, Valley 0. Harvey carried the ball out his for from half way to the line, Russell running almost neck and neck with him. Harvey fell over the line with the ball, and to all appearances scored. The referee, however, disallowed the try and awarded a free kick to Souths. A little later N. M'Gregor got away with the ball and ran clean round the wing, placing down within a few yards of the posts. Hooker converted. Valley, 5; South Brisbane, 2. After the re-opening Souths were awarded a free within a few yards of the Valley line, and Brackenrigg easily secured a score, placing his side one point behind their opponents. This was the closing score during the half.

On resuming in the second half the game became fairly fast and rough, and mostly in Souths' territory. Buckley secured near the twenty-five, and crossed, touching down neatly. B. Hooker converted. Valley 10, South Brisbane 4. From a scrum the ball was sent out to Hooker, who passed to Kelly, who scored. Hooker failed at goal. Later Hooker himself crossed neatly, but failed to add the extra points. Valley, 16; Souths, 4. A little before the close Sewell was tackled hard near half way, and was removed from the field by the Ambulance Brigade, suffering from injuries to his right ankle. Subsequently Dickins broke away clean, W. Hooker following up. The ball was exchanged as the full back was reached, and Hooker scored easily. The try was unconverted. Valley, 19; South Brisbane, 4. Lovell also scored for Valley, the kick failing. Valley, 23; South Brisbane, 4. This was the closing score.

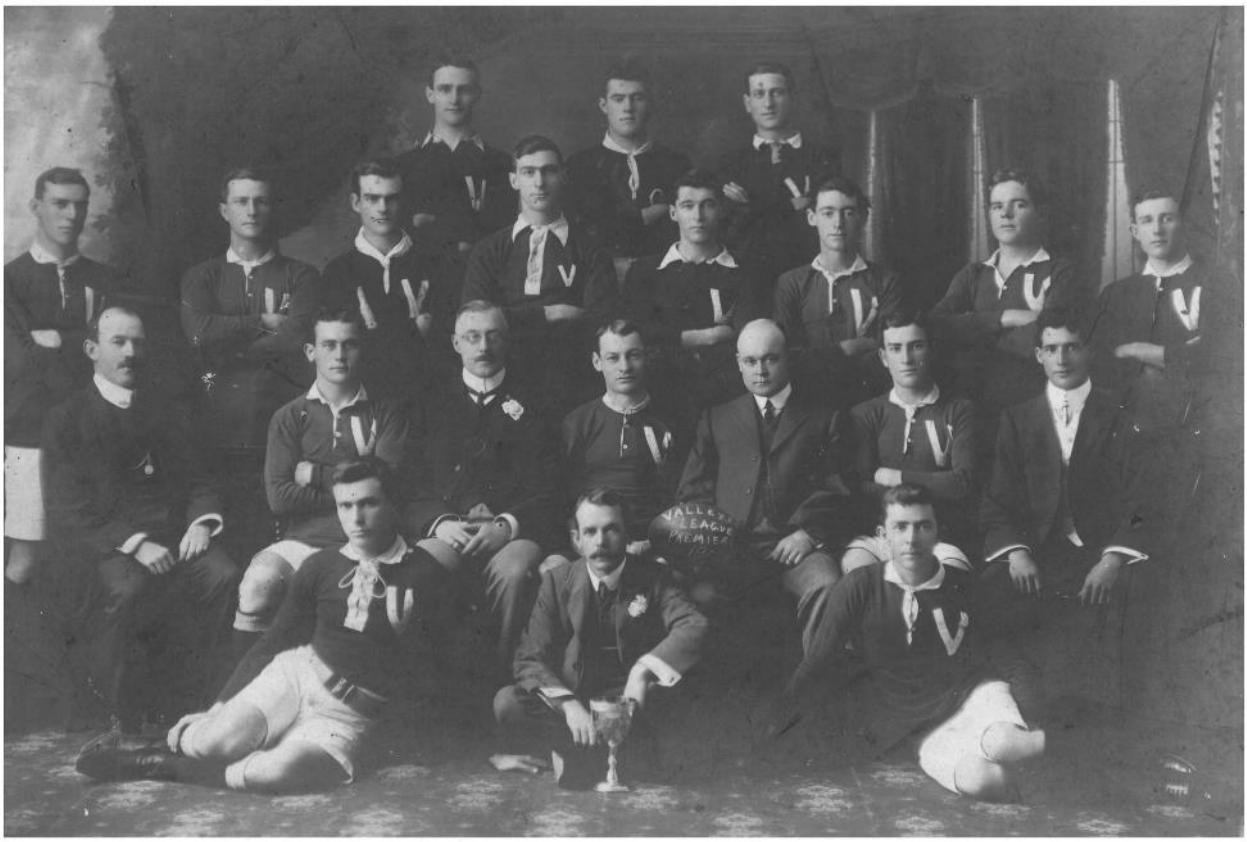
Throughout the progress of the match a certain section of the barrackers had shown a very decided ill-feeling towards the referee (Mr. Fihelly), and from the first score onwards the air was full of such cries as "Get a guernsey, umpire," "Valley's playin' fourteen men!" and so forth, and it was apparent as the Valley score piled up that the temper of the onlookers was rising. The teams, too, were not playing a very friendly game, and all tackling was hard and sure. As the play came to an end, a number of the South Brisbane supporters on that side of the ground opposite the grand stand came round and waited at the players' gate. It was noticeable that as they left the field some of the Valley men saw the storm brewing, and hurried on their way to the dressing shed, while several league officials gathered round Mr. Fihelly, and saw him safely in the room. Mr. Clarke (president of the Valley club) was not so fortunate, and as he was coming up the asphalt embankment from the ground two or three of the local barrackers pushed him so hard that he fell, and rolled down the slope. On rising, he was practically forced to fight his way into the open, but a heavy stick which he carried kept a number who appeared anxious for an encounter with him at a safe distance. After this, about fifty youths rushed for the doors of the dressing shed, but only a few got in, and of these all but two or three left quietly when asked by the two constables who were on the ground. The remainder were summarily and ignominiously ejected, such force as was necessary being used. Meanwhile about two hundred persons waited outside the doors of the room, which had been closed, the police allowing no one but officials in. Several of the more unruly of the crowd avowed their intention of waiting all night if necessary for the umpire. Mr. Fihelly, however, very prudently remained inside. During the wait one of the spectators fainted, and had to be restored by a liberal use of cold water. After about ten minutes, Mr. Clarke made his appearance, and asked the gathering to leave the ground, telling them that he would not be responsible for the results if they did

1909

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 23 v SOUTH BRISBANE 4

Valley Football Club — Winners of First League Premiership, 1909

Matches Played 10, Won 8, Lost 1, Drawn 1 — Points Scored 114, against 35.



FRONT ROW: A. Harvey, D. A. Coffey (Hon. Secretary), E. Hanly.
SECOND ROW: G. Crawford (V.P.), Dug. McGregor, W. R. Clark (Patron), W. Abrahams (Captain), R. W. Eve (President), H. Dickens, T. J. Anderson (V.P.).
THIRD ROW: N. McGregor, A. Moxley, G. McPherson, A. O'Brien, E. Cartmill, J. Carmody, P. McLaughlin, G. Hooker.
BACK ROW: W. Lovell, E. Buckley, Dave Kelly.

RESULTS

24 JULY FIRST SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
South Brisbane 21 (Brackenreg, Findlay, Pounds, Hazleton, Rousell tries; Brackenreg 2, Maurice goals) d. North Brisbane 11 (Ross, Evans, Hastie tries; R.Allingham goal).
South Brisbane: A.Dreverson, G.Rousell, D.Hazleton, P.Maurice, J.Findlay, F.Sewell, P.Gault, G.Pounds, T.Boyd, R.Nicholson, H.Brackenreg, A.Richards, V.Anderson (c).
North Brisbane: G.Allingham, A.Mills, C.Woodhead, E.Baird, W.Evans, W.McKinnon, J.Dore, J.Hastie, J.Corbett, C.Ross, C.Aylward, R.Allingham, R.Jarrott.
Referee: Jack Fihelly.

24 JULY SECOND SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Valley 30 (N.McGregor 2, Dickens 2, Lovell, Harvey, Buckley, Moxley tries; N.McGregor 2, Kelly goals) d. Toombul 0.
Valley: D.McGregor, W.Ryan, W.Lovell, N.McGregor, W.Abrahams (c), H.Dickens, D.Kelly, J.Carmody, G.McPherson, E.Buckley, P.McLaughlin, A.Moxley, A.Harvey.
Toombul: G.Cavan, P.Moko, G.Duffin (c), H.Mullins, H.Powell, C.Thwaites, G.Schneider, J.Andrews, J.McComb, F.Bean, W.White, A.Dutton, F.Hubbard.
Referee: George Watson.

4 SEPTEMBER FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 22 (Hooker 2, N.McGregor, Buckley, Kelly, Lovell tries; Hooker, Rousell goals) d. South Brisbane 4 (Brackenreg 2 goals).
Valley: D.McGregor, G.Hooker, N.McGregor, W.Lovell, H.Dickens, W.Abrahams (c), D.Kelly, P.McLaughlin, J.Carmody, G.McPherson, A.Harvey, A.Moxley, E.Buckley.
South Brisbane: W.Weston, A.Dreverson, P.Gault, D.Hazleton, G.Rousell, F.Sewell, P.Maurice, A.White, J.Findlay, G.Pounds, A.Boyd, H.Brackenreg, V.Anderson (c) R.Nicholson.
Referee: Jack Fihelly.

1910

BRL: IPSWICH

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ipswich	9	7	0	2	14
Toombul	9	5	0	4	10
Valley	9	5	0	4	10
North Brisbane	9	5	0	4	10
East Brisbane	9	3	0	6	6
South Brisbane	9	3	0	6	6

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

BRL GRAND FINAL (DRAWN) - IPSWICH 10 v TOOMBUL 10

Saturday's Pastimes.

—:o:—

LEAGUE FOOTBALL.

METROPOLITAN PHEMIERSHIP.

IPSWICH AND TOOMBUL PLAY A DRAW.

CONTINUATION OF LOCAL FIXTURES.

Chief interest in local league circles centred in the match between Ipswich and Toombul played on the Exhibition grounds, Brisbane. Toombul had won the first round and Ipswich the second, so the teams had therefore to play off for the premiership. The game ended in a draw, each side scoring 10 points. The local fixtures were continued on the North Ipswich Cricket Reserve. The games, with one exception were rather one-sided, and not particularly interesting. Following are accounts of the several contests :—

Metropolitan Final.

IPSWICH V. TOOMBUL.

Toombul having won the first round in the metropolitan league fixtures, and Ipswich having won the second round, it became necessary, under the rules governing the competitions, for the teams to play a final. This eventuated at the Exhibition ground, Brisbane. The teams took the field as follows :—

Ipswich (myrtle green) : Full-back, T. Morgan ; three-quarters, D. Wilson, C. Brown, A. H. O'Brien, and A. Jeffrey ; five-eighth, J. Mulvihill ; half-back, "W. Lewis" ; forwards, R. Tubman (captain), A. Foote, W. Thomas, J. Mann, G. Evans, and F. Lewis.

Toombul (red-white-and-blue) : Full-back, E. Skinner ; three-quarters, F. Poeppell, R. Oxenham, and G. Paul ; five-eighths, E. Bertwistle and H Powell ; half-back, P. Massey ; forwards, K. Mackay, K. Dobson, W. Walker, T. King, F. M'Comb, and C. Holzberger.

Referee—Mr. Osborne.

Tubman won the toss, and decided to defend the old grandstand end. The Toombuls kicked off with a fair wind in their favour. Wilson returned, and give-and-take play of a scraggy nature ensued, obstruction being a prominent feature of the play. Bertwistle and Massey showed out by effecting a couple of good tackles. A capital bit of passing amongst the Toombul backs was stopped by Massey, who had the ball, being grassed by Foote, who picked up, kicked, and, following up well, nicely tackled Paul. With the exception of a few men, the Ipswich team, thus early in the game, appeared to have lost the form and combination that have of late been the outstanding feature of their play. Off-side play on the part of Toombul was far too prevalent. The Toombuls started a splendid forward rush, which, it seemed, would end in a score, but they dribbled rather too hard, and Brown marked nicely, relieving the situation. O'Brien got hold of the ball in an awkward position, but was grounded by—four or five Toombul men without gaining much ground. Toombul again got through in a passing rush, but Morgan tackled his man, and got the ball, and saved. Walker came through the scrum, with the ball at toe, picked up, and passed to Paul, who fumbled, and so lost an almost certain try for Toombul. Ipswich seemed to go to pieces at this stage, and Holzberger gathered, and was bumped over the line by Jeffrey and Morgan, who should have tackled their man, instead of bumping him. Bertwistle's kick failed—Toombul, 3 ; Ipswich, nil. Ipswich warmed up somewhat after this reverse, and took the ball down to the Toombul end, and looked like scoring. The Ipswich men were passing well, Tubman, Evans, Brown, and O'Brien being prominent. Toombul again pressed, and Ipswich, being penalised, Bertwistle goaled from a fairly good position. In play again, Mulvihill made a bad attempt to gather, and Toombul forwards rushed play into the Ipswich 25, where Bertwistle picked up nicely, and scored. The same player converted—Toombul, 10 ; Ipswich, nil. Ipswich then "livened up," and, Toombul being penalised, Wilson had an unsuccessful kick at goal. The Ipswich team were forcing matters, and looked like scoring, when the half-time whistle was sounded.

Ipswich took the field after the spell with O'Brien five-eighth, and Mulvihill on the wing. For the first 20 minutes the football was anything but first-class. One of the Toombul players repeatedly struck several of the Ipswich men, the referee apparently being unable to see these actions. This player caused no little ill-feeling and trouble, and his behaviour was not calculated to improve football. About 20 minutes before time, the Ipswichians appeared to be regaining some of their form. Play was in Toombul's 25, and O'Brien sent out to Jeffrey, who ran well, and gave a well-timed pass to Brown, some 15 yards from the Toombul line, and Brown, with a splendid dodgy run, cut in, and scored between the posts. Wilson piloted the ball over the bar — Ipswich, 5 ; Toombul, 10. In play again, it is said that Walker repeatedly struck Mann, who seemingly, provoked beyond endurance, retaliated, and was promptly sent off the field. He had left the field, when the referee evidently decided to send Walker off, for he also left the field. The game became fast and furious, the Toombuls defending well, the play from this out being on their line. "Yanto" Lewis appeared to score, but the referee, after some consideration, ordered a scrum. Shortly afterwards Ipswich again came within an ace of scoring, but a Toombul man took the ball back over the line. The field-referee again seemed to be in doubt, but, after consultation with a line umpire, he gave "a save." Playing with odds against them, Ipswich worked harder than ever. The forwards came away in a dashing rush, the ball being handled by about six Ipswich men. It finally went back to Thomas, who started the rush, and he scored the second try for Ipswich. Wilson added the extras, and the scores were 10 all. Full-time was sounded shortly afterwards, the game thus ending in a draw. The referee, it is reported, resolved to play on for 10 minutes, in order to allow one team a chance to win, but the Toombul men left the field, leaving the referee and two or three members of the league executive to settle the question, the Ipswich men meanwhile awaiting the verdict. They did not, however, seem to get a definite understanding, and also determined to leave the field. The Toombul team showed far better form than they had previously exhibited. Bertwistle and Massey kept the team together, their marking and relieving being splendid.

1910

BRL GRAND FINAL REPLAY - IPSWICH 17 v TOOMBUL 2

League Football.

METROPOLITAN PREMIERSHIP.

WON BY IPSWICH.

The interest of local League footballers and supporters, centred in the match in which Ipswich played off for the metropolitan premiership with Toombul, on the Brisbane cricket ground. On the previous Saturday, the teams played an indecisive match, the final scores being 10 all, so that more than usual interest was manifested in the game. The teams took the field as follows :—

Ipswich (myrtle green) :—Full-back, T. Morgan ; three-quarters, G. Morgan, C. Brown, A. H. O'Brien, and A. Jeffrey ; five-eighth, D. Wilson ; half-back, "E. Lewis ; forwards, R. Tubman (captain), A. Foote, W. Thomas, J. Mann, G. Evans, and F. Lewis.

Toombul (red, white, and blue) Full-back, B. Skinner ; three-quarters, F. Poeppell, R. Oxenham, and G. Schneider ; five-eighths, E. Bertwistle, and H. Powell ; half-back, P. Massey ; forwards, K. Mackay, K. Dobson, W. Walker, J. Andrews, F. M'Comb, and C. Holzberger.

M'Comb, the Toombul skipper, won the toss, and Tubman and his Ipswich boys defended the Fiveways end, with a fair wind against them. Evans opened the proceedings, and "Yanto" Lewis, taking Skinner's return, passed to O'Brien, who kicked, and the Ipswich forwards following up, gained possession, but the Toombul forwards smothered. M'Comb, Mackay, and Bertwistle broke away, dribbling nicely, but kicked rather hard, and Brown marked in a dangerous position. A line kick brought relief. Toombul attacked, and Morgan got several opportunities to bring off his noted tackles. The Ipswichians then noted tackles. The Ipswichians then seemed to strike their old combination. Jeffrey led off with a nice dribble, but with none of his men in support. He was illegally tackled, and the Toombul men were penalised. The visitors were, in turn, penalised, and Bertwistle, essayed a goal without success, Morgan saving. Poeppell, Powell, and Walker started a splendid passing rush, which Geo. Morgan stopped by intercepting. He passed to Brown, who transferred to Lewis, and the latter kicked well into Toombul's territory. Massy returned well, and Ipswich being penalised because of "Yanto's" taking the ball out of the scrum, Bertwistle had another kick at goal, which also failed, T. Morgan again saving. Foote, Tubman, and Thomas were showing evidences of having struck good form. A splendid rush by G. Morgan brought Ipswich within an ace of scoring. Jeffrey took advantage of the position, and, with a short kick nonplussed Toombul for an instant, and, following on at full speed, regained the ball and scored near the posts. Wilson failed to convert—Ipswich, 3 ; Toombul, nil. After some give-and-take play Toombul marked near the Ipswich goal, but Bertwistle again failed to goal. Shortly afterwards the visitors were again penalised in a dangerous position, but once more Bertwistle failed to send the ball over the bar. The home team were fighting hard, but were showing signs of fatigue. Wilson led off with a good run, and passed to O'Brien, who, when tackled, passed badly to Jeffrey. Play was now in Toombul's 25. Wilson again got going, nicely, but had no one to pass to when tackled. O'Brien, Wilson, and George Morgan did a nice bit of passing, but lost the ball. Ipswich rushed matters, but at a critical moment Mann failed to pass, and Ipswich lost a certain try. The half-time score was—3 to nil in favour of Ipswich.

Toombul kicked off and play of a give-and-take nature followed. "Yanto" seemed to be playing a little selfishly at times. Foote got in a good run, and a splendid passing bout followed between Wilson, Brown, and George Morgan, who, however, had the misfortune, to knock on. "Yanto," failing to mark the ball, left a good opening for the Toombul men, but they failed to avail themselves of it. "Yanto" gathered and relieved with a good line kick. Bertwistle was laid out temporarily, and the absence of ambulance bearers was noticed by the Ipswich men, whose home matches are invariably attended by some of the "ever ready" men. In play again Toombul had a good chance of scoring, but Brown secured and relieved. Then Jeffrey, receiving, a well-timed pass from O'Brien, raced for the line but fell. G. Morgan figured in some dashing play, as the result of which the home team were soon on the defensive. Thomas gave a splendid pass to O'Brien who transferred to "Yanto," who have to Jeffrey, who, running and dodging well, placed the ball between the posts. Wilson added the extras—Ipswich, 8 ; Toombuls, nil. In play again, Jeffrey, following up a good kick by Wilson, secured, but was tackled. Play was transferred to the Ipswich end, where Ipswich was penalised in front of the posts, and Bertwistle kicked a goal—Ipswich, 8 ; Toombul, 2. Ipswich rushed matters from the drop-out, O'Brien being prominent. Toombul saved, Going again, Ipswich showed out in some splendid passing. "Yanto" gave to O'Brien, who sent on to Jeffrey, who again dodged through and scored. Wilson failed to goal—Ipswich, 11 ; Toombul, 2. The Toombul players were showing signs of distress. Ipswich forced and O'Brien ran well, but spoiled his effort by giving a bad pass. Tubman, taking the ball from a broken scrum, forced his way through the opposing pack and scored in a fair position.

Wilson's kick again failed—Ipswich, 14 ; Toombul, 2. The Ipswich men were showing out well. Brown, after a splendid run, passed to George Morgan, who took the oval well, and scored near the corner flag, but the kick was too difficult for Wilson. Full-time came with the scores—Ipswich, 17 ; Toombul, 2.

The Ipswich barrackers were in high glee at the success of their representatives. Jeffrey and "Yanto" Lewis were carried off shoulder high, and Tubman, the Ipswich skipper, would have shared a like "fate," but that his 13st of bone and muscle was considered to be too formidable, so he was simply dragged off by a group of enthusiastic barrackers. The teams exchanged cheers.

The Ipswich team, as a result of this match, are the 1910 League premiers of Queensland. Massey, Oxenham, and Bertwistle, played well in the Toombuls' back division, with Walker, Mackay, and M'Comb working hard in the forward section. Every man in the Ipswich team proved worthy of his position. The Ipswich supporters had no doubt of the result of the game after the scoring of the first try. Mr. Ambrose again refereed, but this time gave entire satisfaction, penalising for all breaches of the rules. Mr. A. Larter, the selector of the Ipswich team, was more than pleased with the game put up by the Ipswich boys.



Left: *The Brisbane club final of 1910 between Ipswich (dark jerseys) and Toombul. Ipswich ran out winners, 17–2.*

1910

BRL GRAND FINAL REPLAY - IPSWICH 17 v TOOMBUL 2



Play from the replayed 1910 final at The Gabba. Note the headwear of Toombul halfback Massey.



1910

BRL GRAND FINAL REPLAY - IPSWICH 17 v TOOMBUL 2

THE IPSWICH RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM OF 1910



The players with the nicknames by which they are reverently remembered by those who saw them in action are:-
BACK ROW: D.'Quilp' Mulverhill, Jack Mann, A.'Widow' O'Brien, Tommy Morgan, Fred Lewis
SECOND ROW: Pat Swift, Alf Foote, Arch Jeffrey, 'Chick' Brown, W.'Tumbler' Thomas, W.'Slogger' Richmond
THIRD ROW: Fred Larter, 'Curly' Evans, Jack Morgan, Bob Tubman, Jim Brown, 'Wake-up' Wilson, 'Notty' Beattie
FRONT ROW: Bobby Grainger, E.'Yanto' Lewis. ABSENT: George Morgan

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

RESULTS

3 SEPTEMBER FINAL EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Ipswich 10 (Brown, Thomas tries; Wilson 2 goals) drew with Toombul 10 (Holzberger, Bertwhistle tries; Bertwhistle 2 goals).
Ipswich: T.Morgan, D.Wilson, C.Brown, A.O'Brien, A.Jeffrey, J.Mulvihill, E.Lewis, R.Tubman (c), A.Foote, W.Thomas, J.Mann, G.Evans, F.Lewis.
Toombul: E.Skinner, F.Poepell, R.Oxenham, G.Paul, E.Bertwhistle, H.Powell, P.Massey, C.Holzberger, F.McComb (c), T.King, W.Walker, K.Dobson, K.Mackay.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

10 SEPTEMBER FINAL REPLAY BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Ipswich 17 (Jeffrey 3, Tubman, Morgan tries; Wilson goal) d. Toombul 2 (E.Bertwhistle goal).
Ipswich: T.Morgan, G.Morgan, C.Brown, A.O'Brien, A.Jeffrey, D.Wilson, E.Lewis, R.Tubman (c), A.Foote, W.Thomas, G.Richmond, G.Evans, F.Lewis.
Toombul: E.Skinner, F.Poepell, R.Oxenham, G.Schneider, E.Bertwhistle, H.Powell, P.Massey, K.Mackay, K.Dobson, W.Walker, J.Andrews, F.McComb (c), C. Holzberger.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

1911

BRL: VALLEY-TOOMBUL

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valley-Toombul	9	6	1	2	158	96	13
Ipswich B	9	6	1	2	123	48	13
South Brisbane	8	5	0	3	73	74	10
Ipswich A	8	2	0	6	43	80	6
North Brisbane	7	3	0	4	103	66	6
South Brisbane Utd	7	0	0	7	35	170	0

BRL Semi-Finals - Valley-Toombul 10 v South Brisbane 8 & Ipswich B won by forfeit of Ipswich A

RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Semi-Final of Second Round.

One of the semi-final matches of the second round of the League competition was played on the Brisbane Cricket ground on Saturday. The competing teams were Valley-Toombul and South Brisbane. The match attracted considerable interest, and the supporters of each side were most enthusiastic. The final scores were Valley, 10 points; Souths, 8.

The following were the teams: Valley-Toombul—Back, G. Duffin; three-quarters, G. Mortimer, G. Hooker, R. Oxenham, H. Parsons; five-eighth, D. Hazleton; half, P. Massey; forwards, A. Sorgeson, A. Fullerton, A. Dutton, R. M'Kay, F. M'Comb, and C. Holzberger. Souths—Back, W. Leishman; three-quarters, G. Roussell, Trueman, Gerrard, and Buckley; five-eighth, A. Dreverson; half, Bannerman; forwards, V. Anderson, White, Schotz, J. Dreverson, Shylock, and W. Jones. Souths were playing two emergencies. Mr. Sauers was referee.

There was a strong wind blowing down the field from the Stanley street end, and Valley-Toombul, who won the toss, took advantage of it for the first half. It was an exciting game. Now, one side would attack strongly, and now another. Five minutes after the kick off Souths got up to the Valleys' 25 line, and after a little pause the ball went out to Trueman, in the three-quarter line, who dodged Duffin, and ran in. V. Anderson took the goal kick, but failed in the face of a tricky wind. Souths, 3; Valley, 0. For some time play was confined to the centre. Then Valleys got a move on and pressed round the Souths' line. Nothing came of the venture, however, and a few minutes later the tables were reversed, and Souths were once more attacking. A free kick to Valleys relieved the pressure, and the next excitement was a try for Valleys by Hooker. Duffin failed with the kick, and the scores were now equal. Duffin ran round two minutes later, but it was no try. Valleys were not to be gainsaid, however, for M'Comb got a mark before play had proceeded much farther, and Hooker kicked a pretty goal. The scores were now 5—3, in Valleys' favour. Just before half-time Trueman went off the field hurt. Before the second half had been in progress long, a free was given to Valleys, right in front of Souths' line, and Hooker landed a goal. Valleys, 7; Souths, 3. A somewhat fluky try for Souths followed. Buckley, on the right wing, kicked across the field, and the ball bounced over the Valley line. Roussell ran up on the left wing, and fell on it, scoring a try. There were no Valley men near enough to save. Gerrard crowned the effort with a good goal, making Souths 8 points to Valleys' 7. A few minutes later Valleys scored again, Hooker getting down from a line scramble. There was no goal, and it left Valleys 10 points, while Souths' score was 8. Parsons got a chance to score for Valleys a few minutes later. He had the ball, and there was no one in front of him, but he pulled up, and looked for someone to pass to instead of running right in. Before the end of the game, he had exactly a similar chance, and did the same thing. There was no further score.

IPSWICH A. V. IPSWICH B.

Ipswich A were to have met Ipswich B in the Queensland Rugby League's fixtures on No. 1 ground, but the A team were unable to get out a team. The B's, however, turned out, and played a scratch match with a team composed of Belvideres and a few A's.

1911

BRL Final - Valley-Toombul 13 v Ipswich B 0

VALLEY-TOOMBUL V. IPSWICH B.

On the Woolloongabba cricket-ground, South Brisbane, Ipswich B met Valley-Toombul in the final match of the second round of the Queensland Rugby League's fixtures. The teams took the field as follows :—

Valley-Toombul : Full-back, G. Duffin ; three-quarters, G. Mortimer, G. Hooker, R. Oxenham, and H. "Parsons ;" five-eighth, D. Hazelton ; half-back, P. Massey ; forwards, A. Sergison, A. Fullerton, A. Dutton, K. M'Kay, F. M'Comb, and C. Holzberger.

Ipswich B : Full-back, H. Biddle ; three-quarters, J. Wilson, J. Patrick, W. Beavis, and J. Birkett ; five-eighth, J. Townsend ; half-back, I. Watson ; forwards, W. Richmond, R. Parcells, D. Jeffrey, J. Crampradt, and C Scott.

Owing to various causes, Beavis and Birkett, of the Starlights B, and Townsend, of the Blackstone team, had to be drafted into the B's back division. An hour's heavy rain did not by any means improve the ground, for, when Valley-Toombul kicked off at 3.30 p.m., it was in a thoroughly soaked and soft condition, with pools of water here and there. So slippery was the ball and so treacherous the ground that back play was entirely out of the question, and the first half resolved itself into a forward scramble, in which the light Ipswich pack held its own surprisingly well. The soaked and mud-bespattered players worked with a will along most unorthodox lines, providing fun and plenty for the onlookers, by their scrambles and slips in the mud and splashes in the pools. Half-time came without any score.

After holding their opponents so well in the first half, the Ipswich B supporters were very hopeful of the outcome of the second spell, as the ground had dried considerably, and was much faster than at first. The Ipswich lads opened promisingly, and all but got across as a result of a nice passing effort a few minutes after the recommencement. A series of well-judged punts gained Valley-Toombul ground until Duffin (who had exchanged places with Oxenham) took the ball from Massey behind the scrum, and dropped a clever field goal from in front of the posts. Adopting the passing methods which have made them so formidable a combination, the Valleys pressed home several hard attacks, and at length overcame the opposition, Duffin getting across and goaling as a result of a three-quarter rush. With the score 7 to nil against them, the B's battled bravely, but their every effort seemed to fail just at the critical moment - by bad luck rather than anything else. A further addition to the Valley-Toombuls' score was brought about by Fullerton dribbling over from a scrum, and scoring a try, which Hooker just failed to convert, the ball striking the upright and rebounding. The game was now opening out, and the football was becoming more interesting. Further good passing amongst the Valleys enabled Mortimer to get across and score another unconverted try, and no-side came with the score 13 points to nil in favour of Valley-Toombul.

The winners fielded and kicked the slippery ball much better than the B's, and this, together, with their more accurate passing and Hooker's generalship, won them the game. Next Saturday the B's will have the privilege of playing off with Valley-Toombul their tie in the first round, and, should they win, they will play Valley-Toombul for the premiership, probably in Ipswich on the following Saturday. Mr. W. Sawers referred the game—a very friendly one—very successfully, and to the satisfaction of all parties.

1911

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEY-TOOMBUL 13 v IPSWICH B 2

League Football.

METROPOLITAN PREMIERSHIP.

WON BY VALLEY-TOOMBUL.

The football season was brought to a close in Ipswich and Brisbane. With the object of benefiting the Ipswich General Hospital and the Ipswich Ambulance Brigade, the Ipswich Rugby League arranged a contest on the North Ipswich Cricket Reserve between teams of B-grade players representing the footballers of the north and south sides of the river. The public did not respond as liberally as was anticipated, the attendance and the receipts being small. In Brisbane the Valley-Toombul team won the metropolitan premiership by 13 points to 2, after a keen struggle in which the Ipswich players acquitted themselves well.

VALLEY-TOOMBUL V. IPSWICH B.

Much interest centred in the meeting of the Valley-Toombul and Ipswich B teams on the Woolloongabba cricket ground, Brisbane. The Valley-Toombul Club were the runners-up when the Ipswich team won the premiership last year, and this season the club has performed very consistently. The Ipswich B team, on the other hand, sprang into existence after the commencement of the season, the majority of its members being junior players. Although a remarkably light and youthful combination it quickly gained a reputation for itself and upheld the honour of the city in the football field when misfortune overtook the senior Ipswich combination, Ipswich A. Quite a crowd of residents travelled with the team on Saturday to "barrack" for the local players. The respective teams were :—

Valley-Toombul (navy blue) : Fullback, R. Oxenham ; three-quarters, G. Mortimer, G. Hooker, G. Duffin, and H. Powell ; five-eighth, D. Hazelton ; half-back, P. Massey ; forwards, A. Sergison, A. Fullerton, A. Dutton, K. M'Kay, F. M'Comb, and C. Holzberger.

Ipswich B (maroon and white) : Full-back, H. Biddle ; three-quarters, J. Wilson, J. Patrick, R. Munro, and W. Beavis ; five-eighth, J. Winning ; half-back, I. Watson ; forwards, W. Richmond, B. Byrne, R. Parcell, D. Jeffrey, J. Compratt, and C. Scott.

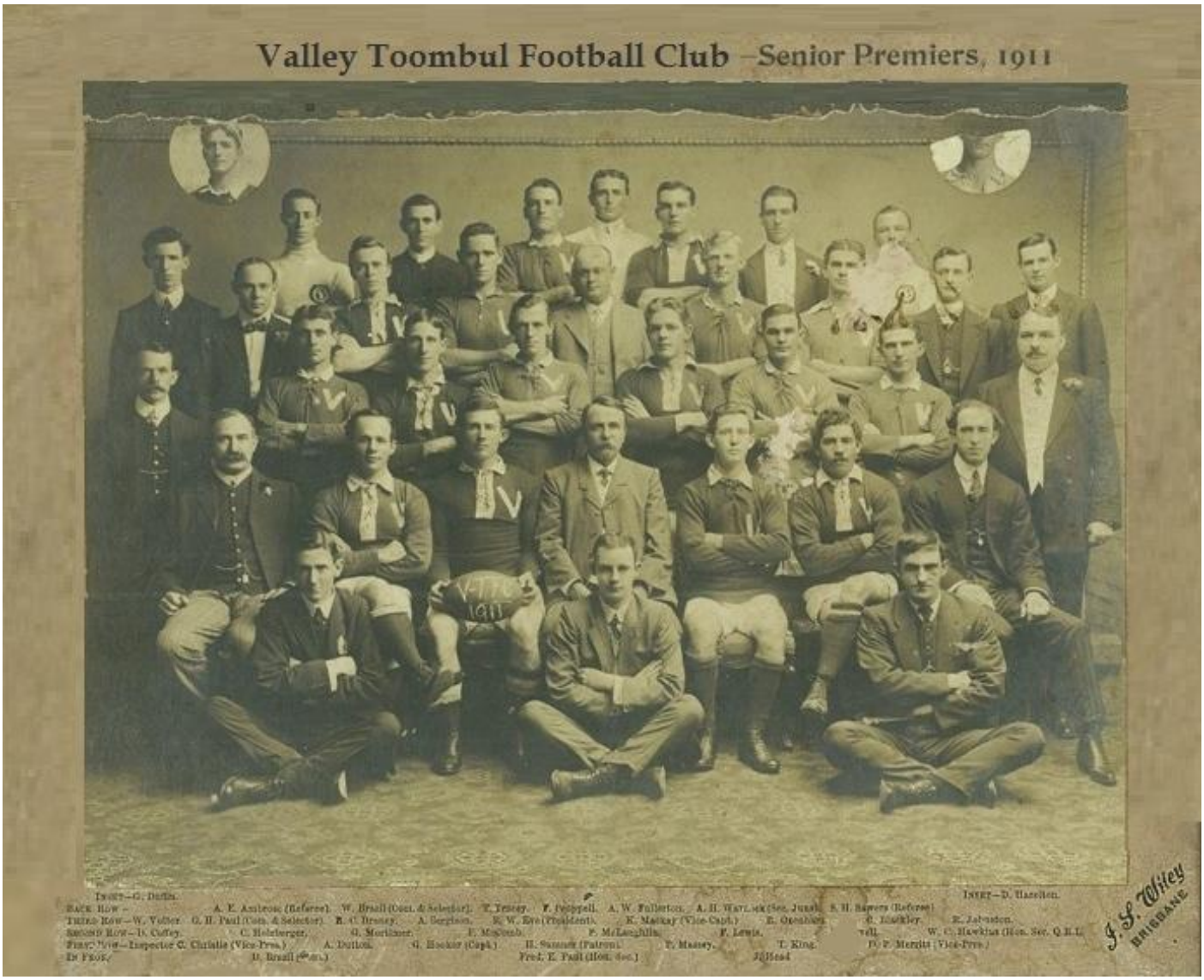
Hooker won the toss from Watson, and the B's kicked off towards the Five-Ways with the sun in their eyes and a light breeze behind them. The Valleys rushed play unpleasantly close to the B's line in the first few minutes, but the B's cleared and assumed the aggressive. A minute or so later Wilson galloped for the line, beating several opponents, and sending out to Scott, who fell over the line, with Hooker clinging to him. The referee disallowed the try, but a few minutes later Winning opened the B's scoring account by kicking a goal from a mark. Thus encouraged the Ipswich lads made the pace a cracker. The Valleys were kept continually in a state of suspense by the frequent dashes, and time after time they gladly accepted the relief offered by saving the ball. Time after time the B's lost splendid chances of scoring by holding on to the ball too long, and at least three certain tries were lost owing to this cause. The Valleys gladly welcomed the end of a fast and strenuous first half, of which they undoubtedly had the worst.

The Ipswich supporters were jubilant and confident of success when the teams lined out for the second half. A bad return by the B's gave the Valleys an opportunity not more than a minute from the start, and a clever bit of play, in which Massey chiefly figured, resulted in Powell's diving over at the corner. Valley-Toombul, 3 ; Ipswich B, 2. Good even play followed. The Valleys played with greater dash than in the first half. Their backs opened up the game better, and, as they almost always got the ball from the scrum, they kept the B's steadily on the defense. Half way through the spell, a well-executed passing rush by the Valley backs resulted in Powell again scoring. This time Hooker converted, making the scores—Valley-Toombul, 8 ; Ipswich, B, 2. Following this, a scramble on the line resulted in Sergison being awarded a try, which several of the B's disputed, but the result was an addition of three points to the Valley-Toombul score. Some rough play followed this incident, but the game quickly returned to the friendly contest that it had previously been. Just before full-time Hooker kicked a goal from a mark, making the score—Valley-Toombul, 13 ; Ipswich, 2.

Mr. T. Sauers had charge of the game. The Ipswich B team propose journeying to Burrum for a game next Saturday.

1911

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEY-TOOMBUL 13 v IPSWICH B 2



RESULTS

16 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Valley-Toombul 10 (Hooker 2 tries; Hooker 2 goals) d. South Brisbane 8 (Rousell, Trueman tries; Gerrard goal).

Valley-Toombul: G.Duffin, G.Mortimer, G.Hooker (c), R.Oxenham, H.Parsons, D.Hazleton, P.Massey, C.Holzberger, F.McComb, K.Mackay, A.Dutton, A.Fullerton, A.Sergeson.

South Brisbane: W.Leishman, G.Rousell, S.Trueman, T.Gerrard, E.Buckley, A.Dreverson, W.White, A.Jones, J.Shylock, J.Dreverson, V.Anderson, A.Schatz.

Referee: T.Sauers.

Ipswich B won other semi-final due to forfeit by Ipswich A

23 SEPTEMBER FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Valley-Toombul 13 (Duffin, Fullerton, Mortimer tries; Hooker 2 goals) d. Ipswich B 0

Valley-Toombul: G.Duffin, G.Mortimer, G.Hooker (c), R.Oxenham, H.Parsons, D.Hazleton, P.Massey, C.Holzberger, F.McComb, K.Mackay, A.Dutton, A.Fullerton, A.Sergeson.

Ipswich B: H.Biddle, J.Wilson, J.Patrick, B. Beavis, J.Birkett, J.Townsend, I.Watson (c), B.Richmond, R.Parcell, D.Jeffrey, J.Campradt, B.Byrne, C.Scott.

Referee: W.Sawers.

30 SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Valley-Toombul 13 (Powell 2, Sergeson tries; Hooker 2 goals) d. Ipswich B 2 (Winning goal).

Valley-Toombul: R.Oxenham, G.Mortimer, G.Hooker (c), G.Duffin, H.Powell, D.Hazleton, P.Massey, A.Sergeson, A.Fullerton, A.Dutton, K.Mackay, F.McComb, C.Holzberger.

Ipswich B: H.Biddle, J.Wilson, J.Patrick, J.Winning, B.Beavis, I.Watson (c), R.Munro, B.Richmond, B.Byrne, R.Parcell, D.Jeffrey, J.Campradt, C.Scott.

Referee: T.Sauers.

1912

BRL: NATIVES

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Points
Natives	18
South Brisbane	12
Valley-Toombul	12
Kurilpa	6
Woolloongabba	4

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

BRL Final - South Brisbane 15 v Natives 10

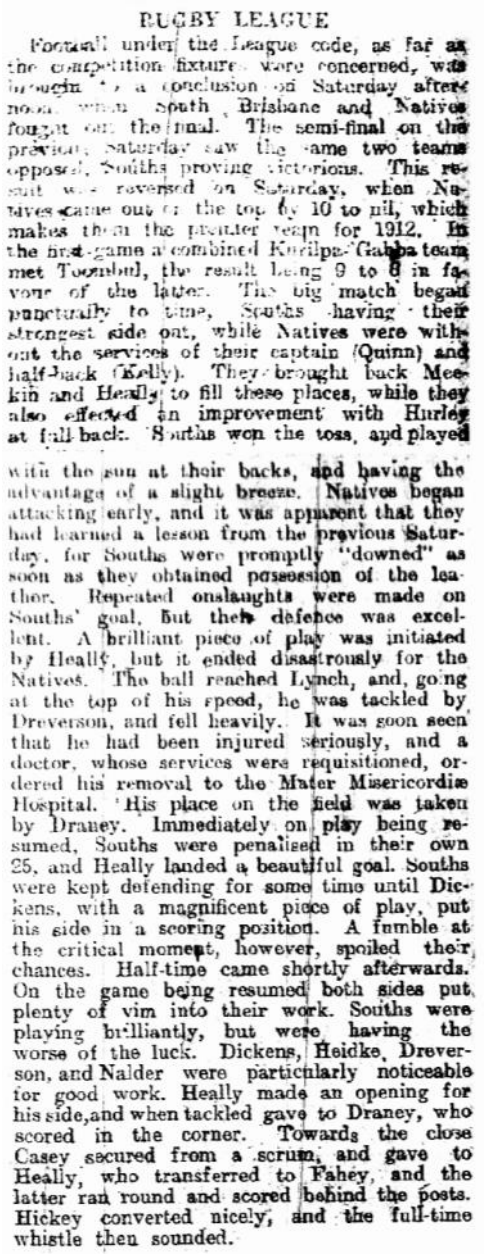
RUGBY LEAGUE

Considerable interest attached to the Rugby League competitions in view of the closeness of the two leading teams, and the fact that should the Natives be downed, a further match would have to be played to decide who should be premiers. The number of spectators, however, was disappointing, though the football provided was first-class. The first game was between Toombul and 'Gabba Both sides were short of men the former commencing with nine players, while 'Gabba had only 12. Notwithstanding the greater numbers, Toombul administered a severe drubbing, the final scores being 19 to 3 in their favour.

The chief interest was centred in the second game, when Natives were opposed by South Brisbane. These teams have met twice previously, and Natives have emerged victorious on each occasion; in fact, the latter had not suffered a defeat throughout the whole season. After an exciting game South Brisbane won by 15 points to 10.

1912

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - NATIVES 10 v SOUTH BRISBANE 0



RUGBY LEAGUE

Football under the League code, as far as the competition fixtures were concerned, was brought to a conclusion on Saturday afternoon when South Brisbane and Natives fought out the final. The semi-final on the previous Saturday saw the same two teams opposed, Souths proving victorious. This result was reversed on Saturday, when Natives came out on the top by 10 to nil, which makes them the premier team for 1912. In the first game a combined Kurilpa-Gabba team met Toombul, the result being 9 to 8 in favour of the latter. The big match began punctually to time, Souths having their strongest side out, while Natives were without the services of their captain (Quinn) and half-back (Kelly). They brought back Meekin and Healy to fill these places, while they also effected an improvement with Hurley at full back. Souths won the toss, and played with the sun at their backs, and having the advantage of a slight breeze. Natives began attacking early, and it was apparent that they had learned a lesson from the previous Saturday, for Souths were promptly "downed" as soon as they obtained possession of the leather. Repeated onslaughts were made on Souths' goal, but their defence was excellent. A brilliant piece of play was initiated by Healy, but it ended disastrously for the Natives. The ball reached Lynch, and, going at the top of his speed, he was tackled by Dreverson, and fell heavily. It was soon seen that he had been injured seriously, and a doctor, whose services were requisitioned, ordered his removal to the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital. His place on the field was taken by Draney. Immediately on play being resumed, Souths were penalised in their own 25, and Healy landed a beautiful goal. Souths were kept defending for some time until Dickens, with a magnificent piece of play, put his side in a scoring position. A fumble at the critical moment, however, spoiled their chances. Half-time came shortly afterwards. On the game being resumed both sides put plenty of vim into their work. Souths were playing brilliantly, but were having the worse of the luck. Dickens, Heidke, Dreverson, and Nalder were particularly noticeable for good work. Healy made an opening for his side, and when tackled gave to Draney, who scored in the corner. Towards the close Casey secured from a scrum, and gave to Healy, who transferred to Fahey, and the latter ran round and scored behind the posts. Hickey converted nicely, and the full-time whistle then sounded.

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

RESULTS

10 AUGUST FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

South Brisbane 15 (Davidson 2, Heidke tries; Davidson three goals) d. Natives 11 (Healy, Hickey, Lynch tries. Lynch goal).
South Brisbane: T.Garrard, G.Rousell, S.Trueman, A Dreverson (c), R.Davidson, H.Heidke, H.Dickens, A.Schatz, B.Nalder, J.Haylock, A.Jones, Lewis, T.Keenan.
Natives: F.Hansen, T.Scott, W.Lynch (c), D.Hickey, P.Walsh, E.Casey, J.Kelly, J.Murtagh, J.Horan, T.Meekin, E.Meekin, T.Healy, P.Fahey. Reserve: J.Draney.
Referee: Jack Roche.

17 AUGUST CHALLENGE FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Natives 10 (Draney, Fahey tries; Healy, Hickey goals) d. South Brisbane 0.
Natives: W.Hurley, D.Hickey, P.Fahey, W.Lynch (c), T.Meekin, T.Healy, E.Casey, E.Meekin, D.Harvey, J.Horan, P.Dwyer, J.Murtagh, A.Mullins.
Reserve: J.Draney.
South Brisbane: T.Garrard, G.Rousell, S.Trueman, A Dreverson (c), R.Davidson, H.Heidke, H.Dickens, A.Schatz, B.Nalder, J.Haylock, A.Jones, Lewis, T.Keenan.
Referee: Jack Roche.

1913

BRL: WEST END

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West End	10	7	0	3	98	71	14
Natives	10	5	0	5	96	74	10
South Brisbane	10	5	0	5	88	88	10
Railways	10	3	0	7	75	124	6

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

BRL GRAND FINAL - WEST END 5 v NATIVES 2

THE LEAGUE GAME.

WEST END WINS THE PREMIERSHIP

The League premiership fixtures were continued on Saturday afternoon at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, when West End beat Natives, and secured the premiership.

NATIVES v. WEST END.

The teams were:—West End (All Black).—Full back, J. Murphy; three-quarters, T. Freese, E. Rose, J. Sargood, R. Young; five-eighth, C. Wilson (capt.); half back, J. Hyland; forwards, V. Bunting, A. Hoolahan, D. Harrower, E. Howard, T. Callaghan, T. Dean.

Natives (Red and Green).—Full back, J. Ellis; three-quarters, L. Barnes, G. Cavanagh, W. Lynch, T. Healy; five-eighth, R. Hickey; half back, E. Casey; forwards, T. Kruck, E. Barnes, P. Dwyer, F. Downie, D. Harvey, A. Mullins.

Referee, Mr. C. Turner.

Natives kicked off, and the game was fast from the outset. Hoolahan broke through a ruck, but failed to play the ball, and Downey kicked a fine goal from the free kick. Natives 2 to nil. Sargood passed to Freese, to Hyland, who kicked. Murphy took the return, and made a fine run before passing to Young, who was forced out by three men when within an ace of scoring. Both teams pressed in turn, and much excitement prevailed. Half time came with the scores unaltered.

Natives attacked on resuming, and P. Dwyer figured in a fine piece of dribbling. Barnes came out of a ruck, and kicked. Cavanagh followed and kicked past Murphy, and Natives were almost in. A unanimous appeal for a free from Wests saw Natives penalised, and Sargood found the line on the other side of half way. Hyland beat a number of men and sent to Young, who jumped over Ellis's hands, but was brought down. Then the position was changed entirely. Lynch broke away, and a score seemed imminent. Lynch sent to Healy, who was stopped by Freese, and Harrower, snapping up, sent a long kick up field, and saved his side from what looked a certain try. Wests attacked, and took play into Natives' "25," but were soon repulsed. Dwyer and Harvey dribbled over the line, but Young kicked out of touch, and saved his side. Rose bustled past Healy and Lynch, and was within a yard of the line when he was brought down. In the ensuing scramble he secured, and crossed the line. Sargood goaled. Wests, 5 to 2. Rose attempted to goal from a mark, and, the line umpires disagreeing, Referee Turner ruled no goal. Healy broke through and got to within a few feet of the line when he was grassed. He threw the ball out, and a Natives' man, picking up, sent to R. Hickey, who went across, but the referee brought them back to a five yards scrum. A long, hard struggle ensued on Wests' line, but the Westerners eventually forced them back. Natives again attacked, and Casey sent to Lynch, to Cavanagh, who was thrown out on the corner flag. Howard broke away, and sent to Young, who kicked. A great race ensued between Hickey, Barnes, and Wilson, and though all arrived simultaneously, Barnes touched down and saved. Full time sounded a moment later, and West End had won the match and premiership by 5 to 2.

1913

BRL GRAND FINAL - WEST END 5 v NATIVES 2



NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

RESULTS

13 SEPTEMBER FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

West End 5 (Rose try; Sargood goal)
d. Natives 2 (Downey goal).
West End: J.Murphy, T.Freese, E.Rose,
J.Sargood, R.Young, C.Wilson (c),
J.Hyland, V.Bunting. A.Hoolahan,
D.Harrower, E.Howard, T.Callaghan, T.Dean.
Natives: L.Ellis, E.Barnes, G.Cavanagh,
W.Lynch, T.Heally, R.Hickey, E.Casey,
T.Kruck, S.Barnes, P.Dwyer, F.Downey,
D.Harvey, A.Mullins.
Referee: C.Turner.

1914

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	10	7	1	2	134	41	15
South Brisbane	10	6	0	4	101	80	12
Toowong	10	6	0	4	138	81	12
West End	10	5	1	4	71	92	11
Wynnum	10	4	0	6	51	115	8
North Brisbane	10	1	0	9	35	78	2

BRL Semi-Finals - Valleys 21 v Toowong 0 & West End 9 v South Brisbane 5

RUGBY LEAGUE.

SATURDAY'S SEMI-FINALS.

The semi-finals of the senior Rugby League competition were decided at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday afternoon, before a moderate attendance.

In the first match, the Valley team secured a comparatively easy win from Toowong by 21 points to nil. In the first half the Valleys completely outclassed the opposition, scoring the whole of the 21 points. Woods (2), Dismack, Love, and Friedrichs scored tries, three of which Friedrichs converted. The second half was much more evenly contested, neither side scoring.

The second game resulted in a narrow win by West End of 9 points to 5 from South Brisbane. This match was infinitely more interesting than the first, and kept the spectators in almost continuous excitement. For Wests, Nalder scored a try and Davidson kicked three goals. M'Cuchy scored a try, which Waterman converted, for the Souths.

1914

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v WEST END 8

RUGBY LEAGUE.

VALLEY SENIOR PREMIERS.

The premiership matches of the Queensland Rugby League were played on the Exhibition Ground on Saturday, and drew a big gate, being a record for a club match. In the junior division Norths proved their superiority over Fairfield by defeating them by 11 points to 2.

The principal match of the afternoon, and the one in which the greatest amount of interest centred, was that in which Valleys met West End. The latter were premiers last season, and they had great hopes of repeating their success under a different arrangement of clubs. This is the first season in which the electorate system has been tried, and it can be said with justification that the team which carried West End to premiership honours in 1913 was about the least affected by the change. They, therefore, had an advantage over those teams which required fresh formation, inasmuch as they already had that combination into which the latter had to play themselves. The season has been a remarkably successful one, and the closeness of the majority of games has been sufficient to warrant a continuance of the competition on the lines at present laid down. Interest has been sustained right up to the final match, and even when the teams took the field on Saturday, so evenly matched were they that it was difficult to say which would win. At half-time the scores were level, and this equality was maintained for a considerable time. Wests then appeared to feel the strain which a fast game inevitably makes, and immediately they showed signs of flagging in their defence the opposition was through them in a trice, and secured a useful lead. Wests however, were game right up to the end, and made repeated assaults on Valley's citidal, but it was too jealously guarded, and they were thrown back, and compelled to give ground before the sturdy rushes of their opponents' vanguard. By means of brilliant attacking Valleys added three tries in the second half, one being converted. They also scored a field goal, bringing their total to 18, while West End remained stationary. Just on time, however, the latter by splendid combination, worked the game down to their opponents' [illegible] and putting every ounce of weight into a last effort were rewarded by getting across. The final score was: Valley 18; West End, 8.

RESULTS

12 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Fortitude Valley 21 (Fredericks 2, Woods, Love, Pashen tries; Fredericks 3 goals) d. Toowong 0.
Fortitude Valley: C.Fredericks, L.Love (c), L.Demack, W.Grieves, E.Howard, H.Luke, L.Mackay, P.Fahey, K.Mackay, F.McComb, R.Thorpe, H.Pashen, L.Woods.
Toowong: T.McGrath, D.Hickey, R.Hickey, W.Dunne, J.Tuckett, C.Burnett, F.Cumberland, C.Mellors, F.Downie, C.Meekin, J.Horan, J.Murtagh, C.Holzberger (c).
Referee: Jack Roche. ***Crowd: 500.***

12 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

West End 9 (Harrower try; Davidson 3 goals) d. South Brisbane 5 (Copeland try; Waterman goal).
West End: C.Wilson (c), W.Coates, E.Benbow, J.Morton, T.Healy, R.Davidson, H.Betts, D.Harrower, B.Nalder, H.Bates, T.Dean, R.Hollingsworth, L.Bliss.
South Brisbane: G.Hunter, G.Rousell, J.Rousell, L.Waterman, C.Copeland, J.Holborrow, C.Thompson, D.Buckley, A.Hoolahan, R.Thompson, G.Seabrook, M.Minogue, J.McCarthy.
Referee: W.Jones. ***Crowd: 500.***

19 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Fortitude Valley 18 (Love, Howard, McComb, Grieves tries; Fredericks 2 goals, Demack field goal) d. West End 8 (Coates, Dean tries; Davidson goal).
Valley: C.Fredericks, L.Love (c), L.Demack, W.Grieves, E.Howard, H.Luke, L.McKay, P.Fahey, K.Mackay, L.R.Woods, F.McComb, R.Thorpe, H.Pashen.
West End: R.Robb, W.Coates, C.Wilson (c), E.Benbow, T.Healy, H.Betts, R.Davidson, D.Harrower, H.Bates, B.Nalder, J.Morton, T.Dean, C.Malbax. Reserve: J.Carlin.
Referee: W.Jones. ***Crowd: 2000.***

1915

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Woolloongabba	8	5	2	1	11
Fortitude Valley	8	4	1	3	11
Bulimba	8	4	3	1	9
Western Suburbs	8	4	3	1	9
West End	8	0	8	0	0

BRL Semi-Finals - Bulimba 14 v Woolloongabba 3 & Wests 14 v Valleys 4

LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS.

The matches played at Davies Park, West End, on Saturday, were semi-finals in the Queensland Rugby League competition. The first game was between Bulimba and Woolloongabba, and was fast from the start. Love scored a try (which he successfully converted), and Hansen also scored a try for Bulimba, whilst Minogue managed to get an unconverted try for 'Gabba just before half time, making the scores: Bulimba 8, Woolloongabba 3. In the second half Demack and Atkins scored for Bulimba, leaving the final scores: Bulimba 14, Woolloongabba 3. Mr. C. Westbrook was referee

The second match was between Western Suburbs and Valley. The teams were: Suburbs—Full back, T. M'Lauchlan; three-quarters, D. Hickey, R. Hickey, C. Horder, H. M'Cabe; halves, C. Casey, F. Cumberland; forwards, Mellors, Patter, T. Callaghan, J. Quinlan, W. Dunn, C. Meekin.

Valley.—Full back, W. Quinn; three-quarters, W Jenner, Morris, J. Greaves, E. Housemann; halves, C. Fredericks, Jacques, Marchant; forwards, K. M'Kay, R. Thorpe, E. M'Grath, F. M'Combe, T. Quinn. Mr. A. E. Ambrose was referee.

Suburbs kicked off. Horder picked up from the ruck in midfield, and putting in a fine run through the opposing team touched down in a good position, and converted. Western Suburbs, 5; Valley, nil. Almost immediately on resuming C. Casey picked up in the centre, and sent to R. Hickey, to Horder, to M'Cabe, back to C. Casey, who scored. Horder failed to convert. Western Suburbs, 8; Valley, nil. Play had only been resumed for about five minutes when an altercation arose, and the crowd rushed the ground. It appeared that D. Hickey was alleged to have been struck by one of his opponents, and for some time it looked as if the game would have to be abandoned. The cool behaviour of the referee, and the commendable sportsmanship of both teams, however, averted disaster, and the game was resumed. Shortly after the resumption, W. Quinn left the field, and his place was taken by S. Noble. Soon after the half-time whistle went.

Less than a minute after resuming, R. Hickey took charge, and ran down the centre, sending to D. Hickey, to Horder, who feinted cleverly and scored. R. Hickey failed to convert. Western Suburbs 11, Valley nil. Valley was awarded a free in front of the Suburbs' goal, and C. Fredericks scored. Western Suburbs 11, Valley 2. Shortly after this, there was some rough play on the line, and as a result two players were sent off by the referee. From this time on the play was of a rough nature. Valley was awarded a free, from which Fredericks kicked a goal. Western Suburbs 11, Valley 4. From fast play, the ball was sent to M'Cabe, who scored in the corner, Casey failed to add the other points. Suburbs 14, Valley 4. These were the final scores.

1915

BRL Final - Wests 13 v Bulimba 7

THE LEAGUE GAME.

Western Suburbs v. Bulimba.

The final of the Queensland Rugby League's competition was fought out at the Exhibition Oval on Saturday, when Western Suburbs and Bulimba met, before a large number of enthusiasts. The teams were:—

Western Suburbs :—Full back, T. J. M'Lauchlan ; three-quarters, V. Casey, R. Hickey, C. Horder, H. V. M'Cabe; halves, C. Casey, F. Cumberland; forwards, T. Callaghan, C. Meekin, W. Dunn, J. Quinlan, N. Potter, C. Mellors.

Bulimba :—Full back, P. Gleeson; three-quarters, E. Howard, L. Love, L. Demack, A. Hansen; halves, H. Sparks, J. Tate; forwards, R. Atkins, L. Woods, B. Nalder, A. Johnston, C. C. Ross, H. Stevens.

Mr. A. E. Ambrose was referee.

Suburbs kicked off, and Stevens secured and ran, but was grassed, the ball going out. There was fast, close play in the centre, and Horder secured and sent to centre, and up and down the field, there being fine combined, as well as individual, effort, by the players of both teams. From a scrum in the centre a series of passes ensued, and M'Cabe took over the ball and put in a magnificent run round the wing, completely beating his opponents and grounding between the posts. Horder converted. Western Suburbs, 5; Bulimba, nil. From play at half way Ross managed to rush to the line, but was tackled by Casey, and the try was lost. From the ensuing scrum Ross managed to get over and touch down. Love converted. Western Suburbs, 5; Bulimba, 5. From a scramble on the Suburbs line C. Casey got hold and passed out to Horder, and the ball went from hand to hand up the field, effectually relieving the situation. In the Bulimba half Atkins secured and passed to Demack, to Hansen, who crossed, but Dunn effected a save. Soon after the half-time whistle blew.

In the second half J. M'Grath took the place of T. M'Lauchlan, and T. Eustace went on instead of H. Stevens.

Soon after the kick off Suburbs pressed right up to the line, and the ball went over, but was saved by Atkins. Very fast up and down play followed, both sides striving desperately to score. Finally Cumberland secured from play in midfield, and sent to Casey, to Hickey, to Horder, to M'Cabe, who pushed through and scored. Horder converted. Western Suburbs, 10; Bulimba, 5. Almost immediately on resuming Dunn picked up in the ruck and ran through. Horder failed with the kick. Western Suburbs, 13; Bulimba, 5. From now on the play was fast and furious, the only other score being a goal from a free by Love, making the final totals : Western Suburbs, 13; Bulimba, 7. Suburbs are now virtually the victors of the season, but Valley may challenge, though it is considered doubtful whether the result would be altered.

1915

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 10 v WESTS 9

FOOTBALL.

THE LEAGUE GAME.

The last competition match of the Queensland Rugby League's season was played at the Exhibition Oval on Saturday, when, in the presence of a large number of spectators, Valley, having the right to challenge, contested for the premiership with Western Suburbs. Before the match a goal-kicking competition took place, the prize being a gold medal, donated by Messrs. C. G. Irish and Co., and it was won by C. Fredericks (Valley) after a hard contest, a stiff wind adding much to the difficulty of crossing the bar.

The teams were :—

Valley.—Full back, A. Corbett; three-quarters, J. Jenner, C. Fredericks, C. Noble, W. Greaves ; halves, J. Marchant, G. Jacques; forwards, R. Thorpe, K. M'Kay, E. M'Grath, T. Quinn, P. Fahey, R. Jeffcoat.

Western Suburbs.—Full back, J. M'Grath; three-quarters, D. Hickey, R. Hickey, C. Horder, H. J. M'Cabe; halves, C. Casey, F. Cumberland; forwards, W. Dunn, C. Meekin, C. M'Donald, D. Harvey, C. Mellors, V. Potter.

Mr. A. E. Ambrose was referee.

Western Suburbs kicked off, and forced hard. R Hickey secured in the ruck, and sent to Horder, to M'Cabe, but the latter was forced out. Hard up and down play followed, and then R. Hickey secured, and sent to D. Hickey, and the ball went from hand to hand in the ruck, eventually being carried back into the Suburbs' country after a minute of scrambling play. From a scrum Cumberland secured, and sent out to Casey, to Horder, who was forced out. Marchant kicked hard and followed up, and a score seemed imminent, but M'Grath effected a save. Soon after Valley were awarded a free near the three-quarter line, and C. Fredericks goaled nicely. Valley, 2; Western Suburbs, nil. On resuming M'Grath secured and ran, sending to Quinn, but Cumberland intercepted. Valley forced hard, and forced the leather into the Suburbs' corner, where Fredericks managed to edge the ball over. He failed to convert. Valley, 5; Western Suburbs, nil. This was the half-time score.

On resuming fast and loose play resulted in Suburbs working the ball into the Valley stretch. From the ruck in midfield the ball went to Reg. Hickey, who succeeded in scoring in the corner. Horder failed to convert. Valley, 5; Western Suburbs, 3. Soon after Mellors secured from a pass, and got over. Horder made an unsuccessful kick. Western Suburbs, 6: Valley, 5. Hard play ensued, and after some time Horder got hold in the centre, and put in a fine run along the line, scoring in the corner. He failed to convert. Western Suburbs, 9; Valley, 5. With only a few minutes to play, the Valley men forced hard, and in a scramble at the line M'Grath kicked the ball over and fell on it. Fredericks converted, wild cheering greeting the goal. Valley, 10; Western Suburbs, 9. No further score was made, and the Valley men were carried shoulder high from the field.

RESULTS

14 AUGUST FIRST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Bulimba 14 (Love, Hansen, Demack, Atkins tries; Love goal) d. Woolloongabba 3 (Minogue try).
Bulimba: R.Atkins, E.Howard, B.Love, C.Ross, A.Hansen, H.Sparks, J.Tate, N.Wilde, A.Ashman, B.Nalder, H.Stevens, N.Bromley, L.Woods. Reserve: L.Demack.
Woolloongabba: J.Rowe, G.Rousell, J.Holborrow, E.Flay, R.Thompson, D.Hazleton, C.Thompson, A.Hoolahan, A.Anderson, C.Johnson, M.Minogue, J. McCarthy, P.McCarthy.
Referee: C.Westbrook.

14 AUGUST SECOND SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Western Suburbs 14 (Horder 2, Casey, McCabe tries; Horder goal) d. Valley 4 (Fredericks 2 goals).
Western Suburbs: T.McLauchlan, D.Hickey, R.Hickey, C.Horder, H.McCabe, C.Casey, F.Cumberland (c), C.Mellors, N.Potter, T.Callaghan, Jack Quinlan, W.Dunne, C.Meekin.
Valleys: W.Quinn, J.Jenner, C.Morris, J.Greaves, E.Houseman, C.Fredericks, G.Jacques, J.Marchant, K.Mackay, R.Thorpe, E.McGrath, F.McComb (c), T.Quinn. Reserve: S.Noble.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

21 AUGUST FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Western Suburbs 13 (McCabe 2, Dunne tries; Horder 2 goals) d. Bulimba 7 (Ross try; Love 2 goals).
Wests: T.McLauchlan, V.Casey, R.Hickey, C.Horder, H.McCabe, C.Casey, F.Cumberland (c), T.Callaghan, C.Meekin, W.Dunne, J.Quinlan, N.Potter, C.Mellors. Reserve: J.McGrath.
Bulimba: P.Gleeson, E.Howard, L.Love, L.Demack, A.Hansen, H.Sparks, J.Tate, R.Atkins, L.Woods, B.Nalder, A.Johnston, CC.Ross, H.Stevens. Reserve: T.Eustace.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

4 SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Fortitude Valley 10 (Fredericks, McGrath tries; Fredericks 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 9 (R.Hickey, Horder, Mellors tries).
Valley: A.Corbett, J.Jenner, C.Fredericks, C.Noble, W.Greaves, J.Marchant, G.Jacques, R.Thorpe, K.Mackay, E.McGrath, T.Quinn, P.Fahey, R.Jeffcoat.
Wests: J.McGrath, D.Hickey, R.Hickey, C.Horder, H.McCabe, C.Casey, F.Cumberland (c), W.Dunn, C.Meekin, C.McDonald, D.Harvey, C.Mellors, N.Potter.
Referee: Albert Ambrose. ***Crowd: 2,000.***

1916

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	10	9	1	0	203	59	18
Fortitude Valley	10	8	2	0	146	45	16
West End (Ipswich)	10	4	5	1	67	96	9
Woolloongabba	10	1	5	4	47	96	6
Wattles	9	1	7	1	63	127	3
Ipswich Starlights	9	1	7	1	32	135	3

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

BRL Final - Valleys 13 v Wests 11

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY LEAGUE.

VALLEY WINS THE FINAL.

PHENOMENAL GOAL-KICKING BY S. HULL.

A well-contested and brilliant game resulted in the meeting of Western Suburbs and Valley for the final of the league competition on Saturday at the Cricket Ground. Apart from being one of the most brilliant expositions of rugby supplied during the season, some phenomenal goal-kicking was performed, S. Hull, the Valley full-back, doing the Messenger trick five times, some of his shots being remarkable. His foot won the game and gave Valley the privilege of playing off next Saturday for the premiership honors.

The preliminaries were marked by even play, the first conspicuous piece of football being provided by D. Hickey, who doubled round speedily, and feinting past the defenders by changing his course, whipped the leather to J. Macguire, who left-footed it nimbly, Jenner fielding the kick at top speed, and punting back quickly foiled a dangerous attacking manoeuvre. The forwards then took possession of the "saliente" and the game hustled in Valley territory. Several attempts to pierce the opposition defences were made by back passing rushes, but faulty handling nullified the movements. Good dashes by T. Sweeney (W.S.) and R. Atkins (Valley) were the features of a series of short pushing tactics, hereabouts, the game drifting towards the Valley line. From a scramble, Western Suburbs heeled to M. Scott, who wheeled promptly, and swinging round cleverly, gave to Cumberland, who evaded the tacklers and sent to Macquire, who drew the tacklers and gave to D. Hickey, hard pressed. The dashy winger was well crammed into the touch line at the corner, but swerving in sharply he slipped through the cordon and grounded for a fine try that was the culmination of a picturesque passing bout. Western Suburbs, 3 to nil. The well trained Suburbanites were beating the persistency of the attack, but they could not avoid the hawk-like eye of Mr. Roach, the referee, who picked out some mare or delusion in the ruck, and awarded Valley a free kick. Hull planted a fine goal, amidst loud applause. Western Suburbs 5, Valley 2. Western Suburbs showed what they thought of the referee's hastiness by blowing forward in fearsome hot-headedness, and swift-footedness. Their forwards swarmed along after the ball, and used the boot heavily. The result was a big gap in the other's ranks, and through this, Scott, a light player, who was playing brilliant tactical football, dashed and sent to Cumberland, who gave to Maguire, who sent to Hickey, who bounded over at the scarlet flag for a great try. Fredericks pushed the ball over for an equally great goal. Western Suburbs 8, Valley 2. Then the rain began to pour, and everybody except the "muddied" ones looked for shelter. "The Daily Mail" man crawled under the Press table, and in between the pattering of the drops on the copy paper, and the running of the ink, saw M'Grath burst through the drizzle for a fine dribble. He worked right through, booted past the last man, and, picking up, dashed over for a really superb effort. S. Hull maintained a wonderful consistency, and stabbed over the necessary points. This made 7—8, the point extra belonging to Western Suburbs. The game continued in the wet, to half time, when the scores read, Western Suburbs 11, Valley 9.

The first passage of attractive play after the interval was provided by D. Hickey, who fielded the greasy ball at top speed. A high punted ball taken from a tight position by a Suburbs player, went safely into the lap of waiting opponent, and Hull kicked a clinking goal from a difficult position, and brought the score of both sides level—11 all. Desperate thrusts by Valleys fore and aft resulted in Western Suburbs being compelled to save. The kick-off was marked near the half-way flag and with a tricky wind and a sodden ball, Hull piloted a wonderful goal (his fifth for the day), through the wetness, amidst a perfect furore. This placed Valleys two points ahead, the scores reading, Valley 13, Western Suburbs 11. The final whistle blew shortly afterwards, with both sides exhibiting great dash and cleverness.

It was a sterling game, clean, fast, and skilful, and of the type that will ensure success for the code and draw large crowds. The struggle was ably handled by Mr. J. Roach, who took a liberal view of the advantage rule, and avoided those little unnecessary interferences that so often give rugby the "cramps," and the onlookers the "blues."

1916

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - WESTS 4 v VALLEYS 2

RUGBY LEAGUE FINAL.

SUCCESS OF WESTERN SUBURBS.

On Saturday afternoon at the Fiveways sports ground Western Suburbs and Valley met to decide the ownership of the Barry Cup in the great League final football match of the season. The weather was against all out-of-doors enjoyment, drizzling, soaking rain having fallen the whole forenoon, but this did not prevent about 1500 people (a quarter of whom were enthusiastic ladies) from attending.

The game was solidly and strenuously contested, the winning points going to Western Suburbs within the last five minutes—a clinking goal from the foot of M. Scott doing the trick. The fact that neither side was able to penetrate the other's line during the whole struggle is an indication of the stubbornness of the defence. It was a contest of long range kicks, with the spectacular incidents very frequent.

From a frustrated passing bout, initiated by Suburbs after the kick-off, M'Grath snapped up an interception, and was heading for line with great speed when the whistle indicated that he was offside. From the resultant advantage, Suburbs were enabled to pierce a hole in the defence, and the forwards, surging goalwards on the dribble, had Valleys penned in near the smokers' stand. Hereabouts S. Hull was hard pressed, but succeeded in sending the ball into touch as he succumbed to a swinging tackle. The closeness to the line and the fierceness of the football—attackers offering no quarter, and the defenders asking none—made the partisans yell excitedly.

From the centre line Potter eagerly seized a wandering pass, and bursting through sharply penetrated to the posts where he was upended amidst great excitement. From this position, the red and blacks stormed solidly, and after several badly operated passing bouts the ball went over the line, a save resulting through Potter being unable to ground the leather correctly. Just before half-time Valleys were awarded a free gick, and L. Love was commissioned to collect the goal from half-way. He did it with a brilliant shot that struck the cross-bar, and the crowd cheered mightily when the ball lobbed slowly over. Valley 2, Western Suburbs nil.

The disturbed state of the peace was not improved when Suburbs were awarded a free kick in the opposition 25. While Scott was preparing for the essay, the silence of the tomb prevailed. The kicker despatched a brilliant shot which from the grandstand appeared to drop fair between the posts with a good margin in range to spare. The line umpires both waved their sticks, indicating a goal, but one hesitated and flapped it from side to side. The referee whistled a verdict of no goal. A movement and loud voices in the rear showed that something was wrong. A mixed consultation and a harangue had commenced between the line umpires, the "ref," and the players, which was made even more interesting and complex by the arrival of swarms of spectators, who hurried in breathlessly from the track to inquire into the sudden developments. It was altogether a mysterious affair at a distance, but the plot thickened considerbly when the referee ordered L. Woods (Valley) off the ground for alleged insulting language and alleged sundry threats. The game continued, the players smashed against one another in great fury, and the spectators howled in sheer delight. Western Suburbs launched the 99th attack of the hostilities at 10 minutes past 5 o'clock. The crowd held its breath. A man in a red jersey flashed up in the dusk. A scramble, a desperate tussle, a whistle. Free kick for Western Suburbs.

M. Scott, who had established himself a hero with the crowd by reason of his lightness (he scales tha scales at 7. 3), pluck, and desire for hot passages in the game, was given the kick. From a position in front of the cross rail he stabbed a fine goal, the multitude shrieking like so many infuriated deputationists at a 5 o'clock demonstration. Western Suburbs, 4; Valley, 2. Thus the game ended.

It was an excellent game throughout, well handled by a vigilant and impartial referee. Mr. W. S. Noble (who has toured England twice with Australian teams), in a chat with "The Daily Mail" man after the struggle, expressed the opinion that Mr. Roche was as able as any official of the whistle in the League in Sydney, which is a big credential indeed.

1916

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - WESTS 4 v VALLEYS 2

Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club.

Premiers 1916. (4 to 2) Runners up 1915. (9 to 10) Also Winners Q.R.L. "Knock-Out" Competition.



BACK ROW: J.Klugge, R.Hinton. THIRD ROW: W.Hunter (vice president), W.Brereton Snr (selector), E.Crosser (treasurer), A.Williams (president), G.Barber MLA (patron), J.Roberts (vice president), A.Calligan (secretary), C.Casey. SECOND ROW: J.Moylan, W.Daly, J.Newton, W.Dunne, N.Potter, W.Richards, T.Sweeney, C.Westbrook (referee). FIRST ROW J.Dolan, T.Tracey, M.Scott, J.Maguire, D.Hickey (c), F.Cumberland, W.Brereton Jnr., R.Corney, W.Butler. IN FRONT: C.Meakin, I.Williams (mascot), C.Cuthbertson. Inset: H.Brocker (vice president).

NO SEMIS HELD THIS YEAR

RESULTS

19 AUGUST FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 13 (McGrath try; Hull 2 goals, 3 field goals) d. Western Suburbs 11 (Hickey 3 tries; Richards goal).

Valley: S.Hull, C.Noble, J.Desmond, L.Love, J.Jenner, R.Atkins, J.Marchant, J.Tate, R.Thorpe, E.McGrath, H.Stevens, K.Mackay, C.Fredericks. Reserves: L.Woods, P.Gleeson, C.Purry.

Wests: T.Sweeney, R.Corney, T.Tracey, J.Maguire, D.Hickey (c), M.Scott, F.Cumberland, D.Butler, W.Richards, J.Newton, W.Cuthbertson, C.Meekin, N.Potter. Reserve: J.McGrath.

Referee: Jack Roche.

2 SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 4 (Scott 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (Love goal).

Wests: T.Sweeney, D.Hickey (c), J.Maguire, T.Tracey, R.Corney, B.Brereton, M.Scott, F.Cumberland, D.Butler, W.Richards, J.Newton, C.Meekin, W.Cuthbertson, N.Potter. Reserve: W.Dunne.

Valley: S.Hull, J.Jenner, L.Love (c), J.Desmond, J.Tate, R.Atkins, C.Marchant, L.Woods, E.McGrath, K.McKay, H.Stevens, B.Nalder, F.Fredericks, R.Thorpe.

Referee: Jack Roche. ***Crowd: 1500.***

1917

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	8	7	1	0	127	31	14
Western Suburbs	9	7	1	1	125	45	13*
Merthyr	8	3	4	1	42	98	7
Westerns	9	2	6	1	62	89	3*
Coorparoo	9	2	6	1	52	94	3*
Wattles	3	0	3	0	55	6	0

* When Wattles exited the senior competition after just three matches, the points awarded to the teams that beat them - Westerns, Coorparoo and Merthyr – were annulled.

BRL Major Semi Final (1 v 3) - Valleys 13 v Merthyr 8

THE LEAGUE GAME.

Merthyr v. Valley.—Played on the Brisbane Cricket Ground, and won by the former by 13—8. This match marked the commencement of the semi-finals of the Barry Cup competitions. For the winners tries were scored by Keogh, Murphy, and Gough and Reid (2) kicked goals. Jeffcoat and Love secured tries for Valley, and one was converted by M'Grath.

BRL Minor Semi Final (2 v 4) - Westerns 13 v Wests 8

THE LEAGUE GAME

WESTERNS DEFEAT WESTERN SUBURBS.

In the semi-finals section of the League competitions, Westerns on Saturday at the Brisbane Cricket Ground defeated Western Suburbs by 13 points to 8. The Suburbs are now out of the competition, and Westerns will play Merthyr next Saturday to decide which club will contest the grand final with Valley. For the winners on Saturday tries were scored by Broadfoot (2) and Smith. Two goals were kicked by Daly. For the losers, tries were gained by Horder and Hardy.

1917

BRL Preliminary Final - Merthyr 12 v Westerns 10

FOOTBALL.

THE LEAGUE GAME.

There was a large attendance at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when Merthyr and Westerns tried conclusions to decide which team should play Valley next Saturday for the 1917 season League premiership. The result was a narrow win for Merthyr by two points. The curtain raiser was supplied by a match between the Maryborough Railway Team and Valley.

Railway (Maryborough) v. Valley.—Won by Valley by 11 points to 3. For the winners McKinnon and Conway (2) scored tries, one of which was converted by Hull. Nelson scored a try for the visitors.

Merthyr v. Westerns.—Won by Merthyr by 12 points to 10. Westerns opened the scoring, Broadfoot securing a try, but their opponents quickly equalised, and then passed their total, M'Mahon crossing the line, and Reid converting with a fine kick. Hamilton gained a try, which Mooney converted, and Green kicked a fine goal from a mark. At half time Merthyr led by 12 points to 3. All the scoring in the second half was done by the losers. Graham kicked a goal from a free, and the score was 12 points to 5. Well on in the game Sweeney scored a penalty goal and Graham gained a try, bringing Westerns' score to within two of their opponents' total. The kick for goal failed, however, and Merthyr won.

1917

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v MERTHYR 5

THE LEAGUE FINAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Kindly permit me to pass a few comments on last Saturday's Rugby League football match between Merthyr and Valley, which eventuated at the Woolloongabba Sports Ground. The result officially was a win for Valley by 13 points to 5, being made up of three tries and two goals, against one try and a goal. The point I wish to comment on principally is the fact that Valley's three tries, from which all their points were scored, should, strictly speaking, not have been allowed. The first try was scored after the ball had been "knocked on" both before crossing the line and after the line was crossed. The second was the result of one of the most glaring instances of offside play I have witnessed. M'Grath, the Valley captain, was standing a few yards away from the Merthyr's full-back, while the play was some distance away towards the Valley's territory. A Valleyite kicked the ball towards Merthyr's full-back, the latter had barely time to take it, and endeavor to return the ball, when M'Grath cooly stepped in front of him, blocked his kick, picking up, had no difficulty in crossing. To the surprise of everyone near myself the referee allowed the try. The third try was a very doubtful one indeed. I certainly did not expect to see it allowed. In my opinion the referee was not in a position to see whether the ball was grounded or not; yet he did not show the slightest hesitation in allowing the try. I am given to understand, on good authority, that if the ball was grounded at all that it was by Harten, Merthyr's half-back, and how Valley's could be awarded a try for this altogether passes my comprehension.

I am not writing with any desire to belittle Valley's win. In my opinion they played a very fine game, but I reiterate my contention that none of their tries was a legitimate one, and therefore they really scored nothing, while Merthyr's try left no shadow of doubt as to its legality. Next time the league presumes to attract a record crowd to see an important match I sincerely hope, in the interests of sport, that each side will received a fair go. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours, etc.,

"SPECTATOR."

Brisbane, September 17.

MERTHYR v. VALLEY.—Won by Valley by 13 points to 5. The premiers held the upper hand throughout, and at half time led by 10 to nil. Tries were scored for the victors by Jackson, M'Grath, and Shackleton, and two were converted by Fredericks and Hall respectively. For Merthyr Keogh gained a try and Green kicked a penalty goal. The game closed rather abruptly when Shackleton gained his try. The referee had ordered one of the Merthyr men from the field, but he refused to quit. The referee thereupon ended the game by blowing his whistle, Valley not taking the kick consequent on the last try.

1917

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v MERTHYR 5



Fortitude Valley RLFC. Premiers 1917
BACK ROW: C.Noble, J.Jackson, R.Jeffcott. THIRD ROW: C.Fredericks, W.MacKinnon, H.Shackleton, M.Woods (secretary), H.Stevens, A.Hoolahan, S.Hull. SECOND ROW: R.Corney, W.Atkins, E.McGrath (c), L.Love, J.McLachlan. IN FRONT: Unknown, J.Tate.

RESULTS

25 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Merthyr 13 (Keogh, Murphy, Gough tries; Reid 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 8 (Jeffcoat, Love tries; McGrath goal).
Merthyr: C.Grealy, J.Gough, G.Green, J.Liddy, J.Flynn (c), T.Bath, J.Russell, S.Keogh, S.Hamilton, P.Murphy, Reid, V.Kreutzer, S.Keogh.
Valley: S.Hull, HV McCabe, C.Noble, L.Love, J.Marchant, R.Corney, J.Tate, A.Hoolahan, H.Stevens, E.McGrath (c), H.Shackleton, E.Stanley, R.Jeffcott.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

1 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Westerns 13 (Broadfoot 2, Smith tries; Daly 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 8 (Horder, Hardy tries; Scott goal).
Westerns: J.Daly, J.Desmond, T.Strover, G.Squires, N.Broadfoot, L.Meibusch, A.Graham, R.Meibusch, J.Hurst, J.Bennett, W.Smith, E.Sommerville, W.Brereton.
Western Suburbs: T.Sweeney, C.Russell, J.Maguire, T.Tracey, C.Horder, F.Cumberland, M.Scott, O.Hardy, V.Dore, W.Richards, N.Potter (c), C.Meekin, W.Dunne.
Referee: D.Buchanan.

8 SEPTEMBER FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Merthyr 12 (McMahon, Hamilton tries; Reid, Mooney, Green goals) d. Westerns 10 (Broadfoot, Graham tries; Sweeney, Graham goals).
Merthyr: C.Grealy, J.Gough, G.Green, Mooney, M.McMahon, J.Flynn (c), T.Bath, J.Russell, S.Hamilton, S.Kreutzer, V.Kreutzer, Reid, S.Keogh.
Westerns: T.Sweeney, J.Daly, J.Desmond, T.Strover, N.Broadfoot, G.Squires, A.Graham, W.Brereton, R.Meibusch, J.Hurst, W.Smith, E.Sommerville, J.Bennett.
Referee: D.Buchanan.

15 SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 13 (McGrath, Jackson, Shackleton tries; Hull 2 goals) d. Merthyr 5 (Keogh try; Green goal).
Valley: S.Hull, H.Shackleton, W.MacKinnon, L.Love, E.Stanley, R.Corney, R.Atkins, J.Tate, E.McGrath (c), C.Fredericks, J.Jeffcott, H.Stevens, J.Jackson.
Merthyr: C.Grealy, J.Gough, G.Green, C.Russell, J.Kellaher, J.Flynn (c), T.Bath, J.Russell, S.Hamilton, S.Kreutzer, V.Kreutzer, P.Murphy, S.Keogh.
Referee: D.Buchanan.

1918

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Merthyr	12	11	0	1	90	52	23
Fortitude Valley	12	5	6	1	68	90	11
Coorparoo	12	5	6	1	101	97	11
Westerns	10	4	5	1	75	68	9
Railways	10	1	9	0	47	121	2
Western Suburbs	11	7	3	2	106	49	0*

*After the penultimate round, the QRL stripped Wests of two competition points for playing two ineligible players. Wests then quit the 1918 competition.

BRL Semi-Finals - Merthyr 19 v Westerns 0 & Valleys 13 v Coorparoo 7

RUGBY LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS.

The semi-finals of the Queensland Rugby League senior competition were decided at the Exhibition and Brisbane Cricket grounds on Saturday afternoon last, when Merthyrs met Westerns, and Coorparoo played Valley.

MERTHYR v. WESTERN.

This contest was played at the Exhibition ground as one of the attractions in connection with the Patriotic Day sports, and resulted in a easy win for Merthyr by 19 points to nil.

Merthyrs met Westerns in the semi-finals of the League premiership fixtures at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday afternoon, and the play resulted in a win for Merthyrs by 19 points to nil. Tries were registered by Kelleher, Keogh, Green (2), and Liddy, two being converted by Bath.

VALLEY v. COORPAROO.

This match ended in a win for Valley, after a good game, by 13 points to 7.

The results of the matches leave Merthyr and Valley to play off for the premiership next Saturday. In the event of Merthyr suffering defeat they hold the right to challenge the winner for a grand final.

1918

BRL Final - Valleys 16 v Merthyr 12

Rugby League.

VALLEY TEAM PREMIERS;

BUT MERTHYRS WILL PLAY OFF.

Before a large crowd in the great heat at the Exhibition Ground yesterday afternoon, Valleys won the First Grade premiership against Merthyrs by 16 points (four tries, two converted), to 12 (four tries.) The struggle was keenly fought, and at times reached a degree of brilliancy not anticipated in such a temperature. The result does not mean the finish. Owing to Merthyrs achieving what is called the "right to challenge" through early season consistency, they have the privilege of shooting a second barrel next Saturday, the first having failed to bring down the bird yesterday.

* * *

Valleys were the first to get away, the backs indulging in passing bouts which were more efficient than usual. The others responded with putlishing forward charges, and the line bent in somewhat. Valleys were happier in the scrums, which they seized, and the leather was despatched along the line, the policy being to place possession of the goods with McCabe, a resurrected speed merchant. Operating the long pass, they accomplished the trick early, and McCabe, getting it from McKinnon, bounded off like a hunted kangaroo, and strode behind the posts. Similar methods were employed by Valleys subsequently, and sparkling passages of play were provided. Through the short and long pass, McKinnon and Welsh darted across, and one of these tries were improved upon. McKinnon's try was the result of a very fine piece of football. The Valley attack had been reversed after the stoppage of Shackleton, and the leather was tipped across field by the backs and forwards. McKinnon had several supports, and the defence was nearly outflanked, when the returned soldier, changing step in a twinkling, steamed diagonally through the field of tacklers, and finished the job without opposition.

* * *

The slower-moving Brethren looked a completely beaten side and, in the absence of Flynn, seemed to be able to do the wrong thing at the right time, and most consistently. Then the thing called doggedness gripped the entire team, and forwards and backs, going ahead in an irresistible pack, bumped their way through. Russell saw the opening, and gave to Murphy, and the baby of the team sent to Bath, who steered a course as straight as a torpedo, and didn't stop till he was over. The scores at half-time were 13 to 3.

* * *

Merthyrs experimented with chain lightning tactics on the resumption. In the ruck, their forwards preferred going through an opponent to going round him, and when the obstruction was demolished, they picked up the parcel, and, spreading out after the manner of South Sydney, raced away like hounds. It was picturesque. Merthyrs had never, even in moments when they were flushed with victory, played more entertaining football. One of these movements, which culminated in Patrick Murphy scoring in the corner, was a tit-bit, the way being negotiated after all the forwards and most of the rearguard had fingered the ball during smart, short passing gallops. Patrick hurried along considerably at the final, and his 14st. was uncarefully dislodged by a somersaulting tackle in the corner. The next best thing was contributed by the majority of the Merthyr backs and some of the forwards, the last to receive being Kelleher, who fled like a conscientious objector after a mobilisation order. Finer dash, and better combined work leading up to it, could not have been imagined. The unexpected switching off of the advance of the Valleys to an offensive by the other side gave pep to the game, and caused the spectators to let loose howls of appreciation. An acute period of expectation was prolonged till near the closing stages, when the scores were 13 to 12, and the game appeared anybody's. Spectacular gallops by McKinnon and McCabe put Valleys right at the other end of the field, where Stevens shot across. The finish arrived with a furious conflict at the Valley line, where bad luck and bad football at the critical moment robbed Merthyrs of victory.



Wests' halfback Mick Scott skirts the sideline against Merthyr at the Exhibition Grounds. When the sides met later in the season, Wests were punished for playing two ineligible players and quit the premiership.

1918

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 12 v MERTHYR 8

Rugby League.

VALLEYS PREMIERS.

After having failed to negotiate the target with the first barrel last Saturday week, Merthyrs discharged the second lot yesterday at Valleys at the 'Gabba, but were again defeated by two converted tries and a goal (12 points), to two tries, one converted (eight points). Valleys won the premiership, and, in addition, will keep as their permanent property the massive piece of silver known as the Barry Cup. The game was at all times full of interest and incident, and the large crowd demonstrated uproariously at the brilliant sensational bursts which punctuated the proceedings.

* * *

Valleys stormed at the outset with great speed, and the slower-moving Merthyrs were penned in in the vicinity of their last dug-out. As Valleys kept the steam up and hammered hard, the non-combatants in the grandstand screamed with alternate delight and ill-feeling. By good tackling, Merthyrs kept off the invasion, and by way of a change made some stunning thrusts, but never did they do anything dangerous. The fortunes see-sawed and swayed until Valleys, shifting considerably by back-passing rushes, moved towards the left wing. Hull booted hard, and fullback Finn, badly pressed, punted towards Shackelton. This citizen appeared to take a mental snapshot of the strategic position, and, having summed up the situation, drop-kicked deeply across field almost at right angles. With a crowd of supporters waiting to snap it up, and Merthyrs outflanked, the whole audience hopped to its feet and watched the expected and the unexpected happen. Ashby, the Valley winger, tucked in the rolling ball like a tradesman and dashed to the line. Confronted by the Merthyr full-back, he decided to go over the barricade instead of under or around it, and he Catherine-wheeled over for a spectacular try, Finn getting one of his heels in the head. Hull shot a fine goal.

* * *

The disturbance raged fiercely, with both sides giving and taking an equal percentage of pepper. Heavy tackling made the players angry, and the crowd delighted. The Ambulance man raced on on more than one occasion, and when damaged humanity was repaired the riot was resumed. Spasmodic passing rushes of a very ragged and unpolished character was a description of the picture, until a large-built man was seen to disconnect himself from the rest of the bunch and escape towards East Brisbane, with a quick shifting lot of people at his heels. It was Pat Murphy. He had stolen the ball from the balance of the field. Three assailants tried to dismantle him, but they fell on the wayside like nine-pins. The full-back, a very light man, made a last attempt and applied himself to the giant's hips. A friend darting up snapped possession, but before the advance could be patched up and given back its momentum the tacklers arrived, and, getting to work, quickly removed the menace. After having been hurled back, Merthyrs came again, and this time Gough clattered towards the corner, and the attack straggling out, Green hurried up and registered a good try beneath the posts. Bath turned on the shower. The condition of the battle at the half was 8 to 5 in favor of Valleys.

* * *

The second episode commenced with great vim. Merthyrs had the wind, and, their forwards getting right behind it, blew along with cyclonic ferocity. For 20 minutes they had the enemy cornered, but the gap could not be located. Valleys themselves gave their friend the enemy a hand to score by frequently punting backwards, but always as Merthyrs seemed to be getting there the referee stopped them for something that wasn't in the rules. Valleys appeared to be in a bad way when, out of a scrum five yards from their line, Ashby, the contortionist and hurdle-jumper, grabbed the ball, and, hopping over Russell's head, had nothing but the full-back to evade. Ashby shifted like the peace party on a declaration of war, and, on approaching Finn, swerved. Finn dived, but the mobility of the other man was amazing, and he failed to reach the escapee's heels before he had changed his address, and Ashby scored a startling try. Hull's kick caused one line umpire to hoist the red flag, and Referee Ambrose awarded a goal. Incidentally, the red flag brought a horrible reminder of the War Precautions Act, but as the Commonwealth police were not on the beat the official escaped.

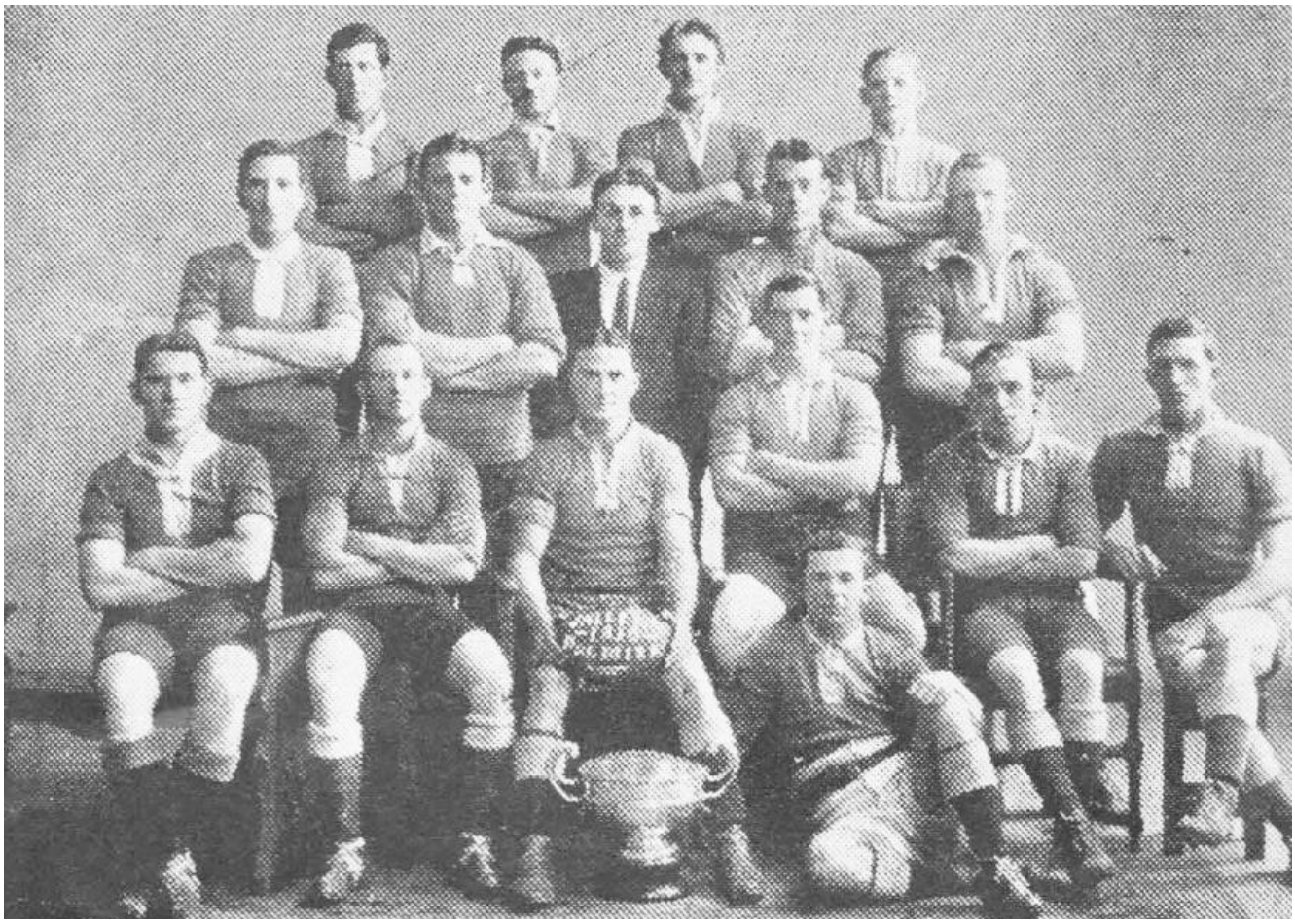
Far from dejected, Merthyrs hurled themselves hard and desperately at the barricade. The heat of the conflict was suspended while the wind of a Valley man was recovered. During the interval, the grandstand supplied a diversion. It appears that some fanatical barracker ran foul of a second fanatical barracker in the grandstand, and one of them drew a pocket knife. The glistening steel frightened a timid gentlewoman, who went into the dressing-shed and called the constable. P.C., accompanied by his escort, invaded the stand, and the spectators burst into cheers. Nobody was injured, and the knife was confiscated. Just then, Merthyrs broke loose, and after several fierce charges Keogh went across in the corner from a dribble by Bath. Twice, shortly afterwards, Merthyrs crossed, once by Hamilton and again by Bath, but knocks-on turned the joy of the partisans into howls of groans against the referee. The referee was correct—very correct—but Merthyrs were distinctly unlucky that he happened to be looking. This sealed an afternoon of bad luck for Merthyrs, and the whistle called a stoppage immediately afterwards.

* * *

Valleys deserved the win—deserved it from the viewpoint of the bottom dog which had climbed out of the ruck from nowhere, some time ago, to the top perch, just by sheer persistence—but they were lucky on the actual merit of their play to win. Their two tries were sensational. Otherwise, Merthyrs outclassed them. Merthyrs' defeat was the most eloquent compliment that could be paid to J. Flynn. Congratulations to the electorate which is, perhaps, the most prolific football premiership-winning district in Australia.

1918

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 12 v MERTHYR 8



RESULTS

28 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 13 (Jeffcott, Ashby, Tate tries; Fredericks, Love goals) d. Coorparoo 7 (Ackworth try; Thorogood 2 goals).
Valley: S.Hull, H.Shackleton, L.Love, H.McCabe, S.Ashby, C.Fredericks, L.Welsh, J.Tate, E.McGrath (c), P.Gleeson, H.Stevens, R.Jeffcott, E.Stanley.
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, R.Uhlmann, H.Jacques, C.Sturgess, H.Ehlers, C.Thorogood (c), J.Holborrow, H.Galven, Lucas, N.Schotz, H.Bates, J.Nicholls, E.Schotz.

28 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Merthyr 19 (Green 2, J.Kelleher, Keogh, Liddy tries; Bath 2 goals) d. Westerns 0.
Merthyr: G.Grealy, J.Gough, W.Daly, J.Kelleher, C.Russell, J.Liddy, T.Bath, S.Hamilton, S.Kreutzer, V.Kreutzer, King, P.Murphy (c), S.Keogh.
Westerns: White, G.Squires, Tickell, J.Daly, E.Somerville, W.Brereton, E.Silverthan, Classey, Wagner, D.Harrower, J.Hurst, Gaskill, D.Kruse.

5 OCTOBER FINAL EXHIBITION GROUND
Fortitude Valley 16 (McCabe, Welsh, MacKinnon, Stevens tries; Fredericks 2 goals) d. Merthyr 12 (Bath, Murphy, Keogh, Kelleher tries).
Valley: S.Hull, H.Shackleton, L.Love, C.Fredericks, S.Ashby, H.McCabe, L.Welsh, J.Tate, E.McGrath (c), P.Gleeson, H.Stevens, R.Jeffcott, E.Stanley. Reserve: McKinnon.
Merthyr: J.Finn, J.Kelleher, G.Grealy, G.Green, J.Gough, J.Liddy, T.Bath, J.Russell, S.Kreutzer, V.Kreutzer, S.Hamilton, P.Murphy (c), S.Keogh.
Referee: Jack Quinlan.

12 OCTOBER CHALLENGE FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 12 (Ashby 2 tries; Hull 3 goals) d. Merthyr 8 (Green, Keogh tries; Bath goal).
Valley: S.Hull, H.Shackleton, L.Love, H.McCabe, S.Ashby, C.Fredericks, L.Welsh, J.Tate, E.McGrath, P.Gleeson, H.Stevens, R.Jeffcott, E.Stanley.
Merthyr: J.Finn, J.Kelleher, G.Grealy, G.Green, J.Gough, J.Liddy, T.Bath, S.Hamilton, S.Kreutzer, V.Kreutzer, S.Keogh, P.Murphy (c), J.Russell.
Referee: Albert Ambrose.

1919

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	10	8	1	1	102	28	17
Western Suburbs	10	6	3	1	139	67	13
Carlton	10	5	5	0	84	78	10
Coorparoo	10	4	5	1	74	89	9
Railways	9	2	6	1	69	87	5
West End	7	1	6	0	25	130	2

BRL Elimination Semi-Finals -

Coorparoo 21 v Railways 6,
Carlton 14 v West End 9
Valleys 12 v Western Suburbs 3

Coorparoo showed that they will be keen rivals to Valley, Suburbs, and Carltons for the League medals by trouncing Railways in their semi-final by 21 to 6. Coorparoo play the passing game, and have a speedy rear division.

RUGBY LEAGUE.

Semi-final games in the premiership of the Queensland Rugby League were played at Davies Park on Saturday. Results :—

CARLTONS v. WEST END.—Won by Carltons by 14 points to 9. For Carltons tries were scored by Gough (2), Broadfoot, and Keogh, and a goal by Bath. One penalty try was secured by West End, and Davies kicked three goals.

VALLEY v. WESTERN SUBURBS.—Won by the former by 12 points to 3. Haslet and Shackleton scored tries for Valley, and Hull kicked three goals. For Western Suburbs Jolly scored one try.

1919

BRL Major Semi-Final - Coorparoo 15 v Valleys 11

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY LEAGUE.

COORPAROO'S GRAND WIN.

(By "FORWARD.")

No more popular win has ever been scored in a Rugby League premiership semi-final than that which Coorparoo scored in sensational manner over Valley at Davies Park on Saturday afternoon. The enthusiasm which prevailed was remarkable, and it is doubtful if any try in a football game has ever been received with more unanimous applause than that which greeted Coorparoo's first break across Valley's line, when a returned soldier forward in Jack O'May touched down. The crowd was very partial to the "Bengal Tigers." The men with the black and yellow striped jerseys have fought so many losing battles in the last three years, and have been the victims of so many vagaries of the referees —at least their supporters believe so— that their win drove the crowd frantic. When the full-time whistle was blown more than half the people crowded the field and carried the Coorparoo players shoulder high to the dressing-shed. They will now have to meet Carltons in the final on the Saturday following the coming interstate games between Queensland and New South Wales, and the winners will then have to survive a challenge from Valley, who possess this privilege through leading on points at the end of the preliminary round.

The excitement started on Saturday when Valley's three-quarter line broke away early, and after all the backs had handled the ball Squires was tackled at half-way and thrown out of touch. Valley returned to the attack, and Shackleton, after running well, transferred to Ashby when he got to the Coorparoo full-back. The cycling champion set sail for the line with no opposition to bar his way, but Holborrow came from behind with a miraculous sprint and brought him down a few yards from the goal line with a magnificent dive. amid wild enthusiasm O'May crossed a minute later, and Holborrow goaled. Silver and Holborrow were noticeable for clever cut-ins, and before half-time, at which stage Coorparoo led by 7 to nil, Holborrow had goaled from a penalty kick.

Valley opened so briskly in the second spell that the sceptics in the crowd affirmed their expressed opinion that the premiers had only been "going easy" in the first spell. When M'Grath scored quickly, and Hull converted, their views were "confirmed." However, the play became more brisk and exciting than ever. Coorparoo lost the services of Copeland (a clever winger), through a very hefty tackle by Ashby, and thereafter they played with only 12 men. Hull let Valley down by a piece of over-zealous work when Jaques charged down his kick, and then Coorparoo's threequarters got moving, only to see Sims tackled on the corner flag. From the resultant scrum, Joyce bluffed his way over, but Holborrow failed to convert. Simpson the Valley five-eighth, made a brilliant run on resumption, and, drawing the defence all one way, he transferred to M'Grath, and the Valley forward scored. Hull failed, and with the board reading "Coorparoo 10, Valley 8," the game became thrilling. Coorparoo swung the play back to Valley's end, and, thanks to their constant attention to the point of all taking up their position, promptly from the base of a ruck or scrum, the 'Roos threequarter line earned another fine try. The ball came out to Joyce, to Holborrow, and it was flicked through several hands as the men ran at top pace until Ridgway scored in the right corner. Holborrow kicked a grand goal. Before full time Jackson scored an unconverted try, and the game ended amid indescribable enthusiasm, with the scores: Coorparoo, 15, Valley, 11.

1919

BRL Final - Coorparoo 16 v Carlton 9

RUGBY LEAGUE

The final of the Queensland Rugby League Premiership was played at Davies Park on Saturday by Coorparoo and Carlton, the former winning by 16 points to 9. Tries for Coorparoo were scored by Sturgess, Holborow, Orr, and Martin, and goals by Jacques and Holborow. For Carlton the try-getters were Keogh and Gough, Carlton also being awarded a penalty try.

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 28 v COORPAROO 2

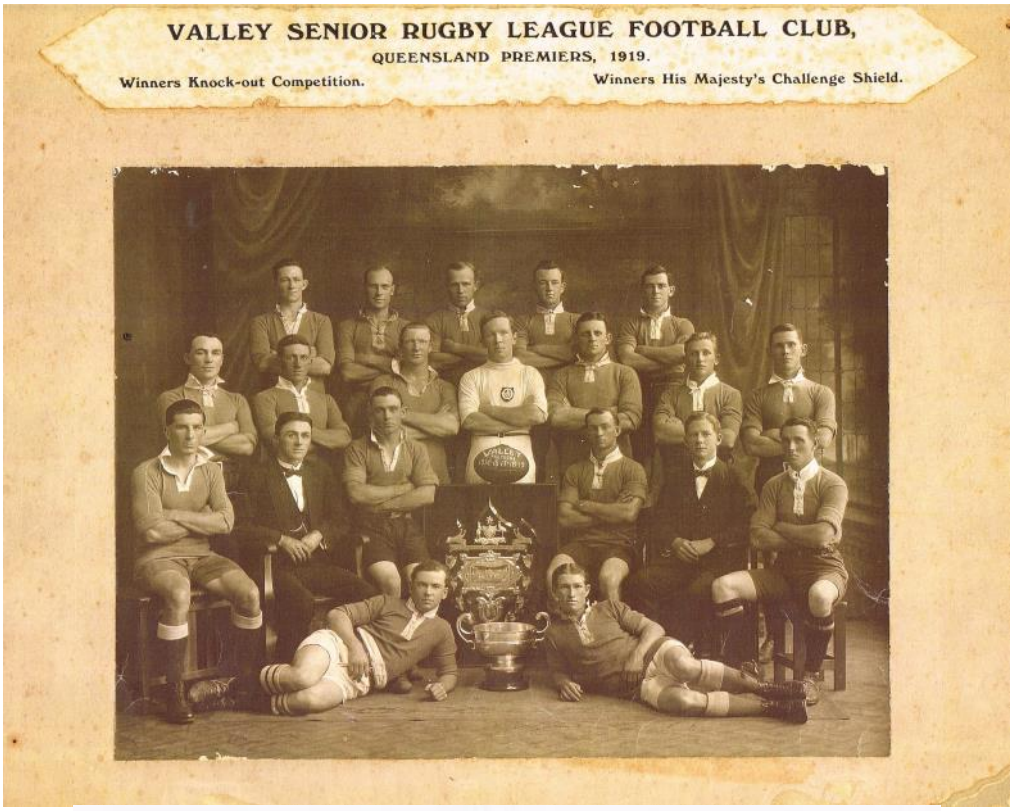
FOOTBALL.

RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP.

The final of the Queensland Rugby League Premiership was palyed at Davies Park on Saturday, when Valley defeated Coorparoo by 28 points to 2. Tries for the winners were scored by Stevens (2), Ashby (3), and Jackson, and goals by Hull (5), Holborow kicking a penalty goal for Coorparoo.

1919

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 28 v COORPAROO 2



Fortitude Valley A Senior Premiers 1919
BACK ROW: W.Roberts, S.Ashby, E.Rix, V.Harten, R.Corney. SECOND ROW: L.Woods, J.Jackson, H.Shackleton, T.Goodwin (referee), E.Stanley, G.Squires, P.Gleeson. FIRST ROW: J.Haslet, R.Woods (secretary), J.Tate, S.Hull, C.Noble (treasurer), J.Marchant, IN FRONT: A.Welsh, A.Simpson.
INSETS: E.McGrath, H.Stevens, R.Atkins, C.Fredericks.

RESULTS

6 SEPTEMBER FIRST ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL (4V5) DAVIES PARK
Coorparoo 21 (Martin, Sturgess, Silver, Nicholls tries, penalty try; Holborrow 3 goals) d Railways 6 (J.Hourigan, D.Kruse tries).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, J.Martin, J.Sturgess, R.Silver, J.Holborrow, C.Thorogood, F.Joyce, J.Nicholls, J.O'May, T.Morley, W.Schotz, J.Rinaldi, R.Sims.
Railways: J.Fisher, J.Hourigan, W.Lollo, W.Marquin, A.McMahon, W.Brereton, H.Heidke, P.McCormack, D.Harrower, F.Karrol, L.West, J.Hurst, D.Kruse.

13 SEPTEMBER SECOND ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL (1V2) DAVIES PARK
Fortitude Valley 12 (Shackleton, Haslet tries; Hull 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 3 (Jolly try).
Valley: S.Hull, S.Ashby, H.Shackleton, A.Haslet, R.Corney, J.Tate, E.Simpson, J.Jackson, L.Woods, E.Stanley, P.Gleeson, H.Stevens, E.McGrath.
Wests: J.Sweeney, M.Jolly, O.Hardy, Jack Maguire, C.Barker, M.Scott, T.Flanagan, J.Mackay, Jim Maguire, J.Newton, C.Meekin, W.Cuthbertson, W.Richards.
Referee: LH Kearney. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

13 SEPTEMBER THIRD ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL DAVIES PARK (3V6)
Carlton 14 (Gough 2, Broadfoot, Keogh tries; Bath goal) d. West End 9 (Penalty try; Davies 3 goals).
Carlton: H.Fewin, N.Broadfoot, J.Russell, M.McCarthy, J.Gough, T.Bath, H.Galvin, S.Hamilton, J.Sigley, P.Moran (c), S.Keogh, P.Meaney, H.Doherty.
West End: E.Silverthau, R.Shields, R.Rodgers, S.Tickle, H.Buchanan, J.Smith, J.Carlon, F.Hawes, J.Davis, P.Barker, P.Ivo, J.Thompson, E.Mullen.
Referee: J.Quinlan. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

20 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL DAVIES PARK
Coorparoo 15 (O'May, Joyce, Ridgeway tries; Holborrow 3 goals) d Valley 11 (McGrath 2, Jackson tries; Hull goal).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, J.Martin, R.Silver, C.Sturgess, C.Copeland, J.Holborrow (c) F.Joyce, J.O'May, T.Morley, T.Orr, H.Jacques, R.Sims, W.Schotz. Reserve: H.Ridgeway.
Valley: S.Hull, S.Ashby, H.Shackleton, A.Haslet, G.Squires, E.Simpson, J.Tate, H.Stevens, L.Woods, J.Jackson, E.McGrath, E.Stanley, P.Gleeson. Reserve: J.Jackson.
Referee: LH Kearney.

11 OCTOBER FINAL DAVIES PARK
Coorparoo 16 (Jackson, Holborrow, Orr, Martin, tries; Jacques, Holborrow goals) d. Carlton 9 (Keogh, Gough tries; penalty try).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, J.Martin, R.Silver, C.Sturgess, C.Copeland, J.Holborrow (c), F.Joyce, J.O'May, T.Morley, T.Orr, H.Jacques, R.Sims, W.Schotz. Reserve: H.Ridgeway.
Carlton: J.Jackson, J.Gough, J.Russell, T.Bath, N.Broadfoot, M.McCarthy, J.Galvin, S.Hamilton, J.Sigley, P.Meaney, S.Keogh, J.Coll, P.Moran. Reserve: French.
Referee: EJ Goodwin.

18 OCTOBER CHALLENGE FINAL DAVIES PARK
Valley 28 (Ashby 3, Stevens 2, Jackson tries; Hull 5 goals) d. Coorparoo 2 (Holborrow goal)
Valley: S.Hull, S.Ashby, A.Haslet, L.B.Love, H.Shackleton, R.Atkins, J.Marchant, J.Tate, E.Howard, J.Jackson, E.McGrath (c), E.Stanley, H.Stevens.
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, J.Martin, C.Sturgess, J.Holborrow, C.Copeland, C.Thorogood (c), F.Joyce, J.Nicholls, J.O'May, R.Silver, T.Morley, T.Orr, R.Sims, J.Rinaldi, W.Schotz.
Referee: LH Kearney.

1920

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

▼ FIRST ROUND LADDER (concluded 3 July)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	9	9	0	0	179	39	18
Fortitude Valley	9	7	1	1	95	26	15
Coorparoo	9	7	1	1	91	31	15
Carlton	9	4	4	1	64	80	9
University	9	4	4	1	84	160	9
PC Brothers	9	4	4	0	95	76	8
Past Grammars	9	3	6	0	69	93	6
Bulimba	9	2	7	0	40	88	4
West End	9	1	6	2	58	110	4
Railways	9	2	7	0	39	111	4

▼ SECOND ROUND LADDER (concluded 11 Sept)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	6	5	1	0	68	27	10
Western Suburbs	4	4	0	0	52	23	8
PC Brothers	6	3	2	1	48	45	7
West End	5	2	2	1	56	36	5
University	4	2	2	0	26	38	4
Coorparoo	6	1	5	0	70	104	2
Carlton	5	1	4	0	48	66	2
Railways	4	0	4	0	22	68	0

On 24 July a new competition began. The top six teams played on while the bottom four merged into two: Bulimba-Railways and West End-Grammars. Re-starting the competition and merging West End and Grammars worked a treat as they slipped into the four.

BRL Semi-Finals - Wests 20 v West End 8 & Brothers 14 v Valleys 8

Football.

Rugby League Football.

SEMI-FINALS.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND WESTERN SUBURBS WIN.

The 1920 League football season is rapidly drawing to a close, and the semi-finals were played on Davies Park in the presence of a large crowd on Saturday. The matches were between Christian Brothers—Valley and West End—Western Suburbs. Brothers and Suburbs proved the victors, and they will meet in the final at Davies Park next Saturday.

BROTHERS DEFEAT VALLEY.

Keen play ruled between Valleys and Christian Brothers from the commencement of the game, the latter being always on the offensive. Notwithstanding that, however, play was fairly even, and was confined mostly to midfield, even though Brothers made one or two determined efforts to score, which were stopped by Valleys' strong defensive tactics. Following on a rally in midfield, Ashby secured and racing down field, passed to Hull, who essayed a running pot shot at goal, which failed. Christian Brothers misfielded the pass out, and Hardy, dodging around Finn, picked the ball up and touched down. The score, which was unconverted, was added to just before half time by Hull, who goaled from a penalty kick.

Hardy secured Valleys' second try, shortly after the resumption of play, and this was followed up by Brothers' opening their score with an unconverted try, for which S. Kreutzer was responsible, and Daley increased their total to 6 points by a similar score. Brothers now began to attack determinedly, and Hourigan securing in midfield, passed to Liddy, who crossed over. Murray, shortly afterwards, raced clean away from all opposition, and crossed over. Brereton added the extras, and brought the game to a close with scores at Brothers 14 points, Valleys 8 points.

WESTERN SUBURBS' EASY WIN.

Western Suburbs added another victory to their unbroken succession of wins by defeating West End in the second semi-final by 20 points to 8. Suburbs assumed the aggressive from the kick off, but West End held them well, and managed to keep the play in centre field. The tackling of both sides was a feature right throughout the game. Maguire opened the scoring with an unconverted try, when Silverthan failed to mark the ball, and he, slipping around, secured it and touched down. Even play followed, the outstanding feature of which was a fine dash upfield by Broadfoot. However, even though he passed all opposition, nothing came of his run. Suburbs then took command, and were attacking vigorously when the half-time whistle blew, with the scores unaltered.

The second half was resumed at a rapid pace, and Suburbs soon worked play upfield, where M'Vinish scored. Bennett followed up by scoring the Suburbs' third unconverted try. Broadfoot relieved the pressure of Suburbs' attacking for a while, but in quick succession the latter team added eight points to their score. Sweeney was responsible for both tries, and Scott converted one of them. Broadfoot then made a splendid run down the eastern wing, which resulted in West End's first score. Davis added the extras. Heartened by their success West End again attacked, and Bushell secured the ball, and passed to Coll, who touched down. The try was not converted. Just before full time Suburbs made a great dash, which ended in Dunne scoring. Flanagan failed at goal. Final scores were Western Suburbs 20 points, West End 8 points.

1920

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 16 v BROTHERS 8

Rugby League Football.

1920 PREMIERSHIP.

WON BY WESTERN SUBURBS.

Western Suburbs, in annexing the 1920 premiership on Saturday last, established a record for local Rugby League football. Winners of the one-round final, and undefeated during the season, they scored a total of 303 points against their opponents' 86 points during the year. It is a record to be proud of, and the team richly deserved their victory against Christian Brothers, at Davies Park on Saturday. Over three thousand attended the final match, as a result of which about £150 will be handed over to the incapacitated footballers' fund.

A delightfully warm day made football a pleasure, and, even though the game was not productive of any really brilliant play, in fact play right throughout was dull, the spectators worked themselves up to a great pitch of enthusiasm, and Suburbs, running out, at the conclusion of the match winners by 16 points to 8, were congratulated, and cheered on all sides.

Christian Brothers kicked off and commenced a strong aggressive movement from the start, especially in the forward division. By dint of hard play, and by keeping the ball tight, they forced play into their opponents' country. About five minutes after the commencement of the game, T. Flanagan, Suburbs' halfback, received a kick in the back and injured his spine. He was carried off the field on a stretcher and later taken to the General Hospital in the ambulance. Handram came on in his stead. Brothers began to attack, when play was resumed, and, by closely packing the ball, forced it on to the line, where Jeff Daley secured it, and touched down. Mooney failed at goal. On resumption, the plan of attack changed, and Suburbs assumed the aggressive, and by a quick movement, forced play upfield, where Potter crossed over near one of the goal posts. Scott added the extras. Play was then taken downfield and several sharp sallies took place near the touchline, which, however, were not productive of anything. Sweeney saved the situation. Brothers were then freed, and, as a result of Mooney's kick, were awarded a very doubtful goal, which equalised the scores. With great dash Brothers' again attacked, but Suburbs' defence was good, and Dunne relieved. Fairly even play followed, in which Brothers were always the aggressors. However, half time came with scores at 5 points all.

Suburbs took up the offensive on the resumption of play and forced the leather downfield, where McVinish was forced out after a good run; but Suburbs secured from the scrum and attacked vigorously, only to be met with a strong defence. It was not long, however, before Prentice, a player who is fast improving, secured on the far wing and crossed over. Barker failed to goal. Brothers attacked, but Suburbs held the defence, and passed the ball down the 25 line, where they were penalised for illegal tackling. After some even and uninteresting midfield play Mooney lined out near the 25 line and Brereton, securing the ball from the scrum, punted on. Hourigan then fielded the ball from Liddy, who had secured from Jack Daley, and crossed over, amid great cheering. Mooney's kick at goal crossed one of the posts, and the scores were again even. Brothers again attacked with surprising vim, and Brereton was prominent in a rush up field. However, Suburbs were forced near the line. Smith raced after the ball when Sweeney kicked on, followed by two opponents, who just beat him for the ball on the line. After hard forcing play near the touch line Scott crossed over. Barker goaled, but it was doubtful if the ball went between the posts, and Scott repeated his try a few minutes later. Barker failed at goal. Brothers then took up the offensive, but lost possession near the line. Suburbs then carried it down, and were attacking strongly, when the final whistle blew, with scores at Suburbs 16, Brothers 8.

▼ RESULTS

18 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Past Christian Brothers 14 (S.Kreutzer, J.Daly, J.Liddy, Murray tries; W.Brereton goal) defeated Valley 8 (O.Hardy 2 tries; S.Hull goal).

Referee: LH Kearney.

18 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Western Suburbs 20 (Sweeney 2, Maguire, McVinish, Bennett, Dunne tries; Scott goal) defeated West End 8 (Broadfoot, Coll tries; Davis goal)

Referee: EJ Goodwin.

25 SEPTEMBER FINAL DAVIES PARK

Western Suburbs 16 (Scott 2, Potter, Prentice, tries; Scott, Barker goals) d. Past Christian Brothers 8 (Daly, Hourigan tries; Mooney goal).

Wests: M.Scott, E.Prentice, J.Maguire, C.Barker W.McVinish, M.Jolly, J.Sweeney, F.Finegan, W.Richards, S.Smith, J.Bennett, W.Dunne, N.Potter (c). Reserves: T.Flanagan, W.Hanrahan.

Brothers: J.Finn, J.Liddy, T.Mooney, J.Daly, J.Hourigan, R.Murray, W.Brereton (c), W.Kreutzer, J.McCarthy, W.Breen, G.Daly, S.Kreutzer, B.O'Sullivan.

Referee: LH Kearney. ***Crowd 6,000.***

1921

BRL: CARLTON

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Carlton	10	7	2	1	118	137	15
Western Suburbs	10	6	2	2	155	101	14
Fortitude Valley	10	6	4	0	127	104	12
Coorparoo	10	5	4	1	212	160	11
PC Brothers	10	4	5	1	112	114	9
University	10	1	8	1	80	177	3

BRL Semi-Finals - Coorparoo 22 v Wests 3 &
Carlton 8 v Valleys 3

RUGBY LEAGUE MATCHES.

Matches in the Rugby League football premiership semi-final at Davies Park on Saturday resulted:—

COORPAROO v. WESTERN SUBURBS.—Won by Coorparoo by 22-3. Try-getters for Coorparoo, Thorogood (2), Ehlers, Rinaldi; and for Western Suburbs, Bennett. Tries were converted by Thorogood, Ehlers, Jacques, and Ehlers kicked a field goal.

CARLTONS v. VALLEY.—Won by Carltons by 8-3. Try-getters for Valley, Kelly and T. Brown; and for Valley, Stanley. Stallard converted a try.

1921

BRL Final - Coorparoo 24 v Carlton 18

RUGBY LEAGUE.

COORPAROO DEFEAT CARLTON.

Saturday's weather was more suitable for swimming than football, but, nevertheless a large crowd of Rugby League supporters turned up at Davies' Park to view the finals of the B. senior and senior premiership competitions. The former match was between Western Suburbs and Carlton, and was far from an exhibition of high class football. At the interval, Suburbs were two points in the lead. In the second round, Carlton forged ahead. During this half, play was marred by a free fight, in which nearly all the players took part. The presence of police and officials snuffed the flame, and the game was resumed amid the spectators' earnest requests to "take 'em home." The final scores were: Carlton, 10; Western Suburbs, 2.

The big match of the day was between Coorparoo and Carlton. These two teams had fought their way up out of the ruck for the privilege of deciding who was to take the premiership. Prior to and during the match, there was much diversion of opinion as to which was the better team.

The players took up their positions on the field as follow :—

Coorparoos (black and gold). Full back, J. Vinson; three-quarters, G. Squires, J. Holborrow, C. Thorogood, and W. Ehlers; half-backs, H. Abel, and J. Horsley; forwards, H. Burnett, A. Henderson, P. Bess, A. Jeavons, J. Rinaldi, and H. Jacques.

Carlton (red and white). Full back, A. Jordon; three-quarters, H. Brown, G. Stallard, T. Brown, and P. Fitzgerald; half-backs, T. Bath and E. Pride; forwards, R. Allen, J. Sigley, J. Puddifoot, P. Meaney, P. Ivo, and N. Doherty.

Carlton kicked off and forced play. Coorparoo returned the compliment, and carried the leather back across the line. Stallard gathered neatly from the ruck, and raced ahead. He passed to T. Bath. Bath passed back to Stallard, who again returned the leather, Bath going across. Stallard failed to convert. Carlton, 3; Coorparoo, nil. Shortly afterwards a penalty to Coorparoo saw Thorogood goal. Carlton, 3; Coorparoo, 2. Squires brought the crowd to its feet with a fine run, which added two more to the black and gold score. Horsley kicked to Thorogood, who booted over the heads of the opposing players. Squires broke through, gathered, and sprinted across. Thorogood's kick succeeded, and made the score: Coorparoo, 7; Carlton, 3. From a rally round the Carlton posts, Horsley kicked the ball through the uprights, and, following on, touched down. Ehlers added the extras. Coorparoo, 12; Carlton, 3.

After further play, Sturgess took Abel's place in the Coorparoo team. Hard play ruled for a good while, and there were some fine concerted movements by both sides. Then H. Brown, coming up with the ball in Coorparoo's territory, kicked ahead. Bess stopped it jjust in front of the posts, but lost it when he attempted to get on his feet, and Puddifoot, who was close by, went across, for Stallard to convert. Coorparoo, 12; Carlton, 8. Coorparoo's figures were the next to be changed. Fitzgerald was ruled off-side, and Ehlers hoisted the flags. Coorparoo, 14; Carlton, 8. Play, in which Fitzgerald and Doherty were prominent, was responsible for the next score. Stallard converted Doherty's try. Coorparoo, 14; Carlton, 13.

On resumption Carlton attacked with a rush, and carried the play dangerously near the Coorparoo line. Vinson just saved from Stallard. A penalty was ruled against Carltons, which, however, Thorogood did not convert. A penalty kick within Carltons' 25 saw Ehlers goal. Coorparoo, 16; Carlton 13. Stallard was not so successful with a like decision against Coorparoo. A combined movement on the part of Thorogood, Ehlers and Sturgess saw the lastnamed go across in good fashion. Thorogood's kick was successful. Coorparoo, 21; Carlton, 13. Both sides were playing fast and well. Holborrow secured the leather at halfway, but lost it to H. Brown, when he got as far as the 25. Sturgess grassed Brown; and the ball finally travelled out to the wing where Joe Vinson gathered. Dodging opposing Carltonites, Vinson with a sprint went across in the corner. Thorogood was not equal to the occasion. Coorparoo. 24; Carlton, 13. Both teams were now tiring visibly, but rallied, and Carlton pushed their offensive. H. Brown, with some neat dodging, went over and planted the ball behind the posts. Stallard converted. The whistle went with the board being changed to Coorparoo, 24; Carlton, 18.

1921

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 12 v COORPAROO 10

Football.

RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERS.

CARLTON WIN BY TWO POINTS

Despite the rain, a good crowd turned up at Davies Park last Saturday to view the Rugby League senior grand challenge final between Coorparoo and Carlton Both teams played good games, Coorparoo retaining the lead until close on the final whistle, when Carlton turned the tables with a converted try. The opening match between teams from the Referees' Association and the Junior Management Committee resulted in a win for the former by two points to nil. The next match was for the third grade premiership. The contestants were the Blue Stars and Nundah. At half-time Stars were leading by 3 points to nil, and the full-time scores showed that Stars had won the premiership by 6 points to 2.

COORPAROO v. CARLTON.

The teams took the field as follow :—

Coorparoo (yellow and black) : Full-back, J. Vinson ; three-quarters, P. Williams, C. Sturgess, C. Thorogood, W. Ehlers ; halves, J. Holborrow, J. Horsley ; forwards, A. Jeavons, A. Henderson, P. Bess, H. Burnett, J. Rinaldi, H. Jacques.

Carlton (red and white) : Full-back, E. Silverton ; three-quarters, H. Brown, T. Brown, G. Stallard, P. Fitzgerald ; halves, T. Bath, F. Hoare ; forwards, J. Corkery, J. Sigley, J. Puddifoot, P. Meaney, P. Ivo, N. Doherty.

Referee : Mr. L. H. Kearney.

Carlton pushed the attack from the opening whistle, and Coorparoo were forced to defend strenuously. Some fine movements were unwound by both sides. Both full-backs, Vinson and Silverton, were playing great games. Williams went off, and his place in the Coorparoo three-quarter line was taken by Abel. From a scrum at half-way, Abel received and passed to Thorogood, who passed out to Holborrow, Holborrow got as far as the Carlton 25 line, when he sent to Ehlers, who, however, lost it. Vinson snapped up and passed to Ehlers. Ehlers dodged across from the wing to the centre. His pass was intercepted by Stallard, who was offside, and, with the resultant free kick at Carlton's 25, Thorogood hoisted Coorparoo's first score. Coorparoo, 2 ; Carlton, nil. A fine movement on the part of the Carlton team was spoiled by a forward pass. Bath broke through and passed to Doherty, who carried the ball to within a few yards of the posts. Then he passed to Stallard. It was forward, and a scrum was ordered. A free was awarded to Carlton and Stallard hoisted the flags. Coorparoo 2, Carlton 2. From a scrum in the Coorparoo territory Abel secured and passed to Thorogood. T. Brown intercepted and ran ahead. On being stopped he kicked towards the corner. H. Brown had meanwhile run on, and he snapped up the ball and went across in good fashion. Stallard failed to convert. Carlton 5, Coorparoo 2. The Carlton attack had reached the opposing 25 line, when Ehlers picked up and broke through. He kicked ahead and Silverton stopped the ball. Thorogood, however, had followed up and tackled Silverton near the line forced him out of touch. From the scrum which followed Bess secured and pushed his way across. Ehlers annexed the extras. Coorparoo 7, Carlton 5. What looked like a certain score by Coorparoo was stopped by Kelly, who had taken Bath's place as Carlton's half-back. Thorogood kicked ahead when he was about at the opposing 25. Ehlers gathered, but lost when he was crossing the line. Kelly raced across and touched down. Just before half-time, Coorparoo again scored. Sturgess kicked ahead, and Rinaldi, coming up with the ball, punted it across Ehlers touched down, but later failed to convert. Coorparoo 10, Carlton 5.

The second half opened with a determined attack by Coorparoo, in which Thorogood, Abel, and Holborrow were prominent. Play swung from one end of the field to the other, and a fair number of penalties occurred. During even play Bess caused some intense excitement by a fine run, which somewhat relieved the pressure on his side. Kelly picked up at about half way, however, and centred to Corkery. Corkery passed to Meaney, who almost reached the line, when he was grassed. Abel gathered from the scrum and eased the position by kicking well down field. The Carlton attack had again reached the Coorparoo 25 line, when Rinaldi was ruled offside, and Kelly put the ball between the uprights, thus bringing the Carlton score to within three points of Coorparoo's. Coorparoo 10, Carlton 7. Amid clamorous barracking the ball was again set in motion, and the Coorparoo forwards, with a rush carried it as far as the opposing 25. Carlton rallied and transferred play to the other half of the field. Thorogood, with a fine kick, found touch at the red and white 25, which performance was repeated a short time later by Ehlers. Several free-kicks awarded to Carlton did not result in any addition to their score. Play became rather loose and gradually came well into Coorparoo territory. Kelly snapped up a kick from Thorogood and went across, later converting on his own behalf. The crowd was transformed into a horde of yelling dervishes when the board was changed to : Carlton ,12, Coorparoo 10. Determined to retrieve their lost lead, Coorparoo rushed to the attack. Carlton were just as resolute in their defence, and consequently the game to the end was fast and hard. Stallard and Kelly put in some good work, but it was not long before a scrum was ordered uncomfortably near the home line. Carlton were penalised and Thorogood took the ball. Coorparoo needed two points to bring them level with Carlton, and supporters of the former plucked up hope, for the kick was to be taken from a good position. It failed, however, and in an indescribable uproar Referee Kearney sounded the final whistle, which incidentally signalled the annexing of the 1921 premiership by the Carlton team.

1921

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 12 v COORPAROO 10



▼ RESULTS

10 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Coorparoo 22 (Thorogood 2, Ehlers, Rinaldi tries; Thorogood 2, Ehlers, Jacques goals; Ehlers field goal) d. Western Suburbs 3 (Bennett try).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, G.Squires, J.Holborrow, C.Thorogood, W.Ehlers, H.Abel, J.Horsley, A.Henderson, P.Bess, H.Burnett, A.Jeavons, J.Rinaldi, H.Jacques.
Wests: S.Hull, W.Hanrahan, J.Maguire, M.Jolly, W.McVinish, J.Russell, S.Cairns, W.Dunne, J.Bennett, J.Betts, F.Rigby, J.Egan, J.Columbus.
Referee: N.Wilson.

SEPTEMBER 10 SECOND SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Carlton 8 (Kelly, T.Brown tries; Stallard goal) d. Valley 3 (Stanley try).
Carlton: E.Silverton, G.Draney, T.Brown, G.Stallard, P.Fitzgerald, F.Hoare, T.Bath, P.Moran, J.Sigley, J.Puddefoot, P.Ivo, P.Meaney, N.Doherty.
Reserve: Kelly.
Valley: H.Fewin, R.Shields, W.Cheyne, Charity, A.Haslet, C.Connell, J.Jackson, G.Livermore, A.Brown, E.Stanley, K.McKay, O.Hardy.
Reserve: C.Noble.
Referee: LH Kearney.

SEPTEMBER 24 FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Cooparoo 24 (Squires, Horsley, Sturgess, Vinson tries; Thorogood 2, Ehlers goals; Thorogood 2, Ehlers field goals) d. Carlton 18 (Bath, Puddefoot, Doherty, Brown tries; Stallard 3 goals).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, G.Squires, J.Holborrow, C.Thorogood, W.Ehlers, H.Abel, J.Horsley, H.Burnett, A.Henderson, P.Bess, A.Jeavons, J.Rinaldi, H.Jacques.
Carlton: A.Jordan, H.Brown, G.Stallard, T.Brown, P.Fitzgerald, T.Bath, E.Pride, R.Allen, J.Sigley, J.Puddifoot, P.Meaney, P.Ivo, N.Doherty. Reserve: Kelly.
Referee: LH Kearney.

OCTOBER 1 CHALLENGE FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Carlton 12 (H.Brown, Kelly tries: Kelly 2, Stallard goals) d. Coorparoo 10 (Bess, Ehlers tries; Thorogood, Ehlers, goals).
Carlton: E.Silverton, H.Brown, T.Brown, G.Stallard, P.Fitzgerald, T.Bath, F.Hoare, J.Corkery, J.Sigley, J.Puddefoot, P.Meaney, P.Ivo, N.Doherty.
Reserve: Kelly.
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, P.Williams, C.Sturgess, C.Thorogood, W.Ehlers, J.Holborrow, J.Horsley, A.Jeavons, A.Henderson, P.Bess, H.Burnett, J.Rinaldi, H.Jacques. Reserve: Abel.
Referee: LH Kearney.

1922

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	10	9	0	1	215	75	19
Valleys	10	6	4	0	136	93	12
Carlton	10	5	4	1	118	121	11
Coorparoo	10	5	4	1	139	143	11
University	10	3	7	0	71	176	6
Brothers	10	1	8	1	64	135	3

BRL Semi-Finals - Wests 14 v Valleys 13 & Coorparoo 21 v Carltons 0

RUGBY LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS.

The Brisbane Rugby League staged the semi-finals of the premiership competition in both grades, A and B, at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday. Grammars were opposed to Western Suburbs in the B Grade, and Valleys met Western Suburbs in the A Grade. At Davies Park, Coorparoo met Carltons in both grades.

VALLEY v. WESTERN SUBURBS.

Valley (blue): Full back, S. Hull; three-quarter backs, A. Haslet, W. Cheyne, C. Clarkson, P. Moran; halves, R. Atkins, C. Connell; forwards, A. Brown, J. Jackson, J. Martin, S. Stanley, P. Gleeson, O. Hardy. Western Suburbs (red and black): Full back, H. Fewin; three-quarter backs, C. Aynsley, J. Maguire, M. Jolly, J. Muller; halves, J. Sweeney, M. Scott; forwards, N. Potter, W. Dunn, J. Bennett, R. Cox, F. Prouten, H. Jacques. Referee, Mr. R. Leighton. Valleys won the toss, and Suburbs defended the Bowen Bridge end. Potter picked up from a scrub about 15 minutes after the commencement, and forced his way over in the corner. Aynsley failed to add the extras. Atkins marked, and Hull raised the flags. Suburbs, 3; Valley, 0. Potter came away fast from a scrum soon after, and ran from inside his own 25 to score in the corner. Aynsley's kick failed to hoist the flags. Atkins secured, and running well gave to Cheyne, who transferred to Haslet, who forced his way over in the corner. Hull, with a good kick, added the extras. Valley, 7; Suburbs, 6. Valley secured from the scrum, and Atkins kicked through. Fewin's return was weak. Haslet picked up, and, beating Aynsley, scored in the corner. Hull failed to add the extras. Valley, 10; Suburbs, 6. Scott secured from a scrum, and gave to Muller, who forced his way over. Aynsley added the extras. Suburbs, 11; Valley, 10. Scott, who played a good game, secured and gave to Cox, who transferred to Prouten, who ran well and scored in the corner. Aynsley's kick failed to raise the flags. Suburbs 14; Valley, 10. Clarkson secured, and crossed in the corner, with Jolly hanging on, about 15 minutes after the resumption after half-time. Hull failed to add the extras. Suburbs, 14; Valley, 13. The scores were unaltered at half-time.

AT DAVIES PARK.

There was only a small attendance at Davies Park on Saturday to witness the matches between Coorparoo and Carltons A senior and B senior teams. The B teams only succeeded in scoring when the wind was in their favour. The wind dropped considerably before the A teams came on to play. A schools match between West End and Valley was won by West End by 23 to nil.

A SENIOR GRADE.

Coorparoo (black and gold): J. Vinson (full back); W. Ehlers, N. Broadfoot, G. Crouch, G. M'Lean, C. Thorogood, F. Joyce (backs); P. Bess, A. Henderson, H. Burnett, A. Jeavons, J. Rinaldi, G. Cavanagh (forwards). Carltons (maroon and white): E. Silverton (full back); J. Burnam, A. Jordon, T. Brewn, S. Kelly, F. Hoare, W. Brereton (backs); P. Meaney, A. M'Auliffe, R. Allen, P. Hammond, H. Cavanagh, N. Doherty (forwards). Referee, M. O'Connor. Scores were:—Half-time: Coorparoo, 3; Carltons, nil. Full time: Coorparoo, 21; Carltons, nil.

1922

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 20 v COORPAROO 9

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY LEAGUE.

PREMIERSHIP TO WESTERN SUBURBS.

The final of the Brisbane Rugby League competition was played at the Exhibition Oval on Saturday, when Coorparoo opposed Western Suburbs in the "A" grade premiership final. Grammar "B" defeated Western Suburbs "B" in the senior final of the B grade competition. They will play Coorparoo "B" next week for the "B" grade premiership.

The goal kicking competition for a trophy presented by Mr. M'Cook drew a large number of entries, and Hull and Cavanagh tied with one goal each. They will kick off next Saturday.

COORPAROO v. WESTERN SUBURBS.

The teams:—Coorparoo (Yellow and Black): Full-back, J. Vinson; three-quarter-backs, W. Ehlers, N. Broadfoot, G. M'Lean, G. Crouch; halves, C. Thorogood, J. Horsley; forwards, P. Bess, A. Henderson, H. Burnett, A. Jeavons, J. Rinaldi, G. Cavanagh. Western Suburbs (Red and Black): Full-back, H. Fewin; three-quarter-backs, C. Aynsley, J. Maguire, M. Jolly, J. Muller; halves, J. Sweeney, M. Scott; forwards, N. Potter, W. Dunne, J. Bennett, R. Cox, F. Prouten, H. Jacques. Referee, Mr. R. Leighton. Coorparoo was led by C. Thorogood, and Western Suburbs by N. Potter. Thorogood won the toss and Suburbs defended the old grand stand end. The first score came only after hard play some time after the kick off. Coorparoo was penalised, and Aynsley, with a fine kick, raised the flags. Suburbs, 2; Coorparoo, nil. From a penalty soon after Thorogood raised the flags with a beautiful kick. Suburbs, 2; Coorparoo, 2. Suburbs soon after were penalised for obstruction, and Thorogood raised the flags. Coorparoo, 4; Suburbs, 2. Some time after the interval Jolly gathered a dropped pass, and running well, transferred to Bennett, to Prouten, who crossed and placed down behind the posts. Aynsley added the extras. Suburbs, 7; Coorparoo, 4. Coorparoo secured from a scrum, and the ball went along the three-quarter line, until Jacques intercepted and transferred to Potter, who pushed Thorogood off and scored. Prouten, from the side line, added the extras. Suburbs, 12; Coorparoo, 4. Dunne next broke through, and secured, and gave to Potter, who outpaced the opposition and scored. Sweeney failed to add the extras. Suburbs, 15; Coorparoo, 4. Burnett picked up in the loose and gave to Rinaldi, who crossed with several players hanging on. Crouch, with a good kick, added the extras. Suburbs, 15; Coorparoo, 9. From the resultant scrum Scott secured and gave to Sweeney, to Maguire, to Jolly, back to Potter, who ran well, and gave to Jolly, who crossed. Scott added the extras. Suburbs, 20; Coorparoo, 9, which were the scores at the final whistle.

Mr. Hardy, on behalf of the Valley Club, advises that that club is anxious to challenge Western Suburbs for a trophy, the match to be played as soon as possible.



Above: The BRL celebrates its 25th year after forming a break away competition from the QRL in 1922.

1922

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 20 v COORPAROO 9

THE TEAMS OF THE OLD DAYS-WESTS, THE 1922 PREMIERS



A = AUSTRALIA; Q = QUEENSLAND; B = BRISBANE; T = TOOWOOMBA; I = IPSWICH:
J. BENNETT (A); H. JACQUES (Q); W. DUNNE (Q);
A. HANDRAN; T. STROVER (I); D. BALDWIN: M. JOLLY (B); J. MULLER (B); C. AYNSLEY (A); R. COX;
J. WHITE; D. TAIT; A. WALKER; J. FINN; J. O'MARA; K. O. THOMPSON; J. COLUMBUS; W. DOHERTY;
H. PRYDE; W. McVINISH (B); J. MAGUIRE (Q); N. POTTER (A); M. D. SCOTT (B); E. STAPLETON; H. FEWIN (A).
(ABSENT) – W. RICHARDS (A); J. SWEENEY (Q); F. PROUTON (T).

▼ RESULTS

19 AUGUST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Western Suburbs 14 (Potter 2, Muller, Prouten tries; Aynsley goal) d. Fortitude Valley 13 (Haslet 2, Clarkson tries; Hull 2 goals).
Wests: H.Fewin, C.Aynsley, J.Maguire, M.Jolly, J.Muller, J.Sweeney, M.Scott, N.Potter (c), W.Dunne, J.Bennett, R.Cox, F.Prouten, H.Jacques.
Valley: S.Hull, A.Haslet, W.Cheyne, P.Moran, C.Clarkson, R.Atkins, C.Connell, A.Brown, J.Jackson, J.Martin, S.Stanley, P.Gleeson, O.Hardy.
Referee: Reg Leighton. ***Crowd: 4,000.***

19 AUGUST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Coorparoo 21 (McLean 2, Crouch 2, Burnett tries; Crouch 2, Ehlers goals) d. Carlton 0.
Coorparoo: J.Vinsen, W.Ehlers, N.Broadfoot, G.Crouch, G.McLean, C.Thorogood (c), F.Joyce, P.Bess, A.Henderson, H.Burnett, A.Jeavons, J.Rinaldi, G.Cavanagh.
Carlton: E.Silverton, J.Burnam, A.Jordon, T.Brown, S.Kelly, F.Hoare, W.Brereton (c), P.Meaney, A.McAuliffe, R.Allen, P.Hammond, H.Cavanagh, N.Doherty.
Referee: Mick O'Connor.

26 AUGUST FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Western Suburbs 20 (Potter 2, Prouten, Jolly tries; Aynsley 2, Prouten, Scott goals) d. Coorparoo 9 (Rinaldi try; Thorogood 2, Crouch goals).
Wests: H.Fewin, C.Aynsley, J.Maguire, M.Jolly, J.Muller, J.Sweeney, M.Scott, N.Potter (c), W.Dunne, J.Bennett, R.Cox, F.Prouten, H.Jacques. Reserve: O'Mara.
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, W.Ehlers, N.Broadfoot, G.McLean, G.Crouch, C.Thorogood (c), J.Horsley, P.Bess, A.Henderson, H.Burnett, A.Jeavons, J.Rinaldi, G.Cavanagh.
Referee: Reg Leighton.

1923

BRL: COORPAROO

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	10	7	3	0	160	62	14
Coorparoo	10	7	3	0	186	105	14
Carlton	10	7	3	0	132	120	14
PC Brothers	10	4	6	0	89	144	8
University	10	4	4	0	105	176	8
Western Suburbs	10	2	8	0	118	173	4

BRL Semi-Finals - Valleys 25 v Carlton 10 & Coorparoo 25 v Brothers 8

RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMPETITION MATCHES.

The Brisbane Rugby League continued its competition fixtures at the Exhibition Grounds on Saturday before a good attendance of spectators.

A C senior match between Coorparoo No. 1 and Suburbs No. 2 resulted in a win for Suburbs by 18 points to 8.

VALLEY v. CARLTON.

Valley met Carlton in the A Grade semi-final. The players were :—

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full back, W. Cheyne; three-quarters, J. Haslet, V. Tynan, A. Noble, V. Clarkson; halves, A. Edwards and T. Bull; forwards, N. Sykes, A. Cheyne, P. Bess, E. Stanley (captain), T. Tierney, and E. M'Grath.

CARLTON (Maroon and White).—Full back, E. Silverton; three-quarters, S. Kelly, P. Hoare, F. Hoare, T. M'Cormack; halves, T. Bath (captain) and W. Brereton; forwards, W. Kavanagh, J. Sigley, J. Puddifoot, P. Meaney, L. Cranston, P Hammond.

Referee: Mr. J. Roche.

Linesmen: Messrs. Turner and Court.

Carlton set the ball in motion from Machinery Hill. Hammond secured and sent to Phil Hoare, to Frank Hoare to M'Cormack, who kicked ahead, but F Hoare failed to gather, and knocked on A scrum was the result. For picking ou of the scrum Brereton was penalised, and Stanley goaled from half-way. Valley, 2 ; Carlton, 0. Bath broke away and gave to M'Cormack, who raced over in the corner. Carlton, 3 ; Valley, 2. Carlton again attacked, and for not playing the ball Valley were penalised in front of their goal posts, and Stan. Kelly goaled. Carlton, 5 ; Valley, 2. M'Cormack was injured and was replaced by J. Morahan. Bull secured in the open, and kicked ahead and regathered. When confronted by Hoare he sent to Silverton, whose kick was charged down by Sykes, and Edwards touched down for Valley. W. Cheyne failed at goal. Carlton, 5 ; Valley, 5. Edwards secured and gave to Tynan, who sent on to M'Grath, who scored, for W. Cheyne to convert. Valley, 10 ; Carlton, 5. The ball travelled to Hardy, who ran well along the side line and was tackled short of the line, but Hardy secured from a ruck and crossed in the corner. W. Cheyne failed at goal. Valley, 13 ; Carlton, 5. Cheyne picked up and sent to Noble, who cut his man out and gave a lovely inpass to Hardy, who ran around behind the posts. W. Cheyne converted. Valley, 18 ; Carlton, 5. From lose play at half-way the ball travelled to F. Hoare, who went ahead and kicked through for J. Morahan, who went over. Bath converted. Valley, 18 ; Carlton, 10. Stanley sent to Haslet, who kicked ahead to Noble, who kicked again. Morahan kicked the ball "dead," to the surprise of Noble. Valley attacked, and W. Cheyne dropped a lovely field goal. Valley, 20 ; Carlton, 10. Tierney broke away from half-way with the ball at toe, and went right on to touch down under the posts. Stanley converted. Valley, 25, Carlton, 10. The full-time whistle then sounded.

BROTHERS v. COORPAROO.

The big match was played between Brothers A and Coorparoo A. Five minutes after the opening Brothers opened their account. Allman secured at the back of the pack, worked the "blind side" effectively, and passed to Barry, who ran round between the posts. Allman added the extras. The Coorparoo forwards brought the ball near goal, and M'Lean picked up and dived across. G. Crouch converted. The scores at half-time were:—Brothers, 5; Coorparoo, 5. Coorparoo's next addition to the score came from a penalty goal by Thorogood, who raised both flags with a beautiful kick from the half-way line. Coorparoo were then awarded a penalty try. V. Crouch kicked a few yards from the goal, and as a result of an infringement of the rules the referee allowed a try. Thorogood added the extras. Scarcely had the cheering subsided when Martin took possession, and, after beating a number of opponents, passed to V. Crouch, who scored. G Crouch raised the flags with a good kick. Coorparoo, 17 ; Brothers, 5.

At this stage blows were exchanged, and M. Burke (Brothers) and Jeavons (Coorparoo) were ordered off the field Shortly afterwards Reegan (Brothers) was ordered off by the referee. Thorogood then added another try to Coorparoo's total, and Gornell one to Brothers' total. Just before full time Martin (Coorparoo) crossed and Thorogood converted, making the final scores :—Coorparoo, 25 ; Brothers, 8.



AN INCIDENT IN THE COORPAROO-BROTHERS GAME.

1923

BRL GRAND FINAL - COORPAROO 13 v VALLEYS 2

RUGBY LEAGUE.

PREMIERSHIP FINAL.

The final of the Brisbane Rugby League Premiership was played at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday before 8000 spectators. The schools' match between West End and Coorparoo resulted in a draw, 11 all. The next game was a B senior semi-final, played between Coorparoos and Carltons. Carltons won by 20 points to 7.

VALLEY V. COORPAROO.

The teams were :—

Valley (blue).—Full back, W. Cheyne; three-quarters, J. Haslet, V. Tynan, A. Noble, O. Hardy; halves, A. Edwards and T. Bull; forwards, N. Sykes, A. Cheyne, T. Rasey, E. Stanley (captain), T. Tierney, E. M'Grath.

Coorparoo (black and gold).—Full back, J. Vinson; three-quarters, J. Bryce, C. Thorogood (captain), G. M'Lean, E. Ellis; halves, J. Horsley and G. Crouch; forwards, M. Kennedy, A. Henderson, P. Buckley, A. Martin, A. Jeavons, V. Crouch.

Referee.—Mr. J. Roche.

Mr. Vic. Jensen, the donor of the 'Vic Jensen Shield,' kicked off. Henderson gave his backs plenty of the ball Vinson secured and was downed by Tierney, and for not playing the ball 'Roos were penalised. Stanley raised the flags. Valley, 2; Coorparoo, 0. Coorparoo attacked, and, from a ruck, Horsley picked up and sent to Crouch, to Thorogood, who went ahead, and, when confronted by Hardy, short punted, and raced on to score a lovely try in the corner. He just failed to convert. Coorparoo, 5; Valley, 2. Sykes broke away, and gave to Edwards, who gave a good pass to Tynan, who sent to Noble. V. Crouch tackled well and the Blues' chance of a score went by. For off side Valley were penalised, and Thorogood goaled. Coorparoo, 7; Valley, 2. About 15 minutes after half-time Horsley secured and raced ahead, to give to Buckley, who beat a couple of opponents before giving to Martin, who raced on and scored for 'Roos. Thorogood failed at goal. Coorparoo, 10; Valley 2. Ellis fooled the opposing wingers after Horsley had secured, and sent to Crouch, on to M'Lean, to Thorogood, to Ellis, who raced over. Thorogood failed to convert. Coorparoo, 13; Valley, 2. These were the final scores. After the game, Mr Vic. Jensen presented the shield to Charlie Thorogood, the popular captain of Coorparoo, who led his team to their first premiership in his last game of football. Thorogood was also awarded the medal for the best player in the game



AN INCIDENT IN THE COORPAROO-VALLEY GAME ON SATURDAY WHEN THE "TIGERS" WON THE PREMIERSHIP. THE PICTURE SHOWS THE WINNERS MAKING DOUBLY CERTAIN THAT ONE OF THE VALLEY MEN DOES NOT GET AWAY.

1922

BRL GRAND FINAL - COORPAROO 13 v VALLEYS 2



1923 Coorparoo Football Club. A Grade Premiers. Front Row: *P. McSweeney; E.C. Woodward (Vice President); J. Horsley (Vice Capt), A.G. Welch (Sr Vice President), Charlie Thorogood (Captain); G. Stewart (President), A. Martin; R. Dixon (Vice President); J. Vinson.* ***Second Row:*** *A. Van Homrigh (Hon Secretary); V. Crouch; M. Kennedy; J. Bryce; Mrs A.L. Wigley (Vice President); G. Darmody; W. Schatz,; W. Ehlers; Vic Jensen (Vice President); J. Lipstine (Vice President).* ***Third Row:*** *V. Lucas (Selector); G. (Paddy) Crouch; G. McLean; S. Porter; P. Buckley; L. Butler; A. Jeavons; Arthur Henderson; F. Mangin (Vice President).* ***Back Row:*** *J. Lloyd (Life Member); George Shields (Points Secretary); B. Haberman (Vice President); T. Curnow (Vice President); George Ruddick (Trainer); H. Slater (Vice President); A. McCook (Vice President); C. Sturgess (Life Member); R. Anderson (Vice President); W. Fogarty (Hon Auditor).*

▼ RESULTS

8 SEPTEMBER SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND

Fortitude Valley 25 (Hardy 2, Edwards, McGrath, Tierney tries; Stanley 2, W.Cheyne 2 goals; W.Cheyne field goal) d. Carlton 10 (McCormack, Morahan tries; Kelly, Bath goals).
Valley: W.Cheyne, J.Haslet, V.Tynan, A.Noble, V.Clarkson, T.Bull, A.Edwards, N.Sykes, A.Cheyne, P.Bess, E.Stanley (c), T.Tierney, E.McGrath. Reserve: O.Hardy.
Carlton: E.Silverton, S.Kelly, P.Hoare, F.Hoare, T.McCormack, T.Bath (c), W.Brereton, W.Kavanagh, J.Sigley, J.Puddefoot, P.Meaney. L.Cranston, P.Hammond. Reserve: J.Morahan.
Referee: Jack Roche.

8 SEPTEMBER SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Coorparoo 25 (V.Crouch penalty try, V.Crouch, McLean, Thorogood, Martin tries; Thorogood 3, G.Crouch 2 goals) d. Brothers 8 (Barry, Gornall tries; Allman goal).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, G.McLean, C.Thorogood (c), G.Crouch, J.Bryce, J.Horsley, P.McSweeney, P.Buckley, A.Henderson, M.Kennedy, A.Jeavons, A.Martin, V.Crouch.
Brothers: V.Tierney, C.Keegan, G.Draney, F.Coughlin, A.Barry, G.Allman, R.McAllister, D.McCarthy, F.Goodwin, G.Daly, J.Gaffney, C.Gornall, M.Burke.
Referee: Reg Leighton.

15 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND

Coorparoo 13 (Thorogood, Martin, Ellis tries; Thorogood 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (Stanley goal).
Coorparoo: J.Vinson, J.Bryce, C.Thorogood (c), G.McLean, W.Ehlers, G.Crouch, J.Horsley, M.Kennedy, A.Henderson, P.Buckley, A.Martin, A.Jeavons, V.Crouch.
Valley: W.Cheyne, J.Haslet, V.Tynan, A.Noble, O.Hardy, T.Bull, A.Edwards, N.Sykes, A.Cheyne, T.Rasey, E.Stanley (c), T.Tierney, E.McGrath. Reserve: P.Bess.
Referee: Jack Roche. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

1924

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	12	11	1	1*	184	96	22
PC Brothers	12	9	3	0	197	116	18
Past Grammars	12	8	4	0	215	151	16
Coorparoo	12	6	6	0	183	133	12
Carlton	12	6	6	1*	173	169	12
Western Suburbs	12	1	11	0	100	239	2
University	12	1	11	0	94	281	2

*Valley were awarded the two points after 17-all draw with Carlton, who fielded a suspended player.

BRL Semi-Finals - Brothers 24 v Coorparoo 5 & Valleys 17 v Grammars 10

FOOTBALL

RUGBY LEAGUE.

VALLEY BEATS GRAMMARS.

The semi-finals of the Brisbane Rugby League competition were played on Saturday. In the early game Coorparoo Senior Minors defeated City in the final of that grade by 10 to nil. Edmunds scored two tries, both of which were converted, one by Medhurst, and one by King. The early senior game was between Coorparoo and Brothers. The teams were:—

COORPAROO (Yellow and Black).—Full back, H. Jacques; three-quarters, J. Bryce, G. Crouch, G. M'Lean, V. Crouch; halves, J. Horsley (capt.), C. Thorogood; forwards, A. Jeavons, A. Henderson, M. Kennedy, L. Buckley, A. Martin, and T. Scanlan.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (Dark Blue and White).—Full back, G. Draney (captain); three-quarters, W. Holohan, G. Allman, C. Creedy, J. Houriqan; halves, J. Woodward and B. Creedy; forwards, M. Burke, W. Taylor, A. Ripinen, G. Daly, C. Gornall, and D. M'Carthy.

Referee, Mr. L. H. Kearney.

Linesmen, Messrs. Chadwick and Coll.

Allman set the ball in motion for Brothers towards Musbinery Hill. A free to Brothers for a scrum illegality enabled Allman to raise the flags with a nice kick. Brothers, 2; 'Roos, 0. Brothers attacked, and C. Creedy, snapping up, cut through to give to Ripinen, on to Burke, who took what seemed to be an impossible pass, to send on to Gornall, who raced across. Allman failed at goal. Brothers, 5; Coorparoo, 0. Thorogood secured from a scrum at half-way, and went ahead to send out to Henderson, who sent infield to Buckley, who raced across in a good position. Thorogood converted. Brothers, 5; Coorparoo, 5. M'Carthy gathered and sent out to Daly, who gained a lot of ground before sending back to M'Carthy, who crossed in the corner for a lovely try. Allman failed at goal. Brothers, 8; Coorparoo, 5. On resuming after half-time Gornall secured and sent on to Burke, to B. Creedy, who raced across, and, beating Boyce's tackle, went behind the posts. He converted his own try. Brothers, 13; Coorparoo, 5. M'Carthy sent to B. Creedy, who cut in to send on to Gornall, who dropped the pass. Burke, coming fast, snapped up and sent on to M'Carthy, who went across to touch down under the posts. B. Creedy failed at goal. Brothers, 16; Coorparoo, 5. Holohan went ahead along the side line and sent infield to M'Carthy, on to G. Daly, who crossed for Gornall to convert. Brothers, 21; Coorparoo, 5. B. Creedy was awarded a penalty try. Gornall failed at goal. Brothers, 24; Coorparoo, 5. Full time sounded immediately afterwards.

VALLEY v. GRAMMAR.

The teams were:—

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full back, W. Cheyne; three-quarters, J. Haslet, G. Flynn, V. Tynan, and S. Ashby; halves, A. Edwards and E. Edwards; forwards, H. Reddington, K. M'Cormack, N. Sykes, E. M'Grath (captain), E. Stanley, and A. Noble.

GRAMMARS (Light Blue).—Full back, R. Brown; three-quarters, H. M'Grory, A. Brown (captain), J. Charity, and H. Ferguson; halves, R. M'Allister and C. Monteath; forwards, C. Schafer, R. Smith, W. M'Cook, R. Cameron, R. Thompson, and A. Chadwick.

Referee: Mr. J. Roche.

Linesmen: Messrs. Coll and Chadwick.

A. Edwards set the ball in motion for Valleys. From a scrum near Grammars' line M'Allister secured and kicked, but Stanley charged the kick down, and went ahead to touch down for the first try of the game. Stanley failed at goal. Valley, 3; Grammars, 0. Grammars were attacking close to Valleys' line, when Valleys were penalised for offside, and Monteath raised the flags with a good kick. Valleys, 3; Grammars, 2. Again Grammars pressed, and M'Allister, securing, sent to Monteath, out to M'Grory, who raced across in the corner. Schafer failed at goal. Grammars, 5; Valley, 3. Grammars pressed, and Cameron crossed, for Monteath to convert. Grammars, 10; Valley, 3. Haslet raced ahead, and kicked the ball across Grammars' line, the bounce beat Brown, and Haslet touched down, for A. Edwards to convert. Grammars, 10; Valley, 8. The ball went from A. Edwards, to E. Edwards, to Tynan, out to Haslet, and the latter beat Ferguson's tackle, and scored in the corner. M'Grath failed to convert. Valley, 11; Grammars, 10. From a ruck in Grammars' 25 Noble kicked the ball across the line, and raced ahead to touch down and score. A. Edwards failed to convert. Valley, 14; Grammars, 10. M'Grath crossed after he had received from Stanley. Haslet failed to goal. Valley, 17; Grammars, 10.



An incident in the Coorparoo-Brothers' League game. It was a semi-final, and was won by the Brothers.

1924

BRL Final - Brothers 23 v Valleys 3

FOOTBALL.

BROTHERS DEFEAT VALLEY.

THE A GRADE FINAL.

Valley (royal blue).—Full back, W. Cheyne; three-quarters, J. Haslet, G. Flynn, V. Tynan, and P. Casey; halves, A. Edwards and E. Edwards; forwards, N. Sykes, K. M'Cormack, H. Reddington, E. M'Grath (captain), E. Stanley, and A. Noble.

Christian Brothers (dark blue and white).—Full back, G. Draney (captain); three-quarters, L. M'Guire, C. Creedy, H. Murray, and J. Hourigan; halves, J. Woodward, and B. Creedy; forwards, M. Burke, F. Goodwin, A. Riipinen, C. Gornall, G. Daly, and D. M'Carthy.

Referee: Mr. Laurie H. Kearney.

Linesmen: Messrs. S. Schafer and J. F. Court.

B. Creedy set the ball in motion for Brothers against the wind. Valley were penalised, and Gornall, following on fast, took the ball the length of the field at the toe for M'Guire to come ahead fast, snap up, and race across in the corner. Draney failed at goal. Brothers, 3; Valley, 0. Stanley failed to raise the flags with a free. C. Creedy snapped up in the open and sent out to M'Guire, who raced along the side line and badly beat Stanley's tackle, to race clean away from Cheyne and Noble, to score a beautiful try, for Gornall to convert. Brothers, 8; Valley, 0. The game was held up for a time whilst Edwards received attention from the Ambulance bearers. Woodward, securing, sent to B. Creedy, out to C. Creedy, who burst through to send on to G. Daly, to Gornall, who raced across. B. Creedy converted. Brothers 13, Valley 0. Almost immediately, after Riipinen came through with the ball at toe, and, Cheyne failing to gather, Riipinen snapped up, and raced clean away to score near the posts, for B. Creedy to convert. Brothers 18, Valley 0. On resuming after half-time Valleys were penalised, and Draney essayed to goal from halfway, but the kick fell short. Brothers were again pressing, when Haslet and Draney were rendered "hors de combat" through a collision, but both were soon at it again. Brothers were pressing, when Noble was ordered from the field. M'Guire, who was playing brilliantly, was forced to retire with an injured knee. Shortly afterwards Burke raced across after receiving from Gornall. B. Creedy converted. Brothers, 23; Valley, 0. Draney carried play right on to the Valley line, but Haslet relieved up field, and Tynan, following on fast, gathered and kicked. When out by himself he "knocked-on" with a certain try at hand. Brothers forwards, M'Carthy, Riipinen, Burke, and M'Carthy, carried play to Valley's end with a nice passing movement. Reddington broke away in a solo effort, but his pass to Tynan was forward. Flynn, the young centre, opened Valley's score, when he raced across in the corner just as Hourigan reached him. M'Grath failed at goal. Brothers, 23; Valley, 3. The full-time whistle sounded with scores unaltered. Thus Brothers won the final. Next Saturday, Valley will exercise their "right-of-challenge" to again play Brothers in a "grand challenge final."

1924

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 11 v BROTHERS 8

VALLEY WINS.

BROTHERS DISAPPOINTING

A STERNLY FOUGHT FINAL.

Valley is Brisbane's premier Rugby League team for the season. Most football followers expected that Brothers' easy win in the first final had settled the matter, but they were very mistaken.

The teams for the Challenge final, played at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday, were as follows:—

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (Dark Blue and White).—Full back, G. Draney (captain); three-quarters, L. M'Guire, C. Creedy, G. Allman, J. Hourigan; halves, J. Woodward and B. Creedy; forwards, E. Riipinen, F. Goodwin, M. Burke, C. Gornall, G. Daly, D. M'Carthy.

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full back, W. Cheyne; three-quarters, S. Ashby, V. Tynan, T. Bull, A. Haslet; halves, A. Edwards and E. Edwards; forwards, S. Gollan, K. M'Cormack, T. Rasey, H. Reddington, A. Noble, E. M'Grath (captain).

Referee, Mr. Jack Roche.

Linesmen, Messrs. Stan. Russell and Joe Coll.

Immediately A. Edwards kicked off for Valley play became fast and exciting, and it was apparent that the crowd was eager to see Brothers repeat their decisive victory of Saturday last and thereby win their first premiership in the League code. The first score came to Valley, when from a scrum on the Valley "25" line E. Edwards kicked through to Draney, who fell over, and Edwards racing ahead kicked again, and gathering nicely raced across under the posts for A. Edwards to convert. Valley, 5; Brothers, 0. Almost immediately Brothers carried play to Valley's end of the field, where from a penalty B. Creedy raised the flags. Valley, 5; Brothers, 2. Allman retired with an injured knee, and was replaced by H. Murray. A free to Valley for a scrum infringement saw Edwards fail at goal, and Draney forced. A free to Valley saw Ashby kick across to Haslet, who was unattended, out on the wing. The latter took the ball on the full, and scored. Edwards failed at goal. Valley, 8; Brothers, 2. Riipinen, Burke, M'Carthy, and Daly took the ball through at the toe to the Blues' "25," where Valley was penalised for "off-side." B. Creedy's kick fell short, and Ashby, securing, raced ahead, only to be well taken by Hourigan. From a scrum Brothers' side of half-way M'Grath secured and kicked ahead to Draney, who waited for the bounce, which beat him, the ball going out just short of Brothers' line. A free to Brothers for the ball not going into the scrum saw Draney find the line at half-way. E. Edwards, Reddington, M'Grath, and Ashby took part in a nice passing movement which ended in the latter being thrown out. Valley attacked again, and Haslet went across for his second try, after Edwards and Tynan had handled. M'Grath failed to convert. Valley, 11; Brothers, 2. On resuming after half-time, Brothers played more like their true form, and were almost over in the first minute, but a forward pass by Murray to B. Creedy ended a good move. M'Grath snapped up, raced ahead, to send on to Reddington, who kicked ahead to Holohan, who cleared nicely to past half-way with a great "line-kick." B. Creedy snapped up, and raced well down field, to kick ahead to Edwards, who was well taken by Holohan, with a great tackle. Valley were hard at it defending, when E. Edwards took a nice mark, which brought temporary relief to his side. Play was held up for a while for A. Edwards to be attended to by the Ambulance man, but he was soon at it again. From an interchange of kicks between the full-backs the ball went out in Valley's "25." From the scrum the ball was kicked across the Valley goal line, and A. Edwards just beat Daly to it, and forced. Valley now attacked, and play was carried to the other end of the field by Ashby, Edwards, Tynan, and Bull. The latter crossed, but was recalled for a forward pass. From the scrum Woodward came through to half-way, with the ball at toe, but Cheyne gathered and kicked out in the full. B. Creedy was injured, and had to be carried to the side line. Brothers returned play to Valley's end, where Holohan kicked across the Blue's line, and should have been awarded a penalty try on account of illegal interference, but Riipinen raced across and scored. Gornall failed at goal from near the side line. Valley, 11; Brothers, 5. From a scrum B. Creedy secured and made a great opening before sending G. Daly across. B. Creedy failed to goal. Valley, 11; Brothers, 8. These were the final scores.

After the match, Mr. V. Jensen presented the Jensen Shield to E. M'Grath, captain of Valleys.

1924

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 11 v BROTHERS 8



▼ RESULTS

13 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Past Christian Brothers 24 (McCarthy 2, Gornall, B.Creedy, Daly tries; B.Creedy penalty try; Allman, B.Creedy, Gornall goals) d. Coorparoo 5 (Buckley try; Thorogood goal).
Brothers: G.Draney (c), W.Holohan, G.Allman, C.Creedy, J.Hourigan, J.Woodward, B.Creedy, M.Burke, W.Taylor, E.Riipenen, G.Daly, C.Gornall, D.McCarthy.
Coorparoo: H.Jacques, J.Bryce, G.Crouch, G.McLean, V.Crouch, J.Horsley (c), C.Thorogood, A.Jeavons, A.Henderson, M.Kennedy, L.Buckley, A.Martin, T.Scanlan.
Referee: LH Kearney. Crowd: 5,000.

13 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Fortitude Valley 17 (Haslet 2, Stanley, Noble, McGrath tries; A.Edwards goal) d. Past Grammars 10 (McGrory, Cameron tries; Monteath 2 goals).
Valley: W.Cheyne, J.Haslet, G.Flynn, V.Tynan, S.Ashby, A.Edwards, E.Edwards, H.Reddington, K.McCormack, N.Sykes, E.McGrath (c), E.Stanley, A.Noble.
Past Grammars: R.Brown, H.McGrory, A.Brown (c), J.Charity, H.Ferguson, R.McAllister, C.Monteath, C.Schafer, R.Smith, W.McCook, R.Cameron, R.Thompson, A.Chadwick
Referee: Jack Roche. Crowd: 5,000.

20 SEPTEMBER FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Past Christian Brothers 23 (McGuire 2, Gornall, Riipenen, Burke tries; B.Creedy 3, Gornell goals) d. Fortitude Valley 3 (Flynn try).
Brothers: G.Draney (c), L.Maguire, C.Creedy, H.Murray, J.Hourigan, J.Woodward, B.Creedy, M.Burke, F.Goodwin, E.Riipenen, C.Gornall, G.Daly, D.McCarthy.
Valley: W.Cheyne, J.Haslet, G.Flynn, V.Tynan, P.Casey, A.Edwards, E.Edwards, N.Sykes, K.McCormack, H.Reddington, E.McGrath (c), E.Stanley, A.Noble.
Referee. LH Kearney. Crowd: 5,000.

27 SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Valley 11 (Haslet 2, E.Edwards tries; A.Edwards goal) d. Past Christian Brothers 8 (Riipenen, Daly tries; B.Creedy goal).
Valley: W.Cheyne, S.Ashby, V.Tynan, T.Bull, A.Haslet, A.Edwards, E.Edwards, S.Gollan, K.McCormack, T.Rasey, H.Reddington, A.Noble, E.McGrath (c).
Christian Brothers: G.Draney (c), L.McGuire, C.Creedy, G.Allman, J.Hourigan, J.Woodward, B.Creedy, E.Riipenen, F.Goodwin, M.Burke, C.Gornall, G.Daly, D.McCarthy.
Reserve: H.Murray.
Referee: Jack Roche. Crowd: 9,000.

1925

BRL: CARLTONS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Coorparoo	11	9	2	0	247	157	18
Western Suburbs	11	8	2	1	180	121	17
PC Brothers	11	7	3	1	156	121	15
Carlton	11	6	5	0	135	126	12
Fortitude Valley	11	5	6	0	110	143	10
Past Grammars	11	4	7	0	135	201	8
University	11	0	9	2	82	176	2

BRL Semi-Final - Brothers 12 v Coorparoo 2

CROWD KEPT WAITING.

INSURGENT FOOTBALLERS.

THREAT NOT TO PLAY.

SEMI-FINAL MATCH PRELUDE.

By "REDCAP."

About three thousand Rugby League patrons who assembled at Davies Park on Saturday afternoon to see the semi-finals of the competition were kept waiting for fifteen minutes while the Past Brothers' Club held a "stop work," or stop play, meeting, and threatened not to take the field to engage Coorparoo unless the Brisbane Rugby League unreservedly gave an assurance that what the Past Brothers' Club regarded as an insult would be rectified. 'Past Brothers resented the refusal of the management of the League to accept their letter outlining a case in support of their disinclination to play under Mr. Roche in any further games this season, and decided upon direct action on the ground. The threat not to play had its oct, and when an assurance was given by seven Brisbane Rugby League delegates, who were hastily mobilised in the dressing shed, that the letter would be received and discussed Brothers decided to play. In a game which featured very heavy, tackling, the Coorparoo team was outplayed by 12 to 2.

Last Saturday's developments, following on a carnival of protests and counter protests, shed a flood of light on the chaotic management of the Brisbane Rugby League. Under no circumstances should the governing body have given way to Past Brothers' threat. The Brisbane Rugby League in the first instance, displayed discourtesy in refusing to receive Brothers' letter expressing a disinclination to participate in any more games under the control of Mr. Roche, but having decided upon such a course of action no consideration for the alteration of it should have been entertained at the eleventh hour under duress. While Past Brothers rightly considered that they had a genuine grievance in not having been heard they foundered in diplomatic cross-currents, when they decided to be heard in the manner of insurgents battering down the doors of control. Their unconstitutional course of threatening to inconvenience thousands of people, who had paid for admission to the grounds, was inexcusable and unwarranted. While the Brisbane Rugby League had shown the insurgent club scant courtesy, the insurgents showed the public scant courtesy in threatening not to play. The quarrel was none of the public's making, but they were dragged into it to force the issue. It was not playing the game with patrons, a proportion of whose gate money Past Brothers Club takes every Saturday. There was nothing to prevent Brothers holding the pistol at the head of the management on the day before the fixture, when a time limit would have forced the League to make known its reply to the ultimatum, and the public could then have made their arrangements accordingly, but for the dissatisfied club to wait till an hour before the game, when the public were trapped, was a misguided action. On the preceding day when rumblings of discontent were heard, and it was thought that Brothers would not play under Mr. Roche, a Press statement was secured assuring the public that Brothers would play. To have broken faith with League patrons by an eleventh hour threat not to play unless the management gave way was unpardonable.

HANDING OVER CONTROL.

And in giving way to the insurgent club the Brisbane Rugby League placed itself in the position of a magistrate handing over the keys of the prison to a person whom he has sentenced for contempt of court. In this case Brothers were guilty of contempt of League control, but instead of their players and officials being disqualified for one playing season they were allowed to walk over the body of the controlling authority and to take the keys of the management. A situation which demanded delicate diplomatic handling was not handled at all. The Brisbane Rugby League could have compromised to the extent of promising to reopen the matter, but should have sternly refused to handle the smoking bomb of a complete surrender. The position now is that the management of the game in the metropolis will have to sit upon this bomb, and it is only a matter of time when it will explode, for other clubs cannot be blamed if they resort to direct action as a remedy for obtaining what they seek. Past Brothers complained that the course taken by the League in metaphorically slamming the door on them was unprecedented and unjustifiable; and it was, per se, but the action of the complainant club in threatening to slam the gates on the public was also unprecedented and unjustifiable.

GAME OF HEAVY TACKLING.

The game opened with determined and severe tackling. Hard knocks and falls were given and taken. It was like a pitched battle. As the raiders advanced swiftly the defenders fell upon them heavily and pinned them hard to the grass. Less than a minute after the start the referee, Mr. Roche, summoned a compulsory conference and administered warnings to several players who were showing signs of getting out of hand. Then, under this restraining order, the combatants grimly resumed hostilities. The Brothers' attack was hot and determined. Getting a fair serving from the scrums, or from the sides of the scrums, they made the defenders fall back principally because of the smart sniping in the centre by M. Creedy, who several times cut the blockade and shortened the goalward trail for the desperate defenders to cover the retreat by superb tackling. In the first exchanges Brothers' offensive was like an incoming tide. Wave after wave of vanguard and rearguard charges swept on the Coorparoo's rock-like defence. There were tense moments when it appeared that the defence would be submerged by the persistency of the offensive, and the pandemonium among the crowd told of the quality of the Rugger. When the defence of the beleaguered Coorparoo players was turned to attack Brothers responded doggedly. Every foot of ground was challenged by spirited tackling. Sometimes one man was tackled by two. Occasionally masses of players became tangled and struggled and wriggled for coveted possession. Horder, in particular, was so well spotted that when the ball came out to him from the pack he was not given moving ground, and had to double back and about to find room to obtain advantage from a kick where he would have preferred a run. Brothers moved up so smartly that they enmeshed the attackers before any progress could be made by the fleeted backs. These spoiling tactics might have been countered by the short kick and following for the re-gather after the manner of tactics of Johnny Thomas, the peerless stand-off half back of Lomas's team, but for once the generalship and individualism of Horder, which have been such great match-winning factors, were missing, and Coorparoo made little headway.

A DOUBTFUL GOAL.

At half time the sides drew level with a penalty goal apiece. Allman's goal was doubtful, the ball swerving in to miss the post by a fraction. Both flagsmen hesitated and then awarded the goal. Horder's shot from an angle and distance was very fine. Up till this stage the Rugger had been full of action and gripping. There was little difference between the packs, the Coorparoo six standing up to the heavy bumping sturdily and exchanging measure for measure. The territorial margin in favour of Brothers in the first half was due to the superior ground-breaking dashes of G. Allman and M. Creedy, with Riipinen, Hamalainen and Burke excellent scouts. One sustained attack by Brothers, which lasted for five minutes just before the interval, was a humming piece of Rugger in which thrilling massed offensive movements were cut off by the masterly tackling of W. Thomson, Horder, Sellars, Crouch, Prickett, Kennedy, and Jeavons. There was not a man on the Coorparoo side who lacked merit in defence in this desperate duel.

A GREAT BATTLE.

In the second stage of the game, there was no easing off in the pace and determination of the players. Brothers hurled themselves for the goal line, and had almost reached it when the defenders grappled with them and flung them back in masses. After a long interval Coorparoo backs, through the trickiness of Horder, moved dangerously, and the fast moving Bryce stole a run on the vigilant tacklers, and appeared to be about to score when he was blocked, and in turning infield for more room he was clutched with relish by Creedy, and Woodward snatched up the coveted ball to kick beyond the danger zone. Again, when Horder attempted to outstride Taylor, but was heavily tackled by that player, the crowd was thrilled. Buffeted and thwarted in turn the players became angry with the fruitlessness of their efforts and another caution from Mr. Roche had a sobering effect. After further heavy exchanges and resultless skirmishing, Riipinen shrugged his way through the barricade, and, moving recklessly and speedily, he shot from half way and swerved right across field to the posts, literally torpedoing the steel-like defence, but to be crashed into on the line by Thomson and to lose the ball; but Draney, who had followed in the flank of the raider, was handy, and dropped on it for the first strenuously-fought-for try. It was a magnificent lone-handed dash by Riipinen. Allman goaled. Strongly besieged, shortly afterwards Coorparoo felt relieved by a penalty kick right on the line, but Horder tactically blundered when he essayed a short kick and follow. This was snapped up by Burke, who was presented with an easy try, and Allman goaled easily. The only other outstanding incident in the struggle was a strong run of 40 yards by Horder, who attempted to outstride Healy instead of using the sidestep, which has brought him so many tries, but Healy made no mistake with a brilliantly-timed tackle.

COORPAROO OUTPLAYED.

It was the hardest game that has been played on the ground. Except in defence, Brothers were better all round than their opponents. The difference between the sides was more marked in the backs, where Brothers made more headway, the blockade so strongly that Horder and Crouch were rarely allowed to get out of the holds. The quickly breaking up tactics of the Brothers' vanguard enabled their defence to be of brickwall pattern. In no other game this season have the Brethren been so effective. On the whole, while their methods were vigorous, they did not resort to that obstruction and man-handling which marked their previous game, and they met with greater success. This should be a lesson to them that legitimate tactics bring better results than attempts to beat a vigilant referee. The defeat of Coorparoo may be set down to the inability of Horder to sparkle, an inability due not so much to his having an offday, as to the smart spotting tactics of the Brothers' backs and riding forwards.

The teams were:—

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.—Full back, J. Healy; three-quarters, W. Taylor, G. Draney, C. Creedy, W. Holohan; five-eighth, G. Allman; half-back, J. Woodward; forwards, M. Burke, H. Hamalainen, C. Cornall, E. Riipinen, A. Corrigan, and V. Callaghan.

COORPAROO.—Full back, W. Thomson; three-quarters, J. Bryce, V. Crouch, H. Horder, W. Connell; five-eighth, D. Bird; half-back, J. Carroll; forwards, A. Jeavons, L. Sellars, T. Reardon, M. Kennedy, B. Simpson, S. Kaiper.

Referee: Mr. J. Roche.

1925

BRL Semi-Final - Carlton 21 v Wests 6

IN THE FINAL

Carltons Big Points Margin.

SUBURBS MISS STARS.

Carltons won their way into the final of the Brisbane Rugby League's premiership by defeating Western Suburbs in the early game at Davies Park yesterday afternoon by 21 points to eight.

Suburbs took the field without Aynsley and Moores, who are in New Zealand, with the Queensland team, Jones, and Purcell. The reserves put up a game effort, but the absence of the stars was too much, and they can now put away the jerseys until next season. The red and blacks have provided some of the most pleasant features of an interesting season. Last year they finished at the bottom of the ladder. Enthusiasm and determination on the part of the club officials was responsible for an auspicious opening of the present season. The critics received a surprise by the form which won for Suburbs the Old Buffers' Cup, and until Aynsley and Moores were commandeered by the Queensland selectors for the New Zealand tour, they were at the head of the competition ladder, with the right of challenge practically assured.

They have had to pay the price of possessing the stars of the game. They have the satisfaction of knowing that the public appreciated their efforts, which, after all, is greater than any premiership.

But to get back to yesterday's game. Although there was not the difference between the teams that the scores indicate, Carltons were always on top.

SUCCESS OF CARLTON.

Carlton and Western Suburbs were the participants in the other semi-final game, which was played prior to the principal fixture. Carlton won by 21 to 8 in a colourless game. The Western Suburbs team was a mere remnant of that which so early in the season gave promise of winning the premiership, being mostly made up of juniors. For Carlton tries were scored by Laws (2), Bourke, Columbus, and Kelly, and Porter (2), and Laws kicked goals. For Suburbs, Easton and Christofferson scored tries. The most conspicuous players were P. Hoare, Kelly, Silverton, Morahan, Kavanagh, and Columbus, for Carlton, and Brereton, Ganly, Pearson, Eldridge, Christofferson and Bowden, for Suburbs.

The teams were:—

Western Suburbs: Full back, A. Ross; three-quarters, E. Graham, J. Pearson, J. Ganly, T. Daley; five-eighth, E. Storr; half, W. Brereton; forwards, R. Bowden, F. Easton, S. Porter, V. Christoffersen, L. Eldridge, F. Perry.

Carltons: Full back, E. Silverton; three-quarters, T. Bourke, J. Morahan, T. Porter, P. Hoare; half-back, W. Kelly; five-eighth, H. Stewart; forwards, W. Kavanagh, W. Ryan, F. Salmon, J. Columbus, E. Laws, W. Price.

Referee, Mr. A. Matodori.

1925

BRL Final - Carlton 10 v Brothers 0

CAUGHT NAPPING.

LEAGUE FINAL SURPRISE.

CARLTONS' TACTICAL RUGGER.

By "REDCAP."

Carltons, one of the lower placed Rugby League Clubs, surprised 5000 people at the Exhibition Grounds on Saturday by trouncing Past Brothers in a gruelling game for the premiership, and the Jensen Shield, by 10 points (two penalty goals and two tries) to nil. There was not an inspiring passing bout during the whole struggle, both sides adopting "bottling-up" movements, and depending upon vanguard bumps and bashes to bring results. Brothers, who have specialised in this style of Rugger, found themselves in the position of Trojans meeting Trojans, and with their thunder stolen they were beaten to a standstill. Carltons' victory was very popular. They will retain the premiership and the Vic Jensen Shield till Saturday next, when they will be called upon to defend the honours against Coorparoos, who hold the right of challenge.

The unexpected is always interesting. Carltons performed the unexpected by defeating Brothers and putting them out of the competition. It was the evidence of this improvement when they were considered so obscure that made Carltons so interesting in Saturday's tussle. On any other occasion but a final the crowd would have yawned. In this instance the competitive interest eclipsed the spectacular. Few cared what the game would be like; everybody was wrapped up in the issue. And when Carltons are after holding their opponents at their own tactics rushed up two hard-fought-for tries near the curtain fall, the crowd lustily cheered a side that has been almost friendless during the season.

BROTHERS' DEFEAT EXPLAINED.

Brothers may attribute their defeat to two causes—staleness and obstruction. Had they not played Coorparoo last Saturday week they might have had the requisite condition to win; but that energy-sapping battle apparently took too much out of them, and they were not equal to holding a very vigorous set of players whose preparation had not been interfered with by the comparative easy exercise which was provided by their encounter with Western Suburbs. Maybe, the point will be made clearer next Saturday when Carltons, after their heavy game against Brothers, may not be able to hold the challengers, who will have recovered that sprightliness after their fortnight's rest which is an essential match-winning fac-

that from first to last whistle there were not more than three passages where a man or a movement covered thirty yards. It was surprising how little was attempted by the inside backs to break through the barbed-wire-like entanglement of the tacklers, Porter, the Carlton's centre, several times shot through smartly to slice off some of the ground, but he was just a shade out in his timing, and was caught in the meshes of the defenders. The Brothers' back line made persistent efforts to break through by means of orthodox passing, but such little pace was made from the scrums that the Carlton players had no difficulty in trapping them. It is astonishing, considering the scope that offered, that the inside backs of Brothers did not short grubber kick for fast raiding forwards to follow on the dribble. Absolutely no attempt to make by way of the scissors method of reverse passing was made by either side. It was not bullock versus panther, but bullock versus bullock, and the result of the stampede was a triumph for Carltons' weight, energy, and condition.

VICTORS FINISH WELL.

The final ten minutes provided the best Rugger of the day, when Carltons, scenting victory, stormed heavily and drove Brothers back to their last quarter. Bourke, the Carlton winger, received from measures. He is a very much improved referee, and his success in handling a strenuous final so ably should give him that confidence which will carry him far as Mr. Roche's successor in next season's games.

The teams were:—

CARLTONS: Full-back, E. Silverton; three-quarters, T. Bourke, J. Morahan, T. Porter, W. Kelly; five-eighth, H. Stewart; half-back, P. Hoare; forwards, F. Salmon, E. Laws, L. Cranston, W. Price, W. Ryan, W. Kavanagh.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.—Full-back. J. Healy; three-quarters, W. Taylor, G. Draney, C. Creedy, W. Holohan; five-eighth, G. Allman; half-back, E. Simmons; forwards, M. Burke, H. Hamalainen, C. Gornal, E. Riipinen, F. Goodwin, V. Callaghan.

Referee: A. Matsdorf.

For Carltons, Cranston and Kelly scored tries, and Porter and Salmon each kicked a penalty goal.



An Incident in the Brothers v. Carltons Match.

1925

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 26 v COORPAROO 5

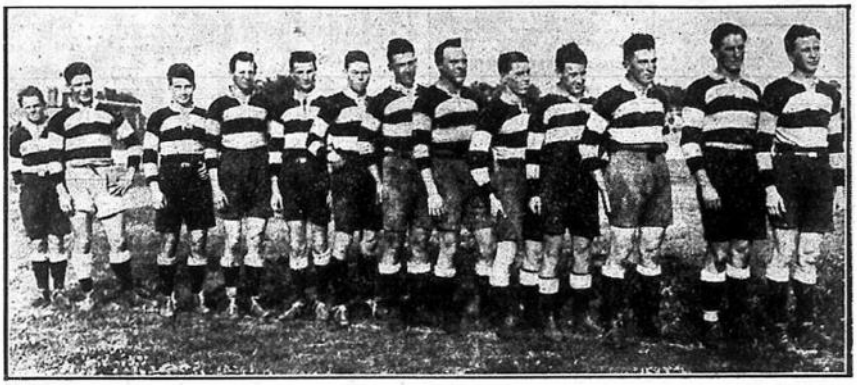
RUGBY SEASON ENDS.

CARLTONS' FINE FINISH.

PREMIERS AND JENSEN SHIELD HOLDERS.

By "REDCAP."

By 26 points (six tries and four goals) to 5 (one try and a goal) Carltons whipped Coorparoo in the challenge final for the Brisbane Rugby League premiership and Jensen Shield on Saturday at Davies Park. Six thousand people saw the challengers outclassed back and forward, Carltons' display being so convincing that they left an impression of being true premiers, even despite the fact that Coorparoo were not at full strength. At no stage of a very dull struggle did Coorparoo reveal that sparkle which has made them the most popular side in the season's competition, and Carltons, mainly because of their closing up of the game and their better condition, battered the opposition to a standstill. It was a surprising ending to a season of surprises in club, inter-city, and interstate and international football.



The victorious Carltons team which won the Jensen Shield on Saturday by defeating their challengers, Coorparoo.

Carltons' performance in winning the League premiership and the Jensen Shield was like the feat of Manfred in the Derby. They were "left at the post" by their scrappy displays in the earlier part of the season, but they struggled to the semi-finals, and came right through the field, and won meritoriously by a "long head." Though not true premiers in the matter of points, for they lost six games, where Western Suburbs lost but four and Coorparoo and Brothers lost five, Carltons' form in the last three games has been so good that even had the other clubs been at full strength it is doubtful if the position would have been altered. They employed such effective "gate-shutting" methods at the finish that they would have stopped any combination that has been seen in Brisbane club football this season. Their performance, when the crowd felt inclined to regard their victories over Western Suburbs and Past Brothers as accidental flashes, brought a reminder of a familiar Goldsmithian phrase.

ENTHUSIASM WAS MISSING.

The game was not productive of any demonstration of enthusiasm from the onlookers. Three factors accounted for this, namely, (1) the absence of the spectacular, (2) the one-sidedness of the struggle, and (3) the lack of a strong district interest. Football lovers look for something more in a final than they received at Davies Park on Saturday. There was a flatness about the proceedings that made patrons glad that the season had come to an end. This should not be. The final should be the climax of the season's enthusiasm, leaving a tinge of regret that the season has ended; but the crowd left the ground disappointed and saddened that they had not been transported into raptures over the game and some illusive sentiment about it. It was a very good crowd, but it was like a big grate without a fire in it. It must soon dawn upon the League managers that there is wanted something to fire their patrons with enthusiasm. The game is spectacular enough to attract huge crowds in the inter-city and interstate matches, but there is an abnormal shrinkage in the patronage of club games. It is evident that the missing sentiment which would have made Saturday's final a very boisterous affair, despite the one-sidedness and the absence of the spectacular, is the district system. In Melbourne the remarkable public support that is given to the Australian game is due to the district sense. This district following is so powerful that attendances which would be regarded as phenomenal even in interstate matches are commonplace in club duels. There is no other reason why there were not 20,000 people at Davies Park to watch the Rugby League final except the absence of district football. It is a singular thing that over a period of nearly 15 years there have been very little increase in the gate takings at premiership finals. The Brisbane Rugby League will never gather much moss while it remains knee deep in the bog of the system which leaves the patronage of the game mainly confined to the camp followers with the great army of the public so much interested in the fortunes of miscellaneous clubs as they would be in a street riot in Hongkong. The absence of popular enthusiasm in Saturday's final was the best plea that has yet been made in support of a change from the club to the district system.

HOW CARLTONS WON.

So successful were Carltons with their "bottling-up" tactics against Past Brothers that they saw no reason to adopt anything different against Coorparoo. Their forwards took possession of the game right from the start, and they made it so hot that the challengers were rarely allowed to cross the halfway mark. Whenever any attempt was made to despatch the ball to Horder and the wings the Carlton raiders moved up quickly, and tackled solidly. Upon the ball being played, they would conduct rucking operations, and before the weight and force of these drives the opposition retreated sullenly. Had there been any evenness about the scrummage possessions, Carltons would have registered more than 11 to nil at the interval, but Coorparoo, mainly by superior raking, checkmated the progress made by the Carlton forwards. Horder was so well watched that he was unable to get moving, but even without his opportunism much could have been achieved by the other backs but for the lack of variety in their tactics. It is difficult to understand why, when stodgy methods of attack had failed, Horder did not take the stand-off half position, a change which brought such success to Brisbane against Ipswich. Had not this succeeded, a shift to the wing could could have been experimented with.

FAULTY TACTICS.

The tactics of the inside backs was also calculated to assist Carltons. When the ball was coming slowly away from the scrums, and it was seen that the back line made so little headway, a short kick to the blank spaces by the half would have kept Carltons guessing, but they were no more required to do this than a bullock plodding along a bush track is required to guess. It is true that Bird did try the short kick several times when he saw that Horder could not get into his stride, but he kicked without judgment, and instead of bobbing his shots short between the fullback and the other line to enable the breaking forwards to raid, he allowed Silverton time to gather, and play havoc with good line kicks.

The sum total of numerous Coorparoo back passing bouts was that little ground was gathered from the scrums to the touches. A winger of the Arnsler or Spencer type would have moved smartly to beat the opposite winger, short-kicked or infielded the pass when threatened with a tackle, but both Coorparoo wingers were weak, and generally succumbed to the defenders. Coorparoo made the mistake of playing Brown on the wing after he had been exhausted by helping B Senior, Coorparoo to win their final. Brown was a weak link, but could not be blamed under the circumstances. When it was seen that he was not equal to the task, Jeavons was tried in the late stages of the game, and shaped very ably.

CARLTON'S FORWARDS.

Carltons depended upon forward drives to win them the game, and they were very successful in this. The backs were sound without being clever, and were just content to tackle hard and stop the men opposite them from scoring, rather than to attempt any daring raids themselves. So it was that the battle was always kept to the forwards, and the Carlton six were always up smartly, hungry for work. A better display of hard following, rucking, and tackling has not been presented by any club in this season's games than that given by them in this final. Their condition was so good that they were always up with the ball, with several of them over when Coorparoo players were straggling limb-weary at other parts of the field. At the final stages they were too much for the wind-blown opposition, and when Horder was the only man who was handy enough to have offered a resistance for the last try, he was too tired to bother, the rest of the Coorparoo players being at the other end of the ground, and the vanguard of the victors making four over when the try was scored.

PERSONAL POINTS.

Kavanagh was again the best player on the field, the quickness with which he tracked the ball being the feature. Three or four times when Coorparoo saved he was always first up. Fast following is the secret of great forward play.

Salmon, who scored ten points, was in great fettle. He was one of the fastest of the vanguard and his display was very little below that of Kavanagh's. Price, Cramston, Laws, and Ryan played splendidly in every department of the game.

E. Silverton gave another superb exhibition at full back, and was always a thorn. J. Morahan and H. Stewart were the ablest of other backs, all of whom performed solidly. J. Morahan scored the best try of the game by racing up to Horder, and short-kicking to regather and score behind the posts. Next season may see him develop into an exceptionally fine back.

W. Thomson was again the best player on the Coorparoo side. His tackling and clearing were high class. He is a very versatile player, and should be heard of again. A. Jeavons, W. Kennedy, and S. Kapper impressed among the forwards.

PREMIERSHIP HOLDERS.

Carltons have now won the League premiership twice. Their first success was in 1921. Following is the list of premiership holders since the commencement of League competitions:—

1909.—Valley.
1910.—Ipswich District Club.
1911.—Valley-Toombul.
1912.—Natives.
1913.—West End.....
1914.—Valley.
1915.—Valley.
1916.—Western Suburbs.
1917.—Valley.
1918.—Valley.
1919.—Valley.
1920.—Western Suburbs.
1921.—Carltons.
1922.—Western Suburbs.
1923.—Coorparoo.
1924.—Valleys.
1925.—Carltons.

For the winners Morahan (2), Kelly, Salmon (2), and Kavanagh scored tries, and Porter (2), and Salmon (2), kicked goals. For Coorparoo, Bellars scored, and Horder goaled.

1925

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 26 v COORPAROO 5



▼ RESULTS

19 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Carlton 21 (Laws 2, Bourke, Columbus, Kelly tries; Porter 2, Laws goals) d. Western Suburbs 6 (Easton, Christoffersen tries).
Carlton: E.Silverton, T.Bourke, J.Morahan, T. Porter, P.Hoare, W.Kelly, H.Stewart, W.Kavanagh, W.Ryan, F.Salmon, J.Columbus, E.Laws, W.Price.
Wests: A.Ross, E.Graham, J.Pearson, J.Ganly T.Daley, E.Storr, W.Brereton, E.Bowden, F.Easton, S.Porter, V.Christoffersen, L.Eldridge, F.Perry.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

19 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Past Christian Brothers 12 (Draney, Burke tries; Allman 3 goals) d. Coorparoo 2 (Horder goal).
Brothers: J.Healy, W.Taylor, G.Draney, C.Creedy, W.Holohan, G.Allman, J.Woodward, M.Burke, H.Hamalainen, C.Gornall, E.Riipenen, A.Corrigan, V.Callaghan.
Coorparoo: W.Thomson, J.Bryce, V.Crouch, H.Horder, W.Connall, D.Bird, J.Carroll, A.Jeavons, L.Sellars, T.Scanlan, M.Kennedy, B.Simpson, S.Kapper.
Referee: Jack Roche. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

26 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND

Carlton 10 (Cranston, Kelly tries; Porter, Salmon goals) d. Past Christian Brothers 0.
Carlton: E.Silverton, T.Bourke, J.Morahan, T.Porter, W.Kelly, H.Stewart, P.Hoare, F.Salmon, E.Laws, L.Cranston, W.Price, W.Ryan, W.Kavanagh.
Christian Brothers: J.Healy, W.Taylor, G.Draney, C.Creedy, W.Holohan, G.Allman, E.Simmons, M.Burke, H.Hamalainen, C.Gornall, E.Riipenen, F.Goodwin, V.Callaghan.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd 5,000.***

3 OCTOBER CHALLENGE FINAL
DAVIES PARK

Carlton 26 (Morahan 2, Salmon 2, Kelly, Kavanagh tries; Porter 2, Salmon 2 goals) d. Coorparoo 5 (Sellars try; Horder goal).
Carlton: E.Silverton, W.Kelly, S.Porter, J.Morahan, T.Bourke, H.Stewart, P.Hoare, W.Kavanagh, W.Ryan, W.Price, L.Cranston, E.Laws, F.Salmon.
Coorparoo: H.Sheldrick, W.Thomson, H.Horder, V.Crouch, J.Bryce, D.Bird, J.Carroll, M.Kennedy, R.Simpson, S.Kapper, A.Jeavons, L.Sellars, H.Jacques. Reserve: H.Brown.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd: 6,000.***

1926

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
PC Brothers	12	8	2	2	225	121	18
University	12	7	5	0	171	150	14
Fortitude Valley	12	6	5	1	177	125	13
Coorparoo	12	6	6	0	142	143	12
Past Grammars	12	5	6	1	159	157	11
Western Suburbs	12	5	7	0	144	221	10
Carlton	12	2	10	0	118	219	4

BRL Semi-Finals - Coorparoo 12 v University 9 & Brothers 17 v Valleys 11

RUGBY FINALISTS.

BROTHERS AND COORPAROO QUALIFY.

Many close games, with the players as highly keyed as entries on a spindleleg bottle lord, marked the Brisbane Rugby League semi-finals played at the No. 2 Exhibition Oval on Saturday. University was disposed of by Coorparoo in a game in which the lead was eighty, the issue, and Past Brothers defeated Valleys only after a stubborn battle, in which the forgetting powers of the teams were sent, almost, seconds unblocking visiting the height of victory. The results entitle Coorparoo and Past Brothers to play off for the premiership and the Jensen Shield next Saturday.

SUMMARY.

COORPAROO 12, UNIVERSITY 9.

PAST BROTHERS 17, VALLEY 11

The attendance at the semi-finals was not as large as usual, a matter accounted for by the change of ground. The No. 2 oval of the Exhibition Grounds was never intended to accommodate a large crowd, and many League patrons preferred to abstain from their weekly outing than suffer the inconvenience of lack of comfort. The deficiency in ground appointments was emphasised when a thunderstorm broke during the games, and the several thousand onlookers were compelled to take shelter in the Show Society's horse stalls. The weather was warm, and after the showers somewhat oppressive. This told on the players, particularly in the University-Coorparoo game, when the strenuousness of the football and the high temperature under the direct rays of the sun left some of them in a very fatigued condition. The games were typical semi-finals in which the football was hard and rugged rather than spectacular and thrilling. The winning teams won on their merits, and though 'Varsity suffered from want of better fortune, they had sufficient opportunities to win. The games were played in a good spirit of sportsmanship, and while the tackling was hard, at times severe, it was legitimate, and no rough passages marred the proceedings. This is a splendid tribute to the sound morale of the players, and it is to be hoped that the finals next Saturday will see a continuation of this fine, healthy tone of sportsmanship.

EXIT UNIVERSITY.

The University 13 had a rosy chance of reaching the final, but they had the luck and their own patchy play against them. They snatched a break of 7 to nil, and for a time played all over Coorparoo. Their forwards were making fine bursts, and the inside backs repeatedly nipped the defence, but just as the gate appeared to be wide open it would jerk to the lock, and the students would be dashed back either by a stroke of luck in the ball slipping away from the man about to pass to a trailer, or in some body failing to take the easiest of catches. In these attempts to force the Coorparoo tigers Young and Hulbert in the loose, and Lavery and Carmichael in the forwards were especially worrying. Young attracted attention early by being very slippery to move in between Carroll and Thomson, and occasionally past Crouch, but the value of his darts was discounted by his inability to finish off with proper timing of the passes to the inside backs. Had Young dispatched the ball once at the right moment the score would undoubtedly have been very heavy against the opposition, whose packers in blocking up the bakers and backing away to the attack was first rate. "Bert" Burton, the Coorparoo full back, was called upon to perform much tackling and clearing, and he was so tenacious and agile that his work passed the way for a second half stand and the victory. Had Burton not been so serviceable in all departments, the Coorparoo's margin would have been too scanty to bridge, and to him mostly, rather than to "Bryce and G. Crouch, both of whom contributed in two sterling movements, which brought the winning tries, was due victory due. The general polish of the students was better than that of their opponents, who though they had the advantage of better wiking could make little headway. The 'Varsity attack was much more penetrating, and much better variety was imposed into their manoeuvring for open spaces, though there was a marked deterioration in the general standard of the losers' tackling. This impression was deepened when what would have appeared as bright football was marred by lack of finish in the passing and taking, and by the absence of dash. Both sides were weak in loose three-quarter cooperation. Bird was good for University, but his partner had an off-day, and G. Crouch had not much to keep support from W. Hoffman. It was weakness in defence at the finish that was 'Varsity's undoing, the failure of the outside backs to stop what was a smart piece of work, but an obvious development, allowing Crouch to score twice from practically similar moves.

TWO FINE TRIES.

After holding the lead of 9 to 2, and in the first half, and displaying enough form to see them through to victory, the Students unaccountably fell away. They tired perceptibly, and diminished a series of costly errors. Repeated attempts to break through the defence of Hulbert and Young, who were very solid, forced the Coorparoo attack to veer. Hoffman was being strapped a good deal with the ball by some of the other side being fond of "Scissors," and he tested the wards of half way. Crouch moved simply towards Bryce, who, finding room slightly out of position and also to give Bryce, dashed smartly for the opening, and encircling the converging defence, ran skirting the touch line till he came to Lavery, whom he drew and then whipped the ball in again to Crouch who had cleverly anticipated the development of the attack, and, having no opposition, he ran behind the posts to score. There was a touch of German's finish about this movement which made it irresistible. The full merit of the try was slightly marred, however, by a piece of scheming (obstruction by Conuel, who in attempting to make sure of the position for Bryce was inside of one of the defenders who was measuring off the winger, and stopped what might have been a fine treble. However, this move must was torpedoed quite clearly, and not long afterwards the 'Varsity defence was again caught out of position, and Bryce sped down the right wing and handed in to the grating Crouch on coming to Lyman. It was very finished manoeuvring with Bryce and Crouch right at their top in dash. The students had many opportunities of winning even after this, but their efforts lacked fire and persistence, whilst the Coorparoo vanguard, mainly by the excellent work of Prickett, Jowers, and the brothers Kennedy, gave them little peace. G. Crouch and J. Bryce were better than they have been in recent games, but A. Burton, because of his fine rush-stopping efforts and saving kicks, was the match winning factor. T. Hulbert, J. Lavery, and K. Carmichael, and W. Young were the pick of the Students.

VALLEY'S GAME FIGHT.

It was the general opinion that without their crack half back, A. Edwards, Valleys would be no match for Past Brothers, but traditions influences are as powerful in Valley sides that it was only with the greatest effort that Brothers were able to emerge victorious. Valleys opened anxious to snatch an early lead, knowing that it is in the second half that Brothers make their biggest thrusts. And so it proved. Mainly because K. M'Cormack gave their pack a good share of the ball Valleys had Brothers continually defending. Brothers found this activity so worrying that even the sureness of the tackling was not capable of holding it in check. Valleys were unable to do much by long sweeping attacks owing to the defence standing well up to them, but they showed by dribbling portions of every try, until they reached within striking distance of the try line. This was how L. Beast made the first break through, and gave Valleys the lead. The defence of both sides was remarkably rigid, but heavy battering knocked it out of position at times, and allowed the attackers to fly through the cracks, and to score excellent tries. As it was, the exchanges were so even that each side registered three apiece, and the balance of victory in favour of Brothers came from the accuracy in goal kicking of G. Allman, who landed four goals. Incidentally, Allman has been such a consistent booter this season that he has repeatedly shattered the match-winning prospects of club sides. In the final stages of the tussle the relishes chairman of Gorman paved the way for two splendid tries, and made the game safe for Brothers. Gorman was a very much marked man, and so well did the Valley backs and forwards who had been specially detailed to swamp him do their work that the champion was not permitted a scoring license. What assisted the surveillance corps was the slowness with which the ball left the inside backs, which made Gorman almost a sitting shot. However, what the defenders gained by special attention to Gorman they lost because G. Allman was always doing things. In the dying stages of the game this pair made many fine contributions to the attack, and were exceptionally sharp in detecting the slightest weakness in the resistance. Gorman has an uncanny periscope which he brings into action in tight corners, and by means of this secured through the defence dashes, and worked his confederates into such positions at the finish that the, had no difficulty in dashing over for the tries.

A PECULIAR TRY.

Two unusual incidents occurred in this game. One was the scooping up by H. Anderson, with one arm the rolling ball, while dashing at top speed, and the other the booting and chasing of the oval for 15 yards by C. Hoss, who scored a try. Anderson's adroit feat was such a flash of cleverness that it was greeted with a warm, spontaneous outburst of applause. Nothing better of the kind has been seen in Brisbane football. The other incident, in which Hoss was lone-handed, also brought a salvo of applause. The final throws were indulging in a scramble to Valley's 25's a little to the left of the posts, when the ball was booted clear. Hoss, the Valley right wing three-quarter, set out eagerly after it, and, beating Draney, his vis-a-vis, for the stab, directed it on towards the touch line at halfway. The onlookers and players thought that it had reached the side boundary, but when Hoss, still straining every muscle in the pursuit of the ball, booted it ahead, what had the appearance of a commonplace beginning began to develop an interest. The Brothers' full back (Hogg) tried to put a stop to the incursion, but Hoss again booted and then the pair set sail in a race for the ball, which was then scudding for the line. Hoss had just a little too much pace for the opponent, and finished on a breathless effort by diving on the ball for a fine try. The hard running and the heavy fall so exhausted him that he was unable to resume for some minutes, but when he did he received an ovation. Rarely does one see this style of Rugger bring results. It smacked of the best feature of the round-ball game, and was much relished.

PERSONAL POINTS.

G. Allman and T. Gorman won the game for Brothers, the former by a fine, all-round display in attack and defence, and by goal-kicking, and the latter by deceiving the opposition with wriggling runs in the concluding stages of the game. Allman reaches the stars in this class of football. His try was the reward of watchfulness and a keenness to grasp the chance of converting to an advantage an opponent's mistake. In the final dashes Allman also finished off the openings made by Gorman. J. Woodward, who has been on the casualty list since the game against Western Suburbs, made a successful reappearance. His try was a fine finishing effort to the Gorman-Allman touch. W. Penkes, the Valley player, was the best forward on the ground in the loose. His dribbling was the best seen for years. M. Burke, F. Goodwin, E. Rispinch, and A. M'Auliffe played superbly all through, their tackling, following, and handling being the best they have contributed for some time. H. Bond, the brothers Edwards, H. Anderson, Dysart, and Hoss in the backs, and K. M'Cormack, T. Casey, G. Livermore, Hammond, and H. Jacques were always doing things.

SUMMARY.

COORPAROO v. UNIVERSITY.

Coorparoo, by 12 points (two tries and three goals) defeated University, 9 points (one try and three goals). The teams were:—

COORPAROO.—Full-back, E. Burton; three-quarters, W. Conrall, W. Hoffman, G. Crouch, J. Bryce; halves, J. Carroll and W. Thompson; forwards, A. Jeavons, C. Harris, W. Prickett, M. Kennedy, B. Simpson, W. Kennedy.

UNIVERSITY.—Full-back, J. Lynam; three-quarters, J. Irwin, G. Bird, G. Stuart-Rae, K. Hall; halves, W. Young and J. Hulberts; forwards, T. Fenwick, P. Neville, K. Carmichael, J. Lavery, W. M'Dougall, J. Gerrand.

Referee: A. Mathieson.

For Coorparoo Crouch scored two tries and kicked a penalty goal. W. Thompson kicked two goals from tries. For University, Hall a try, M'Dougall three goals.

1926

BRL Final - Coorparoo 7 v Brothers 2

RUGBY FINAL.

BRISK FORCEFUL GAME.

BROTHERS' UNEXPECTED DEFEAT.

COORPAROO PREMIER TEAM FOR A WEEK.

By "REDCAP."

At the Exhibition Grounds on Saturday before 8000 people the Coorparoo Rugby League team unexpectedly defeated Past Brothers by 7 points (a try and two goals) to 2 (a penalty goal). It was a typical final, marked by traditional Rugger, up to the last five minutes of which both sides had reached a stalemate, but from which Coorparoo by persistent battering broke down the much-troubled Brothers' defence. The game was full of ginger and sting, with Coorparoo taking command of the attack and Brothers snapping back spiritedly in between fine tests of tackling. The winners thoroughly deserved the victory, to which the dashy play of G. Crouch and J. Bryce contributed greatly. The result means that Coorparoo will hold the title of premiers for a week, and will have to withstand a grand final next Saturday from Past Brothers, who hold the right of challenge.

The carnival spirit lured a large gathering to the Exhibition Oval on Saturday afternoon, when the novel spectacle was witnessed of an interstate Australian Rules game and a Rugby League final being disposed of on the one programme. The Rugby final, of course, was the piece de resistance, but followers of both codes, by their rapt attention, apparently thoroughly appreciated the blending for there was a marked presence of the "football atmosphere" while both games were being played. It was the first time in the history of the game that both codes were demonstrated on the same ground before the same crowd, and the experiment afforded an opportunity for contrasts that were exhilarating. The Australian Rules display was not without its passages which produced loud applause, but the Rugby League final found the crowd more at home to Queensland's favourite form of football, and more emotional. As usual, the apostles of both codes left the ground more strongly convinced than ever that theirs was the better game!

THE CERTAINTY OF UNCERTAINTY.

Football form this season has been a snare and a delusion. In the interstate, inter-city, and inter-club games the lines of consistency have deflected from the parallel and converged to the point of odious comparisons and given us the paradox of the certainty of uncertainty. An analysis of the development and effect of tactics in the revised League game provides the apparent explanation. Nowadays success on the football field depends upon the correct adaptation of tactic, whereby the supposed invulnerable side may be beaten by rapping on its weakest salient. At one time the Rugby final was made certain by the truncheon stroke of weight; to-day it is a matter of master moves, the prick of the stiletto. Thus the supposed unbeatable Queenslanders were vanquished in Sydney by weakness in the manipulation of the play-the-ball rule; but when they grasped the new idea they obliterated New South Wales. A study of the proper tactics and the right form of counter made all the difference. Similarly with the games in the inter-city series. The defeated studied the causes of failure and then applied themselves to concentrating their strongest battery on the weakest points of the opposition. Thus consistency was merely inconsistency in masquerade. Coorparoo demonstrated a capacity to upset calculations by setting out to win, not by their own unsuspected reserve, but rather by making the most out of Brothers' weaknesses. There were some interesting contributions to their victory.

HOW COORPAROO WON.

Most people who witnessed the final might be inclined to attribute the success of Coorparoo to the strength of G. Crouch and J. Bryce in the backs and the solidity of the forwards. There is much to sustain such conclusions, because Crouch and Bryce played above themselves, but the more convincing reason for Coorparoo's fine win was that the Brothers' back line failed at its most important salient, whilst the mediocre display of the vanguard aggravated the trouble. Coorparoo commenced by taking possession of the scrums. B. Simpson, who has succeeded A. Henderson as rake, was in rare striking mood, and beat his vis-a-vis so continually that it seemed but a formal matter for the ball to be rolled into the tunnel. It was like a pedestrian putting a penny in the slot on the certainty that the machine will present him with a box of matches. The Coorparoo half-back, J. Carroll, was as frisky as a rabbit in moving away to hand to the rest of the line, whose advances were always smart and worrying, with Crouch, Bryce, and Connall straining for work, and full of vim in the execution of it. While the backs were making many raids which called for something extra special in tackling by the Brothers' rearguard, the Coorparoo forwards were ploughing furrows in Brothers' pack, and contributing finely to the wearing down process. The splendid cohesion of the Coorparoo backs and forwards was brightly displayed in the match-winning try scored by G. Harris, who, with Prickett and Jeavons and the brothers Kennedy, had raided like retrievers, when Crouch kicked cleverly to harass the Brothers' full back, Hogg. Had a less energetic forward pack been on the field Coorparoo would have had to be satisfied with a draw. It was not because Brothers' defence broke down after standing up to the repeated thrusts of their opponents' backs and forwards, but that one of their tireless raiders happened to be well up to take advantage of the opportunity when it arrived. There was so much Coorparoo attack, and so much Brothers' defence, that the result was the only natural one, and yet it was felt that Brothers could still have won, even despite their meagre share of the ball from the scrums, if they had not been fettered by the lack of judgment displayed in the placing of the backs, which pushed that promising stand-off half, T. Casey, on the wing.

BROTHERS' TACTICAL BLUNDER.

In the few chances that Brothers received to move away from scrummage possession it was noticed that very little headway was made by the stand-off half, B. Creedy, who filled the position, showed much promise two seasons ago in this position, but absence from the metropolis has not given him that full development which was expected of him. It was perhaps unfair for the club selectors to thrust upon him the responsibility of a final, when the colt, Casey, and H. Thomson have shaped so soundly in the role in the early season games. Creedy did not play at all badly, but he was unable to move away sharply enough for the centres to carry the attack deeply into the opposition area. And this is the point at which more than anywhere else the Coorparoo victory started. They concentrated upon the slowness of Brothers at the pivot position, and despatched relays of tacklers to smother the attack. And so the match was prevented from becoming a conflagration. Coorparoo knew sufficient of the powers of Gorman not to give him room in which to move, and, baffled by the swooping darts of the tacklers on the inside men, Gorman was almost put out of the game. At times he was so crowded by the converging defence being smarter off the mark than the men with the ball that he was compelled to act as a sort of propelling agent to transfer the ball away to the winger, in the hope that something might be done by a reverse pass, but the damage could not be flawlessly rectified, and Brothers were held in check all the afternoon. At times Gorman, by sheer artistry, was able to fool the defence, but a number of mistakes at the critical moment—forward passing or other breaches—jarred the attack, and brought the game again within Coorparoos' grasp. A keen study of the first Half would make it evident that had the Gorman touch borne fruit, Coorparoo, instead of winning might have been soundly trounced, for there are times when the morale of a side is quickly shattered. One clever thing with the wizard's touch was all that was necessary. Coorparoo had set a sort of Hindenburg line in defence, and, once broken, an otherwise well ordered side might have changed into a rabble. Gorman was so impressed with the necessity for greater speed and foxiness in the stand-off half position that he effected the rearrangement whereby Casey was substituted for Creedy, and that player placed on the wing. The change was made too late, but it was so obviously the thing that in the last 10 minutes when Brothers received the ball from one scrum Casey wormed his way into an opening at half-way, completely deceived the Coorparoo backs, whose defence had been so tight, and gave Gorman a chance, which, had it been nearer the line, would have brought a try. As it was Taylor ran further in this dash than on any other occasion in the play.

THE FORWARD DUEL.

The display of the Brothers forwards was disappointing. They did well enough in tackling, but their aids were sluggish, and they lacked that fire which has made Brothers packs famous. They were not only beaten for possession in the scrums, but they were tricked for the ball in the loose, when Prickett, Harris, and the brothers Kennedy played all over them. Only once or twice did some of them shape with the traditional ruggedness of Past Brothers packs. Riipinen was very smart in moving away to tackle, and to shrug his way along, and once V. Callaghan ran as though possessed by demons. He knocked over every figure in his path in a diagonal burst, following a serviceable piece of work by Allman, and was only held up by a scaffolding of determined men a foot from the line. Brothers had sheer bad luck in not piercing here, but had the vanguard been as vigorous as it was in other days, they might have been able to bullock their way over. At it was, Brothers had to be content with a penalty at this point, which gave them their only score. From their performance in this game one is inclined to think that the new play-the-ball rule has had the effect of making Brothers forward powers atrophy. It would seem that there is not enough of the regular hard rucking left in the game for Brothers, that hard style of Rugger in which they revel. Perhaps, it was, though, that the fullest efforts were not exercised because of the thought that they still had another chance, and that the premiership eagle can be brought down with the second barrel in the challenge final. Brothers have the capacity in their forwards to win, which not even the loss of the ball from the scrums can interfere with; but they will have to think more about how much real forward work they can contribute rather than think how much Gorman is capable of at the back of them. Gorman directly has been an asset, but indirectly a liability.

CROUCH'S STERLING DISPLAY.

G. Crouch was the best player on the ground, and thoroughly merited the trophy donated by Mr. R. Cooper for that purpose. His performance was striking in its all-round excellence. Not only was he very slippery in attack, in which he often stole past a very watchful line of defenders, but he displayed fine judgment in picking out the weak spots and making straight for them. Also, in the general football he showed variety of a high order, a point which was specially noticeable when he booted near the line to vex the hard-pressed Brothers' defence, knowing that the forwards were hot on the hunt, and likely to finish the movement if the bounce of the ball beat him. In defence Crouch had the activity of two men, and frequently sprang from unexpected quarters to drop his quarry. In many respects Crouch's all-round football has not been equalled this season. It was the best effort of his career. At times his defensive swoops were reminiscent of W. J. Pearce and J. Flynn, and did much to keep out the Brothers' attack at the most worrying periods. J. Bryce, on the wing, was also very fine. He ran much more smartly than usual, and showed a tendency to swerve in to leave more room for his final dash. Brothers found him particularly hard to manage, and once when he was heading strongly for the corner it was only the great covering work of Gorman that stopped him. J. Carroll performed very correctly at half-back, and W. Connall at times was hard to hold. The other backs, without approaching the standard of Crouch and Bryce, were much more reliable than usual. M. Burton, at full back, was sound in every department, some of his side line shots being superb. W. Prickett was the best of the forwards. He was always on the track of the ball in the long field dashes, and he showed uncanny tricks in whipping the ball away from the rucks. The others were first-rate, too. G. Harris, the B-grader, was a success. When his good following enabled him to charge down Hogg's kick, and to fall over for the winning try, he was embraced by the other members of the team, like a long-lost brother. The members of the losing side had an off day generally, and but for Gorman they might have been well beaten; or, if I might be excused of cynicism, they might have won but for Gorman, on whom they have been thrusting the burdens of Sinbad the Sailor and neglecting the odd jobs themselves.

PASSAGES OF THE PLAY.

A kicking wind, which made the palms on Machinery Hill bend as though they would break, gave Brothers the early advantage. The sun was submerged behind threatening rain clouds, and though it was September there was a wintry bite in the air. Simpson gave Coorparoo a supply of the ball early, and Carroll, Thomson, Hoffman, and Connall skirmished down the left wing. The defence was out of position here, and Connall slipped through for a fine dash of about 30 yards, but he was overtaken and enveloped by tacklers, who had hurried up after a temporary lapse. Effective tackling by M'Auliffe, Hamalainen, Burke, Callaghan, and Riipinen stopped invasions initiated by Hoffman and Connall. For a change the offensive drifted to Bryce's wing, after Crouch had made a rent, but Allman and Gorman were on the spot to stem the tide. Hemmed in at a position opposite the double-decker stand Brothers were saved by Gorman making an opening for Casey, who was getting under weigh nicely, but was dropped from behind by Crouch. Burton was the next thorn in Brothers' path by putting a long shot out near the right-hand corner flag. The ball wandered out to Hogg, who, near the goal posts, kicked appisbly to Carroll, who attempted to emulate the Australian Rulers by dropping for goal, but he was too worried by charging forwards to give the kick correct trajectory. Following this escape Casey made the position better for Brothers by darting along the left wing and sending in to Gorman, who, with supports, had disposed of the defence, but the referee ruled that Casey's pass to him had been forward. It was a spectacular movement killed in the roots. The Brothers' attack out in deeper, until they scrummaged 30 yards out from the Machinery Hill posts. Carroll hereabouts gave to Thomson, who worked Crouch into a position to draw Casey and hand over to Bryce. Bryce ran with resolution to near half way, where he turned in, only to be bowled over by Callaghan, who had slipped away from the scrum very fast. Following further dashes by Hoffman, Jeavons, and Connall, a move was made by Thomson, who kicked for Prickett to follow smartly and to rejoin and pass to Jeavons, who, when running hard for the goal mouth, and only seven yards to go, was brilliantly bowled over by Hogg. The supports were not handy enough to carry on the advantage, and Brothers repulsed them, but only for the invaders to try another method. This was to give the crowd the best movement of the match.

A FINE MOVEMENT.

Carroll started the movement from the base, giving to Crouch, who veered for the corner of the upper gate goal. Gorman was shadowing him, and he released to Connell, who baffled Gorman with a tricky, dodgy run, which changed the direction of the attack to the corner between the double-decker stand and the then MacDonald Stand. The Coorparoo forwards who had intended to trail Connell found him approaching them, and they changed direction to fit in with the drift of the attack. M. Kennedy and Jeavons relieved Connell of the ball when opposite the posts, and with Bryce in support, and the defence caught off its stance, it looked as though Bryce would have an easy run for the corner, but Gorman, who had tracked the invasion from the other wing, was on the spot, and he not only stopped Bryce, but filched the ball from him near the corner flag. However, after being beaten back a short way, Coorparoo received a penalty shot and Crouch kicked a good goal. Coorparoo 7 points, nil. Quickly following the drop out Thomson's attempt to clear was charged down, and Woodward despatched it smartly to Gorman, who ran Taylor into position, but that player was overwhelmed near the corner. Creedy, Riipinen, and Allman handled in a further burst, but the tackling was too deadly to allow them to pass. Ultimately from a cross kick Riipinen, Hoffman was bumped out the way by Allman, whereupon Callaghan eagerly picking up, dashed to the line, where he was held by tacklers. It was for a breach here that Allman kicked a penalty goal and evened the scores at half-time.

In the second half the clouds cleared, and the sun struck Brothers with a worrying glare, which made catching difficult. The wind had also become stronger, and Brothers were far from comfortable. Territorially, Coorparoo had much the better of the close football, which was marked by its keenness rather than by any spectacular dashes. Once Gorman raced away with such vim, after Woodward, Creedy, and Allman had handled, that the crowd rose with great expectations, but Crouch was again the destroying agent, and Taylor could do nothing with it. On another occasion Crouch, by clever manoeuvring, beat Casey, and handed in to Prickett five yards from the line, but Gorman measured him off, and grappling with him, covered ball and man, and held Prickett in an upright position till the supporting tacklers arrived, and then a pell-mell, which lasted for a quarter of a minute, ended in Prickett being buried among a mass of his own players over the dead-ball line. It was a very clever piece of work by Gorman, and saved a sure try. Prickett was injured in the stampede, and it was some minutes before he was able to resume. Twice Brothers were driven so far back that the dead ball line gave them relief. Connell on the left wing contributed a dodgy run, in which he evaded groups of tacklers, and was moving in threateningly to make a wide opening, when he was dropped from behind. Casey, who had been shifted to stand-off half, was successful in making a brilliant opening, which Gorman added to, but Taylor was stopped by Bryce's tackle a few yards from the corner. Then followed Harris's try, already referred to, which Crouch goaled, giving Coorparoo the lead by 7 to 2. Crouch made a further attempt at goal shortly afterwards, but failed and the game ended with the scores:—

Coorparoo, 7.
Brothers, 2.

The teams were:

PAST BROTHERS.—Full back, F. Hogg; three-quarters, W. Taylor, T. Gorman (captain), J. Allman, T. Casey; half back, J. Woodward; stand-off half, B. Creedy; forwards, M. Burke, H. Hamalainen, F. Goodwin, E. Riipinen, A. M'Auliffe, V. Callaghan.

COORPAROO.—Full back, M. Burton; three-quarters, W. Connall, W. Hoffman, G. Crouch (captain), J. Bryce; scrum half, J. Carroll; stand-off half, W. Thomson; forwards, A. Jeavons, G. Harris, W. Prickett, W. Kennedy, B. Simpson, M. Kennedy.

Referee: Mr. A. Matzdorf.

1926

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - BROTHERS 6 v COORPAROO 5

LEAGUE PREMIERS.

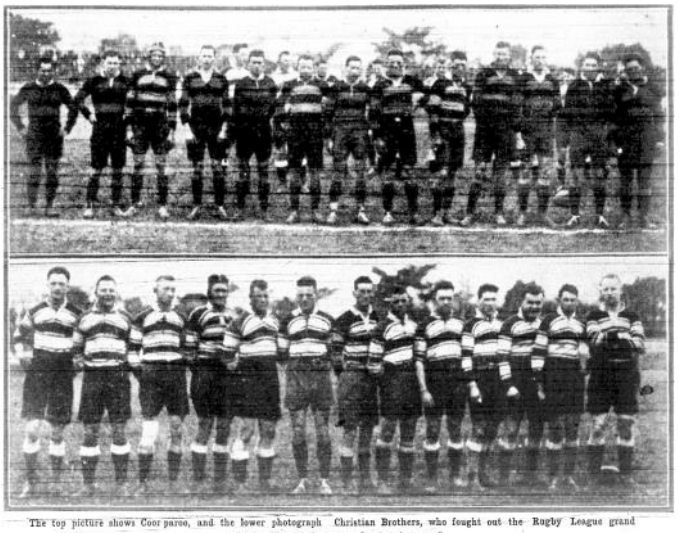
PAST BROTHERS' SUCCESS.

CLOSELY-CONTESTED GRAND FINAL.

EXCITED CROWD AT DAVIES PARK

By "REDCAP."

The best attendance recorded for many seasons at Davies Park marked the final Rugby League club games of the year on Saturday afternoon, when Coorparoo failed to withstand a challenge by the Past Brothers Club. On Saturday week Coorparoo won the premiership by narrowly defeating Brothers, but the latter on Saturday fired the second discharge from the barrel of opportunity and won by 6 points (two tries) to 5 (a try and a goal). It was a splendidly-contested battle, hot and furiously waged, with both sides exerting all their cunning and energy to win, and with the issue in doubt right to the final issue, the crowd was kept in a simmer of excitement. The game contained a number of thrills, and because of this its closeness and the closeness with which it was played was greatly relished. It was Brothers' first Jensen Shield victory in the League game, and with that thought in their minds followers rushed the ground and shouldered Gorman, captain of the premiers, who had been the hero of the match.



The top picture shows Coorparoo, and the lower photograph Christian Brothers, who fought out the Rugby League grand final. The Brothers won by 6 points to 5.

Past Brothers have fielded great sides. In the old Rugby Union days their teams were irresistible, and won many premierships. The League game, from which the heavy rucks have been eliminated, seems to have "cramped their Celtic style," for they have been in quest of the absolute since 1920, and have only now succeeded. Cunning is not part of the Celtic stock-in-trade. Sheer recklessness without regard for the consequences is the real trait, and it was failure to realise the new requirements of the modern code that kept the coveted premiership honours receding from them like the waters of Tantalus. The craftsmanship of T. Gorman, the representative star who reinforced Past Brothers this season, gave them the penetrating force of the poniard rather than the hammer strokes of weight, and the elusive honours have at last been clutched. Past Brothers have emerged from the season true premiers. Their record shows that.

THE PREMIERS' RECORD.

The premiers for 1926 played 15 games, won 10, drew 2, and lost 3, scoring 210 points to 142. Coorparoo, runners-up, played 15 matches, won 8, and lost 7, so that had Brothers lost on Saturday they would have been unlucky, even despite Coorparoo's splendid displays in the last two games. One felt that there was very little between the sides in the final and the grand final, but in the three games that have been played by the premiers and runners-up Brothers have won twice and Coorparoo once. Brothers' best victory being that of 16 to 5. Right through the premiers gave the impression of being the best combination in metropolitan football. Their defeats have been very narrow, and their victories sound and deserved. In goal-kicking powers, mainly through the length and accuracy of G. Allman, they have been masters of their opponents, while in the matter of tactics they have been bright and enterprising. The engagement of T. Gorman as coach and captain has had its reward. His leadership has contained inspiration, and his greatness has produced demoralising effect on the opposing sides. Perhaps some of the players on the premier side were somewhat too conscious of the greatness of Gorman, and the result was to leave their full powers not always properly co-ordinated. A special effort was made for Saturday's final, when the forwards and backs fitted in finely with the general plan of operations, which resulted in a very determined Coorparoo side being defeated, even though the premiers were kept away from the ball in the scrums for almost the whole of the afternoon.

HARD STRIVING REWARDED.

The football in the grand final, while strenuous and close, bristled with cleverness. Brothers had altered their side so that T. Casey gave sharpness to the stand-off half position, and two faster and heavier men in D. M'Coy and W. Holohan were placed on the wings. Coorparoo preferred not to alter the personnel of the side which performed so exceptionally well on the preceding Saturday and staked everything upon getting the ball from the scrums and keeping it away from Gorman and a dangerous set of backs. In the opening stages of the game Coorparoo calculations were considerably upset, for Brothers prior to a lean period in scrummage possession, secured just enough of the ball to enable them to establish a lead of two tries. And they sat down on this lead so tightly that even the extravagant possession of the ball from the scrums in the remaining period of the game was not a deadly enough weapon in the hands of Coorparoo to enable them to run out winners. This would imply that the Brothers' defence was especially good. It was. Not only did the backs grapple with the invaders and dispute every yard of the ground, but the forwards plugged the gaps so securely that very little was allowed to leak through to give the backs overtime. This has been the great fault of Brothers' forwards in recent games. Too much has slipped away from them in the vanguard, with the result that the "Gibraltars" of the backs, T. Gorman and G. Allman, have been overworked and left fatigued for attacks for which they should have been fresh. Duncan Thompson would never have been able to give us the artistry in manoeuvring that has so often charmed if he had been treated as a shock absorber at the base of the scrum instead of as a starter of intricate moves. In this game the Brothers' forwards did their work thoroughly. Each man, particularly Hamalainen and Riipinen, settled down to tackling strongly and surely. This took some of the sting out of the opposition vanguard, and kept them at it further up instead of allowing them license in other quarters. If troops entrenched in the first line can hold the raiders, the whole salient will withstand the repeated shocks, and a general advance is made possible by the line behind. This was the way with Brothers. When they were given the opportunity to move in the first skirmishes they did so smartly, and with ingenuity. The movement which ended in M'Coy running over in the corner illustrated the fleetness of the rearguard, and the forwards had driven their opponents back by heavy, persistent rucking. Gorman's try was also preceded by a forward thrust in which the champion anticipated the course of the drive, and was unexpectedly up to snap the slightest suggestion of an advantage. Gorman's hand was imprinted on both these try-producing darts, and on others which were not finished off. In sending over M'Coy for the try in the left corner, he had the clever co-operation of the colt Casey, who after receiving from Woodward from the scrum wriggled out of a tackle made round the neck, and with the seasoned touch of an international flung a pass over Allman's head, and baffled the concentration of the defence so that when the magic fingers of Gorman tucked in the ball the rest was possible only by artistry. Gorman had to flick the ball away in a second to evade the converging tacklers, but he not only managed to do this, but he actually cut out a man by a subtle spreading movement, which squeezed out a tackler and gave M'Coy the room over the remaining 30 yards to manoeuvre for the corner. This his pace enabled him to do, which not even Burton's dive could prevent.

TOLL OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

Coorparoo lost because they had not the foxiness to finish off moves which were started with the essence of foxiness. J. Carroll at half back at times was exceptionally clever. Obtaining a regular share of the ball from the scrums he moved about nimbly and frequently, and had the opposition baffled by scurrying round the blind side. His stand-off half, W. Thomson, fitted in ably with him at times by dashing round to shake an extra man, but the good work was spoilt by Crouch's co-centre failing to move right up to the waiting tackler and timing the transfer so as to put a defender out of action. Many advances which the premiers would have found it hard to repel were nullified. Glen Crouch and W. Connall were always shifty and worrying, but the lack of finish about the other centre was the undoing of Coorparoo's winning chance. Hoffman gave a brilliant display of tackling, repeatedly spoiling snappy pieces of play by Gorman and Allman, but his general contribution suffered in quality because his timing of the passes was faulty. If the game were to be played over again Coorparoo's chance of victory would follow from a rearrangement of the back division which would mean the utilisation of Connall as a centre and Hoffman on the wing, or a faster type of winger. It was noticed that Connall was always hard to hold because of the use of a dodgy run. He moved infield rather than attempting long strides for the wings, and he showed such trickiness that he repeatedly had the defence floundering. Connall may yet find that his correct position is nearer the scrum, for in the few opportunities he received of attempting to break the defence he did so cleanly and cleverly. His dropping for goal once was smart and heady. Up among the forwards Coorparoo had some fine fighters, who not only gave the backs every chance, but joined in some fine moves when the opportunity presented itself for co-operation on enterprising lines. Coorparoo football became formidable when it departed from the orthodox. This was not often done, however, but once or twice there was a flash of the lightning tactics on the dull background of the stereotype of the strenuous general football.

DELIGHTFUL FLASHES.

There were four fine movements in between the hard knocks and the forward battle. The best of these was that which brought about Coorparoo's only score. It started from a scrummage at half-way midway between the touches. Coorparoo were attacking towards the gasworks goal, when Simpson heeled to Carroll. Instead of starting the back line away in a swinging passing bout, Carroll, noticing Casey shifting away to cover his vis-a-vis, Thomson, darted into the gap between Casey and the scrummage. He had almost slipped through, when Woodward challenged him and caught him, but could not hold him. The tackle staggered Carroll. Jeavons, who had broken away from the scrum, called for the pass on the right, and, finding the long gully widened his strides and ran to Hogg, the Brothers' full-back, where Glen Crouch, with fine anticipation, was streaking to support him on the left. The defence could not turn quickly enough to stall off the invader, and Crouch ran over for the remaining half a dozen yards with the tacklers hot on his heels, but with the break too much for them to make up. It stood out as a thriller in the humming Ruzzer which was to follow. Just prior to that Coorparoo, through the cleverness of Carroll, manipulated the blind side. Thomson running round smartly from the other side of the scrum and deceiving the defence. Hoffman carried on the movement with a veering run to give to Connall, who then did something which has not been seen since E. S. Brown and T. Gorman were in partnership in the memorable game against the "All Blacks" at the Exhibition Grounds last season. Instead of running abreast with the ball Connall ran towards it and executed a scissors movement, which cut through the defence deeply and gave him a dash of 40 yards parallel with the side line. To show that Connall is not a true winger, it is mentioned that he had not enough pace to bring him quickly over the rest of the ground, while in addition he hesitated when approaching Hogg before passing in again to Prickett, who had anticipation of the Steinohrt or Armbruster variety, by shadowing the advance from the scrum. Prickett ordinarily would have completed the manoeuvre by running on for the remaining seven yards to score near the corner but for the super-smothering work of Gorman, who gripped him end the ball and enabled the reinforcements of tacklers to bundle him into touch. Gorman performed an almost identical thing in the pre-challenge final. He is a master at this class of defensive work, which is much more effective than a mere tackle. The other two contributions to unorthodox attack were started by Holohan and Gorman respectively. Holohan, gathering well down the right wing, extricated Brothers from a threatening position by threading his way through a hornets' nest of tacklers. Beating man after man, he moved in slightly from the touch, and at half-way, after skipping over the hands of a defender, handed to Gorman, who, as usual, was on the spot, with dash. Casey took over the running when in Coorparoo's twenty-five, and was heading for the left hand corner with Burke in attendance, when, in order to beat Connall, who had shifted in after the manner of W. Paten, Casey handed to Burke, who, from over-anxiousness, dropped the pass, when the defence had been completely outwitted. It was fine football of the end-to-end variety that charms. The other movement, which started with Gorman on the left wing, at half-way, a few yards in from the touch line. Surrounded by tacklers, he seemed to be hopelessly hemmed in, but after twirling round and feinting to pass to imaginary players, he sneaked past several challengers, and in a twinkling had the ball away to Woodward. Exasperated, the defenders hurried after him, and then when Casey received, he was assailed by a number of tacklers on his flank, with others moving at him so strongly that he was compelled to veer. To show how well Casey has the grip of the attacking idea, he baulked, and beating two assailants in a step straightened out the line, and handed over to Allman after breaking the defence down to a few opponents, but again over-anxiousness stopped a certain try, an otherwise safe handler missing the pass, and to halt the movement by a knock-on. Gorman treated the crowd to another wizard's trick soon after this by evading many tacklers at the side line, and handling twice after giving M'Coy and Hamalainen the running, and kicking the ball over the line, where Connall, who had again moved in, saved by a hair's breadth.

PERSONAL POINTS.

T. Gorman was the best player on the ground, without whom Brothers could never have won. His contributions have already been referred to. It was his great day. F. Hogg, the Brothers full back, was the most faultless player on the field. His clean catching in trying situations and long kicking were important in saving the position which time play further up had won. T. Casey, the promoted B Grader, displayed enough trickiness to keep the opposition always guessing. As he is only 17 years, is built like a footballer, has speed, and weight, and natural ability, he has a brilliant future. D. M'Coy was a distinct acquisition on the wing, and always did something useful with the ball. G. Allman's tackling was a match-winning factor, considered separately. Woodward played ably under difficulties with an injured limb. Of a much improved forward pack, whose tackling was a feature of their display, Riipinen, Hamalainen, Callaghan, and Goodwin were first rate. Hamalainen was awarded the trophy donated by Mr. P. J. Frawley for the best tackler on the winning side, Riipinen and the others were not far behind. For Coorparoo, M. Burton again gave a first-class display of line kicking and handling. His selection as the Brisbane full-back in the side to meet Toowoomba next Saturday was richly merited. J. Carroll and W. Connall were the best players on the losing side Crouch was too well watched to do much; Gorman had a counter for his tackling swoops. Prickett and Jeavons were the pick of the pack, all of whom played with ginger and dash.

THE REFEREEING.

Mr. Matzdorf's refereeing was what one would expect in a final, almost rule-perfect, quite impartial and marked by alertness of the highest order. There was very little that he missed, and altogether he gave an exhibition well up to the best form of Mr. J. Roche. In controlling the game he was assisted by the players, whose spirit in the heat of a final was admirable. Both sides are congratulated on this. Rugby football, more than any other field sport, calls for a mastery over those feelings which, when allowed to run riot, bring about objectionable scenes; that Brothers and Coorparoo players played the game so cleanly and up to the best traditions of true sportsmanship was a fitting finale to a season which has been marked by less rough play than any season in the League's history.

The teams were:—

BROTHERS.—Full-back, F. Hogg; three-quarters, D. M'Coy, J. Allman, T. Gorman; W. Holohan; scrum half, J. Woodward; stand-off half, T. Casey; forwards, M. Burke, H. Hamalainen, F. Goodwin, E. Riipinen, A. M'Auliffe, B. Callaghan.

COORPAROO.—Full back, M. Burton; three-quarters, W. Connall, W. Hoffman, G. Crouch, J. Bryce; scrum half, J. Carroll; stand-off half, W. Thomson; forwards, A. Jeavons, C. Harris, W. Prickett, W. Kennedy, B. Simpson, M. Kennedy.

For Brothers, M'Coy and Gorman scored tries. For Coorparoo, Crouch a try and Thomson a goal.

1926

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - BROTHERS 6 v COORPAROO 5



▼ RESULTS

4 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION OVAL NO 2.

Coorparoo 12 (Crouch 2 tries; Thomson 2, Crouch goals) d. University 9 (Hall try; McDougall 3 goals).
Coorparoo: R.Burton, W.Connall, W.Hoffman, G.Crouch, J.Bryce, J.Carroll, W.Thomson, A.Jeavons, C.Harris, W.Prickett, M.Kennedy, B.Simpson, W.Kennedy.
University: J.Lynam, G.Bird, G.Sturtridge, K.Hall, W.Young, J.Hulbert, T.Fenwick, P.Neville, K.Carmichael, J.Lavery, W.McDougall, J.Gerrard.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

4 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION OVAL NO 2.

Past Brothers 17 (Allman, Creedy, Woodward tries; Allman 4 goals) d. Valley 11 (Boast, Hess, Peakes tries; H.Edwards goal).
Brothers: J.Hogg, W.Holohan, J.Allman, T.Gorman (c), G.Draney, J.Woodward, B.Creedy, M.Burke, H.Hamalainen, F.Goodwin, E.Riipenen, A.McAuliffe, V.Callaghan.
Valleys: H.Hebb, T.Boast, H.Edwards, H.Anderson, C.Hess, H.Bond, E.Edwards, P.Hammond, H.Jacques, W.Peakes, T.Rasey, K.McCormack, G.Livermore.
Referee: J.Court.

11 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Coorparoo 7 (Harris try; Crouch 2 goals) d. Past Brothers 2 (Allman goal).
Coorparoo: M.Burton, W.Connall, W.Hoffmann, G.Crouch (c), J.Bryce, J.Carroll, W.Thomson, A.Jeavons, C.Harris, W.Prickett, W.Kennedy, B.Simpson, M.Kennedy.
Brothers: F.Hogg, W.Taylor, T.Gorman (c), J.Allman, T.Casey, J.Woodward, R.Creedy, M.Burke, H.Hamalainen, F.Goodwin, E.Riipinen, A.McAuliffe, V.Callaghan.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

18 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
CHALLENGE DAVIES PARK

Past Brothers 6 (McCoy, Gorman tries) d. Coorparoo 5 (Crouch try; Thompson goal)
Brothers: F.Hogg, D.McCoy, G.Allman, T.Gorman, W.Holohan, J.Woodward, T.Casey, M.Burke, A.McAuliffe, H.Hamalainen, F.Goodwin, E.Riipenen, B.Callaghan.
Coorparoo: M.Burton. W.Connall, W.Hoffman, G.Crouch, J.Bryce, J.Carroll, W.Thomson, A.Jeavons, C.Harris, W.Prickett, W.Kennedy, B.Simpson, M.Kennedy.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd 10,000.***

1927

BRL: GRAMMARS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Coorparoo	12	7	4	1	144	80	15
Past Grammars	12	7	4	1	172	117	15
Western Suburbs	12	7	4	1	189	130	15
Fortitude Valley	12	7	5	0	101	106	14
PC Brothers	12	6	5	1	121	134	13
Carlton	12	3	7	2	88	164	8
University	12	2	10	0	99	183	4

BRL Semi-Final - Wests 16 v Coorparoo 11

CODRPAROO LOSE, 16-11

Suburbs' Youngsters Excel

With a considerably altered team that included B seniors, Suburbs remarkably well on Saturday at the Exhibition, and defeated Coorroo 16—11 after facing a five point deficiency in the first half. These ung players exploited the brighter elements of League football, throwg the ball about and playing with a determination that would brook obstacle. Their victory makes them one of the finalists for the club emiership and Vic. Jensen Shield. That they have gone so far seems be the result of steadily persevering with young men so as to make the loss sustained when their captain, Moores, left for England.

Grammar will be the other team left in the final, but they earned eir right in a very indifferent game that recalled few memories of other rd battles with Valley. Neither side was at full strength. Valley ne without A. Edwards, and Armbruster did not appear for Grammar, but although the match was billed as the chief attraction it failed arouse the same enthusiasm as the early fixture, nor did the standard f play warrant it.

The games were played in excellent football weather, under a bleak ky, with a cold wind blowing the length of the field.

OPEN FOOTBALL

YOUNG MEN PLAY WELL

Parks 16.
Coorparoo 11.

Coorparoo, fresh from their victory the Kaye Cup final, were favourites the match with Suburbs, especially the team alterations were noThe newcomers, however, looked and alert as they entered the and play had not been long in ress before it was apparent that would be no easy victory for Coor-

Suburbs faced the wind for the first and Coorparoo took play to their line, where only a timely kick into prevented Bryce from scoring as ived for the corner. Defence was ed to fruitful attack, however, Smith intercepted a ball among Coorparoo forwards, and passed to er, who kicked ahead. Follow- through fast Beasley gathered, d his way out of a press of de- rs, and dived in for a try. Mark- ailed to convert.

Coorparoo moved well from the when they won possession, but efence was solid. There was a when Jones, the Suburbs' full broke out of a Coorparoo man's in Suburbs' 25, and ran to way before passing to Ross, to le, who made ground, but Chandler well taken when the ball came his in Coorparoo's home territory.

Suburbs scored their second try from mistake among the Coorparoo backs. uch took a ball from one of his sports, and moved to Thompson's , but swung the pass inside again Hoffman, who failed to hold it. Har- swooped through on the rolling ball raced away from Burton. Hoffman out in pursuit, but although he ed gamely, he failed to stop the burb centre, who touched down amid plause. Milliner missed with the k, and the board now read six-nil favour of Suburbs.

COORPAROO SCORE.

Coorparoo pressed strongly for a time- nd after Prickett had been called back on across the line for an infringeent scored in the corner. From a rum Scanlon broke clear, and passed Prickett, to Scanlon again, to Jeavons, d more more to Prickett, who touched wn. W. Thompson missed the kick.

Then H. Thomson broke through and ded to the 25 but, with the defenders allying fast and crowding between, rouch was given a high, difficult ball to ake, and knocked on. He was more uccessful shortly afterwards, but Suburbs were sadly at fault in the initial stages of the movement, and let the Coorparoo centre through easily. He won clear and sped down the side line, so that a disjointed defence was found well out of position when he kicked ahead, and in the race for the ball W. Kennedy touched down a yard inside the "dead" line. W. Thompson converted.

A "rot" was setting in, and the game looked like developing into a Suburbs' debacle, for immediately afterwards Crouch again broke away, and Prickett, on receiving by the side line, stepped infield before passing to Thompson. When crowded, Thompson threw the ball back to Crouch, who was speeding on down the line, and went across comfortably. W. Thomson failed at goal, but Coorparoo led 11—6, and the half-time whistle came in, a few minutes with Markwell launching a strong attack on behalf of Suburbs.

SECOND HALF.

Play in the second half had only begun when Markwell, from a penalty near half way, found the uprights. This made the difference only three points, but Coorparoo retorted with a thrust deep down into Suburbs' home area, where Burton pierced a very weak defence and almost went across. Suburbs were hard pressed for some time, until Ganley showed the way for his side, and might have gained tangible results for his effort if he could have gathered a bouncing ball at the full-back. As it was, Markwell followed on and kicked ahead, so that Coorparoo were taxed to their utmost to relieve the pressure.

The galleries were in responsive mood, and raised a cheer for Little as he swept round the "blind" side of the scrum and looked like carrying on. A few minutes of close play in the Coorparoo 25 ended when Milliner kicked too hard, and the ball went out of touch across the goal line. A series of determined rushes ended fruitlessly, but Ganley scored a great try under the posts, cutting through the press like a projectile, after receiving the ball from Ross. The crowd roared its applause, and the cheering was sustained after Markwell converted with an easy kick that put Suburbs two points ahead.

INTEREST OF CROWD.

Excitement simmered and swelled, with frequent hand clapping from this point onward. Burton earned applause with a good run and line kick, but it was noticeable that many of the Suburbs backs hung back and gave the tricky Coorparoo man ample room in which to move. The cheering rose again to a roar as Harris intercepted a pass, dropped the ball, picked it up again, and sped clear of the Coorparoo back line. It was an open test between him and the full-back, after a 30 yards run, and though Burton halted, the onrushing centre in his stride, the tackler's arms slipped off and Harris, though slow to gather speed again, was just fast enough to get across. Markwell missed the goal, but Suburbs now led by five points, with eight minutes to go. The referee might have been justified in stopping play at the start of this run for a knock on by Harris.

Suburbs pressed hard again, and Burton was forced to save a ball that Milliner kicked across the line. In play again Ross gathered the ball behind the Coorparoo pack, and ran to the full-back, but his pass to Smith rolled on the grass, much too low to give a reasonable chance of gathering it.

LAST THREE MINUTES.

Hoffman had been running strongly, and hard, and was through again when Harris pounced on him from behind. There remained but three minutes of play when W. Thompson sent his winger badly, and, with Prickett in support, a score was imminent. Harris was the impassable obstacle this time, for he came across swiftly and tackled Prickett, the ball included, forcing him out of touch a yard or two outside the goal line.

Uproarious cheering greeted the final bell with Suburbs one team for next Saturday's final. The scores at the end were:—

SUBURBS 16.
COORPAROO 11.

GAME REVIEWED

Suburbs owed their win to a spirit of determination, combined with alert keenness, always shown by their players. This was typified particularly by the efforts that culminated in Ganley's try under the goal posts. As usual, they concentrated on the open style of play, throwing the ball about freely and using it with sufficient dash to gain ground. At no time did they slacken their efforts, even when it seemed their defence was weakening, and a series of Coorparoo tries might easily have broken their morale. Their display was a striking example of how much a team can do with scientific tactics, practised by young players in intelligent combination.

Harris has shown promise as a centre-three-quarter ever since he started playing this season. There has never been any doubt about his speed and opportunism, but on Saturday he did things in defence that showed qualities not previously apparent. An example was provided by his tackle of Prickett, when, after coming across from the far side of the field to take his man, he made assurance doubly sure by imprisoning the ball at the same time. His display on Saturday was, perhaps, the best that has yet given here.

GANLEY'S DISPLAY.

A relative want of physical strength need not always be a disadvantage, and J. Ganley made up for any lack in this direction by keen, hard, and useful work. Judges for a trophy presented by Mr. R. Cooper for the most useful man on the Suburbs side could not separate him and F. Milliner, and another trophy has been added by Messrs. F. Burke and F. Cumberland, president and patron of the club. Milliner filled his position as half back creditably, and helped to start many promising movements.

In the forwards C. Smith was particularly noticeable, but he had a worthy set of colleagues, and to differentiate between them would be difficult.

A. Beasley, a B senior, made good in his promotion to the team. Were the season much longer he should come more into prominence. As it was, he played a sound game as five-eighth.

COORPAROO PLAYERS.

Burton, at full back for Coorparoo, overshadowed Jones (Suburbs). He ran kicked, and fielded surely, and made few mistakes. Crouch was always dangerous, and scoring movements started with him from positions where success would seem remote. H. Thomson, at half back, made things difficult for his vis-a-vis, and often swerved cleverly through the opposition.

Prickett was again the best forward on the field. He played well up to standard, and must have been an important factor had close tactics been employed. As it was, he showed facility in entering the open play, and handled well. Jeavons, Scanlon, and W. Kennedy were also prominent.

The teams were:—

COORPAROO.—Full back, R. Burton; three-quarters, W. Thomson, W. Hoffman, G. Crouch, J. Bryce; halves, H. Thomson and W. Connell; forwards, T. Scanlon, A. Jeavons, W. Prickett, M. Kennedy, E. Simpson, W. Kennedy.

SUBURBS.—Full back, A. Jones; three-quarters, G. Markwell, E. Harris, J. Ganley, E. Tennison; halves, F. Milliner, and O. Beasley; forwards, C. Smith, J. Burns, A. Ross, W. Little, J. Kelly, W. Chandler.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf.

1927

BRL Semi Final - Grammar 7 v Valleys 5

GRAMMAR DEFEAT VALLEY, 7-5

Dull Display Follows Bright Opening

SCORES CLOSE

INDIFFERENT FOOTBALL

Grammar 7. **Valley 5.**

Grammar early began to throw the ball about freely, and a few minutes after the start C. Mahoney neatly cut through a press of Valley players. A rising wind blew from the Machinery Hill end of the ground, and Valley played with it at their backs. It was a factor in the kicking, and helped H. Edwards to open the score with a penalty. Grammars' reply might have been effective, but the pass to Phipps at the end of a burst, was not accepted. A forced retreat was necessary, when Valley bustled the attack, but Leet found touch with a good kick three yards from the corner flag. The same player took a ball at short range from a forward's boot immediately afterwards, swung across field, and threaded sharply through the defence before passing to Mahoney. With the open goal before them Grammar lost the opportunity, for Leet's transfer was forward. From the scrum Webber wriggled through, and passed to Mahoney to Sachse,' the movement ending just short of the line, when Sachse was tackled.

Leet raised the flags with a kick at goal, making the scores two all, but Valley almost took the lead again in a raid that swept on, to spend its force near the opposite line.

WEAK FEATURES.

Play was dull and uninteresting for a period, and the gallery settled down to apathetic interest. Tackling and handling were alike poor, and although the ball was passed about often enough it travelled so slowly and the men moved so little that nothing of note happened. Yet the defence was remarkably weak, and a fast, alert man should have pierced it easily and repeatedly. Seldom was a tackle directed below the chest and shoulders, and when it was the tackler's grip was so limp that mostly his arms fell away ineffectively. At half time the scores were unchanged—two all.

Play on the resumption showed little improvement. Leet early made an unsuccessful attempt at goal. In a scramble Phipps picked up a loose ball and set sail for the line. He was hotly pursued but the initial advantage was all in his favour, and he touched down comfortably under the posts. Leet added the extras, giving Grammar a five-point lead.

VALLEY ALMOST SCORE.

Cranston led a charge for Valley, but Leet stopped him at the line, and players of both sides went down in a struggling heap. The referee called a scrum, and Grammar forced their way back to neutral zone. From there Cruden started off on a lively sprint, but did not pass the full-back. Edwards tried unsuccessfully at goal, and Leet's return went out on the full, so that play was recalled. Again Valley were awarded a penalty, and the ball was kicked across the line, but no score followed, and again a scrum was called. Play was hard, and Edwards and Cruden both showed speed and initiative in successive bursts that brought no result.

Relief came at last, and Ferguson almost dashed away at the Valley 25. Gillan also hurled himself at the goal line, where the opposition stopped him, and held him off. When the position was precarious for the defence a free-kick came most opportunely.

Edwards and Cruden were now asserting themselves, and providing the brighter parts of the game. Success came at last, for Cruden gathered a ball kicked on by Edwards, passed inside to J. Moynihan, who "dummied" the full-back, and went across in the corner. Edwards missed the goal, and Valley were still two points behind.

ATTEMPTS TO EQUALISE.

Cruden tried to make up the leeway with a shot at goal, but the ball fell low. Valley found themselves in strong attacking position, but Horsley reversed the situation when he intercepted a pass and ran to the Valley 25. There a free-kick for illegal interference relieved the defence. In play again Cruden was running well down the line, when his heels were tipped, and over he went.

With two minutes to go Cameron tried at goal for Valley, but without success.

The cheering arose now from the crowd that remained, although many had gone home. Valley made strenuous efforts to equalise, but Grammar emerged victorious.

The final scores were:

GRAMMAR, 7.
VALLEY, 5.

PLAYERS NOTED.

Faults in this match have already been noted in the general description. They served to deaden an interest that had been well aroused by the early fixture between Valleys and Coorparoo. Two outstanding exceptions to the general indifference were H. Edwards and Cruden, who collaborated in bright bursts, particularly towards the end. While others were content to amble those men ran, and ran hard, gaining ground repeatedly. Cruden combined thought with his play, and cross-kicked neatly on one occasion when crowded out on the wing.

Gillan played hard and vigorously in the Grammar forwards, assisted by Sachse and J. Mahoney. Brandenberg and Moynihan were the more prominent of the Valley pack.

Players from whom much was expected were singularly quiet, and Anderson was seldom in the picture. Leet played a safe game at full-back, and on one occasion at least figured in a run through that should have brought a try.

The teams were:—

GRAMMAR.—Full-back, J. Leet; three-quarters, H. Ferguson, C. Mahoney, K. Horsley, S. Phipps; halves, L. Webber, R. Miles; forwards, W. Gillan, C. Sachse, J. Mahoney, R. Morrison, R. Hay, H. Gifford.

VALLEY.—Full-back, H. Hebb; three-quarters, A. Cruder, H. Anderson, J. Bell, C. Hess; halves, H. Edwards, J. Brennan; forwards, P. Hammond, C. Brandenberg, L. Cranston, J. Moynihan, K. M'Cormack, H. Cameron.

Referee, Mr. E. Silverton.

1927

BRL GRAND FINAL - GRAMMAR 13 v WESTS 11

Weight and Energy Win Grammar First League Premiership

FORWARDS SUPERIOR

Suburbs' Display Indifferent

CHANCES AT GOAL NOT TAKEN

Win Deserved, but Final Scores Close

After many vicissitudes of fortune Grammar are premiers in the Brisbane Rugby League competition, winning also the Vic. Jensen shield, by finishing two points ahead of Suburbs at Davies Park on Saturday. The final scores were 13—11. Any other ending to the game would have been disappointing, for Grammar were the better team in general play, and yet, had Suburbs availed themselves of opportunities for goal-kicking when penalties were awarded within easy range of the posts, the result might have been reversed.

A preponderance of weight and a more keenly expressed sense of the issue at stake earned the victory, which, though well deserved, was largely the outcome of Suburbs' lackadaisical interest. The vanquished were mostly off their game, but it is only fair to remember that the winners' energy from the outset probably cooled their ardour. With two or three exceptions, Suburbs' players did not look like scoring the points necessary to win.

The match was remarkable for the youth of the men participating. Of the Suburbs' side probably not more than three players were fully qualified A senior men until this season, and of the remaining 10 some are registered only in the C senior grade. Nine of the Grammar team have been playing their first season in A grade football, and the age of the men on each side averaged 21.

This is the first time Grammar has contested a Rugby League premiership final, and University are now the only team that have not won a competition under the Brisbane League. Western Suburbs were premiers in 1922, the year before the Vic. Jensen shield was presented for competition.

The stands at Davies Park were well filled with spectators who, as the teams filed out on the field, began to show their predilection for one side or the other. Suburbs were apparently favourites in the popular vote, if the vociferous cheering of supporters could be taken as any indication. The wind that was blowing the length of the field had died down at the kick-off.

Excitement came early, when Harris, receiving from Tennison, raced away with several Grammar players grasping at his hips. He lost his step, when Horsley touched him, stumbled, and was overtaken, but a penalty for interference immediately afterwards, about 25 yards in front of the posts, gave Markwell a chance at goal, that he did not miss. Three minutes from the start Suburbs led, 2—nil, and the score was greeted with a cheer.

In play again, Grammar were awarded a penalty at the other end of the field. Leet's kick struck the cross-bar, and rebounded. Suburbs gathered, but a long pass back across the goal line was not accepted, and with the ball temporarily unclaimed Grammar were within an ace of scoring. The referee's decision was a scrum five yards outside. A minute later Leet took a penalty at an angle on the 25, and this time his kick raised the flags.

Leet was certainly in form with his boot, and when another penalty came to Grammar barely inside half-way he put a great kick over, to give his side a lead of two points. The game had been in progress 10 minutes.

MANY FREE KICKS.

This was a day of free kicks, and when Suburbs were awarded another at the Grammar 25 for illegal interference, Markwell made the scores level. When play recommenced, Leet made the most brilliant rush seen since the game started, cutting through in angular parts from the full-back position, to start Morrison and J. Mahoney racing for touch. The defence was beaten, but recovered sufficiently to repulse the onslaught; and Mahoney fell.

The wind was freshening, and blew at Garmmars' packs, carrying long kicks deep down into Suburbs' home territory. Miles figured in two hard bursts for Grammars, and then Markwell was given another shot at goal, but failed this time. Jones found himself in a tight corner when play swung back to the other end of the field. Picking up the ball over the touch line, and a yard or two from the onrushing foe, he threw it to Markwell, but the winger's kick went out on the full, and play was recalled.

Then Morrison broke away with the ball, and seemed likely to carry himself across, if only by sheer weight, but Jones, who had been playing bright football in attack, showed defensive qualities of a high order when he brought the charging forward down with a grand tackle. The Grammar attack continued, and Suburbs were not always successful in stemming the rush, for Phipps swerved inside Tennison, then lunged outwards from Chandler's tackle to reach across the line in the corner and touch down. Leet missed with the kick, but Grammar led 7—4.



Lively incident in the Suburbs—Grammar League final on Saturday.

GRAMMAR'S SECOND SCORE.

The lead was increased a few minutes later when, following a series of bursts started by Gillan and J. Mahoney, M'Ghie crossed in the corner, when Suburbs fumbled the ball. Leet again missed with the kick. Suburbs were allowing their opponents far too much latitude in close play, and movements were allowed to develop when they should have been stifled in the early stages. Only good tackling subsequently stopped many of these attacks, but the same keenness exercised early would have been much more fruitful in results.

Suburbs charged vigorously into the opposite 25, but an attractive movement by Grammar almost brought another score. Webber, at half-back, slid round the side of the scrum and was tackled, but Mahoney came between him and the pack took the pass, and fled away. With only the full-back to pass, and ample support available, an unaccepted transfer stopped the raid in full career.

Half-time came with the scores:
Grammar 10.
Suburbs 4.

Ganley retired during this session, and P. Wilkes took his place.

Early on the resumption Grammar attacked strongly, but Little cleared with a high punt, and play was carried back to the halfway, where Suburbs flung themselves into their game with renewed vigour. Gallery enthusiasts variously exhorted the players to "wake up," and "get into it." They responded to the best of their ability, but Grammar held the preponderance of weight, and Suburbs were making little impression on them.

PHIPPS INJURED.

Play was desultory for a space, but a thrill came when Jones, taking the ball at full-back, broke out of several tackles, and, after a bright run, collided hard with Phipps, who had the attention of the ambulance for a few minutes, and was finally removed over the side line.

Suburbs were "chasing the wind" a great deal, and in some way were failing to win possession. When they did, a raid was started hard on the Grammar line, ending at the 25, where a succession of melees gave neither side an advantage, until Gifford broke away with the ball, and passed to Gillan, who kicked ahead out of the full-back's reach. Markwell saved the situation, and Suburbs retaliated with a thrust that ended in a free kick to Suburbs. He lobbed over the touch line, and while the crowd was cheering a try, the referee recalled play to the 25, presumably because the ball or the player, who touched down, was over the "dead" line.

Back in play, Webber took a loose ball from the arms of the attacking Suburbs three-quarter line, and ran fully 30 yards before being tackled with no supports to assist him. Then a succession of fumbles led the Suburbs' defence into errors, and tacklers were missed badly, before Gillan finally gathered the ball in the loose, and scored comfortably about 10 yards out from the posts. Leet failed to convert, but Grammar led 13—4.

Phipps had returned to the field some time before with his nose bandaged.

GOAL MISSED.

Suburbs were attacking again, and, in good position, Markwell failed to put a penalty kick over. Leet was harassed a minute or two later, and again Suburbs were given a free kick before the posts. Milliner took it, and raised the flags reducing the leeway to seven points. In play immediately afterwards, Milliner flashed through an alley beside the scrum, and passed to Little, but the two were on their own, and a wild pass meant a good chance thrown aimlessly away. A high kick landed over Leet's head, and Suburbs charged down. One of the attackers fell prone on the ball, but could not recover his feet a yard or two outside, and from the scrum that followed Suburbs lost their advantage.

With about six minutes to go, Sourbs' chance seemed hopeless. Phipps broke away, but found Jones once more an impassable obstacle, and fell a prey to a good tackle. Suburns again attacked strongly, and Milliner made yet another try-getting opportunity that was lost when Markwell fumbled the pass. Success came at last, and it was a reward to one of the most determined players on the field—Jones, the Suburbs full-back, who ran from his position round the wing to score in the corner. Markwell's kick from the side-line was a magnificent effort but it found the touch judges divided; one ruled a goal, but the other signalled a miss, and the referee decided the doubt by upholding the first. This made the difference only two points, and although Suburbs were playing with more dash now, the full time bell, following close on this score, left them no opportunity, and the game ended with the ball out of touch at the end of a passing burst. The final scores were:—

GRAMMAR	13
SUBURBS	11

GAME REVIEWED

A superiority in weight helped the Grammar forwards to wear down the opposing pack, and an enterprising set of backs added to this advantage. They found early in the match that Suburbs were not over-eager to come to close quarters with them, and, emboldened by the discovery, they set to work to make the most of their opportunities. They found that while such men as Markwell and Jones were obstacles not to be taken cheaply, the more immediate opposition, for instance, the forwards, were slow to move on them, and that they had, in consequence, plenty of room in which to develop their attacks.

Suburbs often did not get possession of the ball. The scrummaging was not one-sided, but in the rucks, principally on account of the extra weight already noticed, Grammar held the advantage. Remembering this, and the fact that Suburbs' best plan obviously was to rely on the speed and initiative of their backs, the amount of kicking was remarkable.

The Grammar forwards played a hard, determined game, with Gillan and Mahoney the best of them. Mahoney was adjudged the best player on the field, and won a trophy given by Mr. T. Bird for that honour. Sachse and Morrison were conspicuous among the others.

Leet was at his best in the full-back position, and his safe handling and clever running no doubt inspired confidence in the rest of the team. He was not given many opportunities to show his worth as a tackler, but in other departments he made very few mistakes. M'Ghie, the young winger, took a deal of watching, and Webber was the best of the others.

If many of the Suburbs' players were weak in tackling there were exceptions—Jones the most outstanding of them. This man stuck to his guns right to the close, moving up rapidly in an endeavour to galvanise his confreres into activity, but, most of all, speeding attackers found him a last obstacle that was rarely surmounted. Markwell was another keen tackler, and if the same spirit was shown by all in defence as by these two, Suburbs would have been more impressive.

MILLINER'S ARTISTRY.

Milliner, the half-back, was well up with Mahoney as the best player on the field. He made some mistakes, but showed artistry in cutting out defenders and leaving his backs with the man over. Tennison played better than he did on the Saturday before, but Harris was not up to form. He did not get many chances, but could have made opportunities for himself.

Little was the outstanding forward of the team, playing for most of the game as the extra five-eighth. He won a trophy, given by Mr. R. Cooper, for the best player on the Suburbs' side. The team suffered by the retirement of J. Ganley, in the last half.

THE TEAMS.

GRAMMAR.—Full-back, J. Leet (captain); three-quarters, G. M'Ghie, C. Mahoney, K. Horsley, S. Phipps; five-eighth, R. Miles; half-back, L. Webber; forwards, W. Gillan, C. Sachse, J. Mahoney, R. Morrison, R. Hay, H. Gifford.

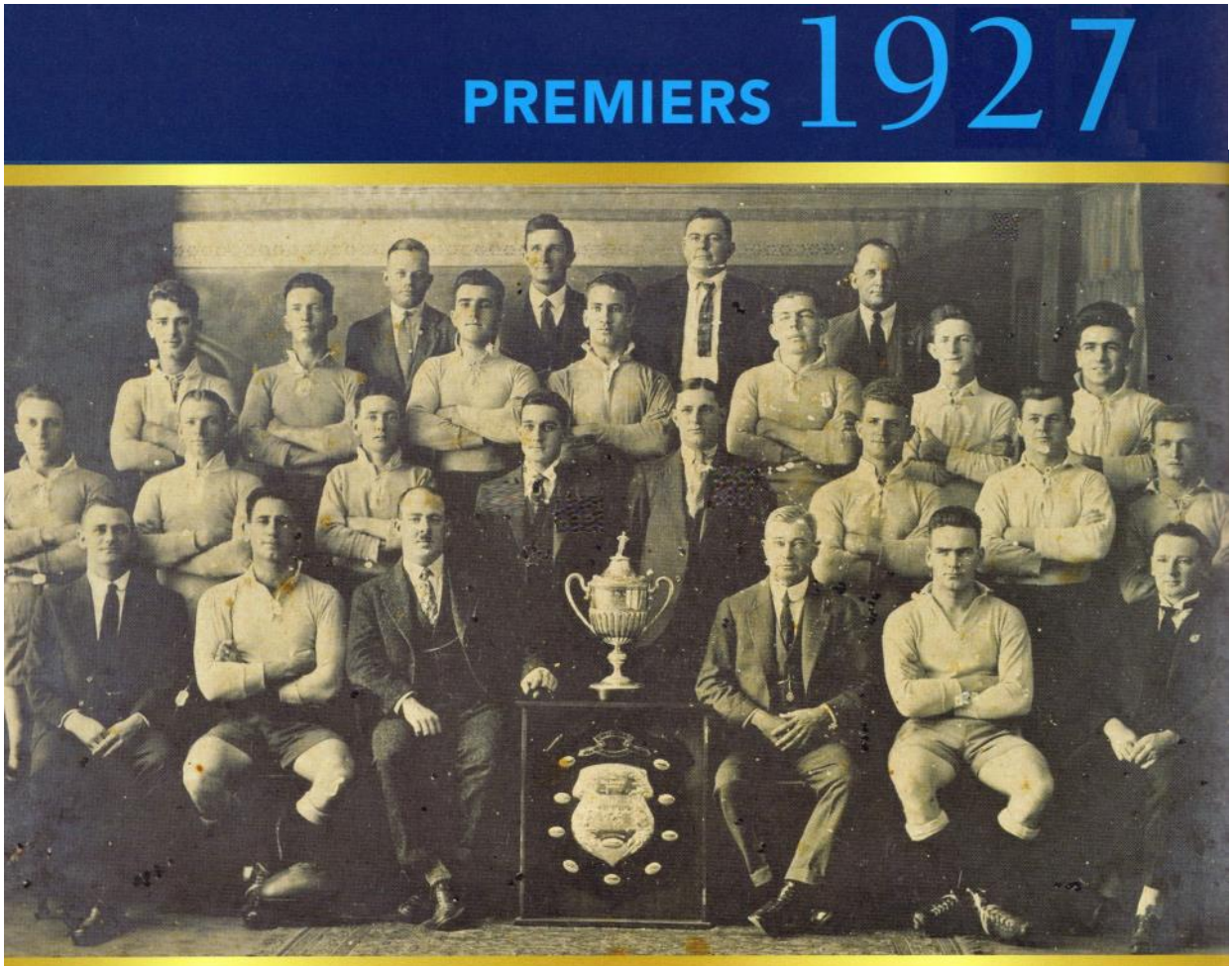
SUBURBS.—Full-back, A. Jones; three-quarters, G. Markwell, E. Harris, J. Ganley, E. Tennison; five-eighth, A. Beasley; half-back, F. Milliner; forwards, C. Smith, J. Burns, A. Ross, W. Little, J. Kelly (captain), W. Chandler.

(Ganley, for Suburbs, retired, and was replaced by P. Wilkes, who went into the forwards. Little played five-eighth and Beasley centre three-quarter.)

Referee: Mr. E. Silverton.

1927

BRL GRAND FINAL - GRAMMAR 13 v WESTS 11



Past Grammars ("A" Senior)
Premiers, Brisbane Rugby League, 1927

BACK ROW - L. Smith (Trainer), J. Kirk (Trainer), J. Flynn (Trainer), R. Hodge (Trainer)
THIRD ROW - H. Gifford, J. Mahoney, S. Phipps, W. McCook, A. Frizzell, R. Miles, W. Gillan
SECOND ROW - R. Millard, G. Collings, C. Mahoney, C. Foote (joint Sec.), D. Duncan, W. Morrison, C. Jones, L. Webber
FRONT ROW - A. Browne (Selector), V. Armbruster (Capt.), R. H. Diddams (Pres.), T. C. Troedson (Patron), E. Thompson, J. Watkins (Selector)
IN FRONT - "Pike Cup and Jensen Shield"
ABSENT - J. Leet (Vic-Capt.), H. Ferguson, K. Horsley, C. Sachse, R. McAllister, L.E. Musgrave

▼ RESULTS

10 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Western Suburbs 16 (Harris 2, Beasley, Ganley tries; Markwell 2 goals) d. Coorparoo 11 (Prickett, W.Kennedy, Crouch tries; W.Thomson goal).
Wests: A.Jones, G.Markwell, E.Harris, J.Ganley, E.Tennison, F.Milliner, A.Beasley, C.Smith, J.Burns, A.Rose, W.Little, J.Kelly (c), W.Chandler.
Coorparoo: M.Burton, W.Thomson, W.Hoffman, G.Crouch, J.Bryce, H.Thomson, W.Connall, T.Scanlon, A.Jeavons, W.Prickett, M.Kennedy, B.Simpson, W.Kennedy.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

10 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Past Grammars 7 (Phipps try; Leet 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Moynihan try; H.Edwards goal).
Grammars: J.Leet, H.Ferguson, C.Mahoney, K.Horsley, S.Phipps, L.Webber, R.Miles, W.Gillan, C.Sachse, J.Mahoney, R.Morrison, R.Hay, H.Gifford.
Valleys: H.Hebb, A.Cruden, H.Anderson, J.Bell, C.Hess, H.Edwards, J.Brennan, P.Hammond, C.Brandenburg, L.Cranston, J.Moynihan, K.McCormack, H.Cameron.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

17 SEPTEMBER FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Past Grammars 13 (Phipps, McGhie, Gillan tries; Leet 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 11 (Jones try; Markwell 3, Milliner goals).
Grammars: J.Leet (c), G.McGhie, C.Mahoney, K.Horsley, S.Phipps, R.Miles, L.Webber, W.Gillan, C. Sachse, J.Mahoney, R.Morrison, R.Hay, H.Gifford. Reserve: P.Wilkes.
Wests: A.Jones, G.Markwell, E.Harris, J.Ganley, E.Tennison, A.Beasley, F.Milliner, C.Smith, J.Burns, A.Rose, W.Little, J.Kelly (c), W.Chandler.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

1928

BRL: UNIVERSITY

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Carlton	12	8	4	0	133	113	16
University	12	7	5	0	156	122	14
PC Brothers	12	7	5	0	107	88	14
Western Suburbs	12	6	6	0	140	155	12
Fortitude Valley	12	5	7	0	139	136	10
Past Grammars	12	5	7	0	143	162	10
Coorparoo	12	4	9	0	79	132	8

BRL Semi-Finals - University 18 v Carlton 6 & Brothers 12 v Wests 6

UNIVERSITY'S BEST SEASON UNDER RUGBY LEAGUE CODE

PLACE NOW WON IN FINAL

Carlton Tactics Frustrated

BROTHERS LUCKY TO SURVIVE

Suburbs Did Not Have a Goal-Kicker

Short, sharp passing and backing up that lacked nothing in energy, gave University another triumph on Saturday by 18 points to 6. They stepped over Carlton to open a door hitherto closed against them. for their victory makes them finalists in the Rugby League premiership—the highest stage yet reached by the club under this code.

If they go no further the students will have accomplished enough to gratify their mentor in football, "Bob" Williams, whose unflagging enthusiasm has raised them from obscurity to the limelight of public favour.

'Varsity meet Brothers next Saturday—the winners must survive a challenge from Carlton—and are considered to have more than a good chance of taking the shield, especially as, on Saturday's form, the brethren have room for considerable improvement. Brothers won by 12—6 against Suburbs, and though they were, perhaps, the better team on the day, they have reason to be thankful. Suburbs had no goal-kicker, but plenty of men who made a fetish of punting. The easiest of chances at the posts went a-begging, and tries were lost because the inside backs forgot to give their fast men an opportunity in passing rushes. Besides that, a more than reasonable amount of ill-luck dogged the footsteps of the vanquished.



The League match, Brothers v Suburbs, provided some excitement for spectators at the Exhibition Oval.



The tackle, as demonstrated by Tommy Gorman.—An incident in the Brothers—Suburb match at the Exhibition Oval.

UNIVERSITY v CARLTON

The most popular team playing League to-day is the University. "Unfinished" football followers, those who form the great bulk of the "fans," have championed their cause wholeheartedly. Perhaps it is because they have been in the wilderness for so long, and a fickle crowd would like a change. The fact remains that many would cheer and few begrudge them a place on the premiership roll of honour.

They had fiery forwards and alert backs on Saturday, but it was again their team morale that brought them victory. Carlton, evidently playing to a preconceived plan, kicked long and often, and bustled the opposition by every legitimate means in their power. But the students aired the situation up very readily. They circumvented the plans of those against them by short, snappy passing, often at body-to-body range and persistent backing up.

Hulbert, playing better than at any other time this season, once dropped a short rust from the scrum base to the blind, and Adair had his chance to score a try with a run that earned him an ovation.

His determination was typical of the whole team, but particularly of a terrier-like spirit, in which R. Hamilton played an unenviably conspicuous part. One try he gave was a great example of "conscious" football. Vidgen, too, would shoot into prominence with a burst from the mark worthy of a first-class runner. White, a substitute for Mines, did reasonably well, and Lynam, at full-back, filled a gap safely. Lockie, Irwin, Broadfoot, and the others played their usual parts skilfully. Lockie, at times, was almost ubiquitous.

University have played more brilliant games, but the real merit of their win on Saturday was the circumvention of tackling so vigorous and destructive that they might have destroyed any team morale. The most brilliant attacking movement by Carlton was an individual try that Woodlands scored from the full-back position, but backing-up gained them their earlier success in a bright team effort.

THE GAME.

The opening passages were brisk, and Hulbert gave his side the first opening when he gathered a loose ball as he sped along the side-line and threw a pass inside, where it was smothered. Lockie seized at goal-kicked then Carlton had a chance from a little beyond the 25 with less success.

The students made the ball their object, diving for it in almost impossible positions, and flinging it about A short kick had them in difficulties from which the smothering work of Hulbert and Lynam saved them. Carlton were being penalised repeatedly for off-side play in the rucks. When a free kick came to them Kavanagh goaled from near the half-way line, opening their score with two points.

Hulbert was exploiting a short kick from the scrum, and one such baffled the opposing winger. Adair took it on the bounce, swerved across field with a burst of determined speed that left the full-back and others ineffectually pursuing him until he touched down with a tackler grasping his heels. A sheer accomplished his 60 yards effort, and an ovation greeted the try, swelling in volume as Lockie converted.

Immediately after Lockie gathered a loose ball, cut through the opposing line, and sent Nixon-Smith across for the easiest of tries.

EFFECTIVE REPLY.

Carlton's reply was effective. Salmon started the movement, ran to the wing, and threw a pass inside to W. Warlow. Stan Warlow next received, then Maloney, and W. Kavanagh, who scored near the posts, sheer keenness in backing up overpowering the defence. The try was not converted, and University led 8—5.

University's forwards were breaking the rucks, and one sortie brought results, chiefly by the skill of Hamilton. Taking a ball as it bounced in the loose, he stepped in his tracks decided the best direction for his pass, and sent Vidgen galloping across. It was an example of "conscious" football. Lockie missed again at goal, and the board read 11—5 in favour of University. Three were the scores at the half-time bell.

SECOND HALF.

Woodlands, playing at full-back for Carlton, scored a great try some minutes after the interval. Taking a kick from Nixon-Smith, he sliced a packed defence and went across with comparative ease. The kick at goal failed, but Carltons were only three points behind.

Thrills came now. Broadfoot galloped down the side-line, but was tripped, and Carlton were penalised. Then Salmon sped off to be brought to dusty mother earth with a great dive by Adair.

After successive attacking sorties, Vidgen set off at top pace. Halted, he looked round, went to dart on again, and then dropped a short pass into the waiting arms of George, who did the rest. Lockie converted, and University led 16—eight.

Nothing daunted, Carlton came back with a will, pressing on to their own melee collapsed in the goal line itself. Lynam stopped Willis with a safe tackle, and then Irwin cleared his kick, finding touch near half way. Again Carlton buried themselves into the fray, and again they were repulsed, but they were spending much of their time in the University 25.

Play swung up and down field for the remainder of the game, but the scores were unaltered when the bell rolled a halt:—

University	16
Carlton	8

THE TEAMS.

UNIVERSITY.—Full-back, J. Lynam; three-quarters, W. Nixon-Smith, G. Lockie, J. Broadfoot, C. Adair; five-eighths; J. Irwin; half-back, J. Hulbert (captain); forwards, I. George, White, P. Vidgen, M. Hickey, R. Hamilton, K. Carmichael.

CARLTON.—Full-back, J. Kavanagh; three-quarters, F. Salmon, C. Valli, W. Warlow, D. Woodlands; five-eighths, M. Maloney; half-back, S. Warlow; forwards, W. Kavanagh (captain), E. Bonts, J. Williams, W. Price, W. Ryan, E. Kavanagh.

J. Kavanagh retired early through injury. Woodlands went to the full-back position and E. Willis played on the wing.

Referee.—Mr. E. Silverton.

BROTHERS v SUBURBS

Suburbs simply could not kick goals on Saturday. Some of the positions from which successive men tried could not have been chosen better, but still the valuable points would not come. But that was the least serious defect in their play. Tactically, they showed bad football, making the kick of prior importance to the pass, the rule rather than the exception. There are times when men must kick the ball away or be caught helpless with peril to their side, but the occasions are comparatively rare.

There are times also when a kick should be the last thing in the world to think about, when, for instance, the requisite man or men over are running in line awaiting the ball. When a winger of such pace as Harris is ready to profit by a chance, however remote, the fault is almost inexcusable.

For these reasons Suburbs richly deserved defeat. Brothers were so keen that to give away chances was fatal. They did not play very brilliant football, but they were determined, and "mixed it" with a will. Casey's speed off the mark was a valuable asset to them, and Gorman's goal-kicking amassed points that Suburbs had even a better opportunity of scoring.

THE GAME

Brothers took the lead early when Casey found the defence idling, cut through it, and touched down near the posts for Gorman to convert.

A free kick under the posts soon after was a gift from the gods, a shorsel that Gorman appreciated to the full, making the total seven.

Milliner supplied a thrill as he found the defence at sixes and sevens, and put the ball high. Beasley took it on the bounce. Inside it came to Smith, but it was a crowning misfortune that this pass went behind Harris's back when the winger was a certainty to score had he accepted it.

A little more difficult was Gorman's neat shot at goal from the 25 line when again Suburbs were penalised, but he found the uprights. Markwell had failed a little before to do the same for Suburbs, and the score was nine—nil, with Brothers hard on the attack.

Suburbs' first try had peculiar features. Frizzell short-kicked so accurately that he regained possession on the full, swerved out from Gorman, and transferred to Markwell. The winger centred, and the ball rebounded from Gorman, whizzing away to the corner of the area in goal. Frizzell bounded ahead, and threw himself bodily on it a fraction of a second before a flying Brothers' man reached it. This time the ball hit the bar when Groves tried to convert the try, and the score was nine—three in favour of Brothers.

In a torrid episode, where the dust flew during a scramble, Jones, the Suburbs' full-back, was injured, and retired. His place was taken by J. Milne. Half-time came then with the scores still nine—three in favour of Brothers.

The second half opened with a slight sensation. Suburbs kicked off, Burke threw a long lob pass that was fumbled, and Frizzell hustled through to catch Hogg across the line. From the resultant scrum Suburbs gained a free kick, but the shot at goal, in a very easy position, was again a failure.

Yet again Suburbs tried at goal, but Little failed dismally this time. Markwell cut a pattern through the defence and cross-kicked to Harris. With his fingers on the ball the winger could not hold it, though in nine cases out of ten probably he would not have failed. This was the tenth, and a score was lost.

INJURIES FREQUENT.

Injuries were becoming more frequent, first G. Broreton (Brothers), and then W. Little (Suburbs) claiming attention.

Then Suburbs broke away in a combined rush that had its origin in Chandler's vigorous burst through. No try came, because Harris was tackled before the ball reached him, but the referee missed the illegality. Success came soon, however. Millner, swerving to the wing, changed his mind and went inside. Gorman jumped on his back, and Milliner had a nasty spill that necessitated ambulone attention later. He lost the ball, but Groves picked it up and went across by the posts. This time Gaaley tried his boot, again from the easiest of positions, and a roar went up as again the ball missed.

Milliner made a try immediately after—and gave it away. All day the inside Suburbs' backs had been kicking too much instead of passing. Now Milliner, with three or four men over, would not transfer the ball to them. To take the pass and run was all they had to do, for the defence was closed on the other wing.

After a prolonged spell of hard-pressed defence Brothers took a turn at the attacks and on one occasion Markwell alone kept them out. A free kick relieved the position. Finally, however, by dint of passing and Casey's speed, Arnell went over in the corner for a good try, made for him. Gorman missed from a difficult angle, and the score was 12—6 in favour of Brothers. That was the end, although Suburbs made one determined rush in the dying stages, and C. M'Auliffe saved for Brothers only in the nick of time.

Final scores were:—
Brothers 12, Suburbs 6.

THE TEAMS.

BROTHERS: Full-back, F. Hogg; three-quarters, G. M'Lelland, T. Casey, T. Gorman (captain), L. Arnell; five-eighth, G. Brereton; half-back, J. Woodward; forwards, W. Taylor, A. G. M'Auliffe, R. Jefferies, M. Burke, J. O'Mara, C. M'Auliffe.

SUBURBS: Full-back, A. Jones; three-quarters, G. Markwell, A. Beasley, J. Ganley, E. Harris; five-eighth, W. Little; half-back, F. Millner; forwards, J. M'Auliffe (captain), A. Pittendreigh, L. Groves, W. Chandler, A. Frizzell, C. Smith.

Jones retired, injured. Markwell played full-back, and J. Milne came on the wing.

Referee: Mr. A. Matzdorf.

1928

BRL Final - University 9 v Brothers 7

UNIVERSITY A STEP NEARER LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP GOAL

BROTHERS DEFEATED 9—7

Adair's Try Saves Students

STRONG RALLY IN SECOND HALF

Final a Hard and Close-Fought Tussle

"Anybody's game" went to University by a grand try in the dying stages of the League premiership final at the Exhibition No 2 ground on Saturday. Brothers failed by two points, after holding the lead for most of the 80 minutes, and it is probable that condition told against them. The sustained roar that greeted sally after sally was a tribute to the energy, keenness, and close scoring of a hard fina. tie.

Such games as this, where high laurels are at stake, are notoriously lacking in the ... elements of football. Generally the players are too impressed with the importance of the occasion to give the opposition any chance to throw high lights into the picture. Yet there were passages of real excellence on Saturday—the pick of them Adair's wonderful try, by which he wrested victory for his team with an individual effort after combined and much more promising sorties had spent their force on a vigorous and ubiquitous defence.

University won by 9—7. They have to survive a challenge from Carlton next Saturday before they can hold the premiership for the year.

Phases of the play were as sharply defined as the two sessions of the game. University returned to the dressing-room at the interval with the knowledge that they had finished a bad second best to the determined crowding and bustling of Brothers.

Their supporters—and they were legion—had good cause to feel depressed by their display to that point. Brothers had not allowed them to find their feet; they stood up on Lockie and Irwin, and gave the vanguard no respite. Between times they massed their forces on the students' goal line with such telling effect that they spent most of the 40 minutes in the University 25, and only once were seriously threatened, when Adair, with a run prophetic of his ultimate success, almost scored in the corner.

TACKLES DELAYED.

University had not emulated their opponents' tactics of close play in defence. They persistently held off with their tackles, and gave the others far too much room for safety. Brothers scored their try in a neat passing movement between C. M'Auliffe and Brereton, that had the apparent blemish of a forward transfer. Ineffective tackling gave them the chance, and the movement was but an example of others that missed success by narrow margins.

Something happened after the interval. From a team that looked beaten University were transferred into a powerful attacking force, and flung themselves into the fray with a new vigour. They began to throw the ball about, and, if their rushes still lacked the snap and "devil" to which they have accustomed crowds in the past, they were doing well enough to give hopes of victory.

PRONOUNCED CHANGE.

It was an almost incredible change, but so pronounced that Brothers were at bay for almost all of the remaining 40 minutes. A penalty goal brought them to within a point of the lead. Lockie missed another from a "gift" position, and then Adair outdistanced his opponents to score a winger's try of the first water. How popular were University was clearly shown by the roar that split the air as Adair dived across at the corner post.

The brain of the University three-quarter line was George Lockie, but for once he did not receive the support that is usually given him. He played with forethought, varying tactics repeatedly in an attempt to circumvent the methods by which brothers were threatening to bottle up the line. Sometimes it was a short kick, sometimes a reverse pass, but always he gave the impression of watching the trend of play and thinking. Fast-breaking forwards and crowding backs hampered the reverse movement that he employed with Irwin.

BRERETON KEEN.

Irwin found Brereton a hard nut to crack, for the Brothers' man was on his keenest behaviour. With the rest of the backs, Irwin was seriously handicapped by the absence of "ball" from the scrums, won only infrequently by University. This was a big drawback, and that the students finished so well after "chasing the wind" for much of the day—always a fatiguing pastime—is sufficient indication of the excellent physical condition to which their coach, Bob Williams, has brought them.

Hulbert was handicapped also by the result of the scrums, but he played a very much improved game. Particularly was he efficient as a captain, and when the ball was falling towards several men undecided about whose take it was his voice could be heard finally settling the question.

ADAIR'S TRY.

Adair's try was another feather in his cap to add to the one he gained by his mag scoring run on the previous Saturday. His colleague, Nixon-Smith, on the other wing, had few chances.

Paradoxically enough University's full-back played best in attack, coming up effectively on more than one occasion to share in likely scoring movements. When the ball was kicked to him he moved slowly, but made no serious mistakes.

The students' forwards had a hard row to hoe, how hard probably they themselves will best know a day or so after the match. There were no apologies given or asked, and on the arid pitch some of the dumps must have hurt. Yet the Students stuck to their guns manfully, particularly Mines, who bore the brunt of the attack in this department.

BROTHERS' PLAYERS.

Casey, Hogg, and O'Mara were outstanding successes for Brothers. Casey, in particular, was always dangerous, and with Gorman did much to nullify the clever work of Lockie and company. Hogg, at full-back, was rocklike in defence, fielding and punting remarkably well, and showing generally a greatly improved proficiency in his position.

With O'Mara in the forwards C. M'Auliffe should be mentioned for his work in the open. He and G. Brereton combined well in the movement, that realised Brothers' try.

THE GAME

Lockie tried early at goal without success, but shortly afterwards Brown put a great kick over, and University were two points on the board.

Brothers pressed from the resumption, and the students were in repeated difficulties. A penalty eased the position for them, but the attack swelled back again, and after a smart passing duo between C. M'Auliffe and G. Brereton, M'Auliffe scored. One transfer seemed forward, but the referee did not think so, and awarded the points. Gorman missed the goal, and Brothers led 3—2

Hogg found the line near the corner with a judicious punt, but University won the ball from the scrum and cleared to half-way. Brothers met misfortune here. They lost a try when A. M'Auliffe threw a wild pass forward, and then M'Lelland missed the goal line by inches when he was tackled.

Adair was almost in at the corner flag for University, and then a long pass by Gorman to Woodward had the students in difficulties. Brown raced by two attackers to clear effectively, but Gorman was given an easy chance at the posts with a penalty that added two points to Brothers' score.

Then Broadfoot pushed Casey over before the Brothers' man had the ball, and from the free kick awarded Gorman again goaled, making scores 7—2 in favour of Brothers.

Lockie added two more points for University with an easy penalty goal, and half-time came soon afterwards with the scores 7—4 in favour of Brothers.

SECOND HALF.

Brown moved up smartly from the full-back position, swept by Arnell, and transferred to Nixon-Smith. Back the ball came to Brown, and it was a supreme misfortune that with the defence hopelessly beaten, Hamilton, next man to receive, clung to the ball, with the red line strung out waiting in the very shadow of the posts.

Brown tried at goal unsuccessfully, but Brothers were in sore straits, at bay on their line all the time and holding it intact by the narrowest of margins.

After several unsuccessful attempts at goal University scored two more points by Lockie's boot this time. The same player missed a gift penalty shortly after, when he took the kick, but missed the posts.

One point was all the difference, yet the students did not seem like making it. Hogg was as solid as a rock at full-back, and then Adair turned the tables with the try of the day—a burst of the true winger, for his corner flag, simply outdistancing his opponents. No goal resulted but University led 9—7, and although Gorman nearly made the scores level with a great attempt at goal from near half-way, full-time came with the scores unaltered.

UNIVERSITY	9
BROTHERS	7

THE TEAMS.

UNIVERSITY.—Full-back, B. Brown; three-quarters, W. Nixon-Smith, G. Lockie, J. Broadfoot, C. Adair; five-eighth, J. Irwin; half-back, J. Hulbert (captain); forwards, I. George, F. Mines, F. Vidgen, M. Hickey, R. Hamilton, K. Carmichael.

BROTHERS.—Full-back, F. Hogg; three-quarters, G. M'Lelland, T. Casey, T. Gorman (captain), L. Arnell; five-eighth, G. Brereton; half-back, J. Woodward; forwards, W. Taylor, A. G. M'Auliffe, R. Jefferies, M. Burke, J. O'Mara, C. M'Auliffe.

Referee: Mr. E. Silverton.



"TAKING A TUMBLE."—Incident in the stirring League match between University and Brothers.



Hulbert is seen breaking away with the ball in the Brothers—'Varsity match.

1928

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - UNIVERSITY 10 v CARLTONS 7

UNIVERSITY WIN THEIR FIRST LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

A POPULAR WIN

Nine Years' Effort

Carltons Challenge Fails

University took their first premiership in the League code on Saturday, when they withstood a challenge from Carltons and finished the day winners by 10 to 7. They thus confirmed their victory in the final last Saturday with a win over the holders of the right to challenge, and are winners of the 1928 premiership with the right to hold the Jensen Shield for 12 months.

The students have been a popular side for many seasons, bright, enterprising football being a feature of their play. Their victory was well received, and few will begrudge them their success after nine years of fruitless effort.

They were the better team on the day, but they had to fight hard to win. Indeed, it was not until the second half of the game that University asserted their superiority. Up to that stage it appeared that Carltons might succeed in putting them off their game.

University's success completed a chain of premierships by the Brisbane clubs: each has taken the honours in turn since the inception of the Brisbane Rugby League in 1922.



A. Murray, the former international Soccer player, going for a tackle in the 'Varsity—Carlton match.

The game was played on the No. 1 oval, and drew a large attendance. It was soon demonstrated that the students were the popular fancy. Carltons, evidently playing to a preconceived plan of confining play to the forwards, started off in confident style and took up an attacking position early.

They did so well in the early stages, keeping play from the University backs that it appeared they might worry the students out of it. A penalty goal by University was all that separated the sides at the half-time interval, but the students' backs made play in the second half, and two good tries gave them the upper hand, and much-needed confidence. Carltons, in comparison, had become a disjointed side, but just when they appeared to be well out of it Maloney dashed away for a splendid try that brought them to within three points of their opponents.

With time running out hereabouts, and Carltons temporarily favoured by the run of the play, the student supporters were uneasy until full time called a halt and a University victory.

WELL MERITED VICTORY.

None would say that University's win was not well merited. They opened up the game in the second half and played bright, enterprising football. Brown, at full-back, was back in something like his best form. His fielding was without blemish. Perhaps his only lapse was his mistake in letting Maloney in.

Lockie was splendid, whether it was in starting his side on the attack or backing up to cover the defence. Adair dashed away well at times, and Hulbert showed the pace and skill that were features of his play in past seasons. Hamilton was probably the students' best forward in the open, although Hickey and Vidgen were prominent, and Mines never shirked a challenge in the ruck.

KAVANAGH'S GOOD FORM.

J. Kavanagh was right on his game at full-back for Carltons. He made no mistakes, and was always confident. Maloney showed pleasing form, and might have done even better had he let himself go.

Murray, the Soccer exponent, was fair enough, considering his strangeness to the code, and should do better with coaching. Warlow was off his game; his handling was bad.

Valle might have achieved better results had he passed the ball instead of endeavouring to break the line himself.

Carlton's forwards appeared to be an even six, who looked for and gave no quarter in the rucks. E. Kavanagh, who filled a breach when N. Cavanagh retired, showed up well.

THE SCORING MOVE.

Lockie opened the scoring with a neat goal, when W. Kavanagh tackled Irwin from an offside position in Carlton's 25. Carltons were having the better of the play, and Valle caused a stir when he broke through at the centre and kicked ahead on reaching the University full-back. Brown was jostled in the race for the ball, and a free to the students brought them timely relief.

Then the students went to the attack by means of a nice piece of combined play between Brown and Lockie. The latter worked an in-pass back to the full-back in splendid style, but Irwin spoilt it by knocking down the pass at a critical stage. The sympathy of the crowd was clearly with University, and they cheered the move. Half-time found the students with a two point advantage, the board showing: University 2, Carltons nil.

MALONEY'S GOAL.

Maloney landed a great goal for Carltons shortly after resumtion, and made the scores level. University were beginning to exploit their backs at this stage, and from a tussle near the sideline in neutral territory Broadfoot emerged in possession. He got it inside to Hulbert, and the fair-haired captain showed unusual speed in a dash that carried him to the line and across at the corner, with a defender grasping at his belt.

It did not seem a wise move for Hulbert to take the shot at goal after his strenuous effort, and it was not surprising to see him miss.

LOCKIE'S PERFECT PASS.

The run of success gave the students fresh confidence, and they began to unfold their best attacking form. Lockie sent Adair a pass that he could hardly have missed, and the winger beat his man and ran to the Carlton full back. Here he sent the pass infield to the trailing Hamilton, who was not troubled to score in an easy position. Lockie's goal made the score 10 to 2 in favour of University.

Sucess seemed assured for the students now, but Carltons were still to be reckoned with. They made one or two thrusts into University's domain, that threatened danger, but were not quite equal to getting the tries so valuable at that stage.

MALONEY'S GREAT RUN.

A dash away by Maloney was more successful. He broke clear from a ruck and tricked the students' full back with a pretence to pass to a support and ran across himself. He goaled and Carltons were then within three points of their opponents. Excitement ran high when it was realised that Carltons still had a chance of victory and both sides played feverishly. For a period the ball favoured Carltons, but Brown drove them back with a kick to their own territory, and full time sounded with the play in neutral territory. The final scores were:

UNIVERSITY	10
CARLTONS	7

THE TEAMS.

UNIVERSITY. — Full-back, B. Brown; three-quarters, W. Nixon-Smith, G. Lockie, J. Broadfoot, C. Adair; halves, J. Hulbert and J. Irwin; forwards, I. George, F. Mines, F. Vidgen, W. Hickey, R. Hamilton, and K. Carmichael. Carmichael retired and Rison replaced him.

CARLTON.—Full-back, J. Kavanagh; three quarters, D. Woodlands, M. Maloney, W. Warlow, A. Murray; halves, G. Bennett, and C. Valle; forwards, H. Cavanagh, W. Price, W. Ryan, J. Williams, E. Bonis, W. Kavanagh. H. Cavanagh was injured and his place was taken by E. Kavanagh.

Referee: Mr. E. Silverton.

1928

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - UNIVERSITY 10 v CARLTONS 7



BACK ROW: W.Nixon-Smith, W.I.George, J.T.Broadfoot, R.J.H.Risson, F.G.Vidgen.
SECOND ROW: F.Mines, E.G.White, R.Hamilton, G.W.Lockie, N.J.Tomlinson, B.M.Brown.
FRONT ROW: C.Adair, J.Irwin, Bob Williams (coach), J.M.Hulbert, J.F.Lynam (president),
K. M. Carmichael (vice captain), M.F.Hickey. INSET: W.Young.

▼ RESULTS

8 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Christian Brothers 12 (Casey, Arnell tries; Gorman 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 6 (Frizzell, Groves tries).
Brothers: F.Hogg, G.McLelland, T.Casey, T.Gorman (c), L.Arnell, G.Brereton, J.Woodward, W.Taylor, G.McAuliffe, R.Jeffries, M.Burke, J.O'Mara, C.McAuliffe.
Wests: G.Markwell, A.Jones, A.Beasley, J.Ganley, E.Harris, W.Little, F.Milliner, J.McAuliffe (c), A.Pittendreigh, L.Groves, W.Chandler, A.Frizzell, C.Smith.
Reserve: J.Milne.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

8 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
University 16 (Adair, Nixon-Smith, Vidgen, George tries; Lockie 2 goals) d. Carlton 8 (W.Kavanagh, Woodlands tries; J.Kavanagh goal).
University: J.Lynam, W.Nixon-Smith, G.Lockie, J.Broadfoot, C.Adair, J.Irwin, J.Hulbert (c), I.George, E.G.White, F.Vidgen, M.Hickey, R.Hamilton, K.Carmichael.
Carlton: J.Kavanagh, F.Salmon, C.Valle, W.Warlow, D.Woodlands, M.Maloney, S.Warlow, W.Kavanagh (c), E.Bonis, J.Williams, W.Price W.Ryan, E.Kavanagh. Reserve: E.Willis.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

15 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL
University 9 (Adair try; Brown, Lockie, Hulbert goals) d. Past Christian Brothers 7 (C.McAuliffe try; Gorman 2 goals).
University: B.Brown, W.Nixon-Smith, G.Lockie, J.Broadfoot, C.Adair, J.Irwin, J.Hulbert (c), I.George, F.Mines, F.Vidgen, M.Hickey, R.Hamilton, K.Carmichael.
Brothers: F.Hogg, G.McLlelland, T.Casey, T.Gorman (c), L.Arnell, G.Brereton, J.Woodward, W.Taylor, G.McAuliffe, R.Jeffries, M.Burke, J.O'Mara, C.McAuliffe.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

22 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL
University 10 (Hulbert, Hamilton tries; Lockie 2 goals) d. Carlton 7 (Maloney try; Maloney 2 goals).
University: B.Brown, W.Nixon-Smith, G.Lockie, J.Broadfoot, C.Adair, J.Hulbert (c), J.Irwin, I.George, F.Mines, F.Vidgen, M.Hickey, R.Hamilton, K.Carmichael. Reserve: R.Risson.
Carlton: J.Kavanagh, D.Woodlands, M.Maloney, W.Warlow, A.Murray, G.Bennett, C.Valle, H.Cavanagh, W.Price, W.Ryan, J.Williams, E.Bonis, W.Kavanagh. Reserve: E.Kavanagh.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

1929

BRL: UNIVERSITY

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
University	12	9	3	0	200	125	18
Fortitude Valley	12	8	4	0	151	109	16
Coorparoo	12	7	4	1	108	165	15
Carlton	12	7	5	0	134	122	14
Past Grammars	12	4	8	0	120	158	8
PC Brothers*	11	3	7	1	119	162	7
Western Suburbs*	11	3	8	0	134	148	6

BRL Semi-Finals - University 19 v Valleys 10

GLORIOUS FIRST HALF

University Defeat Valley

For real football of the spectacular type, which rouses the excitement of the crowd by its brilliant conception and superior artistry—some described it as savouring of the uncanny—there has been nothing seen in Brisbane football in recent seasons to equal the play of University and Valley in the first half of yesterday's semi-final at the Exhibition ground. The pace was terrific. But it took its toll of the players in the second moiety, and the game developed into just a dour, hard struggle with University's snap overwhelming Valley's doggedness. The final scores of 19 points to 10 did Valley's early efforts an injustice, but on the general trend of the game it truly reflected the superiority of University. The maroons are certainly the most polished team in the metropolis, and as they have already won the right of challenge it means that they enter the list against the men from Stone's Corner with two chances to one.

	T.	G.	Pts.
UNIVERSITY	3	5	19
VALLEY	2	2	10

For University, tries were scored by Clarke, Jacobs, and Lockie. The latter converted three besides landing two penalty goals. For Valley Lyons and Locke scored tries. Shields converted one and Neumann kicked a penalty goal.

UNIVERSITY (Maroon and Blue).—Full-back, B. Brown; three-quarters, M. Bourke, G. Lockie, J. Broadfoot, R. Jacobs; stand-off half, J. Irwin (captain—retired hurt, replaced by J. Hulbert); half-back, O. Andrews; forwards, R. Hamilton, J. Clarke, H. Nicholson, F. Vidgen, F. Mines, E. C. White.

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full-back, M. Valentine; three-quarters, T. Boast, A. Donovan, J. Shields, B. Lyons; stand-off half, F. Neumann; half-back, P. Scott; forwards, E. Robson, J. Little, A. Locke, J. Linnane, A. Clarken, J. Bruce.

Referee, Mr. E. Silverton; touch judges, Messrs. J. Montgomery and H. Horder.

Turning to individuals the outstanding player for University was Clarke, the youthful forward, who has had a meteoric rise this season. He scored a wonderful opening try. His task when he was served with the ball by Lockie from a rebound from a penalty kick looked well nigh hopeless owing to the distance out from the scoring zone and the defensive obstacles ahead of him. But he dashed ahead and through the blue defence, as if he had been shot out of a catapult, and scored to the accompaniment of cheers that echoed and re-echoed for some minutes. All his good work was not constructive, as in the torrid play he was also in his element, and his hefty tackling was nearly as spectacular as his daring and dashing thrusts through Valley's defence. This lad is truly labelled a forward champion of the near future.

However, whilst singling out Clarke for special mention, the all-round service of Lockie was noteworthy. He scored a brilliant individual try in the second half, and with his goal kicking added 10 additional points to the maroons' tally.

The University forwards, on the day, were cleverer, better conditioned, and played a much more important role than the men in opposition. Hamilton, Vidgen, and Nicholson were all intelligent and speedy. The University raking was more consistent and done more cleanly than that of the blues.

O. Andrews, the University half, was a terrier in defence, and he did a number of bright things in attack.

Jack Irwin, the University captain, met with an arm disablement in the first half, and was forced to retire. He was playing brilliantly at the time. His loss was a severe one, and many expected the maroons to weaken as a consequence, but to the credit of the substitute, Hulbert, let it be said that the former captain did his work well, even though less brilliantly than Irwin.

Apart from Lockie, Jacobs, the winger, was the star. His first half try was a magnificent example of pace and resourcefulness.

Brown, at full-back, was very reliable.

A GEM OF A TRY.

Valley's first half try, scored by Locke, was probably the finest team effort ever unfolded in Brisbane club football. Six men at top pace handled the ball with the precision of cogs in a perfect machine. The attack swung first one way, and then the other, and left the crowd gasping with wonder.

Valley played grandly till the interval. But the pace had told on them, and they were not the shadow of the same team afterwards. At the finish they were beaten to a man, but they all stuck it out grittily.

Neumann was a disappointment. However, Donovan played one of his best games, and Scott, the half, also played above himself. The threes were very ragged towards the close, and only for the grit of the vanguard, which frequently backed up with supporting defence, the University tally most assuredly have soared.

SPIRITED START.

Valley opened at a great bat. Donovan, in the first movement, made a neat opening, and infield-passed to Shields, who mishandled. From a handy position Shields made a good effort at goal, but the baffling wind swung the ball away from the posts. At this stage the breeze was erratic, favouring each team in turn, but eventually it handicapped Valley. Donovan was again prominent in the corner, but the resource of Brown spoilt the Valley man right on the line. Donovan lost the ball which rolled into touch. Keeping on the attack Valley had another penalty shot, but this time Neumann failed at goal.

Spectacular pressure by University had the crowd wildly excited. The defence of Valentine (Valley) was mainly instrumental in saving the situation.

CLARKE'S GREAT FINISH.

A penalty outside the 25 gave Lockie a shot at goal. The ball rebounded to the University man, who sent the maroons careering ahead in a body. However, it only needed the determination of one man—Clarke—to cap a glorious thrust with a try. Clarke's dash goalwards was like the shot out of a gun. Lockie goaled. University 5 points to nil, after 11 minutes' play.

Another sensational tray followed this when Valentine essayed to race his backs into line only to have his service intercepted by Jacobs, who dashed 50 yards to score without the semblance of opposition. Lockie goaled. University 10 points to nil.

University's hand to hand passing at top pace was a feature of a particularly bright and eventful game, but the backing up and tackling of Valleys was admirable. A great burst by the combined Valley backs finished in Lyons cutting through the defence to score in position, for Shields to goal. University 10, Valleys 5. The game had been in progress 22 minutes.

ARTISTIC HANDLING.

This was followed by another Valley try, which, for sheer handling artistry, equalled anything unfolded by the great Queensland side of 1924-25. Valentine, from midfield, swung his backs and forwards into action. The ball travelled from Shields to Lyons, who shot inside the defence and gave it to Neumann, on to Robson, to Locke, who scored with the crowd in a frenzy of excitement. Shields missed the easiest of goals, but the crowd continued cheering till the ball was again brought into play at the half-way. University 10, Valleys 8.

IRWIN'S DASH.

This reawakened the students to another burst of electrical play. Irwin cutting through the defence with the speed of a meteor. Nearing the corner he sent the ball to Jacobs, who was rushed out by the gallant Valley defenders at the corner. Mr. Silverton appeared to think that the University winger had gained his objective, but the touch judge, Mr. Horder, ruled the maroon man out. It was a thrilling rush, the crowd cheering. Irwin's lead up lustily.

Within five minutes of half-time the University captain, Irwin, retired with an injured left arm. He was replaced by Hulbert. Just on the half-time bell Lockie earned a penalty goal for University, making the scores 12 to 8 in the maroons' favour.

The pace was again lively in the second half, with both teams taking their turns at attack. After nine minutes' play University went further ahead, as the result of a penalty goal, finely kicked by Lockie. University 14, Valleys 8.

PACE SLACKENS.

The pace slackened for a while, both combinations indulging in too much kicking. However, the blues gradually won their way to striking territory, where a penalty gave Neumann a successful shot at goal. University 14, Valley 10, after 19 minutes' play.

Clever play by Scott round the blind side gave Lyons a chance to make ground, but the latter's inside service to a colleague went astray. The handling of both teams had lost a lot of its accuracy, and the play at times was jolty. Clarke, the University forward, was now playing as an extra inside back.

After some scrambling play in front of Valley's goal, Lockie shot through a disorganised blue defence, and scored for University. Lockie goaled. University 19 to 10, with 13 minutes to play.

A brilliant run by Clarke started a dangerous-looking University attack, but Valentine saved the blues with some grand defence.

The full-time scores were: University 19, Valleys 10.

1929

BRL Semi-Final - Coorparoo 13 v Carlton 5

Coorparoo Account for Carltons

The Coorparoo—Carlton match failed to thrill the 3000 spectators as did the later game, but, nevertheless, it abounded in good football, and went to show that Coorparoo are still capable of playing a winning game against the sternest of defences. Every point in this match was grimly fought for, but there was no doubting Coorparoo's superiority. The final score of 13 to five in their favour was an accurate indication of the respective merits of the two sides.

COORPAROO QUALIFY

CARLTON WELL BEATEN

	T	G	Pts
Coorparoo	3	2	13
Carlton	1	1	5

For Coorparoo, tries were scored by Burton, Crouch and W. Kennedy, Ryan converted two. For Carltons, Hogan scored the only try, and Maloney landed a penalty goal.

COORPAROO (black and gold): Fullback, M. Burton; three-quarters, R. Boxhall, G. Crouch, T. St. Ledger, W. Thomson; stand-off half, F. C. Ryan; half-back, J. Crichton; forwards, W. Kennedy, T. Westlake, M. Kennedy (captain), H. Tanner, W. Christie, A. Jeavons.

CARLTONS (red and white): Fullback, T. Kavanagh, P. Stewart, C. Valle, M. Maloney; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, J. Wilkie; forwards, E. Kavanagh, H. Blakeway, J. Williams, W. Ryan, W. Price (captain), P. Salmon (retired injd., replaced by P. O'Loughlin).

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. J. Montgomery and H. Horder.

Showing greater dash forward, and with more individual tricks and better pace and combination behind, Coorparoo always appeared to have the measure of Carlton in the first of the semi-finals at the Exhibition ground on Saturday.

BURTON'S BIG DAY.

Burton played a dazzling game in the custodian position. He had the unique distinction of scoring a try which found him unminding the pace and trickiness of a star three-quarter. In all phases of the game he "posted himself" admirably and his steadfastness and unorthodoxy had a lot to do with influencing the play of the men in front.

Boxhall, the winger, was dashing at times, but his handling was not always reliable.

Crouch scored a fine individual try, the result of rare opportunism, and good finishing pace. His defence, too, was irreproachable. St. Ledger was the weakest of the threes, although he was forced to do a big share of work owing to the attentions of the men in opposition.

Thomson did not receive a great number of chances on the wing.

RYAN OUTSTANDING.

Ryan, all round, was Coorparoo's most impressive player. He was fast off the mark and ready on the move. Crichton was a success behind the pack, and he played no small part in brightening Coorparoo's attack.

The Coorparoo forwards, as ball-getters and utility men, were vastly superior to the six in opposition. W. Kennedy played conspicuously. His try was a neat effort. Jeavons, M. Kennedy, and Christie were always in the picture.

Carltons had their bright moments, but as a combination they did not flatter their previous form. Kavanagh, the full-back, has played much better football than he did in this game. He was caught with the ball quite a lot and many times embarrassed his side. Maloney was another player who had an off day. He made two serious mistakes, one of which ended in a Coorparoo try. However, he brought off a few meritorious individual thrusts.

Hogan did a few bright things, but he was often hesitant when on the move and passed slovenly. Valle was sound without being distinctive. Stewart played brightly at times and was as keen as any man on the side.

WILKIE BEST.

Wilkie was Carlton's best player. He was always in the thick of it, but was handicapped in attacking as the result of Coorparoo's rushing superiority. Dwyer defended ably, but his attack left much room for more initiative and enterprise.

The Carlton pack had a day of misfortune. They were first of all greatly handicapped by the absence of their star, Prickett, and in the first half lost one of their most reliable workers in P. Salmon, who retired injured. Probably the best of a well-beaten pack was Blakeway.

Fluctuating play, with a jarring note from the referee's whistle, characterised the opening of this match. After 12 minutes Carltons took the lead as the result of a fine goal by M. Maloney. Carltons 2 points to nil.

Dwyer, Valle and Stewart combined prettily, but the steady defence of Burton relieved the resulting pressure. Mike Kennedy was prominent for Coorparoo and once his dash and determination gave Carlton a close call.

BURTON'S TRY.

Boxhall was lively for Coorparoo, and he made several dashing bursts along touch. Carlton were defending courageously. At last Coorparoo, outmanoeuvred by a clever reverse attack by Crouch, who brought Burton into line to score a very picturesque try. Ryan goaled, Coorparoo, 5 points to 2 at half time.

The second half opened unluckily for Carltons, as in the first minute Ryan, the forward, was injured and taken to the touch line to receive ambulance aid. Ryan returned to find his side defending hard. Eventually Wilkie relieved with a lively dash, but a few seconds later Crouch opportunely gathered a loose ball from a Maloney breakdown and raced over for a simple try. Burton failed at goal. Coorparoo, 8 points to 2, after 10 minutes' play.

M. Kennedy's pass to Boxhall was cleverly intercepted by Maloney, and the big Carlton man made a gallant effort from the 25, but Burton checked him. Carlton were playing better, but Coorparoo continued to hold their lead.

Maloney nearly presented Crouch with a try when he gave him a tactless pass. Crouch ran fully 50 yards from a defensive position, and a certain score was nullified by poor support. Carlton were doing a lot of the play, but their team work and passing left much to be desired. However, they came with a great burst after Maloney had short-kicked through the defence. A bunch of forwards charged down on the ball, and Blakeway, getting there first, cleverly turned round after gaining possession and sent Hogan over for a fine try. Maloney failed at goal. Coorparoo 8 points to 5. However, Coorparoo immediately retaliated, and Crichton, darting round the pack, smartly served W. Kennedy, who shot over under the bar. Ryan goaled. Coorparoo 13 points to 5. This is how the game finished.

1929

BRL GRAND FINAL - UNIVERSITY 12 v COORPAROO 11

BY ONE POINT

Coorparoo Defeated

Hard Game for Premiership

University carried off their second premiership in the Brisbane Rugby League when they defeated Coorparoo by one point (12-11) at the Exhibition No. 2 oval on Saturday.

The game was every bit as close as the final scores suggest, but there have been more spectacular finals, and those who expected that type of game would have been disappointed.

University were expected to supply the brilliant attacking play, but they found their efforts in that direction curbed by the keenness of the Coorparoo forwards, who won the majority of the scrums and tackled splendidly when they lost the ball. But it was a hard fought game all through with University deserving the honours even if they were prevented from playing their usual game. They were more polished than Coorparoo, scoring two tries, three goals to one try and four goals.

	T.	G.	Pts.
University	2	3	12
Coorparoo	1	4	11

Vidgen and Nicholson scored the tries for the winners, Lockie piloting three goals. Boxhall, got Coorparoo's only try, and Ryan landed four goals.

THE TEAMS.

COORPAROO: Full-back, M. Burton; three-quarters, R. Boxhall, G. Crouch, C. Ryan, W. Thomson; halves, J. Crichton and St. Ledger; forwards, W. Kennedy, M. Kennedy H. Tanner, T. Westlake, W. Christie, A. Jeavons.

UNIVERSITY: Full-back, B. Brown; three-quarters, M. Bourke, G. Lockie, J. Broadfoot, and R. Jacobs; halves, O. Andrews and J. Hulbert; forwards, R. Reiser, J. Clarke, H. Nicholson, F. Vidgen, F. Mines, C. E. White.

Referee: Mr. E. Silverton.

HULBERT DID WELL.

The closeness of the scoring all through left the result in doubt until the final whistle. 'Roos succeeded in bottling up the University attack, a task that was made the easier by Westlake's success in the raking position.

Burton, at full-back, for Coorparoo, fielded and kicked in good style, and young Boxhall, on the wing, did some nice things in defence and attack, with a little luck he may have scored a second try.

Ryan, at five-eighth, played probably his best game of the season. He invariably made ground with the ball, and his consistent goal kicking was a feature in itself. Tanner, M. Kennedy, and Christie were the best of the 'Roo forwards. Tanner is a litle on the small side, but shows splendid promise.

Hulbert was University's best back, He was full of pep on the comparatively few occasions the ball came his way. Broadfoot was sound, while Lockie did all right without being outstanding. Bourke's handling was indifferent, but Jacobs defended ably, and had little chance on the attack. Vidgen moved well in the open among the Students' forwards, but Mines was all there in the tight. Clarke came off the scrum to tackle effectively, but was not as conspicious as usual in open play.

RYAN'S OPENING GOAL.

Coorparoo opened the scoring 20 minutes from the start with a penalty goal by Ryan. Play had been even up to that stage, with the tigers holding their own against the students' forceful play.

University were not long in opening their account. From a scrum on their own side of half-way Andrews booted ahead, and Broadfoot, following through fast, booted past Burton, allowing Vidgen to race through and score. Broadfoot appeared to interfere with Boxhall as he followed his kick through. Lockie goaled, and the students led 5—2.

'Roos made the scores equal with a neat try that featured clean hand to hand passing among their backs. The ball travelled the length of the line with Crouch giving Boxhall the man ever, and the youngster made no mistaking, flying across near the corner in good style. Thomson's kick missed and the board read 5 all. It was a good move by the Tigers, and quite unexpected from 'Roos play up to that stage.

A good goal by Ryan from a yard or two inside half way gave 'Roos the lead 7—5, but the kicker missed an easier shot shortly after, his effort going under the bar.

It was an even game up to this stage, but had not opened up as well as the spectators would have liked.

Just on the half-time bell Lockie landed a goal for University from a free inside 'Roos 25, and the scores at the interval were seven all.

A SENSATIONAL TRY.

University scored a sensational try two minutes after the resumption. Hulbert started it when he dashed inside 'Roos defence from a ruck outside the tigers' 25, and got a pass away to Broadfoot on the blind side. The centre let it go to Nicholson, who showed speed to get across near the corner. Locke missed.

The students looked like going further ahead when Hulbert fielded a hard close up kick by Crichton, and dashed away to within a foot of 'Roos line, where Burton's tackle sent the ball astray. Even then it seemed that Nicholson might have fielded it and gone across, had he been on the alert.

Two penalty goals by Ryan gave 'Roos the lead, 11—10, and the change of fortune seemed to stir the students. Vidgen and Burke figured in a snappy movement along the wing on the blind side, that might have brought a try but for a sterling defence by Boxhall.

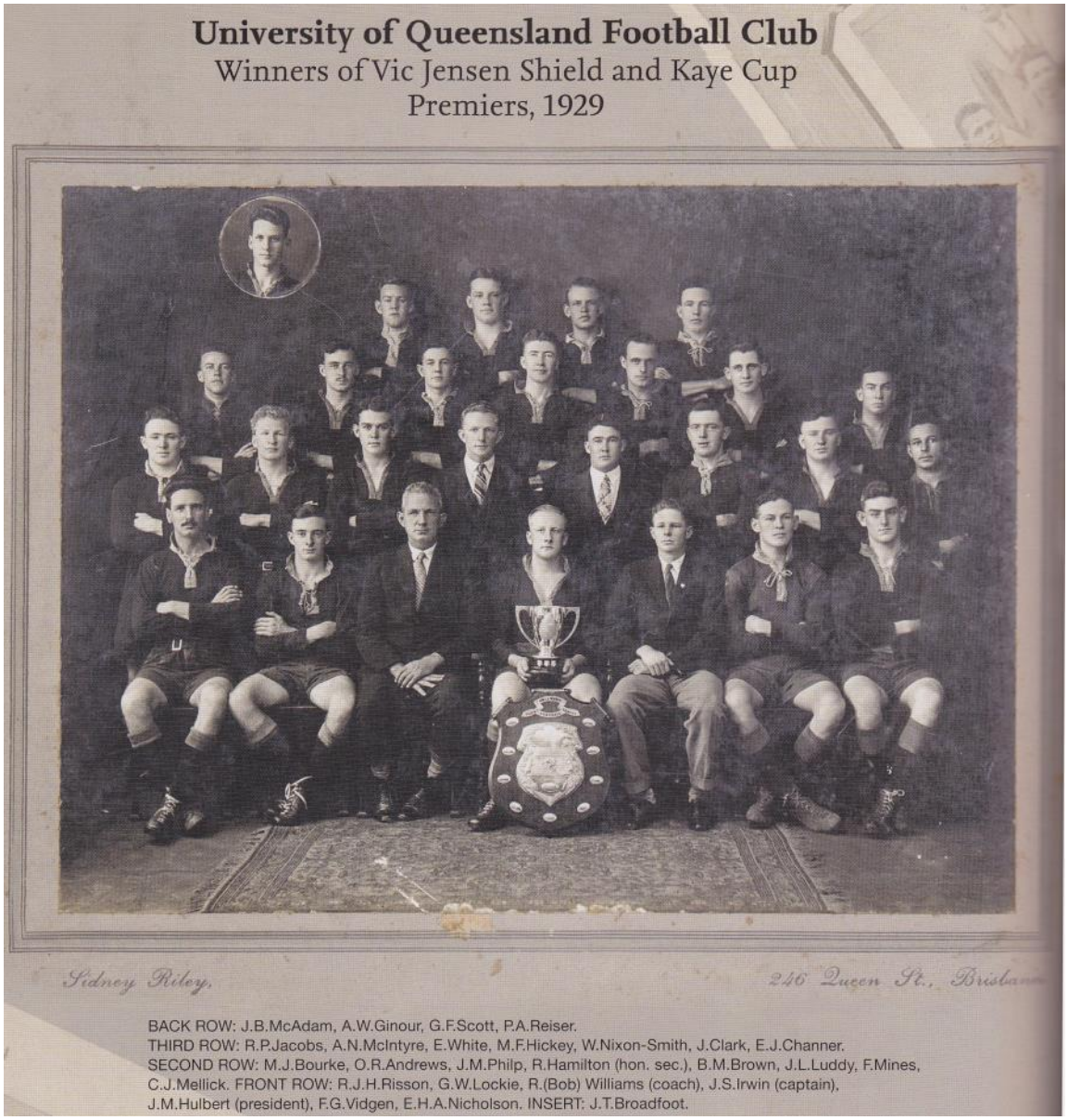
It was fitting that goal kicking should have regained the lead for the Students, seeing that it had played such an important phase in the game all through. Shepherding by 'Roos in their own territory gave Lockie a shot at goal, and he put it over, to the accompaniment of a salvo of cheering from the University supporters. It made the scores 12—11 in favour of the Students.

It was still anybody's game, and with Ryan kicking so accurately for 'Roos, they still had a chance of saving the day. They made gallant efforts to swing the play their way. Once Tanner and Crouch came into the attack in promising style in University's 25, but the pass to Thomson was a high one, and the opportunity went begging. At last a scrum infringement by the Students, three minutes from the close, gave the Stone's Corner men their chance, but the importance of the occasion and the fact that he had hardly recovered from a solid tackle a few minutes before, was too much for Ryan, his effort going under the bar.

The Tigers fought desperately to the close, but the final bell found the scores unaltered, the figures being University 12, Coorparoo 11.

1929

BRL GRAND FINAL - UNIVERSITY 12 v COORPAROO 11



▼ BRL RESULTS

14 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Coorparoo 13 (Burton, Crouch, Kennedy tries; Ryan 2 goals) d. Carlton 5 (Hogan try; Maloney goal).
Coorparoo: M.Burton, R.Boxhall, G.Crouch, T.St.Ledger, W.Thomson, C.Ryan, J.Crichton, W.Kennedy, T.Westlake, M.Kennedy (c), H.Tanner, W.Christie, A.Jeavons.
Carlton: T.Kavanagh, H.Stewart, C.Valle, M.Maloney, L.Dwyer, J.Wilkie, E.Kavanagh, H.Blakeway, J.Williams, W.Ryan, W.Price (c), F.Salmon. Reserve: P.O'Loughlin.
Reserve: Hogan.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

14 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS

University 19 (Clarke, Jacobs, Lockie tries; Lockie 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 10 (Lyons, Locke tries; Shields, Neumann goals).
University: B.Brown, M.Bourke, G.Lockie, J.Broadfoot, R.Jacobs J.Irwin (c), (c), O.Andrews, R.Hamilton, J.Clarke, H.Nicholson, F.Vidgen, F.Mines, E.White. Reserve: J.Hulbert
Valley: M.Valentine, T.Boast, A.Donovan, J.Shields, B.Lyons, F.Neumann, P.Scott, E.Robson, J.Little, A.Locke, J.Linnane, A.Clarke, J.Bruce.
Referee: Ernie Silverton. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

21 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL

University 12 (Vidgen, Nicholson tries; Lockie 3 goals) d. Coorparoo 11 (Boxhall try; Ryan 4 goals).
University: B.Brown, M.Bourke, G.Lockie (c), J.Broadfoot, R.Jacobs, J.Hulbert, O.Andrews, R.Reiser, J.Clarke, H.Nicholson, F.Vidgen, F.Mines, E.G.White.
Coorparoo: M.Burton, R.Boxhall, G.Crouch, C.Ryan, W.Thomson, L.St.Ledger, J.Crichton, W.Kennedy (c), M.Kennedy, H.Tanner, T.Westlake, W.Christie, A.Jeavons.
Referee: Ernie Silverton. ***Crowd: 2,000.***

▼ QRL RESULTS

In 1929 there were two competitions. Valleys and Brothers played in both the BRL & QRL comps. The QRL comp included those Brisbane teams and 4 Ipswich teams.
Valleys won the minor premiership for the QRL competition and were knocked out in the semis by Ipswich Brothers.
They exercised their right of challenge in the challenge final but lost again to Ipswich Brothers.

5 OCTOBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE

Ipswich Past Brothers 8 (Frauenfelder, W.Doyle tries; Frauenfelder goal) d. Brisbane Valleys 6 (Cameron, Phipps tries).

5 OCTOBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE

Tivoli 8 (Paten, Mackay tries; Porter goal) d. Starlights 0.

12 OCTOBER FINAL
NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE

Ipswich Past Brothers 18 (Rollo 2, Biggs, Doonar tries; Rollo 3 goals) d. Tivoli 8 (Kamp, Bennett tries; Paten goal).

19 OCTOBER CHALLENGE FINAL
NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE

Ipswich Past Brothers 17 (Biggs 2, Wilson 2, Parcell tries; Doonar goal) d. Brisbane Valleys 5 (Harris try; Cameron goal).

1930

BRL: CARLTON

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Carlton	10	9	0	1	218	62	19
Coorparoo	10	5	4	1	78	101	11
Fortitude Valley	10	5	4	1	162	102	11
Past Grammars	10	4	5	1	103	107	9
Western Suburbs	10	3	7	0	95	151	6
University	10	2	8	0	100	215	4

BRL Semi-Final - Carlton 8 v Coorparoo 6

Disgraceful Scenes at Exhibition Ground

OFFICIALS ASSAULTED

Coorparoo's Attitude

REFUSED TO FINISH GAME

Carlton and Valley in Final

The most disgraceful scenes in the history of Brisbane Rugby League football were witnessed by one of the biggest crowds of the season at the Exhibition ground on Saturday.

Coorparoo, after playing grand football and leading the unbeaten Carlton team to within 10 minutes of full-time, resented a vital decision of the referee, Mr. E. Silverton, which promised to swing the points Carlton's way. Then two of their most prominent players became abusive, and when reprimanded one of them struck Mr. Silverton and the other assaulted Mr. S. Russell, the touch judge.

Both players were ordered off the field by Mr. Silverton, but refused to go. Eventually the whole Coorparoo side left the field, which action automatically gave Carlton victory by eight points to six.

Outside the main stand a further disturbance occurred, and Thomson, the Coorparoo full-back, became embroiled with a spectator. This fresh outbreak looked ugly until officials intervened, and the player and his supporting colleagues were persuaded to enter their dressing rooms. That ended the trouble.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Carlton	2	1	8
Coorparoo	2	0	6

For Carlton, tries were scored by Rawlings and Davis. Hines converted the latter effort. For Coorparoo, Tanner and Collins each scored a try.

CARLTON (red and white).—Full-back, K. M'Millan; three-quarters, H. Stewart, M. Hines, E. Hogan, J. Frith (retired injured, replaced by E. Rawlings); stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, J. Wilkie; forwards, W. Ryan (captain), N. Mulholland, F. Salmon, J. Williams, A. Blakeway, R. Davis.

COORPAROO (black and gold).—Full-back, W. Thomson; three-quarters, W. Carter, L. Scanlan, J. Burke, E. Collins; stand-off half, E. Dove; half-back, J. Crichton; forwards, M. Kennedy (captain), T. Kielly, W. Kennedy, H. Tanner, W. Christie, A. Jeavons.

Referee, Mr. E. Silverton; touch judges, Messrs. S. Russell and M. O'Connor.

It was a great pity that Coorparoo marred their exhibition with such an unseemly climax. They were the better team on the day, and deserved additional points from an interference to Kielly in the first half, and were decidedly unlucky to see a fine kick by Scanlan hit the post and rebound when a goal success at that stage may have heartened them to greater endeavour. On a field that was greasy and treacherous Coorparoo fairly outplayed their well-performed rivals, and several times they went within a fraction of adding further points. Carter did score what appeared a try to the grandstand section nearest the effort, but he lost the reward of a fine dash by committing an obstruction to the defender between him and the ball. However, it is doubtful whether Stewart, the Carlton man who was interfered with, could have cut Carter off the ball and the try.

A GREAT GAME.

From the kick-off this game proved a ding dong struggle. Coorparoo, displaying great dash in the open, allied with splendid tackling, by the inside men, quickly became assertive. They nullified the better ball control from the Carlton scrummages and playing right on top of their opponents, monopolised the spectacular picture for the first 30 minutes.

At the end of a long period of attacks Coorparoo were rewarded with a try scored by Tanner, the result of a determined dash through the defence after some torrid loose play. Prior to this effort Carter made a great effort to score in the corner, but interference with Stewart led to him losing his try, which ruling by the referee met with adverse comment from a section of the crowd.

Coorparoo, however, were distinctly unlucky when Kielly kicked through and looked equal to scoring when he was glaringly interfered with. A penalty kick was awarded, though a penalty try appeared a sounder ruling. Coorparoo fully merited their lead of three points to nil at the interval, as their bustling tactics and surer attacks had Carlton defending for at least 30 minutes of the half.

CARLTON REVITALISED.

Carlton resumed with greater dash, and within seven minutes of the kick-off had equalised. Rawlings, who had substituted Frith, dashing through in the corner to short kick, recover, and fly over with Coorparoo defence utterly bewildered. Carlton's revitalised pace temporarily shattered the moral of Coorparoo, who evidently took it for granted that the opposition had shown their best in the first half. Hines failed to goal Rawlings' effort. The scores were three all. It was a great game, with the crowd constantly roaring its appreciation.

Coorparoo made a fine recovery, and attacking fiercely Collins scored from a short kick, the bounce of the ball evading the defenders as the Coorparoo man flashed down on it. Thomson failed at goal. Coorparoo 6 points to 3. A penalty goal attempt by Scanlan hit the post, and the ball rebounded infield. A close call for Carlton.

THE CLIMAX.

Within 10 minutes of full time Carlton made a spirited rally, and the forwards charged the ball to within feet of the Coorparoo line, where Mulholland fell on it, but failed to take it with him over the line. However, the ball rolled away from this player and over the line, where Davis pounced upon it and scored. The moment the referee awarded the try the Coorparoo players surrounded Mr. E. Silverton, the referee, and Mr. S. Russell, the touch judge.

Both officials were rushed, and blows aimed at them. Mr. Silverton ordered M. Kennedy, the captain of Coorparoo, and L. Scanlan, the centre three-quarter, from the field, but both refused to obey the official command. After Hines had converted Davis' try, giving Carlton the lead by eight points to six, the whole Coorparoo team raced off the field to a medley of groans and shouts of approval from the respective partisans. Carlton players surrounded Mr. Silverton and accompanied him to his dressing-room.

1930

BRL Semi-Final - Valleys 18 v Grammar 11

Valley in Final

Valley accounted for Grammar in the other semi-final, and the royal blues will contest the final with Carlton next Saturday.

VALLEY QUALIFY

GRAMMAR WELL BEATEN

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	4	3	18
Grammar	3	1	11

For Valley tries were scored by Robson, Shields, Bird, and Neumann. Shields converted three. For Grammar tries were registered by Anderson (2) and St. Ledger. Anderson kicked a penalty goal.

VALLEY (royal blue).—Full-back, V. Hood; three-quarters, T. Mulcahy, A. Donovan (captain), F. Neumann, J. Shields; stand-off half, D. Bird; half-back, P. Scott (retired hurt, and replaced by V. Williamson); forwards, A. Locke, J. Little, E. Robson (retired hurt, replaced by T. Linnaine), N. Gilbert, W. Little, A. Clarken.

GRAMMAR (light blue).—Full-back, C. Ryan; three-quarters, A. Mortimer, C. Valle, S. Anderson, F. Rounsefell; stand-off half, L. St. Ledger; half-back, L. Burrup; forwards, R. Morrison, T. Westlake, I. Salisbury, H. Gifford (captain), A. Stanton, L. Barnes (retired hurt, replaced by W. Hayden).

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. S. Russell and M. O'Connor.

Valley at times played in most convincing style, but they badly missed P. Scott, the scrummage half, and E. Robson, the forward, who were injured in the first half, were substituted. There was, however, always better system about their attacks, and they countered the muddy conditions to much better purpose than did their adversaries. Grammar played well in the second half, but their efforts, as a whole, were never sustained to the same end as were those of their rivals. Anderson and Valle played great games for the losers, and were as distinguished as Bird, Neumann, Donovan, and Shields, who were the star backs for Valley.

Valley forwards were a good, even set, with perhaps the little duo, Locke and Linnaine a shade more agressive and dangerous in the open.

WORRIED BY MUDDY FIELD.

Valley had the better of the first half, scoring, tries by Robson, Shields (converted by Shields), and Bird (converted by Shields) to a try by Anderson and a penalty goal by the same player. The royal blues' margin of 13 points to 5 was a fair indication of the trend of the play, which at times was very scrappy, and jolty owing to the greasy nature of the playing field. This caused the attackers to lose their foothold, thus breaking up the continuity of the passing bouts, but despite the disadvantages the Valley forwards and backs combined nicely at times, and the try scored by Shields was cleverly executed, with Locke, Robson, Neumann, and Donovan all doing their parts well.

Valley went further ahead at the start of the second half, and a kick through, and opportune follow-up gave Neumann a try, which Shields converted. With the score 18 to 5 against them, Grammar livened, and for the next 20 minutes they revealed the best football of the match. First Anderson scored, and then St. Ledger crossed over, after Morrison had made a spectacular burst from midfield. With the scores at 18 to 11 in favour of Valley, it became a stern fight, but Valley hung on to the lead, and finished with their backs to the wall. Full-time scores were: Valley 18, Grammars 11.

1930

BRL Final - Valleys 10 v Carlton 0

CARLTON DISAGREEABLY SURPRISED: UNABLE TO SCORE

FINAL TO VALLEY

Boxall a Winning Factor

Q.R.L. Players Improve Standard

FINAL TO VALLEYS.

Brisbane League football had zest given to it by the appearance of star players from the Queensland Rugby League at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday. A record crowd for the season, 5000, attended, which shows that the public appreciate the consolidation. This was the first set of fixtures since the settlement between the two leagues.

Valley surprised Carlton in the final of the premiership, winning by 10 points to nil. It was a patchy game. Carlton have the right of challenge, which will be duly exercised, and a grand final is to be played after the New Zealand fixtures, which commence at the Exhibition Ground next Saturday.

	T.	G.	Pts
Valley	2	2	10
Carlton	0	0	0

For Valley two tries were scored by Boxall. Shields goaled one and Neumann kicked a fine penalty goal.

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full-back, V. Hood; three-quarters, R. Boxall, F Neumann, A. Donovan (captain), T. Shields; stand-off half, D. Bird; half-back, P. Scott; forwards, A. Locke, J. Little, E. Robson, A. Clarken, T. Linnaine, W. Little.

CARLTON (Red and White).—Full-back, K. M'Millan; three-quarters, E. Rawlings, M. Hines, T. O'Sullivan, H. Stewart; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, J. Wilkie; forwards, R. Davis, R. Blakeway, J. Lambrose, W. Ryan, F. Salmon, J. Williams.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. H. Croning and J. Montgomery.

Like most finals, the tension appeared to warp the attacking side of the game, and defence reduced many of the aggressive moves to patchy efforts. However, Valley's first try was the result of clever and decisive cohesive play, but its success was due in the main to the determination of Boxall, who made a great finishing effort, and grounded the ball in the corner. This player's second try was the result of keen resourcefulness and a wonderful turn of speed, which surprised the sluggish defenders. Neumann's field goal was a dainty effort, which the big crowd rewarded with hearty applause.

Valley led at the interval by eight points to nil. Neumann's field goal was the only scoring effort of the second half.

Hood, at full-back, excelled himself for the winners. Neumann was an enterprising and penetrative centre. His tackling, too, was good. Shields was patchy on the wing. All the Valley backs defended grandly. The royal blue forwards outplayed Carlton in all phases. Robson, Clarken, and J. Little were the pick of a splendid set.

Carlton were disappointing. Hines did bright things at times, and Davis, Salmon, and Ryan worked well as individuals, but there was little clever understanding displayed by a team as a whole.

1930

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 19 v VALLEYS 8

THE SUNDAY MAIL, BRISBANE, AUGUST 17, 1930.

CARLTON PROVE TO BE CHAMPIONS OF RUGBY LEAGUE

FINAL DEFEAT AVENGED

Carlton Sustain Challenge

VALLEY BEATEN BY 19 TO 8

Brothers' Success in Cup

Carlton, after suffering defeat by Valley in the final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership, exercised their right of challenge at Davies Park on Saturday in the grand final, and completely turned the tables on their conquerors. By a brilliant and clever all-round display, they won the championship of the 1930 season by 19 points to 8.

They were vastly superior to the royal blues in every phase of the handling code, except raking, but the loss of the ball from the majority of the scrummages only helped to demonstrate their outstanding class from the fewer opportunities.



WELL STOPPED.—Donovan, the Valley captain, is well stopped by the Carlton forwards, Ryan and Williams, in the Brisbane Rugby League's Grand Challenge Final at Davies Park on Saturday, when Carlton defeated their old rivals 19—8.

FORM UPSET.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Carlton	5	2	19
Valley	2	1	8

For the winners tries were scored by Frith (2), Stewart, Hogan and Worthington. Ryan and Hogan each converted one. For Valley tries were scored by Gilbert and Neuman. Shields converted one.

CARLTON (red and white).—Full-back, K. M'Millan; three-quarters, J. Frith, H. Stewart, E. Hogan, W. Worthington; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, E. Costello; forwards, R. Davis, A. Blakeway, N. Mulholland, W. Ryan (captain), F. Salmon, J. Williams.

VALLEY (royal blue).—Full back, M. Valentine (retired hurt, replaced by A. Clarken); three-quarters, R. Boxall, A. Donovan (captain), P. Neuman, J. Shields; stand-off half, D. Bird; half-back, P. Scott; forwards, A. Locke, J. Little, E. Robson, T. Linnaine, N. Gilbert, W. Little.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. M. O'Connor and J. Quinlan.

When Carlton failed in the final prior to the playing of the inter-State and international fixtures it was suggested that they had gone stale after so long maintaining high class form at the top of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership table. This idea was rudely shattered in this game, as they got on top after 28 minutes' play, led by 11 points to five at the interval, and after countering a period of assertiveness by Valley, early in the second half, went on to win in fine style.

Their football was so vastly superior to that of the opposition that had not the scrummage favours greatly aided the royal blues there is no telling to what point Carlton's score might have soared to. Even with the limited opportunities they ran rings round the Valley men and were superior to them in loose forward play, and all phases of attacking combination and defence behind the scrummage.

CLEVER CONNECTING LINKS.

In a setting which contained hardly a weak unit there were a number of giants for Carlton. The most outstanding of these were Costello, Dwyer, Hogan, Stewart and Blakeway. Pride of place must be given to Costello, the half-back. On this form he is the nippiest and brainest scrummage worker in metropolitan football. Dashing and artful on the move, he was always constructing play for his fellows to build upon. His lead-up play in the try scored by Hogan early in the match, was as dainty a piece of attacking as one has seen from a half-back this season. Dwyer and Hogan were great in support of Costello's efforts. Both in attack and defence they did everything asked of them. Stewart was not quite so distinguished, but, nevertheless, he was a factor in the side's success. There was no forward on the ground the equal of Blakeway. His tackling from the follow ons was the most picturesque defensive feature of the match.

Valley had a bad day, and to cap their poor showing they showed questionable tactics in introducing Gilbert to the three-quarter line and sending their most constructive player (Donovan) to the full-back position. After Valentine retired hurt and the side should have substituted a utility player capable of filling the custodian position, instead of a forward such as Clarken. It was a bad move and was aggravated in the second half when the whole back line was changed.

Hard, even play featured the first 15 minutes' play, and then Costello, fielding a clearance kick by a Valley defender, shot diagonally for the corner, and outpacing the defence, sent Hogan over, to score in the corner. Ryan missed the goal. Carlton, three points to nil.

Valley moved assertively in response, and Shields, making a fine dash, opened up for Gilbert, who came up in support, to score. Shields, from a difficult angle, goaled, and Valley led by five points to three after 18 minutes' play.

CARLTON ON TOP.

From a scrummage at half way Costello came away smartly to serve Dwyer, and then on to Hogan, who made a great opening for Stewart to score. Ryan goaled. Carlton in front eight points to five after 28 minutes' play.

Carlton, playing with great heart again, stormed Valley's citadel. From a fumble by Neuman, Stewart came through at the 25 to boot the ball towards the corner, where Frith flashed down on it to gather and score. Ryan failed from a difficult angle. Carlton 11 points to five. These were the scores at half-time.

Carlton again got on top, and within two minutes of resuming had added to their score. Dwyer broke through and carried play to the 25. Hereabouts Davis joined in and kicked it out for Worthington, the winger, to snap up and race over. Ryan failed at goal. Carlton 14 points to five.

VALLEY DISORGANISED.

Valley had moved Shields in from the wing, and Neuman was playing the flank position, with Donovan, full-back, and Gilbert as three-quarter. However, the reshuffle did not brighten the play of the royal blues.

Fine defence by Stewart on one occasion saved the position for Carlton, when the stage looked set for a score by Gilbert, with Shields coming up in support.

Valley, with more of the ball from the scrummages, finally worked through Carlton's defence. From the 25-yard line Donovan made a nice opening, which W. Little enhanced for Neuman to score in the corner. Shields failed at goal. Carlton 14 points to eight.

Carlton responded with spirit, and W. Ryan opened up play for the pace of Frith to beat the defence, and the winger scored with Donovan hanging on to him. From an acute angle Hogan kicked a magnificent goal. Carlton 19 to eight. These were the final scores.

1930

CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB
Premiers B.R.L. 1930
Pike & Kaye Cup Winners, Matches played, 14; won, 12; drawn 1; lost 1; Points 257; against 110.



FRONT ROW – V. Steele (Hon. Treasurer), V. Bartlett, M. Moloney (Hon. Secretary), M. Dwyer (President), A. Blakeway, H. Farrell, A. Crooke (B. Senior Secretary).
SECOND ROW – J. T. Martin (Life Member), E. Costello, C. Ryan, L. Carlisle, J. Bakey, P. Shay.
THIRD ROW – R. Davis, H. Daly, J. Lambrose, M. Hynes, J. Frith.
FOURTH ROW – I. E. Bocker, J. Williams, A. Koys, E. Hogan, W. Worthington, N. Bocker.
INSETS – W. Ryan (Captain), F. Salmon, L. Dwyer (Vice-Captain).
ABSENT – N. Mulholland, P. Handford, K. McMillan.

Photo supplied by courtesy Mr. Mick Moloney.

▼ RESULTS

5 JULY FIRST SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Carlton 8 (Rawlings, Davis tries; Hines goal) d. Coorparoo 6 (Tanner, Collins tries).
Carlton: K.McMillan, H.Stewart, M.Hines, E.Hogan, J.Frith, L.Dwyer, J.Wilkie, W.Ryan (c), N.Mulholland, F.Salmon, J.Williams, A.Blakeway, R.Davis. Reserve: E.Rawlings.
Coorparoo: W.Thompson, W.Carter, L.Scanlan, J.Burke, E.Collins, E.Dove, J.Crichton, M.Kennedy (c), T.Kielly, W.Kennedy, H.Tanner, W.Christie, A.Jeavons.
Referee: Ernie Silverton.

5 JULY SECOND SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUNDS
Fortitude Valley 18 (Robson, Shields, Bird, Neumann tries; Shields 3 goals) d. Past Grammars 11 (Anderson 2, St.Ledger tries; Anderson goal).
Valleys: V.Hood, T.Mulcahy, A.Donovan (c), F.Neumann, J.Shields, D.Bird, P.Scott, A.Locke, J.Little, E.Robson, N.Gilbert, W.Little, A.Clarken. Reserve: V.Williamson, T.Linnaine.
Grammars: C.Ryan, A.Mortimer, C.Valle, S.Anderson, F.Rounsefell, L.St.Ledger, L.Burrup, R.Morrison, T.Westlake, I.Salisbury, H.Gifford (c), A.Stanton, I.Barnes. Reserve: W.Hayden.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

12 JULY FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Fortitude Valley 10 (Boxall 2 tries: Shield, Neumann goals) d. Carlton 0.
Valley: V.Hood, R.Boxall, F.Neumann, A.Donovan (c), J.Shields, D.Bird, P.Scott, A.Locke, J.Little, E.Robson, A.Clarken, T.Linnaine, W.Little.
Carlton: K.McMillan, E.Rawlings, M.Hines, T.O'Sullivan, H.Stewart, L.Dwyer, J.Wilkie, R.Davis, A.Blakeway, J.Lambrose, W.Ryan (c), F.Salmon, J.Williams.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd 5,000.***

16 AUGUST CHALLENGE FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Carlton 19 (Frith 2, Stewart, Hogan, Worthington; Ryan, Hogan goals) d. Fortitude Valley 8 (Gilbert, Neumann tries; Shields goal).
Carlton: K.McMillan, J.Frith, H.Stewart, E.Hogan, W.Worthington, L.Dwyer, E.Costello, R.Davis, A.Blakeway, N.Mulholland, W.Ryan (c), F.Salmon, J.Williams.
Valleys: M.Valentine, R.Boxall, A.Donovan (c), F.Neumann, J.Shields, D.Bird, P.Scott, A.Locke, J.Little, E.Robson, T.Linnaine, N.Gilbert, W.Little. Reserve: A.Clarken.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

1931

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fortitude Valley	14	9	4	1	246	111	19
Carlton	14	9	5	0	177	134	18
Past Grammars	14	8	5	1	203	160	17
University	14	8	6	0	176	177	16
Coorparoo	14	7	6	1	216	191	15
Western Suburbs	14	7	6	1	181	127	15
Wynnum	14	3	10	1	156	315	7
PC Brothers	14	2	11	1	134	237	5

BRL Semi-Finals - Grammars 12 v Valleys 11 & Carlton 17 v University 5

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS.

Interest has been added to the Brisbane Rugby League premiership by the defeat of Valley by Grammars, with only one point to spare, at Davies Park on Saturday. The final will be played by Grammars and Carlton, the latter defeating University on Saturday, but Valley have the right to challenge the winners.

Grammars' forwards were largely responsible for their side's victory. At the outset they bustled the opposition, which was not permitted to make the best use of a better share of the ball in the first session. Valley led 8-2 at half-time, but in the second half, during which Valley lost Bird, and Donovan played with a very sore shoulder, Grammars' forwards had the ball more often, and controlled the game. Edwards, Leet, L. St. Ledger, and Holden in the backs ably supported Grammars' forwards. Excepting Shields and Scott, Valley players were below their usual standard. After Grammars' promising start, in which they were unlucky to miss at least one try, Valley asserted themselves, and Donovan made an opening for King to score. Then Scott scored, going through the scrum, and Shields converted. Before half-time Holden kicked a penalty goal for Grammars. On the resumption Salisbury got over for Grammars, and his try was converted by Holden. No sooner had Bruce scored for Valley than Holden made a nice try, which he converted. Grammars held their advantage to full time to win 12-11.

In the match between Carlton and University scoring was close to half-time, when Carlton led 3-2. O'Connell had scored for Carlton, and Lockie had kicked a penalty goal for University. Carlton showed better form on the resumption, when Dwyer and Prickett scored tries, which were converted by Costello, and Webster kicked two penalty goals. 'Varsity, for whom Butcher scored, were beaten 17-5. Carlton were fortunate in having Dwyer in fine form, and other backs also played well. The forwards gave a good display.

1931

BRL Final - Grammars 16 v Carlton 13

Grammar Valiantly Wear Carlton Down

HOLDEN SCORES 13 POINTS

IRRESISTIBLE PACK

GRIPPING GAME

CARLTON LEAD 13—7 AT HALF TIME



A. EDWARDS. W. PRICKETT.
THE RIVAL CAPTAINS.

BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE FINAL



Carlton triumphed over Grammar by three points on the day, but the Grammar winger took the ball on the line just as the camera snapped.

Magnificent goal kicking by Holden, a resourceful try by the same player, and one of the best forward displays of the season were the factors which led to Past Grammar defeating Carlton by 16 points to 13 at the Exhibition ground on Saturday. The victory gives Grammar the right to contest the grand final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership against Valley at Davies Park on Saturday.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Grammar	2	5	16
Carlton	3	2	13

For Grammar, tries were scored by Holden and Lever. Holden converted both, and landed three penalty goals. For Carlton tries were scored by Worthington and Bartlett (2). Webster converted one, and kicked a penalty goal.

PAST GRAMMAR (light blue).—Fullback, R. Cook; three-quarters, A. Holden, L. St. Ledger, J. Leet, S. Lever; stand-off half, A. Edwards; half-back, J. Stapleton; forwards, R. Morrison, C. Coleman, H. Broadrick, I. Salisbury, H. Edwards, W. Gillan.

CARLTON (red and white).—Fullback, C. Webster; three-quarters, D. Worthington, E. Hogan, M. Hynes, B. O'Connell; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, E. Costello; forwards, P. Mitchell, R. Davis, W. Prickett (captain), W. Kavanagh, N. Mulholland, E. Bartlett.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. F. Moynihan and F. J. Davis.

Grammar's forward display was an exhibition of controlled fury and enthusiasm that shook the morale of Carlton in the early stages of the second half, and one that demonstrated that physical strength allied to fitness and intelligence are factors that few combinations can withstand.

GALLANT FIGHTERS.

Among the Grammar's pack were men blessed with the true Rugby spirit—the ability to fight down a lead and emerge successful when first half points appeared to presage victory for the opposition. While such of them as Morrison, Salisbury, and Gillan were indomitable and devastating in their work, yet it is doubtful if Broderick was not the greatest of all. And to assert this is no reflection on the others. His value to Grammar cannot be estimated in words, but several times in the white heat of battle he overstepped the bounds of legitimate robustness and earned his side penalties for playing the man instead of the ball. However, his football was so high class that his lapses can well be overlooked.

HOLDEN A THORN.

Holden was a thorn in the side of Carlton. His kicking powers were well nigh perfect. He was responsible for 10 points from goals alone, and with his try, he claimed 13 of the 16 points scored by the winners. Grammar, in all but ball control from the scrummages, were a sounder and more successful side. When in possession the light blues generally managed to be impressive. On the other hand, Carlton had a bad day. Although Mulholland gave the red and white backs a plentiful supply of the ball, Dwyer and the men beyond him rarely made progress. Kavanagh and Bartlett covered an immense amount of work, but the Carlton pack failed to measure up to the high standard of virility and effectiveness displayed by the men in opposition. In fairness to Carlton, it must be stated that the side was distinctively unfortunate to lose the services of Costello, the half-back, 12 minutes from the kick-off of the game. His substitute, Wilkie, never quite filled the breach to the requirements of the team as an attacking force.

NUMEROUS PENALTIES.

Both sets of players were over-anxious in the opening stages, and for 10 minutes jarring penalty awards detracted from the spectacular aspect of the game. Costello (Carlton), from one of these penalties missed a glorious chance of goaling. However, a few minutes later Webster goaled from another penalty. Carlton 2 to nil.

The forward work was strenuous, and in one of the hurly-burlies, Costello was injured. He retired, and was replaced by R. Wilkie. Carlton, as a combined force were more telling, especially their forwards, who frequently hustled the opposition off the ball. From a fumble by Grammars' defence, Worthington shot into the picture, to score an opportune try. Webster goaled. Carlton 7 to nil, after 15 minutes play.

The game progressed Carlton's way, but Grammar temporarily revived when Holden goaled from a penalty. This success was quickly written off when the Carlton pack stormed Grammar's line for Bartlett to score. Webster failed. Carlton 10 to 2.

HOLDEN'S OPPORTUNISM.

Just as Grammar appeared to be wilting, a weak kick to Holden gave the light blue winger his chance to make a great dash, and determinedly score in the corner. With a magnificent kick from the touch line, Holden added to his scoring effort. Carlton 10, Grammar 7.

The pace and spectacular features improved, and with the crowd keen by excited, the game commenced to assume a ding-dong struggle. Edwards was dashing at times, and once he came through to make a neat opening, which Gillan neglected to avail himself of. Grammar's methods became loose again, and a series of depressive mistakes let the Carlton vanguard through by short bursts. Bartlett finally finished these off with a try, which Webster failed to goal. Carlton 13, Grammar 7. These were the scores at half-time.

Carlton entered the fray with great gusto in the second half, and one m. t from the kick-off went within feet of scoring. However, play veered back to Carlton's danger zone, and from a heady kick, through by Edwards, Lever artfully got possession, after the ball had escaped the clutches of Broadrick, and shot over, to score a good try. Holden ran a fine goal. Carlton 13, Grammars 12.

The light blue forwards were playing grandly, with Broadrick a demon in destructive play. Stapleton made a great thrust, but after making a glorious opening gave the ball forward to Lever, who was recalled, with the Carlton defence beaten.

A GREAT PACK.

Grammar's pack continued to dominate the situation, with Salisbury, Gillan, Broadrick, and Morrison always in the van. Stapleton, at half, was full of resource, and with more of the ball from the scrummages, was setting the opposition a merry tune in attack. Carlton's defence was stubborn. The football hummed along to the delight of the big crowd, which appeared to enjoy Grammar's gallant uphill fight. After 14 minutes' play the Grammars assumed the lead by another magnificent goal from the unerring foot of Holden. Grammars 14, Carlton 13.

ISSUE BEYOND DOUBT.

Fast following by St. Ledger and Holden trapped Webster, but colleagues came to the full-back's aid, and a critical position was saved for Carlton.

Again the welkin rang with applause from Grammar's supporters when Holden unerringly piloted another delightful goal. Grammars 16, Carlton 13.



L. ST. LEDGER.

Carlton evened, but with plenty of the ball from the scrummages the red and whites could not make progress owing to flaws in handling by the inner and centre backs. However, Dwyer made one magnificent dash, which would probably have led up to a Carlton try but for the sterling defence of Edwards. Later the Kangaroo representative worked a nice attack with Lever.

St. Ledger was responsible for a great burst, but failing to play the ball properly gave away what should have been a certain try. Grammar, territorially, finished with a lot in hand, and only valiant defence kept the Carlton deficit at three points. Final scores were: Grammar 16, Carlton 13.

1931

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 27 v GRAMMARS 9

VALLEY'S PREMIERSHIP

TOO GOOD FOR PAST GRAMMAR



J. LITTLE.

BRISBANE LEAGUE'S GRAND FINAL

GATE OF NEARLY £100

Valley, exercising their right to challenge, downed Past Grammar by 27 points to nine in the Brisbane Rugby League's grand final at Davies Park on Saturday.

It was a clear cut win for Donovan and his men. They were too nippy in the backs for the losers, and the win gives them the season's honours—their first premiership in seven years.

The game attracted a gate of close on £100, the best figures for a club match during the season.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	7	3	27
Past Grammar	1	3	9

For Valley, Scott, Bird, Donovan, Martin, Wing (2), and Shields scored the tries, Shields landing three goals.

Morrison scored Grammar's only try, and Holden kicked three goals.

PAST GRAMMAR.—Full-back, R. Cook; three-quarters, A. Holden, L. St. Ledger; J. Leet, S. Lever; halves, J. Stapleton and A. Edwards; forwards, R. Morrison, C. Coleman, H. Broadrick, T. Salisbury, H. Edwards, W. Gillan. (Leet retired, and was replaced by H. St. Ledger).

VALLEY.—Full-back, V. Hood; three-quarters, D. Wing, F. Neumann, A. Donovan, J. Shields; halves, P. Scott, D. Bird; forwards, E. Robson, J. Little, A. Martin, C. Brandenberg, N. Gilbert, J. Bruce.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf.

Grammar could only manage one try. They looked a possibility up to the interval, when Valley led 8—4, but never had a chance in the second half with the Valley backs rattling up 19 points to five.

Biggest factor in Valley's success was the phenomenal raking of Jack Little—he seldom missed the ball from the scrum—and the breezy team work of their inside backs.

These men of the dark blues carried too many guns for the Grammar backs, whose attack was stodgy and disjointed, and their defence weak.

There was little between the forwards—they seemed to be well matched.

Leet's retirement with a leg injury in the first half handicapped the losers—it probably accounted for the light blues' failure in defence.

To the Valley backs must go the major share of the credit for their side's victory. They were in great fettle on the day—snappy and daring, and made good use of the ball from the scrum.

Hood was splendid at full-back, handling cleanly and safe in defence. His tackle of Holden in the second half, just when the Grammar man looked like making a getaway, was the best piece of defence seen in the game.



A. Donovan. P. Scott.
Two of Valley's Nippy Backs.

Scott showed pace behind the pack, swung the ball out faultlessly for his backs, and gave his side a good start by scoring the opening try around the pack, fooling the defence to slip across in a good position.

TRIUMPH FOR DONOVAN.

The diminutive Donovan has been the constructive mind behind Valley all the season, and it was fitting that he should have been such an active force in the final His try shortly after the interval, when he ran from half-way, was one of the best of the season. It was a treat to see him outgeneral the Grammar full-back in his run to the line.

Neumann crashed ahead well once or twice, but usually failed to finish his moves. Bird tricked the defence nicely for his try from the five-eighth position, but generally preferred to swing the ball on to his supports.



A. Edwards.

Cook was safe enough at full-back for Grammars, and Stapleton was always a trier behind the pack. Arthur Edwards got few chances on the attack, but was all there in defence.

Morrison and Gillan were the blues' best forwards.

1931

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 27 v GRAMMARS 9

VALLEY "A" SENIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB, 1931
Premiers B.R.L. also Winners President's Cup and Pike Ambulance Cup



FRONT ROW – E. Rix (Selector), J. Moynihan (Hon. Treasurer), J. Shields, A. Donovan (Captain), Frank Fullerton (President), F. Neumann (Vice Capt.), V. Hood, J. Maher (Hon. Secretary), E. Cecil (Delegate).
SECOND ROW – P. Scott, D. Bird, R. Magill, A. Batzloff (Life Member), C. Foo (Selector), W. Whyte, N. Gilbert, V. O'Connor.
THIRD ROW – Vic. Jensen (Vice President), A. martin, T. Linnance, C. Davies, J. Little, C. Brandenberg, J. Wing, J. Bruce, M. Donovan (Vice Pres.)
BACK ROW – P. L. Eve, J. Flynn (Trainer), M. McGowan (Assistant Secretary), G. Robson, E. Robson, F. Imber (Vice Pres.), M. Hennessy (Trainer), C. Perkins.
ABSENT – K. McKay, A. Locke, T. Clarke, A. Clarken, V. Williamson. INSETS – R. Boxall, S. C. Taudevin (Patron)

▼ RESULTS

5 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Past Grammars 12 (Salisbury, Holden tries: Holden 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 11 (King, Scott, Bruce tries; Shields goal).
Grammars: R.Cook, S.Lever, L.St Ledger, J.Leet, A.Holden, J.Stapleton, A.Edwards (c), W.McCook, C.Coleman, H. Broadrick, I.Salisbury, R.Morrison, H.Edwards.
Valleys: V.Hood, J.Shields, F.Neumann, A.Donovan (c), D.Wing, D.Bird, P.Scott, E.Robson, J.Little, A.Martin, C.Brandenberg, N.White, J.Bruce.
Referee: Mick O'Connor.

5 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Carlton 17 (O'Connell, Dwyer, Prickett tries; Costello 2, Webster 2 goals) d. University 5 (Butcher try; Lockie goal).
Carlton: C.Webster, D.Worthington, E.Hogan, M.Hines, B.O'Connell, L.Dwyer, E.Costello, P.Mitchell, V.Hogan, W.Prickett (c), W.Kavanagh, N.Mulholland, E.Bartlett.
University: J.Thomasson, C.Butcher, G.Lockie (c), J.Broadfoot, T.Rowe, K.Simpson, H.Maguire, F.McNamara, B.Bondfield, V.Wilson, F.Hickey, A.Werman, M.Brown.
Referee: Jack Quinlan.

12 SEPTEMBER FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND
Past Grammars 16 (Holden, Lever tries; Holden 5 goals) d. Carlton 13 (Bartlett 2, Worthington tries; Webster 2 goals).
Grammars: R.Cook, A.Holden, L.St Ledger, J.Leet, S.Lever, A.Edwards (c), J.Stapleton, R.Morrison, C.Coleman, H.Broadrick, I.Salisbury, H.Edwards, W.Gillan.
Carlton: C.Webster, D.Worthington, E.Hogan, M.Hines, B.O'Connell, L.Dwyer, E.Costello, P.Mitchell, R.Davis, W.Prickett (c), W.Kavanagh, N.Mulholland, E.Bartlett. Reserve: Wilkie.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

19 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE
DAVIES PARK
Fortitude Valley 27 (Wing 2, Scott, Bird, Donovan, Martin, Shields tries; Shields 3 goals) d. Past Grammars 9 (Morrison try; Holden 3 goals).
Valley: V.Hood, D.Wing, F.Neumann, A.Donovan (c), J.Shields, P.Scott, D.Bird, E.Robson, J.Little, A.Martin, C.Brandenberg, N.Gilbert, J.Bruce.
Grammars: R.Cook, A.Holden, L.St Ledger, J.Leet (c), S.Lever, J.Stapleton, A.Edwards, R.Morrison, C.Coleman, H.Broadrick, T.Salisbury, H.Edwards, W.Gillan.
Reserve: H.St.Ledger.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

1932

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	14	11	3	0	242	155	22
Past Grammars	14	9	4	1	227	146	19
Coorparoo	14	9	4	1	204	142	19
Carlton	14	7	6	1	149	127	15
Fortitude Valley	14	7	7	0	233	136	14
University	14	5	7	2	187	238	12
PC Brothers	14	4	9	1	169	232	9
Wynnum	14	1	13	0	106	335	2

BRL Semi-Finals - Wests 13 v Coorparoo 7 & Grammars 12 v University 3

FOR LEAGUE FINAL

SUBURBS AND GRAMMAR

Coorparoo Eliminated

Moloney's Brilliance



M. MOLONEY.

In both matches at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday the winners showed much superior play. Western Suburbs against Coorparoo, in the semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership, won by 13 points to 7, and Brothers beat University by 30 points to 5 in the first round of the knock-out competition (confined to the teams eliminated from the premiership final). This triumph gives Western Suburbs the right to contest the final against Past Grammar next Saturday. To win the championship the light blues will have to twice defeat Paddy Kelly's men, for the latter enter the final retaining the right of challenge.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Suburbs	3	2	13
Coorparoo	1	2	7

For Suburbs, tries were scored by Kelly, Donovan, and Jones. One each was concerted by Wright and Taylor. Edmonds scored and converted, and kicked a penalty goal for Coorparoo.

WESTERN SUBURBS (red and black).—Full-back, E. Hart; three-quarters, W. Taylor, A. Hunt, W. Wright, A. Jones; stand-off half, P. Kelly; half-back, C. McLeary; forwards, J. Donovan, E. Denny, H. Denny, T. McManus, T. Furtell, C. Hurst.

COORPAROO (black and gold).—Full-back, W. Thompson; three-quarters, T. Toohey, W. Connell, S. Williams, T. Wilson; stand-off half, B. Cameron; half-back, N. Edmonds; forwards, E. Veerenkamp, J. Hayes, W. Kennedy, J. Burke, J. Clarke, W. Christie.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. M. O'Connor and M. Thompson.

BRILLIANT PLAY.

Both M'Leary (half-back) and Wright (centre) played brilliant football for the winners. The little scrummage worker has never played a better game, and only for the tendency to kick too much against the wind his game was the ideal one. However, his clever short-kick, which placed the Coorparoo defence on the wrong leg and permitted Donovan to go over unopposed—the latter showed resourceful backing up—was as neat a piece of play as the match unfolded. Wright was nippy and penetrative. Kelly did some nice things in both attack and defence—his try was a pretty effort, and Hunt and Jones were always well to the fore. Taylor was a useful winger. Purtill stood out in a hard working pack, which shaded the opposition in all departments. Control of ball from the scrummages favoured Suburbs by 27 to 25.

CAMERON'S BRIGHT MOMENTS.

Connell's defence was fine for Coo paroo and Cameron in attack and defence had his bright moments. Edmonds did fairly well, but was outclassed by McLeary. Burke (Coorparoo) and Donovan (Suburbs) spent most of their time as extra backs. The game was played in an admirable spirit, and was well handled by the referee.

SUBURBS OPENED THE SCORING.

McLeary, from a ruck, whipped the ball to Kelly, who gave Edmonds the dummy to score a spectacular try between the posts. Wright goaled. Suburbs 5 to nil, after 18 minutes' play. The men from Paddington were playing grandly against the handicap of the wind, both forwards and backs combining and backing up magnificently.

Suburbs lost E. Denny (forward), who retired injured, his place being taken by P. Baker. Coorparoo were playing Burke (forward) as extra back, but Suburbs' defence countered the move by withdrawing Donovan from the pack.

Coorparoo kicked badly, several excellent goaling chances being missed by Thompson and Christie. The latter retired injured after 34 minutes' play, being replaced by L. Casemore. Suburbs playing the better all-round football held their lead till the interval.

The second half opened with a dramatic burst by Coorparoo, which culminated in Edmonds scoring a great try after Connell and Cameron had figured prominently in the attack. Edmonds's goal equalised the scores—5 all.

Full of fire, Suburbs rallied finely, and after strenuous neutral field play McLeary cleverly kicked through for Donovan to follow fast, gather, and race over with the Coorparoo defence at sixes and sevens. Taylor goaled. Suburbs 10, Coorparoo 5. Two minutes later, Edmonds (Coorparoo) landed a penalty goal, reducing Suburbs' lead to 10—7.

Suburbs hammered unsuccessfully for a long period, but at last the Coorparoo defence was beaten when Taylor, after receiving from McLeary and Wright, swung the attack to the opposite flank, with Wright cutting out the defence for Jones to score a nice try. Taylor failed at goal. Suburbs 13 to 7. There was no further scoring.

Grammar v 'Varsity.—Played at Langlands Park, the former winning by 12 points to 3. Simpson (2), Anderson, and Carloss scored the winners' tries. Grimstone got over for 'Varsity. Simpson and Adams for Grammar, and Hempenstall, Smith, and Erbacher for 'Varsity, were the pick of the players.

1932

BRL Final - Grammars 24 v Wests 10

PAST GRAMMAR'S STORMING TACTICS OVERWHELM SUBURBS

STRENUOUS LEAGUE FINAL

Three Players Sent Off

NO EXCUSES FOR SUBURBS' DEFEAT

Grammar Immeasurably Superior

Wonderfully sustained storming tactics by Grammar after a rather uncertain start, fiercely courageous defensive football by Western Suburbs, several bursts of bad temper by both sets of players, three players sent off the field for fisticuffs, and victory to the better all round combination—Grammar—by 24 points to 10.

That briefly is the story of the final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership, witnessed by 3000 spectators at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP



A. Jones, of Western Suburbs, outpaces H. Tanner in Saturday's big league game at Brisbane Cricket Ground, but the Grammar back line checked him. Grammar won by 24—10.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Past Grammar	6	3	24
Western Suburbs	2	2	10

For Grammar tries were scored by Stapleton (2), L. St. Ledger, Reynolds, Ryan, and Tanner. Pedrazinni converted three. For Suburbs tries were scored by Taylor and Wilkie. The former kicked a penalty goal, and Wright converted one.

WESTERN SUBURBS (Red and Black).—Full-back, E. Hart; three-quarters, W. Taylor, A. Hunt (retired injured, replaced by J. Wilkie), W. Wright, A. Jones; stand-off half, P. Kelly; half-back, C. McLeary; forwards, J. Donovan (injured, replaced by C. Hurst), H. Denny, E. Denny, T. McManus, T. Purtell, P. Johnson.

PAST GRAMMAR (Light Blue).—Full-back, T. Pedrazzini; three-quarters, H. St. Ledger, L. St. Ledger, J. Leet, C. Ryan; stand-off half, A. Mortimer; half-back, J. Stapleton; forwards, H. Broadrick, C. Coleman, R. Morrison, N. Reynolds, L. Barnes, H. Tanner.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, E. A. Crawford and M. Thompson.

Suburbs in only two short periods looked at all convincing. They jumped the lead and led by 5 points to nil after the kick-off. But they were down 8 points at the interval—13 to 5. Again they employed shock tactics at the start of the second half, but their efforts were futile though tinged with distinctly bad luck. These were their only assertive moments. For at least two-thirds of the game Grammar were immeasurably the better team, both as a cohesive force and more brilliant individualism.

HALF-BACK SUPERIORITY.

The oustanding personality on the field was J. Stapleton, Grammar's mercurial half-back. Using his vigorous pack as a screen he outgeneralled his rival, McLeary, and was in nearly everything spectacular that Grammar attempted.

L. St. Ledger was also a constructive player, and with his brother was outstanding in the three-quarter line play.

The light blue pack was superb. This line was relentless with storming tactics, especially from play-the-ball rucks. Repeatedly Broadrick, Reynolds, Coleman, Morrison, Barnes, and Tanner went through the lighter men wedge fashion, and these massed charges swept all before them. By scoring 6 tries to 2 Grammar were undoubtedly the superior team, and no excuses can be found for Suburbs, who will have to show much improved form to gain the premiership honours in the grand final, which Suburbs' right of challenge makes necessary after the Brisbane-Ipswich match.

DRAMATIC OPENING.

The game opened in dramatic style, Suburbs registering a penalty goal and a try by Taylor, the winger, within the first five minutes.

There was plenty of spirit in the game, but the referee, exercising stern control, curbed any tendency towards unruly play.

For some time Suburbs' defence was too keen for the light blue attackers. However, a successful movement was witnessed when L. St. Ledger, with his brother outside him, artfully dummied his way over, deceiving Jones and Wright, to score in the corner. Pedrazzini made a gallant effort to goal, but just missed his objective. Grammar continued storming tactics, and Morrison, following through a kick, gathered to pierce the defence. He sent the ball to L. St. Ledger, and on to Ryan (this latter transfer looked forward), who scored in a handy position for Pedrazzini to add the extras. Grammar 8 points to 5 after 17 minutes' play.

Some rugged forward play ended in Tanner being hurt. Suburbs made a bold effort to score when a handling burst swung the ball out to Jones, but a great tackle by Leet saved the position for Grammar. Stapleton made a dazzling run for the light blues, but he nullified his effort by passing to colleagues who were covered by the defence.

Donovan and Hunt (Suburbs) retired hurt, and were replaced by C. Hurst and J. Wilkie respectively.

A CHEEKY TRY.

Soon afterwards Stapleton scored an audacious try, taking the ball out of the clutches of Hart, who had intercepted a pass from L. St. Ledger, to race over with the Suburbs defence bewildered.

Pedrazzini goaled. Grammars 13 points to 5.

PLAYER SENT OFF.

In the second half a wild exchange in midfield resulted in a burst of fisticuffs, and the sending off of P. Johnson (Western Suburbs). Mr. Matzdorf handled this ugly-looking situation with great promptitude, and only for his quick intervention a general melee might easily have developed.

Grammar were playing with great determination, and constantly their storming tactics had Suburbs in dire trouble. L. St. Ledger, Leet, and Tanner made a penetrative combined attack, and the ground gained led to Stapleton boring his way over to score. Pedrazzini failed at goal. Grammar 16 to 5 after 19 minutes' play.

Stapleton, who was playing dazzling football, had the misfortune to be hurt, and was retired to the line for a few minutes. However, he gallantly returned to the fray and again became prominent with a fine clearance kick.

MORE FISTICUFFS AND DISMISSALS.

The game developed along strenuous lines, and more fisticuffs, with both sets of players joining in, provided an unedifying spectacle, which, however, was quelled by the referee ordering Ryan (Grammar) and Taylor (Suburbs) from the field.

Grammar, playing over the top of their rivals, went further ahead when Reynolds dashed through to score a runaway try. Pedrazzini goaled. Grammar 21 to 5.

Subursb, playing with 10 men, rallied bravely towards the close, and Hurst made a good opening, which sent Wilkie over to score. Wright goaled. Grammar 21 to 10.

Grammar finished strongly, Tanner adding a further try after Stapleton and Reynolds shone in lead-up work. Pedrizzini failed at goal. Full-time scores were: Grammar 21 points, Suburbs 10.

1932

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - WESTS 8 v GRAMMARS 7

SUBURBS THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AFTER A STIRRING GAME

FINAL FORM UPSET

Amazing Transformation

SUBURBS REVIVE OLD GLORIES

Grammar Great in Defeat

Brilliant and tearing rushes checked with smashing force. Fiercely courageous football by both combinations, played in an atmosphere of tense excitement. A game in which victory followed the survival of the fittest. But to win by 8 points to 7, Western Suburbs had to play an epic game, for equally great were Past Grammar in defeat.

That briefly is the story of the challenge final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when the record club crowd for the season, 5000, saw a game that gripped them from kick-off to the final bell.



J. STAPLETON.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs ..	2	1	8
Grammar	1	2	7

FOR Western Suburbs tries were scored by H. Denny and E. Denny. Hunt converted one. Tanner scored for Grammar. Pedrazzini landed two penalty goals.

WESTERN SUBURBS (red and black).—Full-back, H. Dornau; three-quarters, T. Coglin, A. Hunt, W. Wright, A. Jones; stand-off half, P. Kelly; half-back, C. McLeary; forwards, J. Donovan, E. Denny, T. McManus, H. Denny, T. Purtell, T. Murphy.

PAST GRAMMAR (light blue). — full-back, T. Pedrazzini; three-quarters, H. St. Ledger, L. St. Ledger, J. Lect, D. Simpson; stand-off half, A. Mortimer; half-back, J. Stapleton; forwards, H. Tanner, L. Barnes, N. Reynolds, R. Morrison, C. Coleman, H. Broadrick.

Referee, Mr. J. Quinlan; touch judges, Messrs. M. O'Connor and T. Freese.

GLORY IN DEFEAT.

To have been beaten by one point was a bitter experience for the light blues, after the way they handsomely accounted for their rivals in the final a fortnight ago. But never could defeat in similar circumstances be associated with disgrace.

Suburbs forced the lead by brilliant tactics. Their first try, after 18 minutes' play, was scored in such dramatic circumstances that it struck Grammar in the nature of a thunderbolt.

MAGIC OF TEAM WORK.

The magic of team work was never more artistically demonstrated by the famous maroon sides of 10 years ago. It was a gem effort. Five players criss-crossing the attack with all the subtleties of perfect team work, racing like greyhounds from the leash and every man handling the greasy ball as a juggler would have handled a tennis ball. It was superb and little wonder that the big crowd rose to its feet and cheered to the echo the brilliant Suburbs' attackers —McLeary, Kelly (he handled twice), Coglin, Wright, and Denny—as they swept through the Grammar defence with the devastating force of a high-powered reaper mowing down a wheat field.

But this was not the only great thrill of the match. Tanner's try was electrical and as he gathered a stray pass from a rival and raced 60 yards to score the roar of the crowd was deafening.

Both teams had wonderful moments in defence, and nothing finer on the ground has been witnessed than the tackling of Kelly and Jones in that period when H. St. Ledger and Barnes just missed turning the tide for Grammar in the second half. And then one must recall the heroic work of Leet and H. St. Ledger, when Suburbs started their final offensive, which led to E. Denny's try, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

SUBURBS TRANSFORMED.

Suburbs were a different team from that of a fortnight earlier. The forwards, Murphy, Donovan, and the Denny brothers, in particular, stood up to the light blues' onslaughts in great style. The backs as a result were afforded better opportunity of displaying their prowess and speed in attack.

McLeary made amends for his previous indifferent display. He served his backs well, adding variety to his play as opportunity arose. Kelly was an able connecting link between his half and outside men, among whom none shone better in attack than Wright, who shaded his confrere, Hunt. The latter, however, was brilliant in defence, many of his tackles being reminiscent of the Englishman, Atkinson.

AUSPICIOUS DEBUT.

The full-back, Dornau, promoted from the B grade, must be commended for his enterprising display, even though at times he took colossal risks. His one real fault was a tendency to speculate in the teeth of oncoming forward rushes.

The Grammars' forwards adopted the same tactics which brought them success in the premiership final, but were up against a different forward proposition, as the result of the coaching of the former 'international, Norman Potter, of the red and blacks. Tanner was the most conspicuous blue forward, but he was inclined to scout too much. Several times his efforts to assist the backs only tended to crowd them, with the result that, although many fine attacking moves were revealed very often little ground was gained, even after the whole light blue line had handled the ball.

STAPLETON A STAR.

Stapleton again gave a meritorious display at half-back for Grammar. He made many scintillating thrusts. The St. Ledger brothers were also always prominent, but Hunt's tackling of Leet helped in a great degree to prevent their receiving the ball favourably. Pedrazzini, the blues' custodian, while not attempting anything of a spectacular nature, played ably and never made a mistake.

Mr. Jack Quinlan handled a tense game with admirable discretion and control. His clever application of the advantage rule contributed much towards the enjoyable nature of the game.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED.

Suburbs were the first to strike tellingly, and in scoring the opening try the red and blacks unwound one of the most brilliant handling efforts of the season, the ball passing through six pairs of hands, the movement swinging from 25 to goal line—over 70 yards. McLeary started the attack, and was joined by Kelly, who sent it on to Coglin. The latter swung the attack back in-field to Wright, who cut through at a terrific pace to serve Kelly, who again reversed the attack in-field for Denny to race over with the defence cut to ribbons. Hunt goaled. Suburbs, 5 to nil, after 18 minutes' play.

Light rain was falling as both teams came back into the fray at a clinking pace. Stapleton made a glorious burst for Grammar, but a grand tackle from behind by Donovan halted a dangerous light blue movement.

A sensational run for over 60 yards by Tanner, after cleverly intercepting a pass from Dornau (the Suburbs' full-back), to Coglin, gave Grammar a well-deserved score. Tanner's run was a real bolt from the blue, and it electrified the crowd. Pedrazzini failed at goal. Suburbs, 5 to 3. These were the scores at half-time.

Once H. St. Ledger went within feet of scoring, with Kelly saving the situation for Suburbs by a brilliant tackle. Mr. Quinlan, the referee, penalised St. Ledger for not playing the ball after the tackle, a section of the crowd demonstrating against the ruling, but it was an equitable one in the circumstances.

TWO PLAYERS ORDERED OFF.

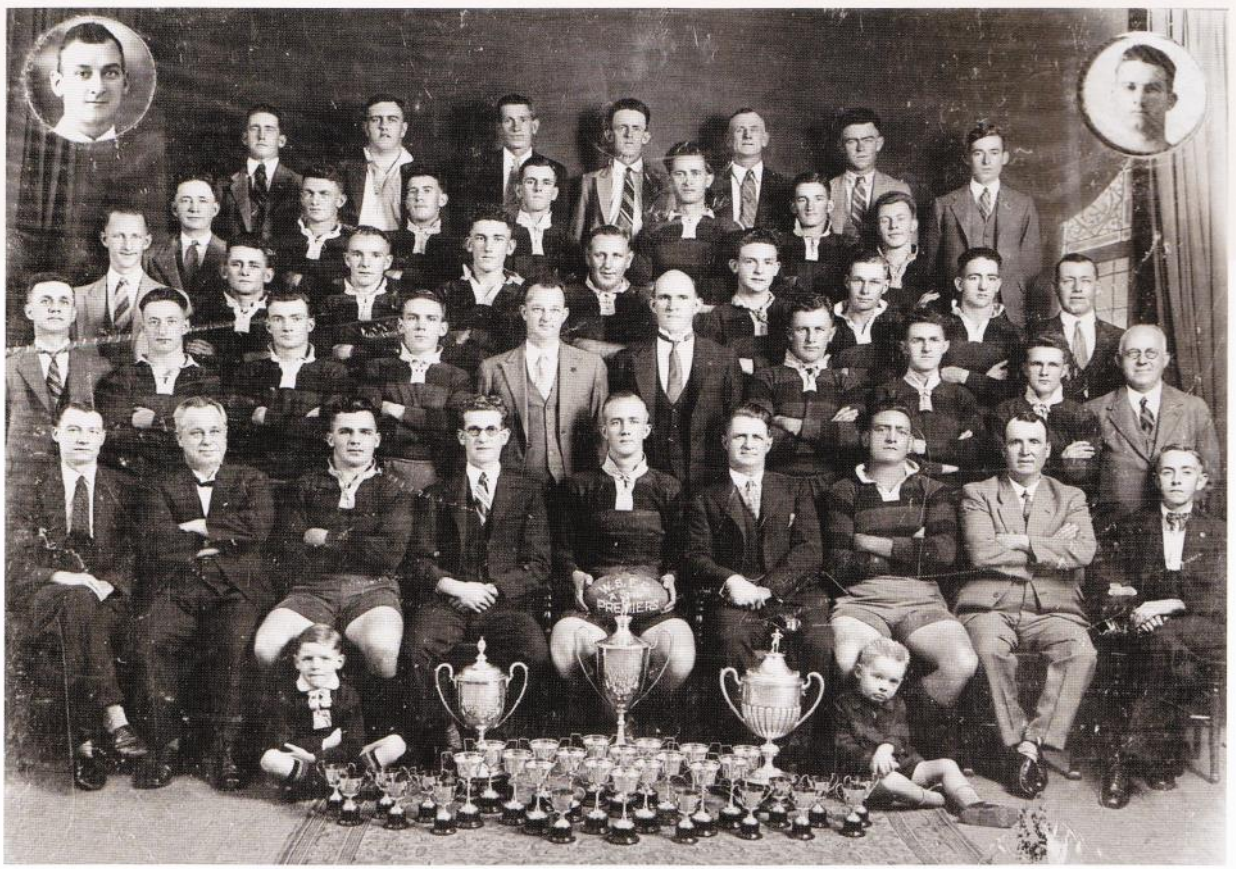
Suburbs, with brilliant bursts, stormed Grammar's line, and one attack promised a certain score, when Hunt knocked-on with the light blue defence riddled. The ball swung across to the other Suburb's flank, and after some great defence by H. St. Ledger and Leet, Suburbs penetrated for E. Denny to score. Dornau missed the goal. Suburbs 8, Grammars 5.

Out of a torrid exchange, in which Kelly (Suburbs) was hurt, Donovan (Suburbs) and Mortimer (Grammar) were ordered from the field by Mr. Quinlan. It was an ugly incident, but was well handled by the referee.

Six minutes from time Pedrazzini kicked a penalty goal for Grammar, and Suburbs' lead was cut down to one point, 8—7. The excitement was intense, with both teams making a gallant final bid. Full time came with Suburbs still leading by one point.

1932

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - WESTS 8 v GRAMMARS 7



Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club BRL Premiers 1932

BACK ROW: M.Smith (trainer), J.Tate, A.V.Lind (vice president), L.Furness (trainer), H.Forbes (trainer), J.Daly, J.Rodney.

FOURTH ROW: N.Burns (vice president), C.Hurst, A.Hunt, E.Hart, E.Denny, F.Lind, J.Wilkie.

THIRD ROW: F.O'Mara (BRL delegate), C.Philpott, J.Donovan, W.Taylor, P.Johnson, J.Murphy, H.Dornau, G.Gray, F.Hanlon (vice president).

SECOND ROW: Ald.W.Power (vice president), W.Wright, A.Jones, T.MacManus, C.O'Mara (selector), H.V.Howard (coach), A.Taylor, T.Coglin, C.McLeary, V.Jensen (vice president).

FRONT ROW: T.Moores (treasurer), S.C.Taudevin (donor Taudevin Cup), T.Purtell, M.Deacon (vice president), P.Kelly (captain), H.Marshall (president), H.Denny, J.Pike (donor Pike Cup), O.Wren (secretary).

RESULTS

30 JULY FIRST SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Grammar 13 (Leet 2, Mortimer tries; Pedrazzini 2 goals) d. Carlton 2 (Becker goal).
Grammar: T.Pedrazzini, J.Leet, H.St Ledger, L.St Ledger, C.Ryan, A.Mortimer, J.Stapleton, R.Morrison, C.Coleman, H.Broadrick, H.Tanner, L.Barnes. N.Reynolds.
Carlton: C.Webster, J.Houston, J.Morahan, V.Hogan, W.Becker, M.Hines E.Costello, W.Prickett, C.Cook, V.Bartlett, D.Foran, D.Kielly, R.Davis.
Referee: Jack Quinlan.

13 AUGUST SECOND SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 13 (Kelly, Donovan, Jones tries; Wright, Taylor goals) d. Coorparoo 7 (Edmonds try; Edmonds 2 goals).
Wests: E.Hart, W.Taylor, A.Hunt, W.Wright, A.Jones, P.Kelly, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, E.Denny, H.Denny, T.MacManus, T.Purtell, C.Hurst. Reserve: P.Baker.
Coorparoo: W.Thompson, T.Toohey, W.Connell, S.Williams, T.Wilson, R.Cameron, N.Edmonds, E.Verrenkamp, J.Hayes, W.Kennedy, J.Burke, J.Clarke, W.Christie. Reserve: L.Casemore.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

20 AUGUST FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Grammar 24 (Stapleton 2, L.St.Ledger, Reynolds, Ryan Tanner tries; Pedrazzini 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Taylor, Wilkie tries; Taylor, Wright goals).
Grammar: T.Pedrazzini, H.St.Ledger, L.St.Ledger, J.Leet, C.Ryan, A.Mortimer, J.Stapleton, H.Broadrick, C.Coleman, R.Morrison, N.Reynolds, L.Barnes, H.Tanner.
Wests: E.Hart, W.Taylor, A.Hunt, W.Wright, A.Jones, P.Kelly, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, H.Denny, E.Denny, T.MacManus, T.Purtell, P.Johnson. Reserve: J.Wilkie, C.Hurst.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

3 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 8 (H.Denny, E.Denny tries; Hunt goal) d. Past Grammar 7 (Tanner try; Pedrazzini two goals).
Wests: H.Dornau, T.Coglin, A.Hunt, W.Wright, A.Jones, P.Kelly, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, E.Denny, T.MacManus, H.Denny, T.Purtell, T.Murphy.
Grammar: T.Pedrazzini, H.St.Ledger, L.St.Ledger, J.Leet, D.Simpson, A.Mortimer, J.Stapleton, H.Tanner, L.Barnes, N.Reynolds, R.Morrison, C.Coleman, H.Broadrick.
Referee: Jack Quinlan. ***Crowd: 5,000.***

1933

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	12	9	3	0	221	146	18
Fortitude Valley	12	8	4	0	231	131	16
PC Brothers	12	7	4	1	221	122	15
Eastern Suburbs	12	7	4	1	211	131	15
Northern Suburbs	12	7	5	0	236	129	14
University	12	3	9	0	132	381	6
Southern Suburbs	12	0	12	0	119	336	0

BRL Semi-Finals - Wests 7 v Easts 5 & Valleys 8 v Brothers 7

Wests and Valley Will Contest Rugby League Final

WESTS IN REAL FORM

Tables Turned on Easts

VALLEYS HARD PRESSED

TWO STIRRING SEMI-FINALS

Two of the oldest rivals in Brisbane Rugby League football —Western Suburbs and Valley—will contest the premiership final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground next Saturday. Western Suburbs qualified by turning the tables on Eastern Suburbs in the first of the semi-finals yesterday. They gave a glimpse of their real brilliance in the second half, and won by 7 points to 5, after being a try down at the interval.

Valley won the second semi-final from Brothers by 8 points to 7.

OLD RIVALS

WESTS' CLOSE WIN

	T.	G.	Pts
Western Suburbs	1	2	7
Eastern Suburbs	1	1	5

For Western Suburbs, Philpott scored for Taylor to convert. The latter also landed a penalty goal. Ryrie scored for Eastern Suburbs, and Wright kicked a penalty goal.

WESTERN SUBURBS (red and black).—Full-back, H. Dornau; three-quarters, A. Jones (captain), A. Hunt, C. Philpott, W. Taylor; stand-off half, W. Wright; half-back, C. M'Leary; forwards, J. Donovan, T. McManus, E. Denny, V. Rudd, T. Purtell, P. Johnson.

EASTERN SUBURBS (black and gold).—Full-back, N. Wright; three-quarters, D. Elder, W. Thomson, L. Scanlan, G. Cornish; stand-off half, E. Dore; half-back, C. Uhlmann; forwards, E. Verrenkamp, J. Ryrie, J. Bayada, J. Clark, T. Eriksen, W. Christie (captain).

Referee, Mr. J. Quinlan; touch judges, Messrs. E. A. Crawford, and W. P. Dougall.

This game, staged as the curtain raiser at the Brisbane Cricket ground, revealed many bright passages, and as a spectacle was vastly more entertaining than the exhibition in the late match between Valley and Brothers.

Territorially, especially in the second half, Western Suburbs were undoubtedly the better team, and had the flank man, W. Taylor, shown the determination of a Fred Neumann, he might have gained the red and blacks two additional tries.

In polished and finished football, Jones and his men clearly showed that there was something radically wrong with their previous week's display, but Christie's team played gallantly. It was only in the last five minutes that Western Suburbs' relentless attack broke through the stout-hearted black and gold cordon to register Philpott's winning try

HUNT THE ARTIST.

No man did more to achieve victory for Western Suburbs than A. Hunt, the centre. He was responsible for no brilliant individual thrusts, but the way he manoeuvred his support into position and cut out the defence was the work of the master footballer. M'Leary, at half, was alert and artful, but much of his good work was marred by hesitancy and faulty handling by Wright, who was plainly off his customary brilliant game. The three-quarters on the move were always more dangerous looking than the men in opposition, but more determined finishing could have been in evidence.

Donovan, in the loose, played a conspicuous game, but the way was often well paved for him by the resolute play of McManus, Denny, Rudd, and the others.

Philpott's try for Wests was the result of a very dashing individual effort.

"WALKED OVER LINE."

The only other try of the match, Ryrie's, for Easts, was scored in rather uncommon circumstances. Taylor was racing the ball, and when the Easts' forward came down on him, he short kicked in an endeavour to reach touch, but the ball spooled off his foot and went to Ryrie on the bounce. The Easterner coolly gathered the miskicked ball and walked over the line to score.

Easts' pack played grandly throughout, with Christie always inspiring his men to go down fighting. It was one of their best efforts of the season. The Eastern backs were good as units, but they never quite attained first-class form in combination.

SLOGGING GAME

WIN FOR VALLEY

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	2	1	8
Brothers	1	2	7

For Valley tries were scored by Mitchell and Dall. Bird converted one. Law scored for Brothers for Moloney to convert. The latter also landed a penalty goal.

The teams were:—

VALLEY (Royal Blues).—Full back, H. Hunter; three-quarters, J. Watt, A. Donovan (captain), W. Leu, J. Wing; stand-off half, D. Bird; half back, E. Costello; forwards, A. Park, W. Whyte, P. Mitchell, W. Dall, C. Brandenberg, E. Robson.

BROTHERS (Blue and Gold).—Full back, R. Stanton; three-quarters, M. Moloney (captain), E. Hogan, P. Keating, E. Tennison; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half back, P. Duffy; forwards, W. Law, N. Mulholland, C. Harris, V. Hogan, R. M'Kellar, J. Westerman.

Referee: Mr. M. O'Connor; touch judges, Messrs. E. A. Crawford, W. P. Dougall.

Though clever handling was associated with the Brothers' try scored by Law, and with Valleys' second effort, registered by Dall, the football was of the dour slogging type, with forward play predominating.

The winning factor in the game was unquestionably the Royal Blues' vanguard. They were vastley superior as scrummagers, especially in the second half, when the loss of the ball meant everything to Brothers, fighting to wipe off the first half deficit of one point.

All the points of the game were recorded before the interval. Law opened the account for Brothers after some clever lead-up play by Duffy and E. Hogan. Moloney goaled. With a lead of five points, Brothers lost V. Hogan, who was replaced by M'Kinnon. Some close forward play afterwards resulted in Mitchell scoring.

TRY OF THE MATCH.

Then came the best try of the match. Watt, the Valley winger, came away inside the half-way to send the ball to Park, and then on to Dall, who came up on the inside to slice the defence and score. Bird goaled. Moloney reduced Valley's lead by kicking a penalty. That ended the scoring.

Every Valley forward played grandly against opponents who fought courageously to the end. Costello was the Royal Blues, most distinguished back. Leu handled admirably, and Watt, on the wing, showed pace and determination. Hunter was a safe custodian. Brothers' backs were never impressive as an attacking force, but Duffy, Dwyer, and Stanton were splendid in defence. Moloney made one 40 yards' dash, but he finished weakly, to be collared by Donovan. Hogan was off his game. Law was the outstanding Brothers' forward.

1933

BRL Final - Valleys 9 v Wests 3

VALLEY FORCE WESTERN SUBURBS TO GRAND FINAL

CRITICS ASTRAY

League Leaders Beaten

WHY VALLEY WON

Shields a Great Opportunist

(By L. H. Kearney.)

Revealing the fighting football that won them the premierships in 1924 and again in 1931, Valley Rugby League team, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, upset the calculations of the majority of critics by beating Western Suburbs comfortably by 9 points to 3, in the final of the premiership of the Brisbane Rugby League.

The losers, possessing the right of challenge, are to exercise it, and Valley to become outright champions will have to repeat their performance at Davies Park next Saturday. On yesterday's fine all-round display, the task should not be beyond them



The Western Suburbs player on the right is not attempting to hide his intended action when he gets within striking distance of the Valley man with the ball. An incident in the Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	1	3	9
Western Suburbs	1	0	3

For Valley Shields scored a try and kicked two penalty goals. Hunter landed a field goal. Hunt was responsible for Suburbs' only score—a try.

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full-back, H. Hunter; three-quarters, J. Shields, A. Donovan (captain), S. Robertson, J. Watt; stand-off half, D. Bird; half-back, E. Costello; forwards, P. Mitchell, W. Whyte, E. Robson, W. Dale, C. Brandenberg, A. Park.

WESTERN SUBURBS (Red and Black).—Full-back, H. Dornau; three-quarters, A. Jones (captain), A. Hunt, C. Philpott, W. Taylor; stand-off half, W. Wright; half-back, C. McLeary; forwards, J. Donovan, J. M'Manus, E. Denny, V. Rudd, J. Purtell P. Johnson.

Referee, Mr. F. Moynihan; touch judges, Messrs. J. Brady and S. Russell.

STORY IN A NUT-SHELL.

That veteran of football wisdom, Bob Williams, who toured England with the first Kangaroos in 1908-9, was asked at the conclusion of the match why Suburbs failed. "Simple," he replied. "Suburbs played as well as Valley let them. There you have it in a nut-shell." In Williams' trite summing up you have the whole story of the match that gripped the interest of 2500 spectators from kick-off to final bell.

The red and blacks tried valiantly. They had a stiff breeze behind them in the first half, and yet were down two points at the interval. They had a fair share of the ball, except for a period in the second half, but could not penetrate the line of the royal blue spotters and tacklers.

ALL PULLED THEIR WEIGHT.

Valley had no outstanding champions. They just made good use of their scoring chances, every man pulling his weight throughout a game featured by sustained ruggedness and sterling tackling. Hunter, the full-back, just did what was required of him, Shields was the opportunist—he scored seven of the nine points. Donovan, Robertson, and Watt were excellent machine men, particularly in defence; Bird and Costello, the halves, gave very little away, even though the stand-off showed a tendency to kick too much; and all the forwards fought every inch of the way.

WATT INJURED.

The fighting determination of Valley could not have been better demonstrated than it was 15 minutes from full time, when they lost winger Watt, who was forced to leave the field with a broken wrist. Many a team would have wilted under this handicap, but Valley rose to greater heights, and hammered away at Suburbs' defence, even though a man short. It was an heroic effort in the circumstances.

HOW THEY SCORED.

Valley opened the scoring with a penalty goal by Shields seven minutes after the kick-off. They went farther ahead when Bird cleverly cross-kicked from the centre to Philpott. The Western Suburbs man failed to gather the ball, and Shields swooped down to pounce on it and score. Hunt, with only five minutes to go, scored a fine try after some clever lead-up work by Philpott and the other inside red and black jerseyed men. At the interval Valley led by 5 to 3.

For the first 15 minutes of the second half Valley stormed Suburbs' line, but the defence in this period was as good as anything seen in a club game this season. Shields kicked his second penalty goal for Valley after 15 minutes' play, and afterwards Hunter cleverly manoeuvred into a handy position to snap a delightful field goal for Valley. That finished the scoring for Valley to win by 9 to 3.

Below: Action from an early rugby league game at the Gabba around the 1930's. I believe the attacking team with the ball is Easts while the defending team appears to be Souths.



1933

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 18 v WESTS 5

EIGHTH SUCCESS

18 TO 5 WIN.

Challengers Beaten.

Defeating Western Suburbs by 18 to 5, Valley yesterday won their eighth first grade Rugby League premiership. Their previous successes were in 1911, 1915, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1924, and 1931.

	T	G.	Pts.
Valley	4	3	18
Western Suburbs ..	1	1	5

Note: This was Valleys 9th premiership. This article forgot to count their 1909 premiership win.

For Valley, Shields converted two tries and kicked a penalty goal. Donovan scored two tries, and Park and Brandenberg scored a try each. Dornau scored a try, and Quinn a goal for suburts.

VALLEY.—Full back, H. Hunter; three-quarters, J. Shields, A. Donovan (captain), N. Leu, S. Robertson; stand-off half, D. Bird; half back, E. Costello; forwards, P. Mitchell, W. Whyte, R. Robson, W. Dall, C. Brandenberg, A. Park. Half way through the first half Leu retired, and was replaced by S. Johnson.

WESTERN SUBURBS.—Full back, H. Dornau; three-quarters, A. Jones (captain), W. Wright, C. Chambers, A. Hunt; stand-off half, E. Hart; half-back, C. M'Leary; forwards, J. Donovan, T. M'Manus, E. Denny, T. Purtell, N. O'Mara, L. Quinn.

Referee, Mr. F. Moynihan; linesmen, Messrs. M. Taylor and M. O'Connor.

WELL-CONTESTED GAME.

In the first half the Valley team, playing against the wind, held Suburbs well. Both sides contested every inch of the way, and now and then the tense feeling found an exit in angry sparring between the players. There was no score until 22 minutes from the kick off, when the Suburbs' full back, H. Dornau, from near the centre line, kicked a field goal. Valley fought back, but Suburbs defended valiantly. After a scuffle with N. O'Mara, W. Dall (Valley) had to have a badly cut lip dressed by the ambulance. Just on half-time W. Wright made a great dash for the line, but he was grassed by S. Robertson, with a spectacular tackle. At half-time the only score was Suburbs field goal.

SECOND HALF MORE OPEN.

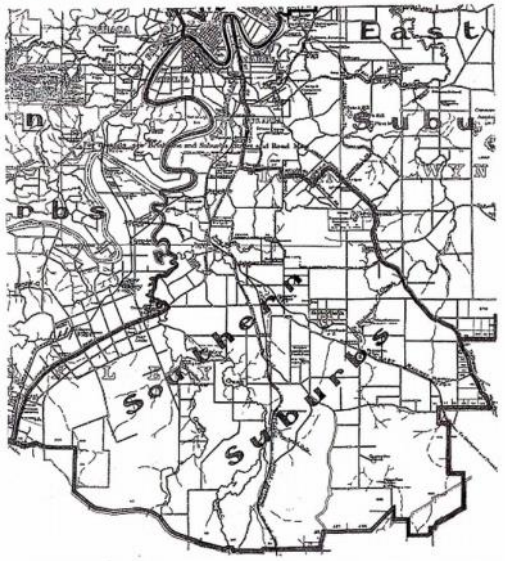
The wind was stronger when the second half began, and Valleys made the utmost of their advantage, attacking strongly. The play was close early, but later opened out into spectacular runs and long kicking. Brilliant backline movements, in which the ball passed rapidly from hand to hand, were countered as brilliantly by clever spotting by the defenders. Suburts looked like scoring when Jones took the ball up the side line at a tremendous speed. He was followed closely by the Valley forward, W. Dall, who headed him off, and sent the ball back again.

About the middle of the second half W. Shields equalised scores, goaling from a penalty awarded for an illegal tackle. From that time the game was faster and harder than ever. Suburbs continued to defend stoutly, but the attack was too much for them, and time and again the Valley men broke through for tries. What was, perhaps, the most brilliant movement of the day was that in which Bird, Costello, and Brandenberg participated, the latter crossing for Shields to convert. Then Donovan, by a clever piece of strategy, outwitted the defence and scored another try. A minute later A. Park picked up in the ruck, and forced his way across, dragging several Suburbs' players with him. Shields converted. Donovan, who had captained his team ably, added the last try for Valley.

In the last few minutes Suburbs made a desperate attempt to reduce the leeway, but only once did they keep the game long enough in their opponents' territory to have a chance to improve their position. L. Quinn, the Suburts' forward, finally broke through and scored a try about three minutes before the final bell.

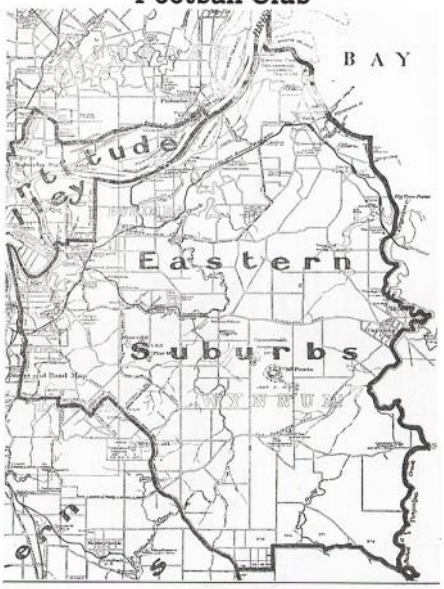
Below: The new residential boundaries for Souths and Easts with the introduction in 1933 of district football where players had to play for the team whose boundaries they lived in. This system of district football was in place until around 1967.

Southern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club



Southern Suburbs: South Brisbane, including that portion of Maree, North East of Stanley Street, bounded by Dock Street, Stanley Street, Main Street and the Brisbane River, Kurilpa, that portion of Oxley east of Oxley Creek to Ipswich Road thence along Ipswich Road to Gailes on the Greater Brisbane Boundary and that portion of Buranda and Logan West of Ipswich Road to Chardon's Hotel (Cracknell Road) thence along Cracknell Road and Main Avenue to Toohey Road. Along Weller Road to Bapaume Road and along same to Stercula Avenue thence to Logan Road and along Logan Road to unnamed road, at the corner of Portion 163, vide map, on the Greater Brisbane Boundary.

Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club



Eastern Suburbs: Maree, excluding that portion north-east of Stanley Street bounded by Dock Street, Stanley Street, Main Street and the Brisbane River, that portion of Buranda and Logan, East of Ipswich Road to Chardon's Hotel (Cracknell Road) thence along Cracknell Road and Main Avenue to Toohey Road. Along Weller Road to Baupaume Road and along same to Stercula Avenue thence to Logan Road and along Logan Road to unnamed road at the corner of Portion 138, vide map, on the Greater Brisbane Boundary. The Bulimba electorate excluding that portion bounded by Thynne and Monmouth Roads and the Brisbane River and Wynnum.

1933

BRL GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - VALLEYS 18 v WESTS 5

FORTITUDE VALLEY R.L.F.C.
B.R.L. Premiers — 1933



FRONT ROW — W. J. Marden (Secretary), H. Jones, A. Donovan (Captain), F. Fullerton (President), D. Bird (V. Captain), E. Costello, E. Cecil (Delegate).
SECOND ROW — J. Flynn (Trainer), W. Whyte, C. Foo (Trainer), S. Robertson, C. Brandenberg, A. Batzloff (Life Member), P. Mitchell, F. Imber (Vice-President).
THIRD ROW — C. Keilar (Trainer), W. Dall, J. Shields, E. Gillespie, S. Johnson, H. Hunter, K. Mackay (Coach).
FOURTH ROW — M. Donovan, J. Wing, A. Park, W. Burnham, J. Clancy, P. Scott (Selector).
BACK ROW — P. L. Eve, E. Robson, E. Scott.
INSET — J. Little, S. C. Taudevin (Patron), F. Neumann

RESULTS

9 SEPTEMBER FIRST SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 7 (Philpott try; Taylor 2 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 5 (Ryrie try; Wright goal).
Wests: H.Dornau, A.Jones (c), A.Hunt, C.Philpott, W.Taylor, W.Wright, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, T.MacManus, E.Denny, V.Rudd, T.Purtell, P.Johnson.
Easts: N.Wright, D.Elder, W.Thompson, L.Scanlan, G.Cornish, E.Dore, C.Uhlmann, E.Verrenkamp, J.Ryrie, J.Bayada, J.Clark, T.Eriksen, W.Christie (c).
Referee: Jack Quinlan.

9 SEPTEMBER SECOND SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 8 (Mitchell, Dall tries; Bird goal) d. Past Brothers 7 (Law try; Moloney 2 goals).
Valleys: H.Hunter, J.Watt, A.Donovan (c), W.Leu, J.Wing, D.Bird, E.Costello, A.Park, W.Whyte, P.Mitchell, W.Dall, C.Brandenberg, E.Robson.
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney (c), E.Hogan, P.Keating, E.Tennison, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, W.Law, N.Mulholland, C.Harris, V.Hogan, R.McKellar, J.Westerman.
Referee: Mick O'Connor.

16 SEPTEMBER FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 9 (Shields try; Shields 2, Hunter goal) d. Western Suburbs 3 (Hunt try).
Valleys: H.Hunter, J.Shields, A.Donovan (c), S.Robertson, J.Watt, D.Bird, E.Costello, P.Mitchell, W.Whyte, E.Robson, W.Dall, C.Brandenberg, A.Park.
Wests: H.Dornau, A.Jones (c), A.Hunt, C.Philpott, W.Taylor, W.Wright, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, T.MacManus, E.Denny, V.Rudd, T.Purtell, P.Johnson.
Referee: Frank Moynihan. ***Crowd: 2,500.***

23 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE
DAVIES PARK
Fortitude Valley 18 (Donovan 2, Park, Brandenberg tries; Shields 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Dornau try; Quinn goal).
Valleys: H.Hunter, J.Shields, A.Donovan (c), W.Leu, S.Robertson, D.Bird, E.Costello, P.Mitchell, W.Whyte, E.Robson, W.Dall, C.Brandenberg, A.Park. Reserve: S.Johnson
Wests: H.Dornau, A.Jones (c), W.Wright, G.Chambers, A.Hunt, E.Hart, C.McLeary, J.Donovan, T.MacManus, E.Denny, T.Purtell N.O'Mara, L.Quinn, C.Philpott, W.Taylor, V.Rudd, P.Johnson.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

1934

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Western Suburbs	11	9	2	0	196	92	18
Northern Suburbs	11	8	2	1	198	111	17
Fortitude Valley	11	6	5	0	129	121	12
PC Brothers	11	5	5	1	167	97	11
Eastern Suburbs	11	5	6	0	164	113	10
Southern Suburbs	11	0	11	0	95	246	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 11 v Valleys 6

RUGGED FORWARDS GIVE BROTHERS VICTORY

Valley Eliminated in First League Semi-Final

WINNER'S GREAT TACKLING

By L. H. KEARNEY.

BROTHERS' forward ruggedness and keener opportunism were more than a match for Valley in the first of the Rugby League premiership semi-finals at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. They won by 11 points to 6. Valley finished resolutely, but found the defence of their rivals impregnable.

Brothers led at half-time 11—2, the points scored against them being the result of a penalty goal. This victory assures Hogan's team of a place in the special semi-final against the losers of next Saturday's second semi-final between the leading teams, Western Suburbs and Northern Suburbs.

HEADING FOR THE LINE IN THE LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL



BATES, the Valley winger, making a determined dash for the line in the Rugby League semi-final between Brothers and Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	3	1	11
Valley	0	3	6

FOR Brothers, tries were scored by Tennison, Hooper, and Hogan. Bakey converted one. Little kicked three penalty goals for Valley.

Valley had every chance to win. Whyte, their hooker, gained possession of the ball 15 times to 12 in the first half, and 18 to 12 in the second half—an aggregate of 33 to 24. The Royal Blues received 14 penalty awards to six before the interval and six to eight afterwards. Admittedly, they made good use of the free kicks, for Jack Little, the Kangaroo, landed three magnificent goals, but possession of the ball from the tight scrummages never flattered their attack, as the screen of cover defence thrown out by Brothers' forwards, and the superb tackling of Dwyer, Hogan, and Duffy, allied to a masterly full back display by Stanton, repulsed the Royal Blues with unwavering precision.

A ROBUST GAME.

It was a robust man's game. The tackling was fierce, but admirable control by the referee, Mr. F. Moynihan, kept tempers unruffled, and consequently the spectators witnessed a spectacle that was a credit to all concerned.

Brothers' first try, eight minutes after Edwards' kick off for Valley, was the result of a particularly resourceful blindside attack by Bakey, who, drawing Valley's flank defence cleverly, sent Tennison, the winger, over to score unchallenged.

Five minutes later a penalty goal by Little heartened the Royal Blues, but after some torrid exchanges Brothers forged ahead as the result of a determined finishing effort by Hooper, after Dwyer had pierced the corner defence. Time after time Brothers' line was threatened with Costello, Bates, Hynes, and Little shining as individualists, but lack of support found the Blue attacks breaking down.

DWYER THE OPPORTUNIST.

A faulty mix-up between Bates and Hunter just before the interval provided Dwyer with the opportunity to send Hogan in for a runaway try. Bakey goaled, giving Brothers a 11 to 2 lead at half-time.

With a feast of the ball early in the second half, and with Brothers a man short as the result of Tennison, the winger, retiring with a dislocated collarbone, Valley had most of the play. When Little landed two penalty goals within three minutes it looked as if Valley might change the trend of the game.

The Blues experienced one piece of real bad luck, when Hynes shot through to break clear of an opposing tackler, only to be recalled for the breach by the Valley man. Had Mr. Moynihan functioned his advantage law, Hynes may possibly have scored. Later Bates lost a glorious scoring chance, but in his case alert defence was largely responsible for halting the Blues' attack.

SUPERB PACK.

Brothers' pack with Laws in the van did some great work towards the finish, making victory certain.

All Brothers' forwards are deserving of the highest praise for the way they battled against a superior heeling opposition. In the loose they towered over the Valley forwards, except P. Mitchell and J. Little, and in the heavy rucking carried all before them.

Costello (Valley) was the best back on the field, but, at most times, he received wretched support. Hynes started shakily, but in the second half he made many fine openings. Dwyer, Hogan, and Duffy were giants in defence, but Neumann, of the opposition, was more dangerous in attack.

It was not a match for spectacular wing play. Stanton was head and shoulders over his rival, H. Hunter, who got the Blues into a lot of trouble.

THE TEAMS.

BROTHERS (Blue and White).—Full back, R. Stanton; three-quarters, D. Hooper, E. Hogan (captain), P. Duffy, E. Tennison; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half back, J. Bakey; forwards, W. Law, M. O'Connor, H. Daley, J. McGuckin, L. Gillespie, R. McKellar.

VALLEY (Royal Blue).—Full back, H. Hunter; three-quarters, J. Bates, F. Neumann (captain), A. Donovan, E. James; stand-off half, A. Edwards (retired injured, replaced by R. Hynes); half back, E. Costello; forwards, P. Mitchell, W. Whyte, J. Little, C. Brandenberg, W. Dale, A. Park.

Referee, Mr. F. Moynihan; touch judges, Messrs. M. O'Connor and J. Lawson.



J. Little



E. Hogan.

1934

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 12 v Wests 8

N. SUBURBS QUALIFY

12 TO 8 WIN

Semi-Final Play

WESTS FAIL IN FIRST HALF

	T.	G.	Pts.
NORTHERN SUBURBS ..	2	3	12
WESTERN SUBURBS .. .	2	1	8

DISPUTED POSSESSION



Perhaps the Western Suburbs' player was feeling tired. In any case, he draped his arms about the neck of his Northern Suburbs' opponent in the Rugby League semi-final yesterday, and, in the words of the Americans, was being "taken for a ride" when the picture was taken.

Collins scored both tries for the winners, Pedrazzini converting one try and kicking two penalty goals. Tries for Wests were scored by Hudson and Hunt, one try being converted by Chambers.

After building up a 12-point lead in the first half of the B.R.L. first grade premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday Northern Suburbs withstood a desperate challenge from Western Suburbs in the second half to win the match by 12 points to eight.

Each thirteen in turn made good use of the heavy westerly breeze. The game, with its numerous bright patches, at all times presented uncertain possibilities, and kept the onlookers keenly interested right to the final bell. At times the play was marred by rough tactics, and the referee had considerable difficulty in keeping order. Ruffled tempers led to one interlude which resulted in a Western Suburbs' player being ordered from the field early in the second half.

Yesterday's success places Northern Suburbs in the premiership grand final, whilst Western Suburbs will now have to play Brothers (who defeated Valley in the first semi-final) on September 15, to decide who will fight out the grand final against the Northerners.

Playing with the wind at their backs Norths attacked early, but were forced back. Nolan and Leet followed a long kick and forced Hunt back over his goal line. From the ensuing scrum Wests were penalised, and Pedrazzini landed the penalty goal. Norths kept up an insistent attack, and by means of judicious kicking with the wind had Wests penned up. L. St. Ledger distinguished himself with a brilliant run, but Norris hung on and the movement broke down. The blues were rewarded after 11 minutes of play when Collins forced his way over between the posts from the side of a ruck. Pedrazzini converted, and Norths led, 7-nil.

After 20 minutes of play Norths increased their lead when Leet was illegally tripped after snapping up a dropped pass at half-way, and clearing with a lengthy punt. The penalty in front of the posts was easily kicked by Pedrazzini, and Norths led, 9-nil. Wests lost a golden opportunity to open their account when Chambers dropped a pass with an open field, after Macrae and Lind had served him in an excellent scoring position. One of the best movements of the game followed when L. St. Ledger, Ryan, Leet, carried the play from one 25 to the other, but Nolan's final pass infield to Leet was ruled forward.

GREAT BURSTS BY COLLINS

A typical 40 yards burst by Collins ended with the flying inter-State forward smothered right near the goal line. Lowe retired hurt, and Nasser replaced him. Rowe also retired, and Taylor deputised for the winger, Taylor having played in the early game also. Harry St. Ledger made a determined dash for the corner, but, after some hesitation on the part of the touch judge, the referee disallowed the try. Collins made amends for the lost points a minute later, when he received after brilliant lead-up work by L. St. Ledger, and ran from the 25 with a glorious burst that outstripped the defence through sheer pace. Pedrazzini missed the kick as the half-time bell rang with Norths leading, 12-nil.

The second half was a replica of the first, only that the attacking advantage changed from Norths to Wests. The wind was an important factor, and inside of three minutes Chambers landed a penalty goal from a position near the posts.

Play became spirited, and players tempers a little frayed. After the referee had quelled one nasty melee another broke out further upfield in a ruck, and a player was ordered from the field.

Wests' position was made brighter after 29 minutes' play, when Hudson snapped up the ball from a blind side ruck and shot across at the corner. Nasser missed the goal, Norths leading now by 12-5. Within another five minutes Wests got within striking distance when Hunt broke away from a back line advance and sent Taylor hurtling down the side line. Hunt backed up brilliantly to finish off a splendid movement with a nice try, but Nasser failed to convert, and the score was 12-8 in favour of Norths.

Wests were definitely on top in the closing stages, but Norths battled on bravely against the repeated onslaughts of the red and blacks.

Norths' forwards were clearly the better pack, with Collins the attacking star as usual, and McCook an inspired leader. Hendy and Rudd gave fine support. L. St. Ledger gave one of his finest displays, and was the best back on the field. Pedrazzini was safe and sound at fullback, but, with the exceptions of the wingers, Wests were poorly served along their back line. Donovan was the best forward in the open, with Denny playing well in patches.

THE TEAMS

Northern Suburbs: Pedrazzini, H. St. Ledger, C. Ryan, J. Leet, A. Nolan, L. St. Ledger, V. Mitchell, V. Rudd, A. Norris, R. Morrison, W. McCook, C. Hendy, E. Collins.

Western Suburbs: W. Wright, T. Rowe, G. Macrae, A. Hunt, L. Hudson, S. Lind, E. Chambers, H. Denny, T. Purtell, R. Lowe, T. McManus, G. Gray, J. Donovan

1934

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 19 v Brothers 12

WESTERN SUBURBS IN LEAGUE FINAL

BROTHERS BEATEN, 19-12

Winner's Backs Carry the Day

GREAT KICKING BY NASSER

BY defeating Brothers by 19 points to 12 in the third semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League first grade premiership competition at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday Western Suburbs earned the right to meet Northern Suburbs in the grand final to be played at Davies Park next Saturday.

	T.	G.	Ttl.
Western Suburbs ..	3	5	19
Brothers	2	3	12

FOR Wests, tries were scored by Taylor (2) and Philpott. Nasser converted one try and kicked three penalty goals. and Chambers added a penalty goal. Gillespie and Duffy scored for Brothers. Hogan converted one try, and Bakey kicked two penalty goals.

PURTELL'S HOOKING

It was a strenuously contested rather than a spectacular encounter, with heavy forward rucking predominating. Brothers manfully held their speedy rivals for the greater part of the game, and midway through the second half it looked as though the superiority of the blue and white vanguard might carry the day. However, Wests' backs with a good supply of the ball eventually got on top, and playing brilliantly in the closing stages clinched the match.

Wests owe their victory to the superior attacking abilities of their back line and the serviceable hooking of Purtell. Hunt, Macrae, and Purtell were Wests outstanding men. Law headed a fine set of forwards on the losing side, and Duffy, Dwyer, and Bakey were the best backs.

Wests made good use of the strong breeze right from the start. A penalty against Brothers for a scrum infringement gave the red and blacks an early opening, Chambers landing a neat goal inside of two minutes. After five minutes' play Brothers drew level, Bakey raising the flags from a penalty award after heavy rucking in Wests 25. Wests flashed to the attack, and Hunt was stopped by Stanton after a brilliant dash. For nearly 10 minutes Brothers were hemmed in near their own goal line, but Duffy eventually cleared. Stanton was employing ultra safe methods, and twice elected to force rather than risk running the ball out.

NASSAR'S THREE GOALS

Wests took the lead after 16 minutes' play. McKellar was caught offside, and Nasser landed a splendid goal from five yards inside the half-way line. A few minutes later Nasser added another glorious goal from almost the same position, and then he kicked a third—all inside of seven minutes.

Nine minutes from half-time Brothers scored the first try of the match. Wilson and McGuckin figured in a bright movement, following which the forwards attacked en masse in a short passing bout for Gillespie to dive across at the corner. Hogan landed a perfect goal from the side line, making the score: Wests 8, Brothers 7.

Wests fought hard to secure a bigger lead whilst having the wind in their favour, and two backline movements saw the wingers, Taylor and Philpott, solidly stopped by Stanton, the last unit in defence.

PERFECT HANDLING

Wests, with the breeze against them, opened the second half with some passages of almost perfect handling. Nasser barged into Stanton with supports on each side, and then Denny failed to drive home a decided advantage. However, from the ruck, Wests' back line swung into action, and snappy passes by Chambers, Lind, Donovan, and Hunt sent Taylor flying over at the corner for a fine try. Nasser failed at goal, and Wests led by 11-7.

After a defensive period of 12 minutes Brothers retaliated strongly. Gillespie just missed a penalty goal, and then delightful passing by Gillespie, Bakey, and Duffy ended with the lastnamed going over at the corner.

The blue and white forwards now dominated the exchanges, and looked like asserting a definite superiority.

BROTHERS TAKE LEAD

Midway through the session a penalty goal by Bakey gave Brothers the lead—12-11—for the first time. Denny showed poor leadership by attempting line-finding kicks when a match-winning kicker like Nasser could possibly have turned positional penalties into points. With eight minutes to go another fine backline movement saw Hunt serve Taylor for the fast-moving winger to score at the corner. Nasser converted with a magnificent kick, to make the score 16-12 in favour of Wests.

WESTS' PREVAIL

Brothers' forwards up to this stage had shown match-winning qualities, but now appeared to lose their grip, and in the closing stages Wests had much the better of play. Before full time Macrae broke the defensive line and sent Philpott across for the final try.

1934

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 7 v WESTS 4

N. Suburbs League Premiers

WESTS DEFEATED BY 7 POINTS TO 4

Glorious Match-Winning Try

COLLINS IS PEERLESS FORWARD

By L. H. KEARNEY

NORTHERN SUBURBS became premiers of the Brisbane Rugby League in dramatic circumstances at Davies Park yesterday. They stole Western Suburbs attacking thunder four minutes from full time, and in a meteoric flash of brilliant football, won the match 7 to 4, with a try by Eddie Collins, which stirred the 2500 spectators to the highest pitch of excitement.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs	1	2	7
Western Suburbs	0	2	4

For Northern Suburbs, Pedrazzini kicked two penalty goals and Collins scored the try. Chambers kicked both penalty goals for Western Suburbs.

With Western Suburbs fighting relentlessly, and the scores 4 all, over the closing half, and Wests going within feet of scoring on several occasions, it will probably be argued that the men from Paddington were unlucky to loose. But victory deservedly went to the cooler combination. This told in Northern Suburbs' favour in the crucial moments in defence as well as attack.

There could be no possible doubt that the more skilful team on the day won, and for artistic execution and polished finishing power no try scored this season was comparable to the match-winning effort of the blue jerseyed men. It was one of those gems of perfect-machine football, such as was witnessed in the days of the great Queensland sides of 1923 to 1925. As the blue wave of attack swept through the defence of the black and red opponents the crowd rose to its feet roaring its appreciation of the speed, cleverness, and handling accuracy of the movement.

THE WINNING EFFORT

The attack started with Stapleton shooting through an opening to serve L. St. Ledger, who cleverly veered away from an opponent to bring Simpson, the blue winger, into the picture. For a split second it looked as if Simpson was about to be cornered, but he artfully baffled the converging defence by swinging a pass to Stapleton, who had doubled back into the movement. The little half further perplexed the cover defence by sending a short pass to McCook, who darted ahead, thus enabling Stapleton to flash into the attack again to send the flying Collins over to crown a magnificent try.

Had Northern Suburbs been beaten they could have laid all the blame at the door of their backs, who could not throw off the spotting attentions of their opponents in the first half. Had they kicked with judgment in this period of the play they might have been successful in driving back the Western forwards, who were the greatest factor in making the first half such a relentless fight.

When Suburbs had the stiff cross-field breeze in the second half, Wright, their full back, showed the value of positional kicking. He made some splendid territorial gains.

COLLINS' COVER DEFENCE

The lion of the match was undoubtedly Collins. Once more he proved a peerless forward in every department of the game, and it is not flattering him to say that his cover defence over the gruelling closing 20 minutes stood between victory and defeat. He was magnificent in his tackling work, and only a player of his amazing pace and gunning could have worked himself into the position to score the dramatic try of the match.

Apart from Norths' thrilling try, it was not a match for spectacular handling movements. The tackling was too deadly and the atmosphere of the game too tense. In hooking the honours were fairly even. Purtell led by 14 to 11 at the interval, but in the second half his record was 17 to 16. The penalties worked out with honours easy, each being credited with 15 awards.

Probably the most noteworthy feature of the match was the excellent way the smaller Western Suburbs forwards stood up and extended their bigger opponents.

THE TEAMS

WESTERN SUBURBS (red and black).—Full back, W. Wright; threequarters, T. Rowe, A. Hunt, G. MacRae, C. Philpott; stand-off half, F. Lind; half back, C. Chambers; forwards, H. Denny (captain), T. Purtell, A. Taylor, T. McManus, G. Gray, T. Donovan.

NORTHERN SUBURBS (sky blue).—Full back, T. Pedrazzini; threequarters, D. Simpson, J. Leet, L. St. Ledger, H. St. Ledger; stand-off half, V. Mitchell; half back, J. Stapleton; forwards, R. Morrison, W. Norris, V. Rudd, C. Hendy, W. McCook (captain), E. Collins.

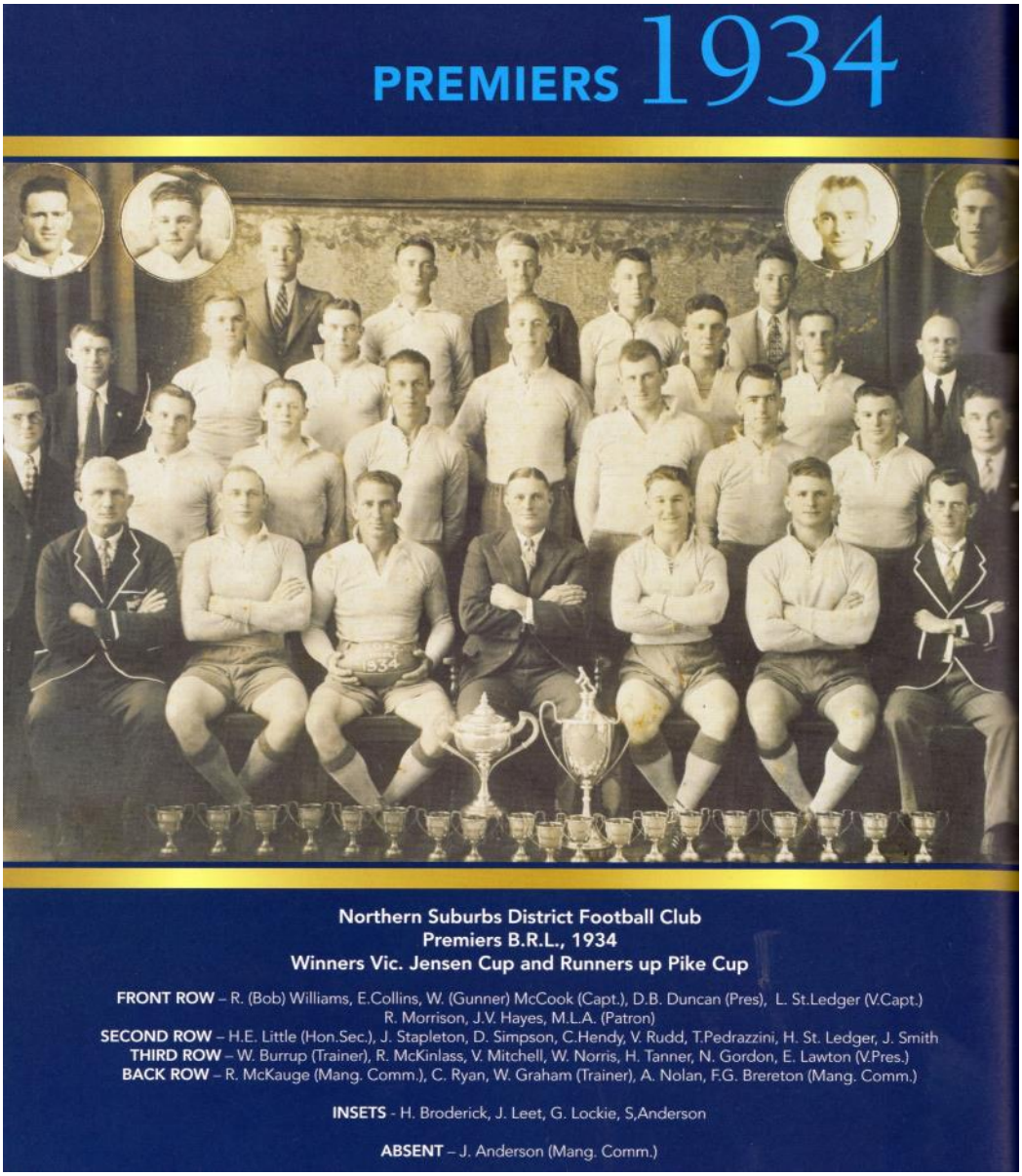
Referee, Mr. F. Moynihan.



Collins in the act of bringing off one of his deadly tackles.

1934

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 7 v WESTS 4



Northern Suburbs District Football Club
Premiers B.R.L., 1934
Winners Vic. Jensen Cup and Runners up Pike Cup

FRONT ROW – R. (Bob) Williams, E.Collins, W. (Gunner) McCook (Capt.), D.B. Duncan (Pres), L. St.Ledger (V.Capt.) R. Morrison, J.V. Hayes, M.L.A. (Patron)
SECOND ROW – H.E. Little (Hon.Sec.), J. Stapleton, D. Simpson, C.Hendy, V. Rudd, T.Pedrazzini, H. St. Ledger, J. Smith
THIRD ROW – W. Burrup (Trainer), R. McKinlass, V. Mitchell, W. Norris, H. Tanner, N. Gordon, E. Lawton (V.Pres.)
BACK ROW – R. McKauge (Mang. Comm.), C. Ryan, W. Graham (Trainer), A. Nolan, F.G. Brereton (Mang. Comm.)

INSETS - H. Broderick, J. Leet, G. Lockie, S,Anderson

ABSENT – J. Anderson (Mang. Comm.)

▼ RESULTS

27 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 11 (Tennison, Hooper, Hogan tries; Bakey goal) d. Fortitude Valley 6 (Little 3 goals).
Brothers: R.Stanton, D.Hooper, E.Hogan (c), P.Duffy, E.Tennison, L.Dwyer, J.Bakey, R.McKellar, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, W.Law, M.O'Connor, H.Daley.
Valleys: H.Hunter, J.Bates, F.Neumann (c), A.Donovan, E.James, A.Edwards, E.Costello, A.Park, C.Brandenberg, W.Dall, J.Little, W.Whyte, P.Mitchell. Reserve: R.Hynes.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

1 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 12 (Collins 2 tries; Pedrazzini 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 8 (Hudson, Hunt tries; Chambers goal).
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, H.St Ledger, C.Ryan, J.Leet, A.Nolan, L.St Ledger, V.Mitchell, V.Rudd, W.Norris, R.Morrison, W.McCook (c), C.Hendy, E.Collins.
Wests: W.Wright, T.Rowe, G.Macrae, A.Hunt, L.Hudson, F.Lind, C.Chambers, J.Donovan, G.Gray, T.MacManus, R.Lowe, T.Purtell, H.Denny (c).
Referee: Merv Taylor.

15 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 19 (Taylor 2, Philpott tries; Nasser 4, Chambers goals) d. Past Brothers 12 (Gillespie, Duffy tries; Baker 2, Hogan goals)
Wests: W.Wright, C.Philpott, G.Macrae, A.Hunt, W.Taylor, F.Lind, C.Chambers, H.Denny (c), T.Purtell, R.Nasser, T.MacManus, G.Gray, J.Donovan.
Brothers: R.Stanton, W.Wilson, E.Hogan, P.Duffy, D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, J.Bakey, R.McKellar, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, H.Daly, M.O'Connor, W.Law.
Referee: Mick O'Connor.

22 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
DAVIES PARK
Northern Suburbs 7 (Collins try; Pedrazzini 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 4 (Chambers 2 goals).
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, D.Simpson, J.Leet, L.St Ledger, H.St Ledger, V.Mitchell, J.Stapleton, R.Morrison, W.Norris, V.Rudd, C.Hendy, W.McCook, E.Collins.
Wests: W.Wright, T.Rowe, A.Hunt, G.Macrae, C.Philpott, F.Lind, C.Chambers, H.Denny (c), T.Purtell, A.Taylor, T.MacManus, G.Gray, J.Donovan.
Referee: Frank Moynihan. ***Crowd: 2,500.***

1935

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	3	150	98	14
VALLEYS	7	0	3	196	156	14
BROTHERS	5	2	3	127	126	12
WESTERN SUBURBS	3	2	5	141	138	8
EASTERN SUBURBS	3	2	5	125	147	8
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	113	187	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 13 v Wests 5

Fists Fly in B.R.L. Semi-final

BROTHERS DEFEAT WESTS IN A HARD RUCKING GAME

Three Players Sent Off

MALONEY AND DWYER THE STARS

By L. H. KEARNEY

Playing characteristically hard football, with the forwards predominating in rucking and the backs lending fine defensive support, Past Christian Brothers won the second semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership by 13-5, from Western Suburbs at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. The second half of the game was marred somewhat by a series of melees, which resulted in V. Hogan and McGurtin (Brothers) and Lowe (Wests) receiving their marching orders from the referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	3	2	13
Western Suburbs	1	1	5

For Brothers tries were scored by O'Connor, Moloney, and Dwyer. E. Hogan and Moloney each converted one. Chambers scored Western Suburbs only try. Wright kicked a penalty goal.

The splendid team spirit of the Brothers' pack was an object lesson to any football side. How they stuck together, and what courage they revealed. Despite the loss of the ball from the majority of scrummages—at times Wests had a real feast of it—Brothers revealed remarkable tenacity to wipe out Wests' first half lead of 5—3, and finish the game with the most spectacular football of the match

FISTS FLY

It was regrettable that such a strenuous match should have provided so many ugly incidents. From the kick-off the game gave indications of being extremely hard. It was unfortunate that Mr. Matzdorf, who refereed in place of Mr. Frank Moynihan, who was indisposed, did not rule more drastically against the earlier displays of roughness. Had this been done the spectators may have been saved from the unedifying outbursts of fisticuffs which resulted in the sending off of V. Hogan, and in the closing minute, McGuckin and Lowe.

WESTS' EARLY LEAD

Wright, with a penalty goal, opened Western Suburbs' scoring account seven minutes after the kick-off. This reverse stung Brothers to action, and they immediately responded with a superb rally. V. Hogan cleverly pulled down a high pass by Dwyer from a ruck, and served Bradford, who made ground, but was hauled down from behind. From the ensuing ruck Bradford and O'Connor barged through, for the latter to score. After 29 minutes' play Western Suburbs regained the lead. The ball was toed through Brothers' defence, and the bounce favoured Chambers, who tricked V. Hogan and Moloney and scored. Just before half-time O'Connor (Brothers) retired hurt, his place being taken by Daly.

MOLONEY'S GREAT TRY

Brothers, on the resumption, missed a glorious chance of taking the lead, when Ryan pierced the defence with a 30 yards' dash only to see Hooper drop a "sitter" when served by McKellar. However, they came again when Moloney cut the defence to ribbons and scored from a grand individual effort. E. Hogan landed a fine goal, giving Brothers an 8—5 lead after 20 minutes' play. It was just after this that the fists began to fly, and V. Hogan was sent off. A man short, Brothers had an inspired spell, which culminated in Dwyer scoring after Moloney had artfully drawn the defence of Brady. Moloney goaled giving Brothers victory by 13 points to 5.

Just before the bell the rival packs again got into holts, and Lowe and McGuckin were ordered from the field. However, both teams left the field in orderly fashion.

BEST PLAYERS

Purtill (Wests), from the outset, secured a good share of the ball, and after O'Connor's retirement he had a real feast of it in the second half. Brothers' outstanding player was Dwyer, stand-off half. His defence was superb, and he was also a source of danger when in possession. Moloney played a capital game on the wing, and generally was much sounder than Hooper. Ryan shaped well, several of his bursts being spectacular. Gillespie was the pick of a grand rucking pack, but McKellar and McGuckin also were in the thick of it. Stanton, Brothers' full-back, was particularly enterprising, but his rival, Brady, had his good points. The latter kicked with rare judgment. Hudson and Chambers were the most distinguished backs for Wests. However, the centres and Lind were caught many times with the ball. Gray, Kratzmann, and Donovan stood up well to the vigorous opposition, but, on the day, they met a much better balanced pack in both open and rucking play.



M. MOLONEY

1935

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 22 v Norths 5

BIG RUGBY LEAGUE UPSET

VALLEY TURNS THE TABLES ON NORTH

Promoted Half Back Proves Match Winner

DARING, UNORTHODOX FOOTBALL

By L. H. KEARNEY

One of the biggest surprises of the Brisbane Rugby League season was served up to patrons at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, when Northern Suburbs, winners of the Pike Cup final, and conquerors of Valley in the concluding round of premiership matches the previous Saturday, were decisively beaten by their rivals in the first premiership semi-final. As a result of their success Valley not only qualify for the final of the championship, but they are minor premiers for the 1935 season. They were definitely superior in all phases of the game, and had a half-back in C. Jones, a promoted reserve grade player, who excelled as an attacking unit. He scored four of the six tries secured by the winners.

MAKING NO MISTAKE



A Valley player brings his opponent to earth in the match against Northern Suburbs on Saturday.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	6	2	22
Northern Suburbs ..	1	1	5

For Valley tries were scored by Jones (4), Johnstone, and Hunter. Johnstone converted two. For Northern Suburbs Nalder scored and Uhlmann kicked a field goal.

The absence of Collins, the Queensland loose forward, probably contributed more to the undoing of Northern Suburbs than did any other factor. With him out of the team Jones was given room to exploit tactics, which, while being cleverly conceived and executed, succeeded only because there was no master mind in the opposition to frustrate them. Jones only came into the Valley side as a last-minute substitute for Eddie Costello, the regular half-back, who was disabled the previous Saturday. When it was announced that Costello could not take his place in Valley's side there was a lament that his position, with Stapleton, a representative player in the opposition, would be Valley's weak link. What a bombshell the reserve grade player dropped! Not only did he admirably fill Costello's position, but his try in the first half snatched the lead from Norths, and in the second half he completely dominated the position by scoring three additional tries.

TRIUMPH FOR DARING

The secret of young Jones's success was his daring and exploitation of unorthodox tactics. It is many years since Brisbane football has seen the short kick and follow through so cleverly employed. However, Jones did not confine his usefulness to smart invasions through the defensive lines of the opposition. His tackling also was superb, and his allround play so good that he must be regarded as a young player of great possibilities.

INSPIRED PACK

While every credit must be given to Jones for being the match-winning factor, the grand work of the Valley pack must not be overlooked. When Hunter's opening try in the second half definitely swung the pendulum in favour of Valley, the royal blue jerseyed pack became an inspired force. Gordon Robson excelled himself, and on and Atkins crossed for Valley. The winners' best players were Thompson, Colnan, and Jenkins (backs), Dunne, Tynan and Gray (forwards). For Valley, Flynn, Atkins, and Williamson (backs), McDonald and Peet (forwards) worked hard.

Brothers defeated Southern Suburbs by 26 points to 3, the result of tries by West (3), Campling, Campbell, and G Twist, and four goals by Glass. Hansford crossed for the losers. G. Twist, West, Campling (backs), J. Twist and Campbell (forwards) were Brothers best. For the losers, Barnes and Allan (forwards) were the pick.



F. NEUMAN

1935

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 14 v Norths 9

Brothers Qualify for B.R.L. Final

FORWARDS TRIUMPH AGAINST NORTHS

Dwyer Plays Inspired Game

MOLONEY'S BOOT A MATCH WINNER

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	2	4	14
Northern Suburbs ..	1	3	9

For Brothers tries were scored by Dwyer and McGuckin, while Moloney kicked four goals. Tanner scored for Northern Suburbs, and Anderson kicked three penalty goals.

The outstanding feature of the game was the success of Brothers, despite the loss of the ball from the majority of the scrummages. In the tight Brothers' forwards were grand, the tackling of Dwyer and Hogan being winning factors. Dwyer's handling and general attack also were first-class. Moloney played an inspired game on the wing, and his speed and goal kicking contributed largely to the success of the side.

Reardon and Brown were seen to advantage in attack, but Norths' backs generally were ineffective. Stapleton, at half, was well watched, and he failed to swing his supports into action. McKellar played well, but Collins was kept in check.

THE SCORING MOVES

Play was keen from the outset, and the referee, Merv. Taylor, soon showed that he was determined to keep the game under control, penalties being frequent. Anderson opened for Northern Suburbs from a penalty after two minutes' play, but inside six minutes Moloney had equalised. A few minutes later Moloney repeated the effort, and Brothers, led by four points to two. Norths responded, and another penalty goal again made the scores even.

Brothers now took a commanding lead, and their forwards completely overwhelmed the opposition. Collins made a brilliant burst, but he was "nailed" right on the line. From the play-the-ball Dwyer gained possession, and he went over near the posts for Moloney to add the extras. At half time Brothers led by nine points to four.

HARD TACKLING

In the second half Brown (Norths) sliced the defence, and crossed the line, but lost the ball when tackled by Hooper, and Stanton saved. Norths came back for Anderson to register a penalty goal. Heavy tackling followed, and Duffy and Stapleton were temporarily disabled. Dwyer, playing inspired football, saved Brothers time and again. After 24 minutes' play Moloney cut through, and after a great dash was tackled by Uhlman. However, he succeeded in getting out a long pass to McGuckin, who raced over in the corner. Moloney goaled with a magnificent kick, and Brothers led by 14 points to six.

Collins and Anderson afterwards made gallant efforts for Norths, but Brothers' defence held.

Play became fiery, and fists were flying, but the disturbance was quickly quelled by the referee.

TRY ON TIME

Norths' forwards at this stage were paying too much attention to the man. Just as the bell rang, touch judge Eve reported an interference to Anderson, and an "up and under" saw Tanner score in a scramble over the line. Anderson failed at goal, and Brothers won by 14 points to nine.

1935

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 11 v VALLEYS 9

Brothers Rugby League Premiers

STAMINA TELLS IN UPHILL FIGHT

Game Won in Last Minute After Extra Time

FIERCE FORWARDS: DEADLY TACKLING

By L. H. KEARNEY.

After being out of the running for the major football honours for nine years, Past Christian Brothers survived a series of hard games to win the 1935 Rugby League premiership of Brisbane by defeating Valley by 11 points to nine in the final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. It was a remarkable game in which victory followed the survival of the fittest—a victory snatched from the jaws of defeat by a courageous try scored by D. McKellar and a glorious conversion kicked by Vince Hogan from the touch line in the last minute of the extra time played after each side had scored six points. The tense and fluctuating struggle was witnessed by a record club attendance for the season, the gate receipts being £90.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	1	4	11
Valley	3	0	9

For Brothers McKellar scored the only try, E. Hogan kicked three penalty goals, and V. Hogan converted the try. For Valley tries were scored by P. Mitchell, W. Dall, and J. Bates.

As an example of unconquerable spirit, marvellous stamina, and of desperate courage, against what looked like match-winning odds in their rivals' favour, the display by Brothers has seldom been equalled. And equally great were Valley in defeat. To have been beaten by two points after scoring three tries to one must be, to Valley, a bitter memory. But never could defeat in similar circumstances be associated with disgrace. In fact, in a territorial sense, Valley were the better team, especially in the first half of the game proper, and in the first 10 minutes of the extra period of play. But the dourness of Brothers' uphill fight, with a feast of the ball going to the opposition, stood out. They were down 6-2 in the first half, and only equalised the points three minutes from the final bell. Again Valley led them 9-6 at half-time of the play-off, but with one minute to go McKellar fought his way over after a herculean effort by E. Hogan and W. Law, to score the try from which V. Hogan landed the winning points.

BROTHERS' STRONG POINTS

Brothers demonstrated that combination, incessant backing-up, and clean handling are not the only essentials to be cultivated in the Rugby League game. Their forte is ruggedness, fierce concentration by the forwards, and deadly tackling all-round. It was these attributes, allied to successful goal kicking by the Hogan brothers, which caused Valley to wilt over the two vital periods of play.

Valley had most of the ball from the scrummages, and naturally were more in the attacking picture, but the wonderful rucking and massed attacks of Brothers' forwards, together with the steadiness of their defence, paved the way for them to make the most of the points scored by more successful goal kicking.

DEADLY TACKLING

It was not a game for great individualism. The thump of shoulder meeting shoulder, players hurtled to the ground by deadly tackles, and tearing rushes checked with smashing force left little opportunity for the speedy handling thrusts which sometimes feature the better class of Rugby League match. But no game played in recent seasons has produced more courageous football or an atmosphere more tensely exciting. It was not surprising that accidents befell the players in such a gruelling struggle. Brothers lost their inter-State winger, M. Moloney, and Hooper in the first half. S. Herlihy came on for the former, while Todhunter filled the vacancy on the other flank. Valley also were unfortunate, for E. Robson had to leave the field with a lacerated head in the closing half of the game, but when the extra time was ordered he came back with his head swathed in bandages to finish the extra period.

GREAT FORWARDS

V Hogan, Law, McGuckin, Gillespie, O'Connor, and McKellar were tested by a fine set of Valley forwards, but in the gruelling play lasted better than did E. Robson, Little, G. Robson, P. Mitchell, Brandenburg, and W. Dall. However, as a hooker Little was head and shoulders above his rival. Edwards proved a better half-back general than Duffy, but he exploited the low kick against the wind too much. Blow shaped nicely for Valley, but Dwyer all-round was more impressive. His tackling of the Atkinson type wrecked many promising Valley attacks. The backs on either side did not stand out as attackers, but every man tackled fiercely. E. Hogan, like Edwards, kicked injudiciously at times, and it was an ill-judged kick against the breeze which gave Johnson the opportunity to present Bates with the final Valley try, which went so close to winning the match. Of the full-backs, Frawley was sounder than Stanton, but each failed to work the men in front as he should have done. There were many unsatisfactory kicking duels between these players. The game was played in fine spirit, and was admirably controlled by Mr. F. Moynihan.

THE TEAMS

PAST CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.—Full-back, R. Stanton; three-quarters, M. Maloney, T. Ryan, E. Hogan (captain); D. Hooper; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, P. Duffy; forwards, V. Hogan, M. O'Connor, W. Law, J. McGuckin, L. Gillespie, D. McKellar.

VALLEY.—Full-back, K. Frawley; three-quarters, H. Hunter, F. Neumann (captain), J. Johnson, J. Bates; stand-off half, I. Blow; half-back, A. Edwards; forwards, E. Robson, J. Little, G. Robson, P. Mitchell, C. Brandenburg, W. Dall.

Referee: Mr. F. Moynihan; touch judges, Messrs. C. McKinnon and G. Elley.

1935

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 11 v VALLEYS 9

PAST CHRISTIAN BROTHERS R.L.F.C.

Premiers B.R.L., 1935 Winners President's Cup and Red Cap Shield



FRONT ROW – E. Simmonds (Chairman B.R.L.), P. Duffy, L. Dwyer (V. Capt), C. Carmody (Hon. Sec.), E. Hogan (Capt.), M. Dwyer (Pres.), R. Stanton, E. Herlihy, J. Tennison (Selector)
SECOND ROW – Stan Ross (Life Member), M. O'Connor, D. Hooper, H. Daly, J. Murphy, T. Ryan, C. Bradford, E. Tennison (Delegate B.R.L.)
THIRD ROW – P. Keating (Selector), L. Gillespie, M. Moloney, W. Law, V. Hogan, J. McGuckin, T. Conway (Life Member)
FOURTH ROW – W. Doherty (Trainer), N. Bocher (Trainer), F. Malone, R. Westerman, C. Harris, T. Grenier (Treas.)
BACK ROW – R. Williamson, R. McKellar, J. Twist
ABSENTEES – Bro. Tevlin (Patron), J. Christsen, Dr. C. Uhr (Life Member), J. Stewart, A. Hannay, W. Wilson, R. Todhunter, J. Christsen

▼ RESULTS

10 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 22 (Jones 4, Johnson, Hunter tries; Johnson 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 5 (Nalder try; Uhlmann goal).
Valleys: K.Frawley, H.Hunter, F.Neumann (c), J.Johnson, V.Hood, I.Blow, C.Jones, E.Robson, W.Whyte, C.Brandenberg, G.Robson, P.Mitchell, A.Park.
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, I.Uhlmann, C.Brown, S.Anderson, E.Nalder, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton (c), V.Mitchell, H.Tanner, C.Hendy, P.Breen, W.Norris, A.Nilsson.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 13 (O'Connor, Moloney, Dwyer tries; E.Hogan, Moloney goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Chambers try; Wright goal).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, R.McKellar, L.Gillespie, J.McGuckin, M.O'Connor, C.Bradford, V.Hogan. Reserve: Daley.
Wests: J.Brady, Neylan, W.Wright, Carpender, Hudson, F.Lind, C.Chambers, J.Donovan, G.Gray, T.MacManus, T.Rowe, T.Purtell, Kratzmann. Reserve: R.Lowe.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

7 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 14 (Dwyer, McGuckin tries; Moloney 4 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 9 (Tanner try; Anderson 3 goals).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, R.McKellar, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, H.Daly, J.Christsen, W.Law.
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, I.Uhlmann, E.Nalder, C.Brown, J.Reardon, S.Anderson, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, V.Mitchell, C.Hendy, V.Rudd, W.Norris, V.Gohdes.
Referee: Merv Taylor.

14 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 11 (McKellar try; E.Hogan 3, V.Hogan goal) d. Fortitude Valley 9 (Mitchell, Dall, Bates tries).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, V.Hogan, M.O'Connor, W.Law, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, R.McKellar.
Reserves: E.Herlihy, R.Todhunter.
Valleys: K.Frawley, H.Hunter, F.Neumann (c), J.Johnson, J.Bates, I.Blow, A.Edwards, E.Robson, J.Little, G.Robson, P.Mitchell, C.Brandenberg, W.Dall.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

1936

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	7	0	3	180	94	14
WESTERN SUBURBS	7	0	3	199	126	14
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	174	133	12
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	0	5	124	153	10
BROTHERS	4	0	6	113	151	8
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	107	250	2

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 24 v Easts 11

Collins and Reardon Steer Norths to Victory

TACTICS TOLD

Easts Collapse in Second Half

EASTERN SUBURBS were eliminated by Northern Suburbs in the first semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. By their victory Easts earned the right to meet the losers of the Wests—Valleys game to be played next Saturday.

The first half was fast and hard, the boys from Coorparoo offering strong resistance, but the superior tactics of Jack Reardon, "Babe" Collins, and company told over the concluding stages.



E. COLLINS

Collins made a reappearance after being on the sick list for months, following an operation for appendicitis and although his play was a trifle more subdued than usual, he was the "brains" of many a successful attack and scored a grand try.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs ..	6	3	24
Eastern Suburbs ..	3	1	11

For the winners, Diversi (3), Cooper (2), and Collins scored tries, and Ryan and Webster kicked goals. Ryrie, Gilbert, and Giffen scored for Easts, and Wright kicked a goal.

The pace was on from the kick-off, but, strangely enough, it was Easts who showed up in the early stages. They had a chance of opening the scoring soon after the start, when Norm. Wright was given a 40-yard penalty in front of the posts, but missed. Norths came back, and "Babe" Collins shone momentarily, after receiving from his co-centre, Jack Reardon. Stevenson brought Collins down heavily, and it was noticed that the international did not spring up quite so sprightly as of yore.

LEFT KICKING BOOT HOME

Easts were defending well, and Cornish and Wright carried the leather back again, Wright having a couple more unsuccessful kicks. Reardon, Collins, and Diversi took play to the other end, and then "Count" Ryan opened the scoring with a nice penalty goal, after 17 minutes' play.

Easts came back with the old "tiger" spirit, and four minutes after Ryan's opener, Ryrie went in, Wright again missing an easy convert. Norths were on the warpath then, and a glorious three-quarter attack sent Diversi across in the corner.

Easts were playing the brand of football which won them this season's Pike and President's Cups, and back went play into the Blue 25, where Wright was given another chance to goal, but he had left his kicking boots at home. Another kick soon after was given to Wilson, but he did no better. A minute later Wright had his sixth kick, and this time he raised the flags to make the scores 5-all.

The tri-colours showed great improvement on last Saturday's display, and swept Norths back once more, Giffen being forced over at the end of a determined assault, giving Easts the lead, 8-5. Wright missed, and from the kick-off, Collins came into the picture again with a strong run but was brought down by Hannan Stapleton short-punted from the ruck and Reardon, running strongly, snapped up and sent a high pass to Cooper, who streaked away for a good try. Webster failed to convert, leaving the scores level at half time, 8-all.

COOPER'S GREAT DASH

The see-saw game continued in the second half, and after Easts had threatened several times, Reardon and Collins sent Diversi in again. Webster failed, and Norths took a 11-8 lead after 10 minutes' play.

Collins got a great cheer when he crashed over for his first try after 15 minutes' play. Ryan added the extras with a fine kick, and Norths had a handy lead, 16-8. "Babe" continued with the good work, and made the opening for Diversi's third try, five minutes later. It was not converted.

Easts had "cracked up" under the pressure, and the men in blue were coming into their own, but a couple of good kicks put Norths on the defensive. Then the crowd was treated to a fine exhibition, Rudd, Rhodes, Collins, and Reardon throwing the ball about in a series of long passes, until Cooper secured on the wing, and streaked away for a 50-yard dash to the line. Webster converted, and with 10 minutes to go, Norths' lead was 24-8.

Easts made a dying effort to regain some prestige, and a forward attack saw Gilbert chalk up three points, four minutes from time. Wright's kick hit the bar.

Norths sat on their lead over the concluding stages, and ran out comfortable winners by 24-11.

1936

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 11 v Valleys 5

Chambers Boots Western Suburbs Into B.R.L. Final

VALLEY PACK PLAYED GRANDLY BUT BACKS FAILED

By L. H. KEARNEY

WESTERN Suburbs, after twice biting the dust to Valley in the premiership rounds, sprang the surprise of the season by defeating them in the second Rugby League semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

The game was not a classic, breaches resulting in penalties being too numerous, but it was a dour fight. Western Suburbs were the better opportunists, and won 11-5. Each side scored a try, but Chambers's three goals—two penalties and a snap field goal—were match winning factors.



Earle (5), of Western Suburbs, makes a valiant effort to get the ball from the ruck to supports in the match against Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs ..	1	4	11
Valley	1	1	5

For Western Suburbs Currie scored the only try. Chambers kicked two penalty goals and also dropped a field goal. Wright converted Currie's try. Bates scored Valley's try, and Little kicked a penalty goal.

When Wests drew away from Valleys 22 minutes after the start of the second half they put a new aspect on the 1936 League premiership. Valley, to my mind, revealed too many weaknesses especially at half-back, to be conceded more than a remote chance of winning this season's championship, though they still have a chance of qualifying for a final game against Wests should they prove capable of downing the winners of the first semi-final, Northern Suburbs, next Saturday.

Wests, on the other hand, have improved, and must be given a distinct chance of winning through. But, on yesterday's display, I am of opinion that if Northern Suburbs survive the Valley special semi-final next Saturday, they will provide a searching test for Western Suburbs in the final game of the season on September 12.

KEEN OPPORTUNISM

Western Suburbs did not display any fireworks in defeating Valley, but they demonstrated keen opportunism and ability through the accurate kicking of Chambers to make up for any shortcomings in spectacular handling football.

A number in yesterday's crowd at the end of the game put forward the argument that Currie's try was lucky, but why? He displayed quick-wittedness to harass O'Connor, regaining the ball to dash over and score. There was nothing lucky about that. It was good football by the Western Suburbs' centre. There was nothing fluky either about Chambers's goals. Two of them were the result of misdemeanours by the opposition, and the field goal two minutes from time was the result of a particularly adroit movement.

MISSED CHANCES

On the general run of play Valley territorially looked an impressive side, but ground gained does not win matches. Points count, and to the credit of Western Suburbs they honestly gained the major share of these.

In the first half Valley had sufficient of the ball—28-13—to have done something tangible, but against the westerly they never appeared happy.

Chambers opened Wests' scoring account by landing a penalty goal five minutes after the kick-off. Six minutes later another glaring infringement by Valley led to Chambers landing his second penalty goal.

LINESMEN OVER-RULED

Just on half time Little kicked a penalty goal, the result of the referee Mr. Mick O'Connor, over-ruling the touch judges. This decision caused considerable discussion at half time but Mr. O'Connor acted within his rights in ruling a goal against the combined decision of the linesmen.

At half time Western Suburbs led by 4 points to 2.

Valley opened the second half in good style, Bates scoring in the corner after being supported by Costello and Dall. The half had gone 22 minutes, when O'Connor fumbled to let Currie score. Wright goaled.

Just before the final bell Chambers snapped a field goal, giving Wests victory by 11 points to five.

The rival hookers, Little (Valley) and Purtell (Wests), shared the ball in the final session, each striking successfully 17 times.

Chambers and Wright played conspicuous parts in Wests' success. Their positional kicking with the wind, which, strange to say, favoured Wests in both halves, was clever and accurate. Bowling replaced Hooper on West's wing before the interval, but none of the winner's three-quarters stood out. Brady, the Wests' full-back, was better than O'Connor.

The Valley pack played splendidly, and it was a pity to see their efforts nullified by indifferent play by the half-back, Costello. However, while the royal blue pack did well, Wests' forwards deserve a meed of praise for the way they battled it out.

1936

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 17 v Norths 11

VALLEY GO TO B.R.L. FINAL

Will Test Wests in Title Game

PACK WAS GREAT

By L. H. KEARNEY

Victorious by 17 points to 11 in the third Rugby League semi-final against Northern Suburbs, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, Valley clinched their claims to a place in the final against Western Suburbs next Saturday, and won the Vic Jensen Cup—which goes to the leaders of the second round—outright.

Valley's display left no doubt about their right to be in the final, and they must now be considered just as likely a premiership combination as their rivals, Western Suburbs.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	5	1	17
Northern Suburbs ..	3	1	11

For Valley tries were scored by Bates, Neumann, Blow, Costello, and Hunter. A penalty goal was kicked by Smith. For Northern Suburbs tries were scored by Cooper, Bayada, and Collins. Ryan converted one.

Valley were undoubtedly the better team on the day. They were keen to win from the first shrill blast of Referee M. A. Taylor's whistle, and ran away with a first-half lead of 12 points to nil.

Norths afterwards fought back doggedly, scoring three tries and a goal to one try and a goal, but the match-winning lead was against them, and Valley never appeared in real danger of being beaten.

Considering the strong wind, Valley's standard of play was high class. Their forwards played magnificently in the rucks and loose, but at hooking honours were even. The Valley backs, ably led by Costello, and splendidly supported by Blow, Walker, Neumann, Bates and O'Connor, were much more enterprising in their movements, and definitely superior at handling and in defence.

LIKE RESERVE GRADERS

The first half showed Norths at their worst. They played lifeless football, and at times were little better than a reserve grade side. They ignored the essentials that most players learn as juniors, while the handling, especially of the champion, Babe Collins, was particularly faulty.

Valley's forwards worked in a bunch, and they appeared always to be where the ball was. The Northerners were at sixes and sevens, and they seemed utterly incapable of taking the loose and ruck play away from Bow, Robson, the giant forward of the match, and his sturdy henchmen.

The elementary rule of screening one's half-back did not exist for Norths. Though they improved appreciably in the second half, the light blue pack never impressed.

With the breeze, Valley disdained negative tactics. They threw the ball about with great abandon, and every man, when in possession, did his utmost to reach the line, without spoiling his work by any selfish trait.

THE SCORING MOVES

Valley opened the scoring six minutes after the kick-off. Costello, from a scrummage, adroitly reversed his attack to bring Smith, Mitchell, and E. Robson into line to pierce the defence for winger Bates to score.

Six minutes later Blow penetrated for Neumann to score the second Valley try.

1936

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 13 v VALLEYS 12

WON BY ONE POINT

BUT MERIT WAS THERE

Wests Came from Behind to Take Title

By L. H. KEARNEY

MORE virile in the forwards, faster and steadier in the key attacking positions, and stronger in their finishing efforts, Western Suburbs worthily won the 1936 Brisbane Rugby League premiership defeating Valley 13—12 after a gruelling struggle at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

The spectacle provided was not a fine one, but the majority of the 2000 spectators, who contributed a gate of £60, left the ground satisfied that, on the day, the better team had triumphed.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs	3	2	13
Valley	2	3	12

For Western Suburbs tries were scored by Graham, French, and Currie. Wright converted two. For Valley tries were scored by Walker and Allen. O'Connor kicked two penalty goals and Smith one.

Always Impressive

Even when down 9—nil at the interval, when the breeze had been against them, Western Suburbs had impressed as the more even and steadier side. The Paddington men started their second half scoring four minutes after play had been resumed, and although they did not take the lead until within eight minutes of full time, they always looked the more efficient combination over the closing period of play.

The royal blues when they defeated Northern Suburbs so convincingly in the principal semi-final match were hailed on all sides as the prospective premiers. But with Wests big match temperament played its part, and they again rose to the occasion, as they did in the first semi-final against the same opponents.

Valley, when the acid test was applied to them when kicking against the wind, showed clearly that they lack those essential qualities of solidity and dependability.

All Pulled Weight

Except for a slip here and there, every Western Suburb man appeared to pull his weight. There were no "passengers." It was this evenness about the combination that impressed the most. Their mistakes were fewer, they did more with the ball, and were always harassing the opposition.

Valley, on the other hand, were spasmodic. Outside of Little, I did not see a forward worth enthusing over during the side's brightest moments in the first half. Costello and Blow were never really dangerous. Walker tried hard to get the side out of the attacking rut, but Kangaroo Neumann spent too much of his time kicking away the favours of the game. Bates and Hunter got few real chances, but O'Connor had bright and clever moments at full-back.

OFF FOR THE LINE



Wests winger, C. Hooper, in full flight in the B.R.L. premiership final against Valley yesterday.

Spirited Pack

Western Suburbs owed a lot to a very spirited pack. Purtell did splendidly against Little. The count was 16—10 against him in the first half, but he went close to evening the score by recording 15—11 after the interval. This meant that in the aggregate Valley had possession 27 times to 25, by the red and blacks.



T. Purtell

Apart from his hooking, Purtell played a most vigorous and useful game, but he received excellent support from Graham McManus, whom Graham relieved eight minutes before half-time, Kelly, Denny, French, and Gray. Graham was, perhaps, West's most spectacular all-round forward.

Chambers and Wright were nippy, and penetrative at times, but I thought both were prone to kick too much. Purtell and Currie were dashing and resourceful, while Hooper and Bowering always tried to make progress.

Brady proved very reliable as a custodian, but, on the day, was not as enterprising as O'Connor, who, with Walker, were the only royal blue backs to put real life into their thrusts.

The Scoring

The scoring opened with Smith landing a penalty goal for Valley seven minutes after the kick off. Afterwards Walker caught Wests' defence out of gear, and slipped through to score a heady try, Valley leading 5-nil after 13 minutes' play. Later, O'Connor kicked two penalty goals for Valley to lead 9-nil at the interval.

Wests started the second half impressively, a heady inside attack by Bowling leading up to Graham scoring for Wright to goal. The half had gone 21 minutes when, after a clever double advantage ruling—each side made a mistake—Hunter, Smith and Allen swung into the line for Allen to score. Four minutes later smart handling by Bowling and Denny paved the way for French to score. Wright goaled.

With eight minutes to go Costello, from a defensive position, kicked weakly across the goal mouth, and from the resulting play Currie flashed through to beat O'Connor and score the winning try in the left hand corner.

Mr. P. Moynihan's rulings at times came in for considerable heckling but his two most vital decisions were probably sound. Once Currie (Wests) flashed through to regain what looked like an accidental knock-on, but was recalled. On another occasion Smith (Valley) went over for what a section of the spectators thought a try, but Mr. Moynihan ruled a five yards scrummage.

1936

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 13 v VALLEYS 12

WESTERN SUBURBS DISTRICT R.L.F.C.
B.R.L. Premiers — 1936



FRONT ROW — E. Keefer (Hon. Treas.), H. Denny, W. Wright (Capt.), V. Howard (Coach), C. Chambers (Vice-Captain), T. MacManus, C. Colthorpe (Hon. District Sec.)
SECOND ROW — C. M. Fisher, T. Purtell, E. Hart (Selector), R. Nasser, J. Brady, J. Donovan, N. Robertson, J. Ross (Vice-Pres.)
THIRD ROW — W. Dunne (Selector), D. Currie, C. French, J. Purtell, B. Kelly, R. Graham, P. Kelly (Selector)
FOURTH ROW — H. Burton (Committee), T. Eyre (V. Pres.), T. O'Meara (Committee), C. Hooper, G. Gray, S. Fletcher, G. Waters (Vice-Pres.), M. Smith
BACK ROW — J. Daley (Committee), L. Furness (Trainer), R. Gamble (Committee), A. Jones, E. Walsh (Trainer)
ABSENT — W. Power, M.L.A., (Pres.), F. Hanlon (Patron), H. Marshall (Sen. Vice-Pres.), A. Bowling, W. Earle

▼ RESULTS

22 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 24 (Diversi 3, Cooper 2, Collins tries; Ryan 2, Webster goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 11 (Ryrie, Gilbert, Giffen tries; Wright goal).
Norths: C.Webster, R.Cooper, J.Reardon, E.Collins, J.Diversi, C.Ryan (c), J.Stapleton, C.Hendy, P.Breen, J.Bayada, V.Gohdes, W.Norris, V.Rudd.
Easts: N.Dare, G.Cornish, N.Wright, V.Giffen, W.Stevenson (c), N.Nalder, C.McLeary, E.Verrenkamp, O.Wilson, J.Ryrie, E.Gilbert, C.Brandenberg, J.Hannan.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

29 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 11 (Currie try; Chambers 3, Wright goals) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Bates try; Little goal).
Wests: J.Brady, W.Earle, J.Purtell, D.Currie, C.Hooper, W.Wright (c), C.Chambers, G.Gray, T.MacManus, B.Kelly, C.French, T.Purtell, H.Denny. Reserves: A.Bowling, J.Neylan, N.Robertson, R.Graham, R.Nasser.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, H.Hunter, L.Walker, F.Neumann (c), J.Bates, I.Blow, E.Costello, W.Dall, P.Mitchell, N.Smith, E.Robson, J.Little, G.Robson. Reserves: C.Allen, K.Frawley.
Referee: Mick O'Connor.

5 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 17 (Bates, Neumann, Blow, Costello, Hunter tries; Smith goal) d. Northern Suburbs 11 (Cooper, Bayada, Collins tries; Ryan goal).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, H.Hunter, L.Walker, F.Neumann (c), J.Bates, I.Blow, E.Costello, W.Dall, P.Mitchell, N.Smith, E.Robson, J.Little, G.Robson. Reserves: K.Frawley, C.Allen.
Norths: C.Webster, R.Cooper, J.Reardon, E.Collins, J.Diversi, C.Ryan (c), J.Stapleton, C.Hendy, P.Breen, J.Bayada, V.Gohdes, W.Norris, V.Rudd. Reserves: E.Nalder, J.Diversi, E.Lawson, A.Brims.
Referee: Merv Taylor.

12 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 13 (Graham, French, Currie tries; Wright 2 goals). Fortitude Valley 12 (Walker, Allen tries; O'Connor 2, Smith goal).
Wests: J.Brady, J.Purtell, D.Currie, C.Hooper, W.Wright (c), C.Chambers, G.Gray, T.MacManus, B.Kelly, C.French, T.Purtell, H.Denny, R.Graham. Reserves: J.Neylan, N.Robertson, R.Nasser.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, J.Bates, L.Walker, F.Neumann, H.Hunter, I.Blow, E.Costello, C.Allen, P.Mitchell, N.Smith, E.Robson, J.Little, G.Robson.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

1937

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	7	1	2	240	79	15
BROTHERS	7	1	2	154	109	15
WESTERN SUBURBS	7	0	3	148	112	14
NORTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	5	231	80	10
EASTERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	84	221	2
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	80	231	2

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 16 v Norths 7

NORTHS FALL FROM GRACE

INGLORIOUS SHOWING AGAINST WESTS

Far Below Form; Beaten By 16 Points To Seven

By L. H. Kearney

THE brilliant team of the initial Brisbane League competition—Northern Suburbs—finished the season ingloriously at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, when they were eliminated from the premiership by Western Suburbs, who won by 16 to 7.

The success of the men from Paddington was most decisive, Norths' inferiority being emphasised by the fact that they did not cross the line until two minutes before full time.

AS the result of this victory Wests will meet Christian Brothers next Saturday, and the winner of this special final will meet Valley in the final of the championship on September 4.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs	4	2	16
Northern Suburbs	1	2	7

For Western Suburbs tries were scored by Graham, Turner, Gollan, and J. Purtell. Two were converted by Wright. Shelton scored all Norths' points—a try and two penalty goals.

The game from a spectacular angle was disappointing, but there were contributing factors. The strong westerly wind played havoc with positional kicking, and ballooned many passes which caused handling mistakes, thereby jolting attacking movements. Again, the tension of the match appeared too much for some of the players. The result was vital to the premiership chances of each club, and the grimness of the situation completely unsettled the usual free-moving Northerners. Under the strain they foolishly tightened up their football when they had the advantage of the wind, and instead of going all out for points by employing their customary skilful back-line attacks, they carried play back to their forwards to finish the first half with only a one-point advantage—two penalty goals (4 points) to a try (three points).

WESTS GRASP CHANCES

To the credit of Western Suburbs' defence they held the Northerners over the first critical stage of the game, and when the wind favoured them they enterprisingly availed themselves of the favours they received. All Wests' tries, excepting the first one scored by Graham, after a brilliant piece of lead-up work by Jim Purtell, were really the result of keen opportunism on the part of Turner, Gollan, and Purtell, who scored them in turn.

While those cohesive features which mark the first-class Rugby League game were missing, there was sufficient in Wests' football to enthuse their supporters who were rarely off their feet in the second half. As the fierce persistence of Wests' attacks slowed Norths down to a walk, the sequence of second half tries placed the issue beyond doubt. It is strange that Ryan's team should have played so feebly. Their first half effort, even when leading, was never impressive. With a good deal of the ball early in the second half they made a few spasmodic bursts, but their only try was not scored until just before the sounding of the no-side whistle.

A veteran Northern Suburbs clubman, when asked what was wrong with his team, replied: "You can't win semi-finals without training.

In the second half, when Wests had them under pressure, Norths were weary and worn. They were leaden-legged when Gollan snapped up a wild pass from Rudd to score, and J. Purtell met with little opposition when he dashed over to crown his individual effort. Turner's try was a brainy piece of work, but he was served so smartly by Chambers that he might have beaten any defence. This try and the one scored by the lively loose forward, R. Graham, were about the only redeeming features of a very colourless game. In Graham's effort, Gollan and J. Purtell played capital parts, especially the latter, who raced Graham into position to beat Webster, the Northern Suburbs' custodian.

Wests' best backs were J. Purtell, Wright (greatly improved display), Gollan, and Turner. T. Purtell hooked well—12 to 8 for in the first half, and 16—11 against him in the second period. The whole Western Suburbs' pack were faster, better in loose work, and handled and manoeuvred the ball more surely. Graham, at last-down, was outstanding.

Norths' key men were faulty. Stapleton, Shelton (despite the fact that Shelton scored all the points), and Melrose, being right off their customary good games.

1937

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 35 v Brothers 0

League Club Fixture

VALLEYS IN LINE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Brothers Routed To Tune of 35-0

By L. H. KEARNEY

THREE weeks ago Valley and Brothers played a 5-all draw. At the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday Valley sprang a surprise, winning by 35 points to nil.

Valley scored 22 points in the second half, completely demoralising Brothers. It was one of the biggest upsets recorded in the history of Brisbane Rugby League football. Brothers' feeble effort was inexplicable, especially their second half collapse, when the wet condition of ball and ground should have suited their traditional style of slogging forward play. However, they were never in the hunt, Neumann and his men literally running rings round the opposition.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	9	4	35
Brothers	0	0	0

For Valley tries were scored by Kellaway (2), Dall (2), Neumann, Horrigan, Smith, Frawley, and Mitchell. Three were converted by Williamson and one by Little.

Valley by their brilliant display qualified for a place in the final of the 1937 premiership. Brothers have another chance. They will meet the winners of the second semi-final between Western Suburbs and Northern Suburbs, the victors in the latter game playing off with Valley for the championship.

OPEN TACTICS

Valleys, keyed up for the occasion, played magnificent open football. They were served with a fine share of the ball by the former Kangaroo hooker, J. Little; in fact, if one factor played a bigger part than any other in Valley's overwhelming success it was the convincing hooking of Little. He beat his rival, H. Evans, by two to one—43 to 21.

Neumann, Valley's captain, played glorious football in the centre, making many fine runs, while his passing and backing-up was equal to anything seen from J. Reardon during the early part of the season, when Northern Suburbs carried all before them in the President's Cups competition. While Little and his supports, by holding up the opposing pack and obtaining so much of the ball, formed the basis of Valley's attacking movements, and while Williamson and Blow, the halves, were responsible for the initiation of the majority of the attacks. Neumann and his young promoted third grade colleague, George Kellaway, were the real weapons of Valley's defence. Neumann was the ideal centre; he ran straight, either beat or fooled the man opposed to him, and then ran Kellaway into position, incidentally serving the latter with superbly timed and accurately delivered passes.

SUPERB HANDLING

Neumann always subordinated himself to the exigencies of his fellow three-quarters. The old method, which once spoilt Neumann's football, of tucking the ball under his arm and going off on an individual run was completely missing. Not only was his football dashing and inspiring, but always he was the perfect cohesive unit. His example was admirably followed by his colleagues. All the backs handled the ball superbly, especially after the rain in the second half; and at times the combination and backing-up was as neat and effective as anything Northern Suburbs displayed during their brilliant games in the President's Cup competition.

Kellaway, who is still in his teens, is a definite discovery—the most promising of the season. He scored two very clever tries like a real tradesman, and in attack and defence could not be faulted. The Valley halves, Williamson and Blow, did everything in first-class style. They rarely carried out their operations in the same manner in two successive attacks, and consequently reduced their opponents to a condition of apprehension and disorganisation.

Both Valley's flankmen, Grimley and Horrigan, moved determinedly. Frawley, the custodian, played a faultless game. On one occasion he resourcefully chimed in to make the man for a try in the left-hand corner.

Dall was a ubiquitous open forward. He played the part of an extra back with dashing results, and was always trailing and doing something tangible in cover defence. His opportunism was revealed by the fact that he scored two very good tries.

Ebbern played grandly, and his work and that of Little (hooker) and Smith furnished a big part in the complete subjugation of Brothers' noted pack. It is difficult to recall an occasion when Brothers' forwards were so completely curbed as they were yesterday. Law and the others were never in the picture.

Brothers' only reasonable excuse for the second half collapse was the fact that they were without Duffy, who left the field injured 21 minutes after the start of the game. Dwyer, the captain, had to go to the base of the scrummage, and this move naturally weakened the centre defence, where Dwyer of late has been such a bulwark. They also lost winger M. Maloney, who was replaced by Slattery. Rose came on when Duffy left the field. Brothers' display was so disappointing that the side failed to reveal one highlight, if a sound exhibition by Glass, the full-back, is excepted.

1937

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 19 v Brothers 16

WESTS GO TO LEAGUE FINAL

SPEED AND FINISH SECURE VICTORY

Brothers Defeated: 19 To 16

By L. H. KEARNEY

LEAGUE history will be repeated next Saturday, when the premiership finalists are to be Valleys and Western Suburbs. They met in 1933, when Valley won, and last season, when Western Suburbs were successful.

Wests qualified for the final of the 1937 premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday by winning by 19 points to 16 against Brothers. The scores flattered Brothers who were beaten by a side more virile in the forwards, steadier in the key attacking positions, and much stronger in their finishing efforts.



Above: Chambers, Western Suburbs captain, has Brothers' defence on its toes, Curran, extreme right, is beaten, and Gollan (No. 2) waits for the service, while Doyle watches Gollan. An incident in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final.

MAGNIFICENT goal kicking by Hogan alone saved Brothers from a very convincing defeat. He kicked four penalty goals and converted one try—10 points of the 16 scored by the losers.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs ..	5	2	19
Brothers	2	5	16

For Western Suburbs tries were scored by Graham, Gollan, and Hooper (3). Wright converted two. Doyle and Harris each scored a try for Brothers. V. Hogan kicked four penalty goals and converted the try scored by Harris.

The fixture provided the most spectacular of the semi-final series and the majority of the 2000 spectators left the ground satisfied that, on the day, the better team had triumphed. Even with two men short—the result of their being sent off the field for systematically breaking the obstruction rule—Wests battled out the remaining 18 minutes of the second half and were markedly superior in all phases of the game. They may have relaxed slightly towards the close when their defence let Harris through to score a converted try, which helped to take some of the bitterness out of Brothers' defeat.

BROTHERS' PLAN FAILS

Brothers at times tried desperately hard to force the opposition into playing the style of football best liked by themselves—determined forward rucking and massed attacks—but Chambers and his men were too wary, and, although on occasions they had to take Brothers on at the latter's own game, every Western Suburbs man played to the preconceived plan of opening up the game at every conceivable opportunity. In doing this they excelled in co-ordination and combination.

Although Hooper scored three very meritorious tries he was not the star of the side. In fact Wests had no real stars. Each player was totally merged in the team. That perfect fusion was reached, was demonstrated by the fact that they scored five tries against two, and in a number of instances the tries were scored with Brothers' defence outpaced. T. Purtell, as hooker, must be given chief credit for the perfection of Wests' tactics. He mostly got the ball for Chambers, the half, and Turner, the sprightly connecting link, to swing the others in combined action. Chambers probably played his best game this season, while Turner further enhanced the reputation he made against Northern Suburbs.

CENTRES DO THEIR WORK

Purtell and Weylan, the centres, were immeasurably superior to the pair in opposition; in fact, Stanton (Brothers) on the day was a failure. He could hardly do anything right. Hooper had a lot to do and did it like a real tradesman. He ran determinedly and on more than one occasion completely left the defenders glued to the spot. Gollan showed his customary dash, his try being a very attractive effort.

Wright, the full back, was safe and resourceful at times. He completely eclipsed his rival, Linnan, who proved a poor substitute for E. Glass. Graham was always in the attacking picture. H. Denny showed a glimpse of his old form. At times he displayed surprising pace, being right up with the attacking movements. The other Western forwards showed greater sustained life than the men in opposition.

Of the Brothers' pack Hickey and Hogan were about the best, but Law was often prominent in the rucks. The Brothers' backs tackled grandly at times, but on other occasions the weakness in the defence let Hooper fool them completely.

1937

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 9 v WESTS 7

FIELD GOAL DECIDES LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Valleys' Effort Comes Two Minutes From Final Bell

LUCK AGAINST WESTS

By L. H. Kearney

A DRAMATIC finish was provided in the last game of the Brisbane Rugby League club season at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, Valley snatching victory from Western Suburbs by a field goal, kicked by F. Neumann two minutes from full time.

The victory by nine points to seven flattered Valley, for Western Suburbs were definitely the better team, but the dice of fortune rolled against them.

EIGHT minutes from full time a foolish act of obstruction by French against Newmann deprived his wing colleague, Gollan, of a runaway try. When interfered with, Neumann had no possible chance of reaching Gollan, but the obstruction law is definite, and the referee, Mr. F Moynihan, acted strictly in accordance with the letter of the rule in nullifying Gollan's effort.

Luck was also against Wests in the scoring of Neumann's match-winning points. Here again a tactical clearance kicking blunder by Chambers gave Neumann, who was unmarked, the chance to snap a simple field goal.

It was Valley's third premiership success since 1931, and it gave them the right to permanently retain the Premiership Cup, which was presented to the Valley captain, F. Neumann, by Mr. Peter Scott, president of the B.R.L., at the termination of the match.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	1	3	9
Western Suburbs	1	2	7

Grimley scored Valley's try, Williamson kicking two penalty goals, and Neumann snapping a field goal. Purtell scored Wests' try, which W. Wright converted. The latter also kicked a penalty goal. At half-time Western Suburbs led by 7 points to nil.

To have been beaten by two points in a match fought more fiercely than any other club game this season, and with the dice rolling against them as it did, must be a bitter memory to Western Suburbs and their supporters. With the strong breeze in their favour in the first half Western Suburbs forced a lead, and held it until 17 minutes from the final bell, in spite of the vigour with which Valley hurled themselves into the battle when it came their turn to have the wind at their backs. Valley evened the score at seven all. Then followed Gollan's sensational breakaway, which was heralded by the 2000 spectators as the match-winning effort. But the referee's whistle recalled Gollan, and when a few minutes later Neumann swung victory Valley's way, the crowd sat the finish of the match out in a state of utter despondency.

It is doubtful if a gamer display has ever been provided than that of Western Suburbs. They were without the ball for fully two-thirds of the game. In the first half Little outhooked T. Purtell by 22 to 12, and in the second half the Valley rake maintained his superiority by gaining possession 18 times to nine. This gave the Valley hooked the colossal margin of 40 to 21. These figures clearly indicate the enormity of Wests' defensive task. How they rose to the occasion is revealed by the fact that only once were Valleys permitted to cross for a try.

Wright was superb. Probably his display was the best he has ever given. Not only were tackling and checking inspirational, but his clearance tactics were masterly. J. Purtell tackled grandly, and so did winger Hooper. The latter's tackle of Horrigan near the close of the game was reminiscent of some of those "do-or-die" efforts of Billy Paton.



ROBUST TACKLING played a big part in yesterday's Rugby finals. At left, a Rugby League Valley back is menaced by two Western Suburbs defenders

PACK DID ITS WORK

The Western Suburbs' pack units were immense in the rucks, and in spite of the torrid work they put into the defensive fray they finished all over the opposition. Had it been necessary to play extra time things might have gone badly with Valley, for French, Purtell, Denny, Gray, Macmanus, and Graham finished with much greater spirit than did their rivals.

No forward played a finer game than N. Smith (Valley), but undoubtedly the greatest factor in Valleys' success was the hooking of Little. With a surfeit of the ball Valley's backs were nearly always in the picture. There were many scintillating bursts by Blow and Walker, especially the latter, but Valley's combination was not always in smooth working order.

The gate receipts were £110, a record for the season, and were £50 more than the gate takings at last season's final between the same teams.

1937

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 9 v WESTS 7

FORTITUDE VALLEY DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB

B.R.L. Premiers — 1937



FRONT ROW — P. Scott, Jnr. (Hon. Treas.), K. Frawley, F. Neumann (Capt.), S. C. Taudevin (Patron), C. Allen, B. Flynn, E. Rix (Pres.)
SECOND ROW — J. Flynn (Trainer), R. Williamson, E. Nalder, A. Horrigan, S. Reeves, H. Connors, G. Kellaway, W. J. Marden (Hon. Sec.)
THIRD ROW — C. Keilar (Trainer), M. Thompson, F. Grimley, N. Smith, E. Sutherland, R. Ebbern, H. Taylor, G. Mortimer (Vice Pres.)
BACK ROW — E. Costello (Asst. Sec.), A. Donovan (Selector), R. Williamson, P. Mitchell, (Vice-Capt.), L. Walker, L. Robertson (Trainer), H. Hunter

RESULTS

10 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 22 (Jones 4, Johnson, Hunter tries; Johnson 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 5 (Nalder try; Uhlmann goal).
Valleys: K.Frawley, H.Hunter, F.Neumann (c), J.Johnson, V.Hood, I.Blow, C.Jones, E.Robson, W.Whyte, C.Brandenberg, G.Robson, P.Mitchell, A.Park.
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, I.Uhlmann, C.Brown, S.Anderson, E.Nalder, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton (c), V.Mitchell, H.Tanner, C.Hendy, P.Breen, W.Norris, A.Nilsson.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 13 (O'Connor, Moloney, Dwyer tries; E.Hogan, Moloney goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Chambers try; Wright goal).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, R.McKellar, L.Gillespie, J.McGuckin, M.O'Connor, C.Bradford, V.Hogan. Reserve: Daley.
Wests: J.Brady, Neylan, W.Wright, Carpender, Hudson, F.Lind, C.Chambers, J.Donovan, G.Gray, T.MacManus, T.Rowe, T.Purtell, Kratzmann. Reserve: R.Lowe.
Referee: Alf Matzdorf.

7 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 14 (Dwyer, McGuckin tries; Moloney 4 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 9 (Tanner try; Anderson 3 goals).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, R.McKellar, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, H.Daly, J.Christsen, W.Law.
Norths: T.Pedrazzini, I.Uhlmann, E.Nalder, C.Brown, J.Reardon, S.Anderson, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, V.Mitchell, C.Hendy, V.Rudd, W.Norris, V.Gohdes.
Referee: Merv Taylor.

14 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 11 (McKellar try; E.Hogan 3, V.Hogan goal) d. Fortitude Valley 9 (Mitchell, Dall, Bates tries).
Brothers: R.Stanton, M.Moloney, T.Ryan, E.Hogan (c), D.Hooper, L.Dwyer, P.Duffy, V.Hogan, M.O'Connor, W.Law, J.McGuckin, L.Gillespie, R.McKellar.
Reserves: E.Herlihy, R.Todhunter.
Valleys: K.Frawley, H.Hunter, F.Neumann (c), J.Johnson, J.Bates, I.Blow, A.Edwards, E.Robson, J.Little, G.Robson, P.Mitchell, C.Brandenberg, W.Dall.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

1938

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	10	0	0	312	56	20
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	1	3	235	129	13
WESTERN SUBURBS	4	1	5	120	130	9
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	3	2	5	98	195	8
BROTHERS	2	2	6	88	197	6
EASTERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	64	210	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 18 v Souths 11

T. PURTELL'S HOOKING SAVED WESTS

Feast Of Ball Spelt Victory In League Semi-final

By L. H. KEARNEY

ESTABLISHING a lead of 10 points to 2 in the first half, and finishing with greater dash, Western Suburbs defeated Southern Suburbs by 18 points to 11 in the semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

BY their victory Western Suburbs qualified to contest the special semi-final against the loser of Valley Northern Suburbs match next Saturday.

The winners of next Saturday's game will go straight into the final, to be played on September 3.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Western Suburbs	4	3	18
Southern Suburbs	1	4	11

For Western Suburbs tries were scored by Gollan, Kelly, J. Purtell, and Graham. Wright converted two of these, and kicked one penalty goal. Bates scored Southern Suburbs' lone try, which McKee converted. Sherman kicked three penalty goals.

FEAST OF THE BALL

With a more efficient hooker, Southern Suburbs probably would have gone close to lowering the colours of Western Suburbs.



T. Purtell.

Despite a feast of the ball from the magnificent hooking of Tom Purtell, Wests did not play impressively. In fact for 20 minutes of the second half Southern Suburbs dominated the play.

Accurate goal kicking by Sherman, and a clever try by Bates brought Souths' score to within two points of their rivals' tally—13 to 11, and Souths looked like taking the lead when a brilliant handling rush, featuring particularly smart penetrative play by Sherman, riddled the Western Suburbs' defence.

RECOVERED AFTER LAPSE

But the movement lacked finish, just as the goal line was within striking distance. After this close call Wests pulled themselves together for Graham to score a spectacular and heady try, which placed the issue beyond dispute in the closing eight minutes.

It was never a highly attractive game. Wests monopolised the handling raids, but the alert spotting of Souths' inside backs and quick breaking up counters by the forwards spoilt the majority of attacks.

Gollan opened the scoring for Wests with a snap try, the result of a bouncing ball deceiving the Southern Suburbs' defenders. As it bounced free, Gollan came with a flash of speed to gather it and race over to score. Wright added the extras. Wests leading by five points to nil, after 11 minutes' play.

WESTS' FORWARD RAID

Sherman reduced Souths' deficit with a penalty goal, but Wests came again in a forward raid that sent Kelly driving through the legs of a bunch of opponents. Wright added a penalty goal, giving Wests a 10 points to 2 lead at half-time.

Wests attacked hotly from the resumption, and a faulty high clearance kick gave Jim Purtell an easy try.

Souths rallied grandly. Sherman started the scoring with a penalty goal. Then, from some loose play, the ball was whipped out to the inter-State winger, Jack Bates, who flashed through a gap in Wests' defence to score. McKee goaled.

When Sherman, soon afterwards, successfully piloted another penalty goal, the scores were: Wests 13, Souths 11.

Then came the critical breakdown of Souths' attack, followed in turn by the decisive try of the game, scored by Graham

HOOKING WON MATCH

The hooking of Tom Purtell was the outstanding feature of the match. He gained possession 19 to eight in the first half, and 20 to nine in the second period.

Apart from this and occasional bursts by Graham, Chambers, Wright, Gollan, and Hooper, backed by solid full-back play by Brady, there was little in Wests' display to enthuse over. The Paddington team would have to play a very much better game to extend either of next Saturday's teams, Valley and Northern Suburbs.

Flannery, Clarke, and Edmonds worked hard for Souths, without getting much of the actual play. Ward and Jenkins watched their rivals well. In attack Sherman and Bates made the best of their rare opportunities.

Teams:—

Western Suburbs: Full-back, J. Brady; three-quarters, N. Gollan, J. Purtell, N. Hoare, C. Hooper, stand-off half, W. Wright; half-back, C. Chambers (captain); forwards, R. Graham, B. Kelly, G. Grav, J. Butterworth, T. Purtell, C. French.

Southern Suburbs: Full-back, K. Kenny; three-quarters, J. Bates, A. Sherman, R. Ahern, W. McKee; stand-off half, A. Jenkins; half-back, H. Ward; forwards, S. Edmonds, C. Ahern, L. Clarke, A. Hutchinson, R. Smith, and E. Flannery (captain).



T. Purtell (Western Suburbs) tackles H. Ward (Southern Suburbs) in the semi-final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

1938

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 13 v Norths 10

VALLEY IN B.R.L. FINAL REARDON'S INJURY PROVED COSTLY

Norths Fail After Half-time Lead

By L. H. KEARNEY

WIPING out half-time arrears of five points, Valley defeated Northern Suburbs by 13 to 10 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday to qualify for the Brisbane Rugby League's premiership final.

Norths still have a chance, for they will play Western Suburbs in the special semi-final next Saturday, and the winner will meet Valley in the final on September 3.

JACK REARDON, Northern Suburbs' captain, was forced to retire in the first half with slight concussion. He recovered afterwards, but his loss proved a great handicap to his team.

It was a gruelling defensive game, with tackling of international standard, but the general attack of both teams was not particularly inspiring.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Valley	3	2	13
Northern Suburbs ..	2	2	10

For Valley tries were scored by Smith, Blow, and Neumann. Williamson converted one and kicked one penalty goal.

For Northern Suburbs, tries were scored by Ryan and Diversi. Ryan converted his own try and kicked one penalty goal.

Reardon, playing with his left ankle bandaged, had his men well in hand, and in the lead by seven points to nil when a crushing charge by Neumann, in possession, rendered him unconscious.



JACK REARDON

Loss Of Leader

The Kangaroo champion was carried to the touch line, where ambulance men temporarily revived him. He returned to the game badly rattled and struggled on for 10 minutes. He then left the field after 27 minutes' play.

Hambleton, a forward reserve, replaced him, but the absence of Reardon, particularly when Valley commenced to apply pressure early in the second half, was keenly felt.

Norths, when they got into trouble, missed the inspiring defence of their leader, and were beaten by the better side on the day.

Rugged Tackling

The outstanding feature of the game was the vigour of the tackling. There was no quarter given or asked.

The barging of Neumann when in possession was questioned by ardent supporters of Norths, but his methods were scrupulously fair—if disastrous at times to those who endeavoured to stop him.

Whyte's hooking for Valley proved a steadier on Norths' attacks. He gained possession 26 to 11 in the first half, and 15 to 14 in the second.

His work in the closing period, although not so convincing as in the earlier session, was particularly clean, and Williamson generally was well on the move before the cover defence realised that Whyte had won the ball from the scrummage.

Les Walker played his best game since returning from the Union code. He was wonderfully resourceful and alert in attack, making many fine openings. His cover defence and general tackling was always a thorn in the side of Northern Suburbs.

Neumann, Valley's captain, also tackled magnificently. Jack Ebbern and N. Smith stood out in the relentless Valley forward line.

Melrose probably was as useful as any player on Norths' side. Some of his cover defensive work was high-class. Ryan played a sound game, but some of his positional defence was risky.

Rudd was the best forward on the ground, but the reserve grader, H. McDonald and Breen were always in the thick of it. Collins, after his leg injury, seemed to be out of condition.

Diversi (Norths) was injured as the bell rang. He recovered quickly after being carried into the dressing room.

The teams:—

Valley.—D. O'Connor, A. Horrigan, F. Neumann (captain), L. Walker, E. Herlihy, I. Blow, R. Williamson, W. Dall, J. Ebbern, N. Smith, P. Mitchell, W. Whyte, R. Ebbern.

Northern Suburbs.—C. Webster, R. Cooper, J. Reardon (retired hurt, replaced by R. Hambleton), H. Melrose, J. Diversi, C. Ryan, J. Stapleton, E. Collins, P. Breen, N. Paxton, V. Rudd, W. Norris, H. McDonald.

1938

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 20 v Wests 10

NORTHS QUALIFY FOR LEAGUE TITLE GAME

Early Dash Failed To Save Wests In Semi-final

By L. H. KEARNEY

DEFEATING Western Suburbs by 20 points to 10 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, Northern Suburbs qualified to meet Valley in the Brisbane Rugby League premiership final.

Norths' play was punctuated with flashes of brilliant handling and cohesive football, while J. Curran's hooking against the redoubtable Tom Purtell enabled them to share the scrummage honours. Their display was much superior to that given when they failed, 16-10, in the second semi-final match.

Yesterday's victors also had an advantage over their opponents in being served by such noted players as E. Collins, V. Rudd, H. Melrose, J. Diversi, and R. Cooper.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs	4	4	20
Western Suburbs	2	2	10

For Northern Suburbs tries were scored by Collins (2), Cooper, and Diversi. Ryan kicked two penalty goals, Webster converted one, and landed a penalty goal.

For Western Suburbs tries were scored by Wright and Gray, each of which Wright converted.

The first half produced some of the most artistic team work seen in club football this season. First Wright and then Gray capped brilliant tries for Wests.

With 10 points against them after 14 minutes' play, it looked as if the loss of Jack Reardon—who fractured his cheek bone and jarred his ankle on the previous Saturday—had completely disorganised Norths' attack, but the light blues rallied well to even the score at the interval—10-all.

RALLY AFTER SET-BACK

Afterwards Norths never looked back, they got right on top of their rivals, finishing strongly to win by 20 points to 10.

The back division, with Collins frequently chiming in to make an extra man, were lively and penetrative.

Stapleton worked the scrummage with fine judgment and blended admirably in the majority of the attacking movements. He figured prominently in the scintillating handling movement, which led to Babe Collins's first try, and engineered the attack, which sent Collins unchallenged through the defence to make the score 10-all at half-time.

COLLINS BACKS UP

Collins showed extraordinary backing-up in each of his scoring efforts.

His form was in marked contrast to his mediocre showing on the previous Saturday.

Ryan, at stand-off half, played a serviceable game. Probably no one on the ground equalled the spectacular part he played in the touch-line burst, which led to the ball being carried 40 yards for Stapleton and Collins to finish the attack with a try.

Cooper often whipped in from the left flank to make the extra man in right-side attacks, while his try revealed pace and determination.

Deversi, on the right flank, scored a glorious try late in the game. He went for the corner opening, and made it with a fine finishing burst.

REARDON'S SUBSTITUTE

No Northern Suburbs back played sounder football than Hughie Melrose. He was a tradesman in everything he did.

Hambleton had a big task in substituting for Reardon, but he did his work creditably. Webster, Norths' full-back, kicked magnificently. His clever placements, with the wind in the second half, helped to race the legs off Wests' forwards and backs.

Next to Collins, Vic Rudd was the most valuable forward on the winning side. He did much hard work, and never shirked an issue.

Breen, Roberts, Curran, and Morrison completed a better all-round forward combination.

HONOURS FROM SCRUMS

Curran achieved surprising results against Tom Purtell. He made the tally 11—all in the first half, and carried off the honours, 15 to 13, in the second session. No club hooker this season has done better against the Western Suburbs' champion.

Billy Wright made an early try-scoring dash for Wests, but he appeared to be overwhelmed by "spotters" in the general run of Wests' attacks.

Chambers played a particularly courageous game in a back line jolted after the scoring of the two early tries.

The best of Wests' football was the forward play of Tom Purtell and Gray. The latter, after playing capitally, was forced to retire 11 minutes before the interval. He was replaced by J. Butterworth

The teams:—

Northern Suburbs.—C. Webster, R. Cooper, R. Hambleton, H. Melrose, J. Deversi, C. Ryan (captain), J. Stapleton, E. Collins, P. Breen, A. Roberts, V. Rudd, J. Curran, R. Morrison.

Western Suburbs.—J. Brady, N. Gollan, N. Hoare, J. Purtell, C. Hooper, W. Wright, C. Chambers (captain), R. Graham, B. Kelly, G. Gray (hurt, replaced by J. Butterworth), H. Denny, T. Purtell, C. French.



Tom Purtell (Wests) comes up from behind with a diving tackle to jolt the ball out of Collins's hands, in the Rugby League semi-final between Northern Suburbs and Western Suburbs yesterday.

1938

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 16 v VALLEYS 10

FIRST DEFEAT COST LEAGUE TITLE

Valleys' Poor Showing Against Norths

By L. H. KEARNEY

UNBEATEN in the two premiership rounds, and conquerors of Northern Suburbs in the second semi-final, Valleys lost their first match of the season's Rugby League championhip competition—and with it the title—when they went down, 16 points to 10, against Norths in the final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

WHILE the tries were equal, two each, Norths were the better team on the day, and their success was all the more meritorious, as they had to take the field without their captain, Jack Reardon, and the stand-off half and regular goal-kicker, C. Ryan.

MOST surprising feature of their victory was the fact that the substitute goal-kicker, C. Webster, who also led the side, scored 10 of the 16 points.

His four penalty goals in the opening 14 minutes of the second half sealed Valley's doom.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs	2	5	16
Valley	2	2	10

For Northern Suburbs tries were scored by Rudd and Collins. Webster kicked four penalty goals and converted one try. For Valley tries were scored by Dale and Mitchell. Williamson kicked one penalty goal, and converted Mitchell's try.

While Webster, was the scoring highlight of the game, the strategic key man and outstanding personality on the field was "Babe" Collins.

No loose forward in club football has surpassed the Kangaroo representative's display. His backing up was magnificent, and his passing quick and well directed. He seemed invariably to anticipate the play.

Collins Outstanding

Collins was able at all times to move into the right position to detect the weakness in the opposite defence.

He scored a particularly clever blind side try in the left-hand corner, and played a big part in the other try registered by his colleague, Vic Rudd. His tactical play was masterly, and he was in and out of the scrummage like a jack-in-the-box. No manoeuvre he exploited failed to benefit the side or gain valuable territory.

In the heavier forward play, Norths big men, Vince Rudd and Paddy Breen, rendered yeoman service. Rudd played his part in helping J. Curran to obtain an equal share of the ball, and whether in the tight or loose he was always shoulder to shoulder with Breen in the light blue forwards' raids.

Morrison, Curran, and Roberts were in the thick of it, and each played his part in moulding Norths' pack into a much more serviceable set than the opposition.

Penetrative Bursts

Stapleton and Melrose, in centre bursts; were much more penetrative than the Valley combination. Melrose completely overshadowed his rival, Ivan Blow, whose indifferent form was most baffling.

Reardon, of course, was badly missed by Norths, but Hambleton and Toohey played well enough to keep Neumann and Walker fairly quiet. Horrigan was the most dashing winger on the field, but the deadly tackling of the rival insiders curbed wing opportunities.

But the big crowd saw several thrilling dashes by Horrigan, and one or two shorter ones by Cooper (Norths).

Webster's Judgment

Webster played an ideal game as custodian for Northern Suburbs. His positional kicking with the breeze in the second half was cleverly essayed.

His successful goal-kicking in the vital early period of the second half undoubtedly swung the pendulum against Valley.

After their brilliant performances throughout the season, Valley's form was most disappointing. Nearly every man, except Walker, Neumann, and Horrigan, seemed to loose his earlier sparkle.

In the first half, with the breeze even, the side's champion goal kicker, Bobby Williamson, could do nothing right. He missed kicks from in front of the goal mouth which would have made a junior look sheepish. It must have been heart-breaking to him and his team mates to see these opportunities lost.

Valley's Poor Display

The failures were all the more disheartening to Valley, for they meant that the side lost the benefit of any advantages the stiff down-field breeze should have given them in the first half.

Despite the helping wind, Valley led by only two points to nil.

On the other hand, when Norths got the breeze at their backs, they rattled up eight points to two in 14 minutes.

For the next 13 minutes the game see-sawed, Rudd scoring for Norths and Dall for Valley, but Collins's brilliant corner effort 13 minutes from time placed the issue beyond doubt.

Valley rallied six minutes from the bell for Mitchell to score, but the 16-10 margin against them could not be recovered, Norths holding their lead to the end.

Possession of the ball was very even, the first half tallies being 16 all; the second half count favoured Norths by 15 to 14—or a total of Norths 31, Valley 30.

In penalty awards Norths received 16 to Valley's 10.

The crowd was estimated by Mr. H. Huxham, treasurer of the B.R.L., at 4500. The receipts were £133, the best figures for 10 years.

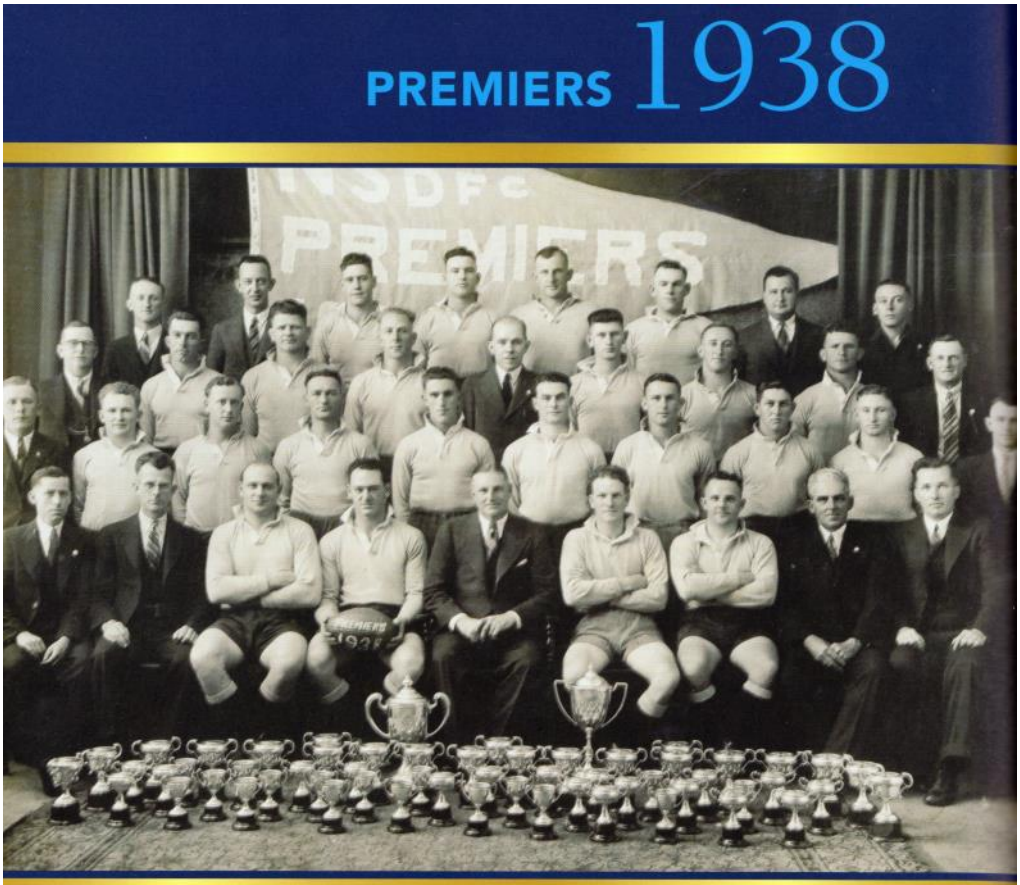
The teams were:—

Northern Suburbs: C. Webster (captain), R. Cooper, R. Hambleton, T. Toohey, J. Diversi, H. Melrose, J. Stapleton, E. Collins, A. Roberts, P. Breen, V. Rudd, J. Curran, R. Morrison.

Valley: D. O'Connor, A. Horrigan, F. Neumann (captain), L. Walker, E. Herlihy, I. Blow, R. Williamson, W. Dall, J. Ebbern (retired injured just before the interval, replaced by C. Allen), N. Smith, P. Mitchell, W. Whyte, R. Ebbern.

1938

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 16 v VALLEYS 10



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club
Premiers First Grade, B.R.L., 1938
Winners of President's Cups and Pike Cups

FRONT ROW – A.L. Bishop (Hon. General Sec.), J.V. Hayes, M.L.A. (Patron), E. Collins, J.P. Reardon (Captain), D.B. Duncan (President), C.D. Webster (Vice-Capt.), J. Stapleton, G.J. Maloney (Managing Com. and Vice Pres.), T. Dolan, (Coach)
SECOND ROW – C. Rix (Selector and Managing Com.), R. Shelton, J. Curran, C. Ryan, J.W. Martin, J. Diversi, A.J. Roberts, R. Hambleton, H. Melrose, W. Burrup (Selector and Trainer)
THIRD ROW – H. Johnson (Managing Com.), T. Toohey, E. Robson, W. Norris, F.A.C. Harrold (Hon. Treasurer), R. Cooper, H.E. Slattery, R. Morrison, P.R. Gordon (Managing Com. and Vice President)
BACK ROW – R.C. Richards (Trainer and Managing Com.), D.J. Macpherson (Managing Com.), N. Paxton, P. Breen, V. Rudd, V. Gohdes, A.S. Lane (Senior Vice-Pres, and Managing Com.), G. Bridges

ABSENT – J. Hay (Managing Com.), R. Roles (Trainer)

RESULTS

13 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 18 (Gollan, Kelly, J.Purtell, Graham tries; Wright 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 11 (Bates try; Sherman 4 goals).
Wests: J.Brady, N.Gollan, J.Purtell, N.Hoare, C.Hooper, W.Wright, C.Chambers (c), R.Graham, B.Kelly, G.Gray, J.Butterworth, T.Purtell, C.French.
Souths: K.Kenny, J.Bates, A.Sherman, R.Ahern, W.McKee, A.Jenkins, H.Ward, S.Edmonds, C.Ahern, L.Clarke, A.Hutchinson, R.Smith, E.Flannery (c).
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

20 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 13 (Smith, Blow, Neumann tries; Williamson 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 10 (Ryan, Diversi tries; Ryan two goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, F.Neumann (c), L.Walker, E.Herlihy, I.Blow, R.Williamson, W.Dall, J. Ebbern, N.Smith, P.Mitchell, W.Whyte, R.Ebbern.
Norths: C.Webster, R.Cooper, J.Reardon (c), H.Melrose, J.Diversi, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, P.Breen, N.Paxton, V.Rudd, W.Norris, H.McDonald.
Reserve: R.Hambleton.
Referee: Frank Moynihan.

27 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 20 (Collins 2, Cooper, Diversi tries; Ryan 2, Webster 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Wright, Gray tries; Wright 2 goals).
Norths: C.Webster, R.Cooper, R.Hambleton, H.Melrose, J.Diversi, C.Ryan (c), J.Stapleton, E.Collins, P.Breen, A.Roberts, V.Rudd, J.Curran, R.Morrison.
Wests: J.Brady, N.Gollan, N.Hoare, J.Purtell, C.Hooper, W.Wright, C.Chambers (c), R.Graham, B.Kelly, G.Gray, H.Denny, T.Purtell, C.French.
Reserve: J.Butterworth.
Referee: Merv Taylor.

3 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUD
Northern Suburbs 16 (Rudd, Collins tries; Webster 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 10 (Dale, Mitchell tries; Williamson 2 goals).
Norths: C.Webster (c), R.Cooper, R.Hambleton, T.Toohey, J.Diversi, H.Melrose, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, A.Roberts, P.Breen, R.Morrison, J.Curran, V.Rudd.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, F.Neumann (c), L.Walker, E.Herlihy, I.Blow, R.Williamson, W.Dall, J. Ebbern, N.Smith, P.Mitchell, W.Whyte, R.Ebbern. Reserve: C.Allen.
Referee: Merv Taylor. ***Crowd: 4,500.***

1939

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	1	225	105	18
BROTHERS	8	0	2	240	124	16
VALLEYS	7	0	3	281	92	14
WESTERN SUBURBS	3	0	7	113	177	6
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	107	255	4
EASTERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	98	311	2

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 22 v Wests 11

VALLEY'S LATE DASH TO VICTORY



Lucky Intercept Changes Game

By L. H. KEARNEY

WESTERN Suburbs went very close to causing the biggest upset of the Rugby League season at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. They played all over Valley for 57 minutes of the first premiership semi-final, but wilted under pressure, to be beaten by 22 points to 11.

Valley's victory means that they will contest the special semi-final against the losers of the Northern Suburbs-Brothers match next Saturday. Wests have been eliminated from the premiership.

YESTERDAY'S game was one of remarkable contrasts. Wests' cleverer play gave them a 3-2 lead at the interval, and they ran to 11-2 early in the second half.

A lucky interception by Kellaway enabled Ebbern to cross 17 minutes after the resumption, and the game was completely transformed. Valley stampeded the opposition, to score 13 points in the closing 18 minutes.

	T.	C.G.	P.G.	T'tl
Valley	4	3	2	22
Wests	3	1	—	11

Williamson was Valley's best individual player. He kicked five goals, bringing his total for the season to 49 (98 points).

His general play at half-back was outstanding, his lead-up work to Kellaway's vital try being the most spectacular individual effort of the match. His burst of speed so bewildered Wests' defence that Kellaway was left with an open passage to the line.

Walker also was responsible for two clever penetrative moves, the first rewarding him with a try after a clever side-stepping run, and the second paving the way for Hayes to score without opposition.

Apart from Williamson, none of Valley's backs played as ably as did Gordon Macrae and Jim Purtell, Wests' centres. Some of their defensive work was of inter-State standard.

Western Suburbs' forwards surpassed themselves. In hooking, Tom Purtell gained possession 36 to 32 by Valley's hooker, A. Roberts. In the loose Wests' pack surprised by outpacing all but Jack Ebbern, who, with Williamson, was one of the match-winning factors for Valley.

Outstanding forwards for Wests were T. Purtell, Henry Denny, and N. Paxton.

PAXTON IMPROVED

Paxton, a former Rugby Union player, is one of the most improved forwards in club football.

Valley's backs, as a combination, were patchy, but they kept sufficient in reserve to change the complexion of the game over the closing 18 minutes.

D. O'Connor, the State full-back, gave another bright display. He was much sounder and more spectacular than his rival, W. Wright.

SCORERS.—Valley, tries by J. Ebbern, Kellaway, Walker, and Hayes; Williamson converted three, and kicked two penalty goals. For Western Suburbs, tries by Hooper, Macrae, Gray; Malin converted one.

1939

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 13 v Brothers 11

NORTHS' PENALTY WIN SURVIVED RUGGED GAME TO ENTER B.R.L. FINAL

By L. H. Kearney

AFTER being down 8-2 at half-time, Northern Suburbs qualified for the Rugby League premiership by defeating Brothers by 13 points to 11 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. They put on 11 points in the second half, and a penalty goal gave them victory in a hard match.

Each pack played a gruelling game, frequently having to cover up the mistakes of their backs. The only touch of artistry was a try by L. Dawson.

FORWARDS dominated one of the hardest games of recent seasons. Tempers were ruffled in the second half, but the referee (Mr. M. Taylor) and the touch judge quickly restored order.

	T.	P.G.	T'tl.
Norths	3	2	13
Brothers	3	1	11

Norths' pack did not tame Brothers, but they used their weight effectively in scrummages and rucks and tackled with excellent spirit.

They won because they made fewer mistakes.

The try which turned the game in Norths' favour 25 minutes after the interval, came from faulty in-goal play by Stanton and Mahoney. The former, instead of forcing the ball, attempted to clear by passing to Mahoney.

The service went astray for Toohey to pounce on the ball to score a very lucky try.

DAWSON'S TRY

This cost Brothers the match, for over the last 10 minutes they were on top, and when Dawson scored his try—one of the most brilliant efforts of the club season—eight minutes from the bell it seemed that Brothers might snatch victory.

But Norths hung on tenaciously. As the bell rang Dawson was in a good position to score, but a high pass from his insider caused him to knock-on.

An exchange of blows in front of the stand looked ugly during the second half, but prompt action by the police restored order.

It was not surprising that the incident upset the players, and things were done which missed the keen eye of Mr. Taylor, but he handled the game well, and his penalty awards were fairly evenly divided.

Each side received seven penalties in the first half, but Norths had a five to one margin during the critical second session.

The hooking also was close. Little (Brothers) won 19 of the first half scrummages to 15 by Norris (Norths). In the second half Little's margin was 17-15, or a total of 36 for Brothers against 30 by Norths.

Outstanding flaws in Brothers' display was weak stand-off play by M. Hynes, careless work by J. Walsh at centre, and uncertainty on the part of Stanton at full-back.

Time and again the bad handling and along-the-ground passing nullified Brothers' attacking movements. Dawson played a wonderful game against tremendous odds.

Several times questionable methods were used to keep him out of the legitimate play.

J. Stapleton, J. Melrose, and C. Webster were outstanding in Norths' backs. Collins, Reardon, and H. Melrose were sound, but there was no touch of greatness in anything they did.

Norths' hard workers, Rudd, Norris, Nilsson, Power, and Breen excelled themselves.

SCORERS.—For Norths, tries by J. Melrose, C. Ryan, T. Toohey; Stapleton, and Webster each kicked a penalty goal. For Brothers, tries by Dawson (2), Gollan; Hogan kicked a penalty goal.

Brothers Still Have Chance

Brothers' defeat in yesterday's semi-final did not eliminate them from the Rugby League premiership series; they still have a chance to meet Norths again in the grand final on September 9.

Next Saturday they will meet Valley, the winners of the No. 2 semi-final, to decide which team will fight out the premiership with Northern Suburbs.



ABOVE: B. Schulte (in centre) ready to assist C. Andrews in Norths' League match against Brothers yesterday. LEFT: H. Gordon (Brothers) looks for a pass from a club-mate well hemmed in by opponents.

1939

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 21 v Valleys 19

BROTHERS' "PARALYSER"

Eluding The Attack



A BROTHERS' player speeding away from Hickey (on ground), Mitchell and Horrigan in the semi-final Rugby League game against Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

FACED DEFEAT: ROUTED VALLEY IN GREAT FINISH

Point-a-Minute Rally: Now For The Final

By L. H. KEARNEY

Past Christian Brothers qualified to meet Northern Suburbs in the final of the B.R.L. premiership next Saturday by defeating Valley by 21 points to 19 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

FORTUNES fluctuated in a remarkable fashion.

Valley looked almost unbeatable with a lead of 19 points to nil midway in the second half, but Brothers over the closing 20 minutes scored at the rate of a point a minute, to register the last of their five second half tries two and a half minutes from full time.

It was one of the most brilliant recoveries ever witnessed by a club attendance and the 3300 spectators who contributed receipts of £110 were continuously on their feet during Brothers' electrifying finish. At one stage, Brothers scored three tries in seven minutes.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	5	3	21
Valley	5	2	19

For Brothers tries were scored by Ryrie (2), Dawson, Hogan, and O'Malley. Two were converted by Mahoney and one by Hogan.

For Valley tries were scored by McLeod (3), R. Ebbern, and Neumann. Williamson and O'Connor each converted a try.

MANY INJURED

Some of the tackling was of stunning force. Many players were injured. Jack Ebbern finished a temporary cripple, and Jack Walsh, of Brothers, was taken to the General Hospital suffering from slight concussion.

It was courageous football, with many gems of individualism and spectacular combination, with handling movements as brilliant in execution as any seen in recent club seasons.

Brothers showed a wonderful fighting spirit. Many teams of even higher class players would have wilted under the terrific punishment meted out by Valley, and the strain of heavy scoring against them.

THE TERRIBLE SIX

As an example of unconquerable spirit and of desperate courage, the last 20 minutes football of Brothers' Terrible Six, especially Jack Ryrie and Jack Little, and the backs—Dawson, Mahoney, Hynes, Halpin, O'Malley, Gollan, and Stanton—will not be quickly forgotten.

Equally great were Valley in defeat. To have been beaten by two points in a match fought far more fiercely than any other in recent years, must be, to Valley a bitter memory, especially as they appeared to have the measure of their opponents for 60 minutes of the game.

But never could defeat in similar circumstances be associated with disgrace.

I heard spectators at the finish say that Valley pitch-forked victory away because they did not tighten up play in the second half, but few club teams in Australia could have stopped Brothers.

RALLY—COLLAPSE

After Jack Ryrie scored his first try midway through the second half Brothers made their rally, and it was almost unbelievable that such a splendidly trained and organised team as Valley could collapse in defence the way they did.

It was simply a case of Brothers playing inspired football, with victory following the survival of the fittest.

From the playing angle, the turning point in the game was the reshuffling of Brothers' three-quarter line after Valley went to 19 points to nil 10 minutes after the resumption of play in the second half.

Leslie Dawson, transferred to the centre, immediately gave vitality to Brothers' attack. When Ryrie scored his first try, Dawson, from his new position, put Brothers' attack on the right leg, and after he had unsuccessfully stormed the corner, to be tackled brilliantly by O'Connor, Brothers took complete charge of the game.

Ryrie scored his second try, then Dawson followed with a superb effort, and from thence onwards Valley's defence was a rabble, and quick tries by Hogan and O'Malley, won game.

Williamson recorded his 50th goal for the club season, or 100 points—a fine achievement.

One of the features of Valley's football was the scoring success of the young reserve grade wing three-quarter, Basil McLeod. After scoring in a gruelling early match he scored three nippy tries for Valley. He replaced C. Hayes. J. O'Malley (Brothers), who replaced J. Walsh, who retired injured midway through the first half, also distinguished himself by scoring Brothers' final try.

1939

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 11 v NORTHS 9

FORWARDS WON DAY

BROTHERS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Try That Was Disputed

By L. H. KEARNEY

Past Christian Brothers are the new Rugby League, champions. The magnificent fighting football of their forwards won the day in the B.R.L. final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

BROTHERS' opponents, Northern Suburbs, last season's title holders, were defeated by 11 points to nine.

No victory since the inauguration of district football in 1933 has been achieved more meritoriously, and the 7000 spectators, who contributed a gate of £221, saw one of the most stirring club struggles on record.

Brothers, who scored three tries to one, secured a well-deserved triumph, despite the fact that Collins (Norths), in the opinion of many, appeared to snatch victory in the last 10 minutes of the game with a try that he claimed he scored.

The referee, Mr. M. Taylor, ruled that Collins was short of his objective, failing to ground the ball properly in goal.

Had this try been allowed Brothers would have lost the game, but defeat in such circumstances would have been tragic, for they completely eclipsed Norths over the closing stages of the game.

Brothers' magnificence as fighting footballers was emphasised by one of the greatest club packs fielded in the last decade. They were down seven points to three at the interval, and against the breeze in the second half they looked to be definitely up-hill. But Dall, Ryrie, Bradford (who replaced Gillespie), Hogan, Little and Law, rose magnificently to the occasion. They took the lead, with 11 to nine, midway through the second half, and only once afterwards did they look like losing it.

Pack's Artistry

Brothers' pack showed artistry in getting possession. They dominated the rucks, and were immeasureably superior as tacklers, especially in cover defence, while they were supported over the closing stages by backs of more striking defensive excellence than usual.

Brothers outmanoeuvred and outskilled a side heroic in defeat.

Everything appeared to smile on Northern Suburbs before the second half. They took the lead with a penalty, and afterwards scored a superb try from a delightful handling thrust by J. Melrose, Breen, and Collins (the scorer). Ryan converted to give Norths a great grip on the game, which only loosened when Dawson scored just before the half-time bell.

During this half Norths played the better football, and fully merited their lead of seven to three, especially as they had played against the breeze.

A New Force

Brothers came out a new force in the second half. Dall quickly scored a clever try when North's defence was off its guard. Norths retaliated with another penalty goal, and led 9-8.

But coming at their opponents with irresistible force, Dall, Mahoney, Halpin, and Gollan (the scorer) swept through Norths' defence. This try placed Brothers in front 11-9, midway through the second half.

Except for the incident of Collins' disallowed try a few minutes before the final bell, Brothers' defence over the closing 20 minutes' play never wavered.

The penalties were equally distributed, Brothers being awarded 8 to 6 in the first half and 6 to 8 in the second half.

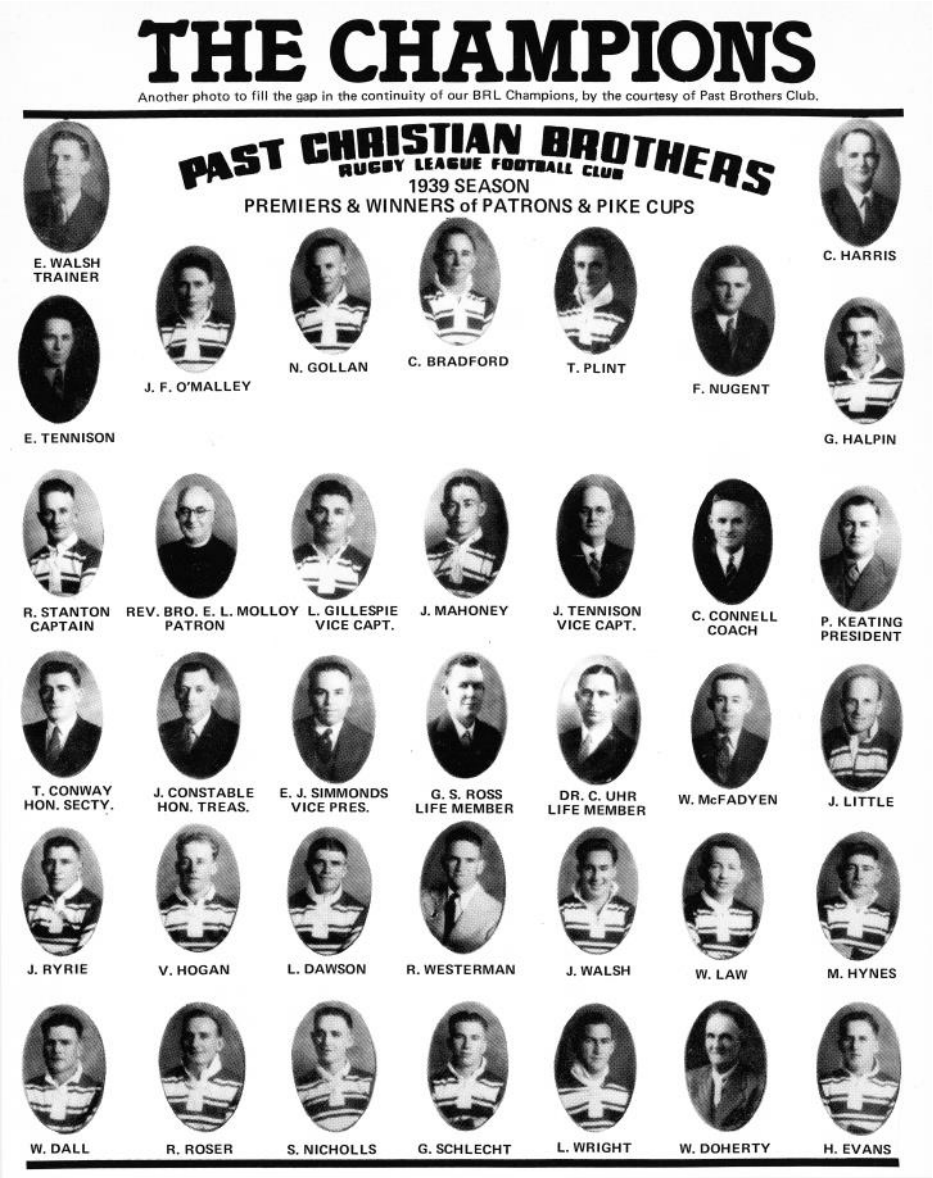
In the first half Norris (Norths) had the better of the hooking, 19 to 16, but afterwards Little (Brothers) won the ball 19 times to 11. L. Gillespie (Brothers) retired before half time with a fractured collarbone. Norths were without Webster (full-back) and Rudd (forward).



★NORTHERN SUBURBS★ players made no mistake about this tackle. L. Dawson, Brothers' winger, is smothered by E. Collins (on top) and T. Toohey.

1939

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 11 v NORTHS 9



RESULTS

19 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 22 (J.Ebbern, Kellaway, Walker, Hayes tries; Williamson 5 goals) d. Western Suburbs 11 (Hooper, Macrae, Gray tries; Malin goal).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, F.Neumann, L.Walker, C.Hayes, G.Kellaway, R.Williamson, R.Westaway, A.Roberts, R.Ebbern, J.Ebbern, P.Mitchell, P.Hickey.
Wests: W.Wright, T.Rowe, J.Purtell, G.Macrae, C.Hooper, G.Twist, F.Casey, N.Paxton, G.Gray, W.Malin, A.Hutchinson, T.Purtell, H.Denny.
Referee: Jack Brady.

26 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 13 (J.Melrose, Ryan, Toohey tries; Stapleton, Webster goals) d. Past Brothers 11 (Dawson 2, Gollan tries; Hogan goal).
Northern Suburbs: C.Webster, T.Toohey, H.Melrose, J.Reardon (c), J.Melrose, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, P.Breen, M.Power, V.Rudd, W.Norris, A.Nilsson.
Past Brothers: R.Stanton (c), L.Dawson, J.Walsh, G.Halpin, N.Gollan, M.Hynes, J.Mahoney, W.Dall, L.Gillespie, V.Hogan, J.Ryrie, J.Little, W.Law.
Referee Merv Taylor. ***Crowd: 3,300.***

2 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 21 (Ryrie 2, Dawson, Hogan, O'Malley tries; Mahoney 2, Hogan goals) d. Fortitude Valley 19 (McLeod 3, R.Ebbern, Neumann tries; Williamson, O'Connor goals).
Brothers: R.Stanton (c), L.Dawson, G.Halpin, J.Walsh, N.Gollan, M.Hynes, J.Mahoney, W.Dall, L.Gillespie, J.Ryrie, V.Hogan, J.Little, W.Law. Reserve: J.O'Malley.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, L.Walker, F.Neumann, C.Hayes, G.Kellaway, R.Williamson, P.Hickey, P.Mitchell, J.Ebbern, R.Westaway, A.Roberts, R.Ebbern. Reserve: B.McLeod.
Referee: Merv Taylor. ***Crowd: 3,300.***

SEPTEMBER 9 GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 11 (Dawson, Dall, Gollan tries; Mahoney goal) d. Northern Suburbs 9 (Collins try; Ryan 3 goals).
Brothers: R.Stanton (c), L.Dawson, G.Halpin, J.Walsh, N.Gollan, M.Hynkes, J.Mahoney, W.Dall, L.Gillespie, J.Ryrie, V.Hogan, J.Little, W.Law.
Norths: C.Webster, T.Toohey, H.Melrose, J.Reardon (c), J.Melrose, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins, P.Breen, M.Power, V.Rudd, W.Norris, A.Nilsson.
Referee: Merv Taylor. ***Crowd: 7,000.***

1940

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	1	290	100	18
VALLEYS	8	0	2	268	84	16
BROTHERS	6	0	4	222	157	12
WESTERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	185	172	12
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	219	272	4
EASTERN SUBURBS	0	0	10	69	509	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 25 v Wests 18

Brothers Beat Wests, 25-18

NOW IN R.L. FINAL THREE

Brothers' Half Is On The Job:

E. Weaver (Brothers' half-back) evading a tackle by F. Casey (Western Suburbs) in the Brisbane Rugby League semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

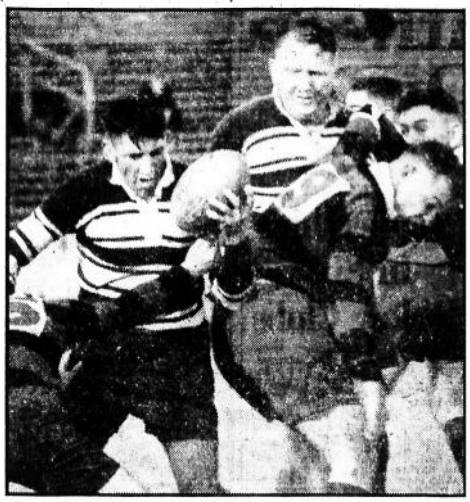


By L. H. KEARNEY

BROTHERS' Rugby League victory by 25-18 over Western Suburbs at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday means that they will contest the special B.R.L. title semi-final against the losers of the Northern Suburbs-Valley match, to be played next Saturday. Wests have been eliminated from the premiership.

Brothers' success came from a greater share of the ball from the scrummages, more virile forwards, and having the three outstanding players on the field in R. Roser (centre), E. Weaver (half-back), and L. Gillespie (forward).

QUICK BREAK FROM SCRUM



J. Ryrie (Brothers) endeavouring to beat a tackle by A. Abdy (Western Suburbs), in the Brisbane Rugby League semi-final yesterday.

Fewer handling mistakes were made by Brothers. Wests' attacks were jolted by "Spragg" Hunt. The latter's disappointing display was in marked contrast to his brilliant performance of the previous Saturday.

Only on rare occasions did Hunt do anything right, but he showed that his form was all astray by unfolding one of the most spectacular bursts of the day in the lead-up play to MacRae's second try, one minute from full time.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Brothers	5	5	25
Western Suburbs	4	3	18

For Brothers tries were scored by Dawson (2), Murdock, Gillespie, and Roser. Hogan converted four and kicked a penalty goal. Tries for Western Suburbs were scored by MacRae (2), Harris, and Paxton. Casey converted two and Malin kicked a penalty goal.

Brothers won the League premiership last season, but have been an "in-and-out" team this season. However, their sound, all-round football against Wests suggests they may yet qualify for the final. The forwards are steadily regaining that vigour and team spirit which last season earned them the title of "The Terrible Six." Their half-back thrustfulness is again in evidence, and it is doubtful if there is a better centre in club football than Dick Roser.

HAVE TITLE CHANCE

If Brothers can improve their team work and handling they might prove a menace in the special semi-final on August 31.

Although Brothers had a few anxious periods in the first half, the issue after the interval was never in doubt. After leading 12-8 at the interval they forged ahead to lead by 25-13, in the 34th minute of the second half. It was only in the last minute of the game that Wests added their last five points.

GILLESPIE STARS

An individual feature of the match was the inspired forward play of Larry Gillespie. He came into the side only at the last minute to replace W. Tyquin, who dropped out because of a leg injury. Gillespie was always in the thick of it, and his breakaways often placed Brothers in attacking positions. His try, after a combined effort with half-back E. Weaver, had a touch of the Collins genius about it. J. Ryrie and V. Hogan also did some grand forward work, while J. Little's hooking played a big part in Brothers' success.

E. Weaver, the nuggety half, was elusive as an eel, and he was the pivot of many fine attacks. Dick Roser played a magnificent centre game, and L. Dawson was always the opportunist. Dawson scored two trios, but the best effort of the match was Roser's finishing try for Brothers. This thrust left West's defence bewildered. G. Halpin was a reliable custodian for Brothers.

Wests' best players were Murphy, MacRae, Casey, and Paxton, the latter playing one of his best forward games of the season.



H. Bowers (Brothers and inter-State Rugby League forward) returned to club football yesterday. He was in a tight corner in the match against Western Suburbs when this picture was taken.

1940

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 10 v Valleys 6

Norths Fight All Way To League Final

BETTER FINISH BEATS VALLEY

By L. H. KEARNEY

NORTHERN Suburbs, winners of this season's earlier trophies, the President Cups and Pike Cups, qualified for the final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership by defeating Valley, 10-6, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Valley will get another chance, for they will meet Brothers in the third semi-final next Saturday to decide Norths' opponents in the final, which will be played on September 7.

Norths had to stage a grandstand finish to defeat the gallant but greatly handicapped Valley team.



J. Stapleton (Northern Suburbs) breaking away from the base of Norths 'pack in the Rugby League match against Valley yesterday.

For 65 minutes Valley were a faster and more purposeful team, due to excellent goal-kicking—two penalties and a field goal—by the State full back, Danny O'Connor.

The royal blues looked like upsetting the suggestion that without their disabled players, Dick and Jack Ebbern and Fred Neumann, they would prove no match for Norths. However, in spirited handling rallies in the last 15 minutes, Norths caught and passed their rivals, who wilted badly once they lost the lead.

The excitement of the Northern Suburbs fighting finish somewhat redeemed a ragged game.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs	2	2	10
Valley	0	3	6

For Northern Suburbs, tries were scored by Power and Norris. Stapleton converted one and kicked a penalty goal. O'Connor kicked two penalty goals and one field goal for Valley.

LACKED COHESION

Both sets of backs tried to make a spectacular game of it, but it was disorganised football for the most part, with weak handling, too much kicking, and more scrambling than concerted work. At times the game did not even have individual colour, for there were no breakaways or bursts worth while until the closing stages, when Norths unwound two very neat handling attacks. They culminated in tries being scored by Mick Power and Bill Norris.

VALLEY HAS CHANCE

Although Valley's weakened side collapsed towards the finish, they were capable of giving Norths their greatest fright of the season. Any opposition that can lead Norths for 65 minutes in an 80-minute game must have prospects of entering the final. With the possibility of the injured players, Ebbern brothers and Neumann, being fit for next Saturday's third semi-final, Valley may train on to beat Brothers, with prospects of giving Norths a gruelling in the final.

Norths seemed to be a team that had trained off and which would need a spell to recover condition. They did not show the enterprise and sweeping moves characteristic of their true form. It was not the brilliant combination that defeated Brothers 9-4 in the final of the President Cups competition and Valley by 16-5 in the final of the Pike Cup.

Norths' key back men, Stapleton, Reardon, and Melrose, had no dash early, but they finished brilliantly. Both tries were spectacular handling bursts, capped by great finishing pace of the scorers.

WHYTE IN FORM

The hooking success of Bill Whyte played a big part in keeping Norths' attack subdued. He won possession 14 to 11 in the first half and 15 to 14 in the second half.

The best of the players were O'Connor, Walker, Kellaway, Williamson, Dall, Westaway, and Whyte (Valley), and Webster (substitute for N. Wright, who retired hurt), Melrose, Reardon, Power, Rudd, and Nilsson (Norths).

There were three replacements in the first half: Thompson (Valley) and Wright and Toohey (Norths) retiring injured. They were replaced by G. Robson (Valley) and Webster and Hooper (Norths).

R. Stewart (Norths) and V. Salmon (Valley) were ordered off the field by Referee S. W. Chambers seven minutes after the start of the second half.



R. Westaway (Valley) making a forward thrust, trailed by J. Stapleton (Northern Suburbs), in the Rugby League match at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

1940

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 24 v Valleys 14

FORWARDS WIN DAY

Brothers Are In Brisbane League Final

By L. H. KEARNEY

PAST Christian Brothers' victory over Valley by 24-14 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday put them into the final of the 1940 B.R.L. premiership to be played against Northern Suburbs next Saturday. The same rivals fought for the honours last season, Brothers triumphing by 11 to 9 after a gruelling forward battle.

Brothers owed their success yesterday to magnificent display of their forwards, backed by great support from Weaver and Stanton (half-backs) and Roser (centre).

The outstanding individualists of the match were V. Hogan, J. Little (hooker), W. Law, and L. Gillespie. Unquestionably their constructive forward play was the determining factor of the game, for not only in attack did they counter the opposition, but under pressure they repeatedly came away in a body to extricate Brothers.

Brothers	6	3	24
Valley	2	4	14

For Brothers, Hogan (2), Roser (2), Weaver, and Stanton scored tries. Hogan converted three. For Valley, Sokell and Horrigan scored tries. O'Connor converted one, landed two penalty goals, and kicked a field goal.

Although Brothers won by 10 points, Valley, without their three injured key men, F. Neumann, J. and R. Ebbern, made a gallant bid. It took Brothers more than 30 minutes in the second half to thoroughly wilt the opposition. Valley, from 18 to five at the interval, gradually reduced the deficit to 18-14 in the 29th minute.

In a fighting rally Brothers' forwards again took charge for Dick Roser to support them by scoring two brilliant individual tries in the last six minutes of the match.

Brothers' pack last season earned the title of "The Terrible Six," and their strength in massed formation, short-handling bursts, and superior scrummaging against Valley, suggest that the dash and spirit of last season has been revived.

HOGAN'S GREAT PLAY

Hogan played the greatest game of his career. It was one of the finest displays I have seen from a club forward in the last 10 years. In the loose he was a giant, dwarfing even a champion like Jack Ryrie. His great play in the rucks was grandly supported by Law, Gillespie, and Little. Jack Ryrie and Tyquin played their parts well, but for all-round services, were inferior to their other four colleagues.

Dick Roser was the outstanding centre on the field. His tries were gems of attacking artistry, especially his first effort, which sliced Valley's defence, after he had made the opposition think that Dawson, his outside, was the striking point of the attack.

Each of Hogan's tries followed short-handling support from his forward colleagues.

Weaver's try, from the base of Brothers' pack, was a clever effort. So was Stanton's. He finally beat Dall with an artful "dummy" which took the play away from Stanton's flank man

Horrigan's try for Valley probably was the most thrilling performance of the match. He intercepted a pass from Halpin (Brothers) at his own 25, and raced 70 yards, pursued by Dawson, to score.

Horrigan's lead-up work also led to the handling attack which was capped by Sokell's try.

O'Connor kicked finely for Valley, and his four goals brought his total of points for the season to 155 (76 goals and one try). He easily heads the B.R.L. points table for the season.

The tackling of both teams was superb. For Valley, Kelleway, Williamson, Walker, Sokell, Dall, Westaway, and Whyte, did fine work. Roser, Dawson, Murdock, Stanton, Weaver, Gillespie, Hogan, and Little stood out defensively. For possession, Little's tally was 34, to Whyte's 24.

"Dummy" Helpful



R. Stanton (Brothers) scoring a spectacular try after beating W. Dall (Valley) at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, in the semi-final of the A grade Brisbane Rugby League premiership.

1940

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v BROTHERS 11

These Starred In R.L. Final



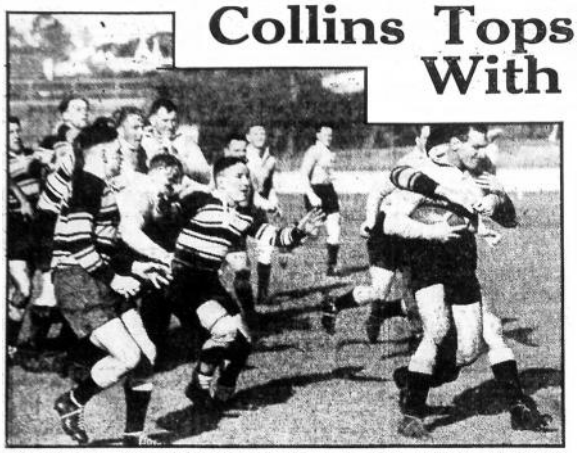




TOP: Jack Reardon making a dash for Norths. Centre: Vic. Rudd was always in the forward picture for Norths. Bottom: Mick Power (Norths) was an outstanding forward.

Norths Take B.R.L. Title

Collins Tops Great Year With Star Effort



Mick Power (Norths) in the clutches of an opponent, with E. Weaver (Brothers) supporting the tackler, in one of the many rucking exchanges in the Brisbane Rugby League final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

"TERRIBLE" SIX TAMED

By L. H. KEARNEY

NORTHERN Suburbs crowned their greatest season, since entering Rugby League district football in 1933, by defeating Past Christian Brothers, 17-11, in the final of the B.R.L. premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Although the tries were equal at three each, Norths were the better team on the day. They led 7-3 at the interval, never wavered when they temporarily lost the lead early in the second half and finished grandly when "Babe" Collins, with a characteristic try, swung the pendulum against Brothers in the 28th minute of the second half.

Brothers courageously rallied, scoring the last try of the match, but the game finished with Larry Gillespie, the Brothers captain, admitting that Norths won on their merits.

The attendance was 5000, the gate receipts being more than £150—a record for the club season.

The performance rewarded Norths with their third major trophy for the season. Previously they had won the President's Cups and Pike Cup. They went through the premiership play, two rounds, semi-final and final, sustaining only one defeat, early in the first round, to score 317 points against 117. It was their third premiership success, previous victories being recorded in 1934, when they defeated Western Suburbs, and in 1938, when they accounted for Valley.

	T.	G.	Pts.
Northern Suburbs	3	4	17
Brothers	3	1	11

Tries for Norths were scored by Collins (2) and Power. Webster kicked two penalty goals, Wright kicked a field goal, and Stapleton converted one try. For Brothers, tries were scored by Dawson (2) and Hogan. Hogan kicked a penalty goal.

The outstanding personality of the match was "Babe" Collins, Norths captain, who has had a remarkable season—without precedent—in the history of Brisbane and Queensland football.

He led Queensland to victory in three of the four inter-State matches against New South Wales, for Queensland to win the rubber for the first time in eight years. He captained Brisbane to Bulimba Cup victory, and crowned his season by scoring two of the three tries which were the foundation of Norths success yesterday.

WAS KEY MAN

Collins was Norths key man. His backing-up, in each of his tries, to Mick Powers' penetrative opening bursts, was magnificent. In each of these efforts he was able to move into the right position to find the weakness in the opposing defence.

But Collins was supported by a grand pack, which in scrummages and rucks and loose, dominated the forward play. Brothers' "terrible" six were completely tamed. While Brothers' forwards had a period of success early in the second half, they were never the force that Norths' six were.

STEWART AND POWER

The play of R. Stewart and M. Power was the finest of the club season, and Rudd, Norris, and Nilsson rendered yeoman service.

At times Norths pack swept all before them, with Power and Stewart as the spearhead of attacks. The "terrible" six could not hold them. They struggled gallantly, while Brothers' halves and three-quarters tackled grandly.

Nothing could stop Power and Stewart, and the others from making the raids which kept Brothers on the defensive for two-thirds of the game.

GREAT HOOKING

Allied to the splendid form in loose and rucks, the most convincing hooking of the season was put up by Bill Norris. Although a shade too vigorous in rucks at times, he was a match-winner as a hooker. He gained possession consistently throughout—in fact, his first and second-half tallies were identical, 21 to 11. That was performed against the State's champion hooker, Jack Little.

Stapleton, Norths' half, received a gruelling from a heavy tackle by Dick Roser, and for several minutes of the first half played in a state of coma. However, he rallied to make some fine bursts. On the day, he naturally had more of the play than his rival, and did everything asked of him.

"Count" Ryan, at stand-off half, had many handling lapses, but his "spotting" was always keen, and his judicious line-kicking often made valuable territorial gains.

MELROSE IN FORM

Melrose was the sharpest in three-quarter attack for Norths, but Reardon was responsible for a few fine bursts. In defence Melrose and Reardon gave little latitude.

Norths' wingers were sound, but neither showed the pace of L. Dawson, who scored two of Brothers' three tries.

N. Wright, who replaced Webster (injured) after the latter had kicked two nice early goals for Norths, played under the handicap of a previous match injury. He was shaky at times and appeared to lack his usual confidence.

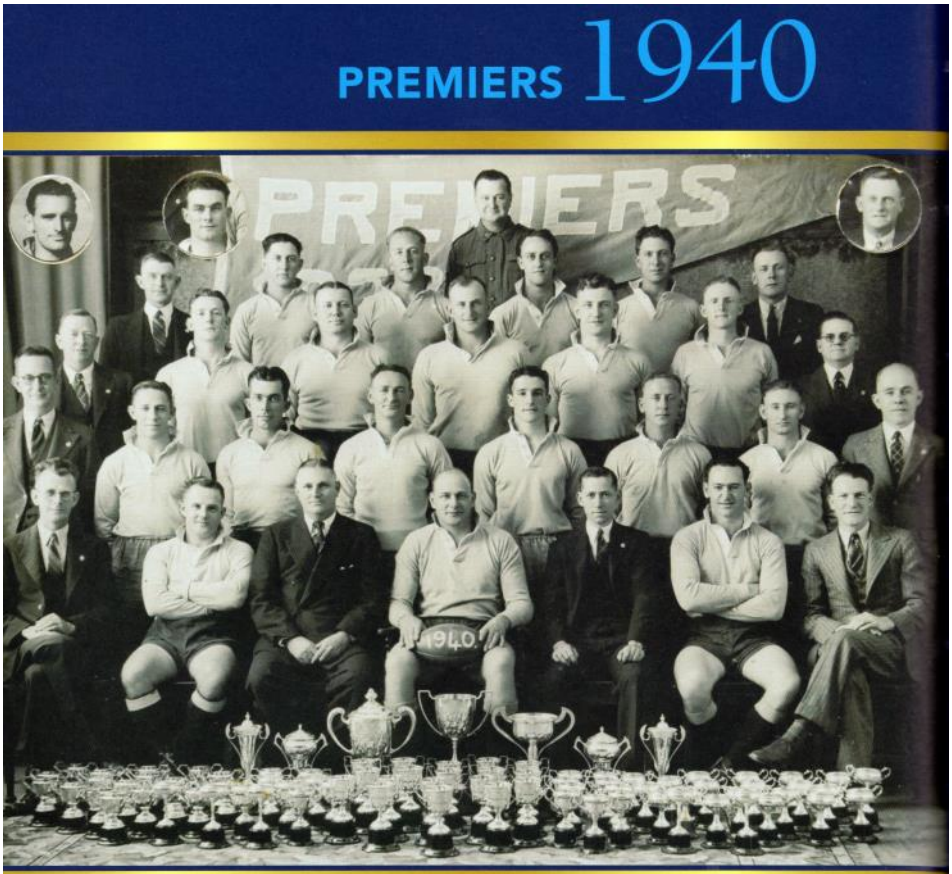
Brothers' outstanding forwards were Gillespie and Law with Tyquin dashing in loose sorties at times. Hogan, Ryrie, and Little played without their customary "fire." Brothers' backs, apart from occasional bursts by Weaver, Roser, and Dawson, were not as reliable as Norths, but Halpin, at full-back, played soundly.

"FREE-FOR-ALL"

The game was well controlled by referee Merv. Taylor, despite the "free-for-all" which marred the close of the first half. This outbreak only lasted a few seconds, but at its height the touch judge, S. W. Chambers, who went into the melee to quell it, received a blow on the left cheekbone. Apart from this incident the game was played in a splendid spirit, despite the ruthless nature of the tackling. In that phase Roser excelled for Brothers

1940

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v BROTHERS 11



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club
First Grade B.R.L. Premiers, 1940
Also Winners of President's Cups, Pike Cup, Minor Premiership Cup, Vic. Jensen Cup and Pennant, Q.R.L. Special Round Trophies

FRONT ROW – J.V. Hayes, M.L.A. (Patron), J. Stapelton, D.B. Duncan (President), E. Collins (Captain), A.L. Bishop (Hon. General Secretary), J.P. Reardon, C. Webster (Coach)
SECOND ROW – D.J. Macpherson (Mang. Comm.) N. Wright, T. Toohey, C.J. Ryan (Vice Captain), J. Hutchinson, J.F. Curran, H. Melrose, F.A.C. Harrold (Treasurer and Selector)
THIRD ROW – H. Johnson (Mang. Comm.), C.M. Hooper, A. Nilsson, V. Rudd, R. Stewart, V. Beadle, J.L. Franz (Mang. Comm.)
FOURTH ROW - W. Burrup, R. Hambelton, W. Norris, C. Lister, G.J. Cornish, C.H. Rix (Selector and Mang. Comm.)
AT BACK – Sgt. A.S. Lane, A.I.F. (Senior Vice-President)

INSETS – M. Power, J. Diversi (Selector), P.R. Gordon (Mang. Comm.)

RESULTS

17 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 25 (Dawson 2, Murdoch, Gillespie, Roser tries; Hogan 5 goals) d. Western Suburbs 18 (Macrae 2, Harris, Paxton tries; Casey 2, Malin goals).
Brothers: G.Halpin, L.Dawson, R.Roser, J.O'Malley, G.Schlecht, R.Stanton (c), E.Weaver, L.Gillespie, J.Ryrie, H.Bowers, W.Law, J.Little, V.Hogan. Reserve: N.Murdoch.
Wests: L.Murphy, E.Harris, G.Macrae (c), A.Hunt, J.Purtell, F.Lind, F.Casey, N.Paxton, G.Gray, W.Malin, H.Denny, T.Purtell, A.Hutchinson.
Referee: Merv Taylor.

24 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 10 (Power, Norris tries; Stapleton 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 6 (O'Connor 3 goals).
Norths: N.Wright, G.Cornish, J.Reardon, H.Melrose, T.Toohey, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins (c), M.Power, R.Stewart, V.Rudd, W.Norris, A.Nilsson. Reserves: C.Webster, C.Hooper.
Valleys: D.O'Connor (c), C.Hayes, G.Sokell, L.Walker, A.Horrigan, G.Kellaway, R.Williamson, W.Dall, Thompson, J.Barnes, R.Westaway, W.Whyte, V.Salmon. Reserves: G.Robson.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

31 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 24 (Hogan 2, Roser 2, Weaver, Stanton tries; Hogan 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (Sokell, Horrigan tries; O'Connor 4 goals).
Brothers: G.Halpin, L.Dawson, R.Roser, N.Murdoch, J.O'Malley, R.Stanton (c), E.Weaver, W.Tyquin, J.Ryrie, L.Gillespie, V.Hogan, J.Little, W.Law.
Valleys: D.O'Connor (c), C.Hayes, L.Walker, G.Sokell, A.Horrigan, G.Kellaway, R.Williamson, W.Dall, J.Barnes, G.Robson, R.Westaway, W.Whyte, V.Salmon.
Referee: Stan Robertson.

7 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 17 (Collins 2, Power tries; Webster 2, Wright, Stapleton goals) d. Past Brothers 11 (Dawson 2, Hogan tries; Hogan goal).
Norths: C.Webster, R.Hambleton, J.Reardon, H.Melrose, G.Cornish, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, E.Collins (c), R.Stewart, M.Power, A.Nilsson, W.Norris, V.Rudd. Reserve: N.Wright.
Brothers: G.Halpin, L.Dawson, R.Roser, N.Murdoch, J.O'Malley, R.Stanton (c), E.Weaver, W.Law, J.Little, V.Hogan, J.Ryrie, L.Gillespie, W.Tyquin.
Referee: Merv Taylor. ***Crowd: 5,000.***

"BABE" COLLINS
A LEAGUE LEGEND



"Babe" Collins

One of the greatest names in Brisbane Rugby League is "Babe" Collins he was a fast, tricky lock forward who combined brilliant attack with rock wall defence.

Collins dominated Brisbane football for years — but perhaps his greatest season was in 1940 when he captained Norths to the A Grade premiership, led Queensland in three of the four inter-state matches for Queensland to win the rubber against New South Wales for the first time in eight years, captained Brisbane to Bulimba Cup victory, and in the premiership scored two of the three tries which were the foundation of Norths' win.

In this match Collins was the key man, defending magnificently, and backing up in every move.

Collins was the top try-scorer in Brisbane Rugby League in 1940.

He scored 39 tries — an astounding figure by today's standards. This was more than double the total of the next highest try-scorer, W. McKee of Souths, who scored 18.

Collins' total of 117 points was second in the aggregate of points to Valleys' Danny O'Connor who scored one try and kicked 76 goals for a total of 155 points.

Collins led Norths to a great season in 1940.

They went through two rounds, a semi-final and final, having only one defeat early in the first round. They scored 317 points and had 117 against.

In the 1940 premiership Norths defeated Brothers 17-11 to notch their third championship since district football was introduced in 1933.

They previously had won the premiership in 1934 and 1938.

Norths and Brothers scored three tries each and led 7-3 at half-time.

Norths temporarily lost the lead early in the second half, but Collins, with a characteristic try, swung the match Norths' way in the 28th minute of the second half.

It has been said many times since those earlier days of Rugby League that forwards win premierships.

This was the case with Norths' win.

The pack of Collins, Mick Power, Roy Stewart, V. Rudd, W. Norris and A. Nilsson finished on top of the Brothers six, W. Law, J. Little, V. Hogan, J. Ryrie, L. Gillespie and W. Tyquin.

Collins was supported splendidly by his five forward colleagues, and moved into the right position to find weaknesses in Brothers' defence.

At times Norths' pack swept all before them with Power and Stewart the spearheads of the attacks.

Brothers were on the defensive for two-thirds of the game.

Norths' hooker, Bill Norris, had his match of the season. Strong in the open play, he beat the State hooker, Jack Little in the scrums.

Hugh Melrose was the sharpest in three-quarter attack for Norths, but Jack Reardon made many fine bursts. In defence Melrose and Reardon were rock solid. Norths wingers, G. Cornish and R. Hambleton were sound, but neither had the pace of Brothers' L. Dawson who scored two of Brothers' three tries.

Brothers' outstanding forwards were Gillespie and Law, with Tyquin dashing in loose sorties at times. Hogan, Ryrie and Little played without their usual life.

Collins had an outstanding year in 1940 — and embellished a reputation that placed him as one of the best players Brisbane has had.

If ever Brisbane Rugby League has a Hall of Fame, the name of "Babe" Collins surely would be prominent.

1941

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	8	0	2	212	60	16
WESTERN SUBURBS	6	1	3	152	85	13
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	1	3	152	109	13
BROTHERS	6	0	4	132	141	12
EASTERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	72	226	4
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	131	210	2

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 10 v Brothers 9

UNLUCKY FUMBLE COST BROTHERS TITLE CHANCE

By L. H. KEARNEY

AFTER a gruelling tackling game, in which each team's defence was more distinctive than its attack, Northern Suburbs defeated Past Christian Brothers, 10-9, in the Brisbane Rugby League premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

The better team won, although Norths' deciding try, which was scored by W. Norris five minutes before final bell, was tinged with luck. It came from a fumble by G. Halpin, who otherwise played a flawless game at full-back for Brothers.

It was remarkable that Halpin should have made the vital blunder of the match, for it was his kicking that helped Brothers to beat Norths in the second round match. In that game his last-minute penalty goal snatched victory for his side by one point—14-13.

Yesterday's match eliminated Brothers from the premiership and advanced Norths into the special semi-final on September 6. They will meet the losers of next Saturday's semi-final between Valley and Western Suburbs. The winners of the special semi-final and next Saturday's game will contest the final of the championship on September 13.

It is doubtful whether any beaten League team in recent seasons went to defeat with greater honours than Brothers.

With the breeze, but hopelessly outclassed for possession from the set scrummages, they led 7-4 at interval. Then after Norths had drawn level with them at 7-7, three minutes after the resumption of play, Brothers regained the lead in the 25th minute of the second half. They hung on tenaciously under tremendous pressure, and led 9-7 until five minutes before the bell.

Halpin's Mistake

Halpin's simple but costly mistake was made when Webster, Norths' fullback, short-kicked from an attacking position. Halpin fumbled the ball when getting into position, and W. Norris, Norths' hooker, swooped down, gained possession, and dived over to score the winning try.

The game rarely developed any high-class handling or spectacular movements. The rival tackling and "spotting" completely curbed sustained attacks by hand-to-hand passing. But there was one superb movement by Brothers four minutes before interval Halpin dashed through Norths' defence to send out a splendid long pass which enabled the centre, J. O'Malley, to outpace the opposition and score in the right-hand corner. Halpin's lead-up work was as artistic as anything done by a Brisbane custodian this season.

Another fine cohesive movement led to Norths' equalising just after interval. Forward P. Breen shot away from a ruck to slice Brothers' defence cleverly. J. Stapleton and C. Ryan came in to make the links in the attacking move, which enabled C. Hooper to score.

Gruelling Tactics

Apart from these spectacular movements, the features of the game were gruelling rucks and individual tackling, which gave and asked no quarter.

Among Norths' Forwards, Norris was a match-winner with his consistent hooking. He gained possession 21 to 11 in the first half and 16 to 15 after interval. His constant "feeding" to the backs limited the attacking of Jack Reardon, Brothers' star attacker Reardon was forced to play a defensive part.

In Norths' defence Hughie Melrose played a magnificent game. He is one of the most courageous defenders B.R.L. football has produced.

L. Gillespie, J. Ryrie, V. Hogan were outstanding in rucks for Brothers. Hogan probably was the best forward on the ground.

Mr. S. W. Chambers controlled the game excellently.

Scorers were: For Norths, C. Hooper and W. Norris, tries; P. Breen two penalty goals. For Brothers: O'Malley a try; V. Hogan three penalty goals.

1941

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 14 v Wests 7

Valley Lose "Leather"—Leather Wests

Neumann Plays 200th Game; While Houghton Was Stout



It's Valley skipper, "Firpo" Neumann, hero of 200 A grade games for his club, handing out "Don't Argue" to Lennard (14) of Wests. Joey Houghton (Wests) races up behind Neumann. A good place to be, too. This was at the 'Gabba in the big game yesterday.

HERE'S a bedtime story for 1981. Once upon a time there was a football team which consistently and persistently won Rugby League matches despite the fact that it couldn't win an argument in the scrums. "How did they do it ?" your grandchild will wonder. You will answer: "They simply bowled the other chaps over, took the ball off them and went to town." And that bedtime story, grandpa, will be a true time story of this 1941 all-conquering Valley team. The diehards did it again yesterday.

Brisbane's best rake, Tommy Purtell, beat them 44-25 for set scrummages, yet Valley beat Wests, 14-7 (2 tries, 4 goals, to a try, 2 goals) and, excepting for the first 15 minutes, never looked likely to lose this No. 1 semi-final at the 'Gabba.

Which raises the natural conjecture: What would they do with plenty of ball? The answer is—Why worry? they're good enough without it.

WESTS themselves supplied the emphasis to Valley brilliance and superiority. Purtell dished up the pill, Houghton, in his debut performance at half-back, did clever and varied things with the healthy horsehide helping; Lennard, Macrae, Rowden, and the Murphys handled and moved in combined attack with the rhythmical certainty of a well-oiled machine.

But it was a well-foiled machine, for as fast as each man moved into position and possession, as fast, as certainly, did Williamson, five-eighth Neumann, Bates, Walker, and Horrigan lay 'em down, nay, mow 'em down.

From the ensuing rucks, the blue storm troops (the "pigs"), embarrassed and harassed Wests' forwards into errors. Then with the barnstorming Neumann and the will-o'-the-wisp Walker spearheading sudden-death counter attacks, the blues would swing play away, way down field, and Wests would have to win scrums and start all over again.

TOO WOEFUL.

No wonder Wests retrogressed from wonderful to woeful. This Valley team was without one of its grandest stoppers, George Kelleway.

But what a deputy he had. None other than skipper "Firpo" Neumann. He played his 200th A grade game and has probably never played a better in his 12-year senior career.

Firp.'s crashing, smashing tactics literally shocked Wests out of their early winning stride. His barging and charging punishment battered the clever Lennard into a state of mediocrity, and his wild-bull-of-the-Pampas shattering attacks scattered Wests like chaff before the wind and gashed their desperate defence deep.

No wonder then that Valley, from fewer attacks, fewer scrum helpings, and fewer penalties (Wests were awarded 25—14) developed a higher scoring potential. These blues back up in preventing and providing. "The back up beats 'em." How gloriously this team exemplified the truth of that trite League truism.

THE BATES' TRY.



Scotty Macrae.

It was the back-up that brought the Bates' try. Wests led 2—nil from a Houghton penalty until, after 27 minutes, Bates swept down the right wing, served Atkins when Murphy tackled him. Walker backed up inside to get a long transfer, and Bates ranged on the outside again, to score with ease under the post.

Houghton, playing cleverly at scrum base, scored a skilful, thrillful, lone hand try near half-time to top off a splendid display.

Paxton in the loose and Tommy Purtell, with his skilled hooking in rucks as well as scrums, were the losers' best forwards. Wests always lack weight in the packs but this pack lacked pep, too.

Winners' stars were plenty. O'Connor, all the backs, and Barnes, Ryrie, Salmon, and Peet in the "pigs" were tops. But, why separate 'em. This was a 13-man team.

Scorers: Valley (14 pts.): Bates and Walker (tries), O'Connor (4 goals). Wests: Houghton, a try and 2 goals.



Boomps-a-daisy goes "Blue" Horrigan (Valley), and if we know the battering "Blue," the relations of Eric Harris (Wests' winger and State Physical Culture Director) felt the jolt too.

1941

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 9 v Wests 5

Stewart Keystone Of Norths' League Win

By L. H. KEARNEY

REAPPEARANCE of Roy Stewart, who had been on the injured list for a month, completely transformed the fighting morale of Norths' pack in the Norths—Wests Rugby League elimination semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. The result was a 9-5 defeat of Wests, and Norths' advancement to meet Valley in next Saturday's premiership final.

With Stewart as their spearhead in loose and rucks and W. Norris getting the lion's share of the ball from the set scrummages, Norths' pack was the centre span of the team structure that gave Norths their victory.

Norths defence also was sounder yesterday, and their flank speed and determination, and the brighter initiative of the inner backs, always suggested they were the better team.

Western Suburbs battled gallantly in the face of misfortunes. They lost their key man, C. Lennard, who scored the most spectacular try of the match, 25 minutes after the kick-off. The re-arranged back line did well to a point, but as an attacking force Wests never looked dangerous after Lennard retired.

Brilliant Clearances

L. Murphy played a fine relieving full-back game for Wests. Many of his clearances were brilliant efforts.

Apart from Lennard, whose short stay was brilliant, Wests never looked dangerous in attack. The inner backs lacked enterprise, and there was too much crowding of the wingers.

Lennard's try was a gem.

Receiving the ball from Houghton at the base of the scrummage, he deceived Norths' defence into converging on to the right flank. Then in a flash he straightened his run and went through at a bewildering pace to score.

Mr. J. E. Moynihan's handling of the advantage law was the best by a Brisbane referee this season. His control of the game was good.

Points scorers were:—**Norths** (9), try by L. Donovan, and three penalty goals by Breen; **Wests** (5), try by C. Lennard, uenalty goal by J. Murphy.

Lennard received a hip injury and was replaced by L. Murphy, who went to the full-back position. J. Murphy, the usual custodian, was moved up to the centre position, and G. MacRae took over Lennard's duties at stand-off half.

Before Lennard's withdrawal Wests lost their hard-working forward, B. Shelton, who retired in the twenty-third minute with a head laceration. He was replaced by G. Gray.

Norris' Vital Hooking

The success of North's hooker, Bill Norris, over his rival, Tom Purtell, was a major reason for Norths' victory. The frequency of his possessions from set scrummages gave Norths' pack needed respite, and placed greater defence responsibilities on Wests' backs.

Another important phase of Norths' better hooking was the fact that the ball travelled through Norths' backline and reached the flanks more often. Wingers C. Hooper and L. Donovan then made much greater territorial gains than their rivals, G. Twist and J. Purtell, were able to make.

Donovan made several fine touchline bursts. His corner try was a spectacular effort. Hooper showed much more pace and determination than Twist.

Steady Back Line

Norths' backs were steadier under pressure. C. Ryan, the stand-off half, received a gruelling, but often smothered his rival, MacRae.

Stapleton was a useful team man, but was inclined to be too individual and to have his bursts frustrated by Wests' keen spotters.

Hughie Melrose was less penetrative than usual in attack, but he tackled faultlessly. R. Hambleton also tackled grandly, and C. Webster, full back, never let Norths down.

Norths' forwards played an immense part in the side's success. Norris' hooking figures were 32 to 24. Then there was the outstanding play of R. Stewart and V. Beadle. Beadle is a young player of great promise. Some of his breakaways made marked territorial gains for Norths. P. Breen, V. Rudd, and J. Lynch completed the pack.

TACKLING WAS DEADLY



V. BEADLE, Northern Suburbs' brilliant lose forward was sorted out for much attention by Wests' defence in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final. This camera shot shows him being smothered by Jim Purtell, Wests' wing three-quarter, and A. Bradshaw (No. 10). On several occasions Beadle outmanoeuvred his rivals to make territorial gains for Norths. His team won 9-5, and qualified to meet Valley in the B.R.L. final next Saturday.

1941

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v NORTHS 7

Valley Victorious In Torrid R. League Final

By L. H. KEARNEY

FOR the fifth season since the inauguration of the Brisbane Rugby League in 1922, and for the third season since the introduction of the district system in 1933, Valley, by defeating Northern Suburbs by 13 points to seven at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, won the premier first grade honours of metropolitan Rugby League football.

It was a triumph for better team spirit, keener opportunism, sounder tackling and more sagacious leadership. Valley snapped an early lead, when Jack Bates scored three tries in 10 minutes to pave the way for Valley to lead by 13 to five at the interval.

Against the breeze in the second half, Valley, adopting vyce-like defensive tactics, gave Norths no scoring latitude. At no stage of the game did Valley look like losing.

It was a gruelling game, with numerous torrid situations. One outbreak in centre field developed into a maelstrom of flying fists, the ruffled tempers of the rival players being subdued after a minute's strenuous efforts by referee S. W. Chambers and touch judge J. E. Moynihan.

The tense atmosphere of the game affected the spectators, as there were several fist brawls in the grandstand area.

One wildly excited spectator jumped the pickets on one occasion, and entering the playing field, chased and assaulted touch judge L. Jacobsen.

He was removed by a policeman, but no further action was taken. This was a very ugly incident, fortunately rare in the annals of club football.

The attendance was 4200, the receipts being £180, the best club gate of the season.

Valley were superbly led by Fred Neumann. He early led and threw all his forces into the assaults in the first 23 minutes of the game. He detected a "blind side" weakness in Norths' defence, and relentlessly hammered at this sector, with Jack Bates as the side's scoring spearhead.

After finishing well on top at half-time, Neumann changed his tactics for the second half, and all his plans were worked out on safety-first lines. There were no further attempts made along elaborate attacking lines. Neumann's battle cry became defence, and every unit on the side tightened his tackling with the object of preventing Norths from dominating the attacking tune.

Valley's second half tackling was the finest seen from a club team this season. Norths, with a feast of the ball from the scrummages, could make little headway, although on one occasion Webster crossed in the corner, but was prevented from grounding the ball.

The majority of Norths' attacks were shattered by a welter of opposition tackling. They went down like ninepins.

Valley Players Outstanding

Valley's outstanding players were L. Walker (centre) and W. Ryrie (forward). Each was awarded a special trophy for his brilliant display.

Walker's opening burst in the movement which led to Bates scoring his first try 13 minutes after the kick-off, was the spectacular gem of the match. He superbly sliced Norths' defence, to race Bates into a position to score unchallenged in the right corner.

Ryrie played a heady, tireless game, and in both rucks and loose was a source of great annoyance to Norths. He frequently headed breakaway attacks, and tackled solidly.

All Valley forwards, however, played grandly against a heavier opposition. Dall, Peet, Salmon (loose head), Barnes, and Jones showed remarkable tenacity in keeping at grips with the big men in opposition the way they did.

Valleys' backs were much more impressive in both attack and defence. Their three tries were clever snap efforts. Dall, with a brilliant "blind" side move, paved the way for Valley's second scoring effort by Bates. Another "blind" side dash by Neumann, a superb manoeuvre, sent Bates over to score his third try.

Norris, Norths' hooker, gave his side a surfeit of the ball. He gained possession 42 to 23. But his back line supports let him down badly because of faulty handling, crowding, and lack of initiative.

Apart from L. Donovan's try, which came from a dazzling centre field breakaway and short kick by R. Stewart, there was nothing in Norths' attack to enthuse over. Many of their best players, in fact, dimmed their reputations.

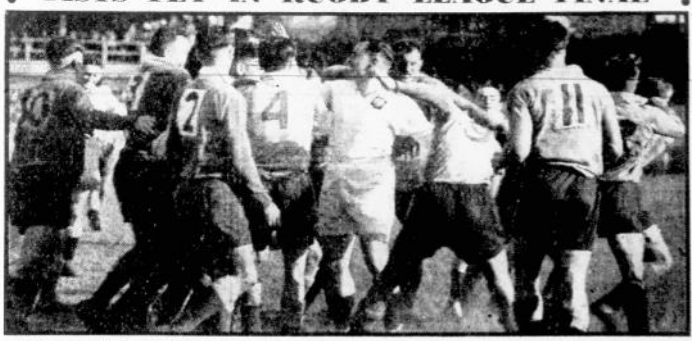
The points' scorers were: Valley (13 points), three tries by J. Bates. D. O'Connor converted one and kicked a penalty goal. Donovan scored a try for Norths, which J. Stapleton goaled. P. Breen landed a penalty goal.

RIVAL DEFENCES IN FIERY LEAGUE FINAL



Solid tackling in yesterday's League final between Valley and Northern Suburbs. Above, left: Hughie Melrose, Norths' centre, attempting to side step his rival, L. Walker. Right: Tommy Williamson, Valley's half-back, endeavouring to break through a tackle by R. Hewart.
Left: H. Pike (St. Columban's), winner of the open shot putt at the Combined Catholic Schools' Sports at the Exhibition ground yesterday.

FISTS FLY IN RUGBY LEAGUE FINAL



While producing brilliant football, the Rugby League final between Valley and Northern Suburbs at the Cricket Ground was marred by displays of fisticuffs. Here linesman J. Moynihan is stepping between opposing players when fists began to fly.

1941

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v NORTHS 7

VALLEYS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB B.R.L. Premiers — 1941



FIRST ROW — D. O'Connor, F. Flynn (V.P.), W. Moore, M.L.A. (V.P.); F. Neumann (Capt.), F. Fullerton (Patron), R. Williamson (Vice-Capt.), S. Brassington, M.L.A. (V.P.); P. Gow (V.P.), G. Kellaway
SECOND ROW — J. Flynn (Trainer), J. Kellaway, N. Ryrie, M. Caldwell (Gen. Sec.), E. Rix (Pres.) P. J. Scott (Treas. and Selector), E. J. Costello (Asst. Sec. and Selector), S. Edmonds, R. Peet, W. J. Marden (V.P.)
THIRD ROW — W. Dall, L. Walker, W. Gill, V. Salmon, R. Westaway, J. Atkins, A. Horrigan, D. Jones, K. Seto
FOURTH ROW — T. Mortimer (V.P.), W. Ryan (V.P.), G. Hill, W. Whittemere, C. Keilar (Trainer), F. Buckland (Social Sec.) L. Brohman, L. Robertson (Trainer), D. Atkins, W. McLeod (V.P.)
FIFTH ROW — H. Jones, V. Hood (Selector), A. Kadell (V.P.), W. Barnes, I. Barnes, C. Roberts (V.P.), F. Markey
ABSENT — J. Bates

RESULTS

23 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 10 (Hooper, Norris tries; Breen 2 goals) d. Past Brothers 9 (O'Malley try; Hogan 3 goals).
Norths: C.Webster, C.Hooper, H.Melrose, R.Hambleton, L.Donovan, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton (c), V.Beadle, P.Breen, M.Power, V.Rudd, W.Norris, J.Lynch.
Brothers: G.Halpin, P.Angus, J.Reardon, J.O'Malley, N.Gollan, A.Hunt, E.Weaver, E.Collins (c), J.Ryrie, L.Gillespie, B.Keefe, J.Curran, V.Hogan.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 14 (Bates, Walker tries; O'Connor 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 7 Houghton try; Houghton 2 goals.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, L.Walker, J.Bates, J.Atkin, F.Neumann (c), R.Williamson, W.Dall, N.Ryrie, R.Peet, R.Westaway, J.Barnes, V.Salmon. Reserve: S.Edmonds.
Wests: J.Murphy, G.Twist, G.Macrae (c), E.Harris, H.Rowden, C.Lennard, J.Houghton, N.Paxton, B.Shelton, A.Bradshaw, E.McCabe, T.Purtell, C.Donaldson. Reserve: L.Murphy.
Referee: Len Jacobsen.

6 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Surburbs 9 (Donovan try; Breen 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Lennard try; J.Murphy goal).
Norths: C.Webster, C.Hooper, H.Melrose, R.Hambleton, L.Donovan, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton (c), V.Beadle, P.Breen, J.Lynch, V.Rudd, W.Norris, R.Stewart.
Wests: J.Murphy, G.Twist, G.Macrae (c), H.Rowden, J.Purtell, C.Lennard, J.Houghton, N.Paxton, A.Bradshaw, B.Shelton, E.McCabe, T.Purtell, C.Donaldson. Reserves: L.Murphy, G.Gray.
Referee: Jack Moynihan. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

13 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 13 (Bates 3 tries; O'Connor 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 7 Donovan try; Stapleton, Breen goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, A.Horrigan, F.Neumann (c), L.Walker, J.Bates, G.Kellaway, R.Williamson, W.Dall, R.Peet, N.Ryrie, D.Jones, J.Barnes, V.Salmon.
Norths: C.Webster, C.Hooper, R.Hambleton, H.Melrose, L.Donovan, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton (c), V.Beadle, P.Breen, M.Power, V.Rudd, W.Norris, R.Stewart.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 4,200.***

1942

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	8	0	2	184	36	16
BROTHERS	7	0	3	138	62	14
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	3	120	63	14
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	132	67	12
EASTERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	42	167	2
WESTERN SUBURBS	1	0	9	50	270	2

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 13 v Norths 10

B.R.L. "BABY" TEAM PUTS NORTHS OUT OF TITLE

By L. H. KEARNEY

Southern Suburbs, "baby" team of the B.R.L., eliminated Norths from the premiership yesterday by defeating them 13-10 in the minor semi-final at the No. 2 Exhibition oval.

Star of the match was diminutive Bernie Johnson, whose play at full-back was the best I have seen for years. His display was reminiscent of the former Queensland champion, Eric Frauenfelder.



Bernie Johnson, Souths' full-back, making a clearance kick in the B.R.L. semi-final against Norths yesterday. His display was reminiscent of those by Eric Frauenfelder in 1924.

Fielding the ball at top pace, he frequently turned defence into attack.

Had the fielding of a State team been possible, Johnson would have thrown out a bold challenge to Doug McLean, "Bricky" Ryan, or Danny O'Connor. He is a model of consistency, and never lets his side down, with those jarring mistakes which often mar play of other full-backs.

The winning margin of three points did not flatter Souths, for on general play they were a much better balanced and more effective combination than Norths.

On the form displayed, Souths will be hard to beat in the special semi-final on August 22.

Team Play Superior

While Souths possess a number of individual players of class, the secret of their success is splendid leadership by Alby Nilsson, backed by a smooth-working machine, which functions so well because all units pull their weight, both in attack and defence.

At no stage did Souths become rattled.

Although they lost a lot of the ball in the first half, they overcame that disadvantage by tenacious tackling and by making the best of their scoring opportunities.

Souths led 10-7 at half-time, and increased their lead to 13-7 midway through the second half. The only other score—a try by Melrose (Norths), was not registered until a few seconds before the final bell.

Great Tackling

Souths' third line, Lane, L. and R. Pegg, and MacRae, never attempted anything spectacular, but they were a fine even set, and tackled with tenacity. Houghton, their stand-off half, dislocated a finger during play, but it did not prevent him from doing some fine tackling. His line kicking also was good.

Dave Johnson, Souths' half, completely overshadowed Stapleton. His play was crisper and more versatile, and he also tackled grandly. Nilsson headed a fine set of forwards, all of whom pulled their weight.

Rasby At Top

Winger J. Rasby, H. Melrose, centre, and L. Delaforce, were Norths' best backs.

Rasby played his best game this season.

Thornton, Tynan, and Stewart were often prominent in Norths' forwards, and Jago did a few nice things, despite a head injury sustained in the second half.

Norths' team work generally was poor. They attempted too much bullocking work as individualists.

Souths' 13 points were made up of two tries by J. Duncan and one by R. Pegg. B. Johnson converted one and kicked a penalty goal. Norths' 10 points came from tries by H. Melrose and R. Stewart. W. Ryan converted one, and kicked a penalty goal.

1942

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 21 v Valleys 4

BIG BROTHERS' PACK TAKES CONTROL

By L. H. KEARNEY

BROTHERS' pack of forwards, weighing more than half a ton swept all before them in the second half against a weakened Valley combination at the No. 2 Exhibition Oval yesterday. The victory by 21 points to four, took Brothers to the final of the B.R.L. premiership which will be played on September 29.

The losers, Valley, will meet Southern Suburbs in the special semi-final next Saturday, and the winners will meet Brothers in the final.

Military duties and war work kept G. Nissen, L. Walker, J. Bates, and R. Ebbern out of the Valley team. The make-shift combination did well to hold Brothers down to a 5-4 lead at the interval.

Just before half time goal kicker and hooker, J. Clarke, left the field with a broken nose. This loss shattered Valley's morale.

They finished the game with only 10 men, J. Grice, G. Hill, and R. Peet having retired injured.

"Spragg" Hunt, their stand-off half, also had a gruelling time, and was staggering about the field in a state of coma when the final bell rung.

GRUELLING GAME

It was a gruelling game, but there was no real roughness, the hardness of the No. 2 oval contributing more to the many injuries than did the vigour of the players.

Brothers' team did not come through unscathed. Creedy retired with a damaged ankle 17 minutes after the kick-off, while Jack Reardon, international centre, also received a buffeting.

It took Brothers a long time to get their steam-roller pack into working order. They looked a very unimpressive team in the first half, and were lucky to be up a point at the interval, for G. Hill missed two glorious scoring chances for Valley.

PACK TAKES CONTROL

Brothers, with more of the ball—Clarke had been the first-half obstacle—completely transformed their play when ends were changed. Their pack became inspired, sweeping through Valleys' defence to pave the way for State players, L. Ridgewell, J. Reardon, and J. O'Malley to drive home numerous advantages.

Two young giants came to light in this match—J. Kelly and N. Callaghan.

Kelly probably was the best forward on the ground, although his experienced colleagues, L. Heidke, R. Nugent (hooker), W. Law and E. Brosnan played their parts in stampeding the battered opposition. Callaghan is a massive player with an abundance of stamina.

DEADLY TACKLER

Valley's best forward was Ron Peet.

His tackling of the big men in opposition was as gallant as anything seen this season.

He was awarded a special trophy by a Valley supporter.

"Spragg" Hunt often heartened Valley with clever penetrative bursts, but he received a gruelling and was tackle drunk at the final bell.

For Brothers tries were scored by F. Doyle, J. Kelly, L. Ridgewell, E. Brosinan, and J. O'Malley. G. Halpin converted three. J. Clarke landed two penalty goals for Valley.

SETTING SAIL FOR THE LINE



Jack O'Malley, Brothers' three-quarter, breaks through the defence and sets sail for the line in the B.R.L. match against Valley yesterday. J. O'Dwyer is coming up to give O'Malley support.

1942

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 19 v Valleys 16

SOUTH IN FIRST R.L. FINAL FOR 10 YEARS

By L. H. KEARNEY

FOR the first time in 10 years Southern Suburbs, youngest team in the Brisbane Rugby League, has reached the premiership final. They defeated Valley yesterday 19-16 and will play Brothers for the title next Saturday.

Down 16-8 at half-time, Souths scored 11 points in the second half. Few teams could have risen to the heights attained by them in this period of play.

Valley, although well beaten on the day—their losing margin of three points flattered them—went down with colours flying. Few gave Valley a chance when they took the field without J. Kellaway, C. Nissen, J. Bates, L. Walker, R. Ebbern, L. Brown, R. Peet, and T. McDonald, but the "Die Hards" gave a display which did credit to their fighting traditions.

Their handling and team work in the first half would have done credit to the Valley team which won last season's premiership.

It was easily the most spectacular game of the season, with Valley making a bold bid early only to be outstayed and outplayed.

Many Stoppages

Play was frequently held up by injuries, 20 minutes' extra play being necessary to complete the actual 40 minutes' playing time.

The injuries, however, were of a minor nature, except those received by W. McKee and J. Houghton, both of Souths. A bone in McKee's right hand was broken. He retired from the field eight minutes after the resumption of play in the second half. J. Houghton was carried from the field with a leg injury just before the final bell.

The finish was exciting. Valley were practically over the line as the bell rang, but Hunt knocked the ball forward into the touch-in-goal zone. Had he scored the scores would have been 19-all.

South, on the day was the better side, and Fred Neumann, Valley's captain, was the first to congratulate South's captain, Alby Nilsson, after the match.

All-In Fight

Only one ugly incident marred a grand display. After Souths snatched the lead late in the game, a fist brawl broke out.

For a minute a free-for-all fight took place. A section of the crowd rushed the field, but officials and the police soon quelled the disturbance.

Valley's first try enthralled the crowd. Ryrie started the attack by a great penetrative burst. Racing his supports into line, he served Hunt, who beat his rival and sent the ball to Gill. When challenged Gill passed back to Hunt, who sent Neumann racing goalwards for a try.

Another superb attack was featured by Paul Mannix, Valley's reserve. The ball swung along the back line to him, but just as South's were expecting Mannix to continue his burst across field, he baulked and cut in to bewilder the defence.

Grice, Neumann, and Ryrie were associated in another brilliant Valley movement, while Ryrie figured in a later attack which rewarded Grice with a try.

Had Thompson Touch

Souths, too, unfolded some scintillating attacks with Dave Johnson, the half, the pivotal point.

His work round the scrum, when he sent Nilsson over in the second half, had the Duncan Thompson touch.

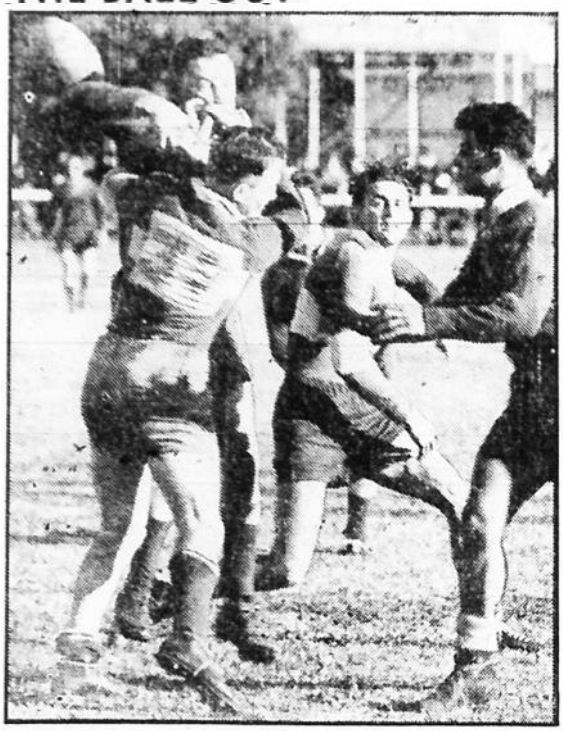
Bernie Johnson, at full-back, also stood out, while Nilsson was the best forward on the ground. These three players were awarded special trophies for their displays.

Valley's best were N. Ryrie, W. Gill, and J. Clarke, in the forwards, and F. Neumann, A. Hunt, J. Grice, P. Mannix, and P. Reggars in the backs.

For Souths tries were scored by A. Nilsson (2), W. McKee, R. Pegg, and G. MacRae. B. Johnson converted one and landed a penalty goal.

For Valley tries were scored by F. Neumann, P. Mannix, N. Ryrie, and J. Grice. Lieut. J. Cannon converted two.

SHOULDERING THE BALL OUT



V. LANE, Southern Suburbs' winger, shouldering the ball out of the clutches of F. Neumann, Valley's captain, in the B.R.L. semi-final yesterday. L. Pegg (Souths) and P. Reggars (Valley) are interested in the duel.

1942

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 20 v SOUTHS 11

BROTHERS LEAGUE PREMIERS 4th SUCCESS

By L. H. KEARNEY

GIVING a second-half display comparable to the best of the triumphant combinations of 1935 and 1939, Brothers defeated Southern Suburbs 20-11, to win their fourth premiership of the Brisbane Rugby League yesterday.

Their forwards were bigger and much cleverer than Souths' six, while their backline was immeasurably superior.

A record crowd for the ground—the gate receipts were £85—saw Souths' younger and lighter combination unfold a great fighting effort in the first half, when they led 6-5.

Brothers, however, never left the issue in doubt after taking the lead in the opening minutes of the second half.

Great Club Pack

The forwards during this period were a treat to watch. They bunched to stampede through the opposition with irresistible force, and then brought the backs into line for the left flankman, Felix Doyle, to score three brilliant corner tries.

Heidke, Law (captain), Brosnan, Kelly, Nugent (hooker), and O'Callaghan all shared the forward honours.

They will go down in history as one of the best club packs since the great Western Suburbs pack of 1922, headed by Potter, Richards, and Dunne, carried all before them.

Ridgwell At Peak

Ridgewell, State half, was right back to his best form, and his lead-up work paved the way for several goal-line invasions.

Creedy was nippy, while Jack Reardon added a touch of genius to Brothers' centre play.

O'Malley and O'Dwyer were good, but winger Felix Doyle excelled himself. He scored three fine tries, each featuring a determined finishing effort.

Halpin played capitally at fullback, and on the day was much sounder all round, than Bernie Johnson, who, under pressure in the second half, revealed defensive weakness.

L. Pegg was the best of Souths' backs, and Alby Nilsson stood out in the forwards. On the day, however, the backs were disappointing.

Houghton Injured

J. Houghton, Souths' stand-off half, retired injured in the first half. He was replaced by L. Pegg, whose three-quarter position was filled by substitute Davis.

Souths' pack was weakened by the absence of W. McKee, who broke a finger in the semi-final. Gilmore, a light forward, took McKee's place.

Mr. S. W. Chambers handled the game well, his disciplining of the players making it one of the most sporting games of the season.

For Brothers tries were scored by F. Doyle (2), G. O'Dwyer, J. O'Malley, and L. Ridgwell. A penalty goal was kicked by G. Halpin. For Souths, L. Pegg scored a try. This was converted by B. Johnson, who also kicked three penalty goals.



LESLIE RIDGEWELL, State half-back, setting Brothers' backs on the move in the B.R.L. premiership final against Southern Suburbs at Oxenham Park yesterday. Ridgewell initiated many successful movements, two of which were capped by tries.

1942

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 20 v SOUTHS 11

BROTHERS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB B.R.L. Premiers – 1942



FRONT ROW – B. C. Frazer (Hon. Secretary), M. Callaghan, W. Law (Captain), G. S. Ross (Life Member and President), J. Reardon (Vice-Captain), E. Brosnan, E. Simmonds (Vice-President and QRL Secretary)
SECOND ROW – P. Angus, R. Nugent, J. Constable (Life Member), T. Conway (Life Member and Delegate BRL), F. Doyle, G. Halpin
BACK ROW – G. Ruddick (Trainer), K. Arnold, G. O'Dwyer, J. Mahoney (Delegate BRL), R. Stanton (Hon. Treasurer), W. McFadyn (Committee), L. Ridgewell, L. Creedy.
INSETS – J. O'Malley, Rev. Bro. L. Duffy, J. Kelly, L. Heidke, W. Lang
ABSENT – B. Goodman, P. Keating, E. Hogan, E. Tennison

RESULTS

8 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL
Southern Suburbs 13 (Duncan 2, R.Pegg tries; B.Johnson 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 10 (Melrose, Stewart tries; Ryan 2 goals).
Souths: B.Johnson, V.Lane, L.Pegg, G.Macrae, R.Pegg, D.Johnson, J.Houghton, A.Nilsson (c), C.Martin, J.Duncan, H.Bath, V.Downton, W.McKee. Reserves: H.Grant, N.Brough, W.Summerville, H.White.
Norths: W.Ryan, R.Rasby, H.Melrose (c), P.Breen, J.Williams, L.Delaforce, J.Stapleton, C.Thornton, R.Stewart, E.McGreevy, W.Norris, F.Jago, J.Tynan.
Referee: Col McKinnon. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

16 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL
Past Brothers 21 (Doyle, Kelly, Ridgewell, Brosnan, O'Malley tries; Halpin 3 goals) d.
Fortitude Valley 4 (Clarke 2 goals)
Brothers: G.Halpin, F.Doyle, P.Angus, J.Reardon, J.O'Malley, L.Creedy, L.Ridgewell, W.Law (c), R.Nugent, N.Callaghan, E.Brosnan, L.Heidke, K.Arnold. Reserve: J.O'Dwyer.
Valleys: J.Kellaway, F.Neumann (c), G.Hill, P.Reggars, A.Hunt, J.Grice, V.Salmon, J.Clarke, L.Brown, T.McDonald, R.Peet, N.Ryrie, S.Edmonds.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

22 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL
Southern Suburbs 19 (Nilsson 2, McKee, R.Pegg, Macrae tries; B.Johnson 2 goals) d.
Fortitude Valley 16 (Neumann, Mannix, Ryrie, Grice tries; Cannon 2 goals).
Souths: B.Johnson, R.Pegg, L.Pegg, G.Macrae, V.Lane, J.Houghton, D.Johnson, A.Nilsson, C.Martin, J.Duncan, H.Bath, V.Downton, W.McKee.
Valleys: J.Cannon, F.Neumann (c), P.Reggars, F.Grimley, A.Hunt, J.Grice, J.Clarke, N.Ryrie, S.Edmonds, P.Mannix, Somerville, Maylock, W.Gill. Reserve: G.Hill.
Referee: Col McKinnon.

29 AUGUST GRAND FINAL
OXENHAM PARK
Past Brothers 20 (Doyle 3, O'Dwyer, O'Malley, Ridgewell tries; Halpin goal) d.
Southern Suburbs 11 (L.Pegg try, B.Johnson 4 goals).
Brothers: G.Halpin, F.Doyle, G.O'Dwyer, J.Reardon, J.O'Malley, L.Creedy, L.Ridgewell, W.Law (c), R.Nugent, N.Callaghan, E.Brosnan, L.Heidke, J.Kelly.
Souths: B.Johnson, R.Pegg, L.Pegg, C.Wright, V.Lane, J.Houghton, D.Johnson, A.Nilsson (c), C.Martin, J.Duncan, H.Bath, V.Downton, A.Gilmore. Reserve: W.Summerville, N.Brough, H.White, E.Kelly, Davis.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 2,000.***

1943

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	9	0	1	202	53	18
BROTHERS	7	0	3	190	99	14
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	158	119	12
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	131	82	12
EASTERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	77	247	4
WESTERN SUBURBS	0	0	10	82	240	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 17 v Souths 14

SON OF OLD JOCKEY STARS IN LEAGUE PLAY

By L. H. KEARNEY

JACK OTAGO, a young Northern Suburbs' policeman and son of Alf Otago, a prominent Kedron Park jockey of the twenties, was the idol of the crowd at the Rugby League Victory Cup semi-final at the Exhibition No. 2 oval yesterday.

Otago scored three fine tries, the last obtained 55 seconds from full time, giving Norths victory over South by 17 to 14.

Norths deserved their win, for they scored five tries to Souths' two, but Souths displayed a grand fighting spirit.

Down 14-5 at the interval, Souths played with "do or die" spirit in the second half, and equalised the scores, 14-all, seven minutes from time.

Crouch, the full-back, inspired Souths' recovery with two goals. The first was a magnificent field goal from 50 yards out, and the second a penalty goal, the ball hitting the post and rebounding in-goal.

After this change of fortune Souths flashed into the picture with irresistible force, and only grand tackling by Ryan, Melrose, and company prevented them from scoring.

Then seven minutes from the bell, Callinan, Souths' winger, caught Norths' defence napping, and went over unchallenged for a converted try, making the scores 14 all.

Gripping Finish

The finish was gripping. First Dave Johnson, Souths' half, missed giving his side the lead by inches, his penalty kick hitting the post and rebounding infield.

Then Melrose, in a characteristic burst from centrefield, cut Souths' defence with a diagonal thrust.

Suddenly he straightened up, and sent out a fine pass to the right winger, Otago, who, Dawson-like, went in at the corner to give Norths victory.

There were several tense situations and once there was a free-for-all fight for 30 seconds in centre field. This was promptly quelled by the field officials.

Tynan At Top

Norths' forwards played grandly in the first half, although they wilted slightly later. Stewart and Tynan (hooker) stood out, but Rudd, Breen, Schmidt, and Thornton were all in the picture in rucks and loose play.

Tynan played his best game this season.

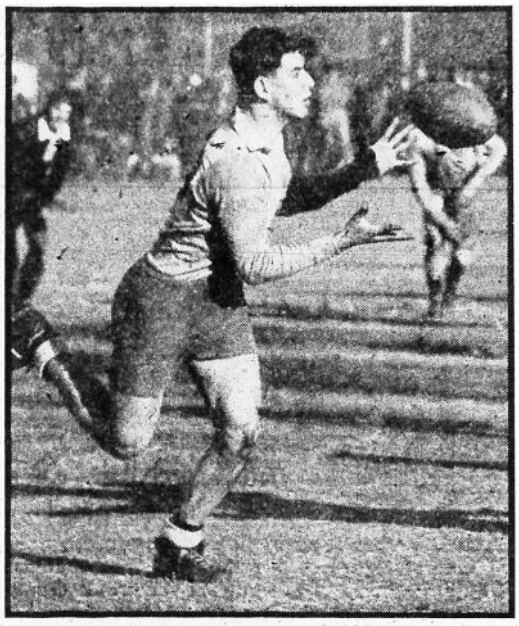
Stapleton and Ryan used the wind judiciously, Ryan's positional kicking being particularly clever. Ryan's tackling also was excellent.

Melrose and Otago were the pick of the three-quarters, but Schreck and Swain were useful.

Souths' forwards — Bath, R. Stewart, McKee, Bright, Martin, and McKinnon—battled gamely against great odds. Bath and Stewart were outstanding.

Johnson and MacRae, the halves, worked well together at times, but Souths' backs as a force have played better football. R. Pegg was the best of the three-quarters.

Scores:—Northern Suburbs, 17 (tries by Otago 3, Breen, and Swain; a conversion by Stapleton); Southern Suburbs, 14 (tries by D. Johnson and Callinan; Crouch two penalty goals and a field goal; Bath one conversion goal).



Jack Otago, Northern Suburbs winger, takes a pass and sets sail for the line. In the Rugby League Victory Cup semi-final against Souths at the Exhibition Oval yesterday, Otago scored three tries.

1943

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 34 v Brothers 7

FARRAR PLAYS A PART IN LEAGUE UPSET

By L. H. KEARNEY

INSPIRING football of international standard, Bob Farrar, former Sydney second-row forward, inspired Valley to an amazing League reversal yesterday.

As a result of their 34-7 win over Brothers in the major B.R.L. semi-final Valley advanced to the League final.

Brothers have another opportunity of qualifying, for they will meet Northern Suburbs, recent winners of the minor semi-final, in the special semi-final at the Exhibition No 2 oval next Saturday.

Brothers had beaten Valley twice previously this season—17-10 in the Pike Cup final on June 5, and 10-6 in the second round on July 3 Valley won the first round match on May 22—7-5.

DRAMATIC CHANGE

Brothers gave no indication of being a beaten side in the first half of yesterday's game At the interval Valley led only by 6-2 after having been favoured by the breeze.

The second half transformation was dramatic. Valley, with a snap try by Ebbern, went to 9-2 in the first minute's play.

Brothers never recovered from that shock, and under pressure went all to pieces.

From the twenty-third minute they became a rabble, and Valley scored several of their closing tries with ridiculous ease.

INSPIRED FOOTBALL

Farrar's football was reminiscent of the displays by test forward Herb Narvo before the war

From the loose sorties he flashed out with the speed of a crack half-back leaving the uncovered scrummage base, while in defence and cover work he revelled in the many opportunities the game provided for him. It was the finest forward display seen this season.

Farrar received good support from Porter, Ebbern, Walmsley (hookers), Scraggs, and Neumann, who deputised for Neville Ryrie in the lock position.

Walmsley's hooking in the second half was a big factor in Valley's success. This effort revealed Walmsley as the outstanding "rake" of the season.

Ray Lindwall, former St. George (Sydney) full-back, and New South Wales fast bowler just before the war, made his debut in Brisbane club football as Valley's custodian. Although Lindwall, who is in the services, has had no match practice, he gave a class display, his catching and kicking being very fine. He kicked five goals. He will be a definite acquisition to Valley in the final match.

All Valley's attacking backs worked smartly, although five of the team's eight tries were scored by forwards.

Valley threw the ball about with carefree abandon.

This style of play raced the big Brothers' pack to a standstill for the Valley forwards to finally overwhelm a tired and demoralised opposition.

O'MALLEY INJURED

Jack O'Malley, of Brothers, was injured 22 minutes after the kick-off in the second half. He was assisted from the field and taken to the General Hospital for an X-ray. He is suffering from a probable fracture of the left arm.

Heidke, in the forwards, Doyle, right wing, Ridgewell, half, Reardon, centre, and Stanton, full-back, worked hard for Brothers.

Scorers: Valley 34 (tries by Farrar 2, J. Ebbern 2, Walker, Scraggs, McLeod, and J. Kellaway; Lindwall converted four and landed a penalty goal); Brothers 7 (try by Brosnan, which Ridgewell converted; Ridgewell also kicked a penalty goal).

Southern Suburbs had a runaway win over Eastern Suburbs by 29-6 in the early match. Bernie Johnson reappeared for Souths, and was as resourceful and clever as ever in the full-back position.

Scorers: Southern Suburbs 29 (tries by Macrae, Martin, Callinan, Bath, McKee, R. Pegg, D. Johnson; Crouch converted four), Eastern suburbs 6 (tries by McInnes and Furnance).



1943

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 22 v Norths 7

BROTHERS' DARING TACTICS AID ENTRY TO LEAGUE FINAL

By L. H. KEARNEY

BEATEN by 34 to 7 by Valley the previous Saturday, Brothers rose to great heights yesterday when they defeated Northern Suburbs by 22-7 in the last of the Rugby League elimination semi-finals at Exhibition No. 2 oval. The winners daringly exploited open football with conditions all against spectacular handling.

This victory gave Brothers the right to meet Valley in the final of the League's Victory Cup championship series next Saturday.

Brothers' topsy-turvy form against Valley had students of the game perplexed, for at no stage of the game did Brothers give a glimpse of class football.

Yesterday they played like a team transformed.

After leading by eight points to two at the interval, they finished up playing their rivals to a standstill to win by six tries to one, and two goals against three.

Making full allowance for Norths' weakened side in the second half,—they lost the services of Carr, full-back, and Kearney hooker, because of injuries—Brothers were immeasurably the better team.

Arnold, Brothers' hooker, gave his backs a feast of the ball from the set scrummages.

Ridgewell, half, ran rings round his rival, while Creedy, stand-off, Reardon, and Andrews, centres, and the wingers, Pascoe and Dawson, were much more dangerous in attack than the men opposed to them. McLean, Brothers' fullback, also played his part.

His ponderous positional kicking frequently worked out to the advantage of his forwards.

Brothers got right away from their traditional rucking style, and a number of try-scoring movements were as artistic in execution as any unfolded this season. Reardon's second half effort was a real gem. Ridgewell initiated the attack. Flashing through the defence he brought Reardon into line to serve co-centre, Andrews, who raced ahead to swing the attack back to Reardon, who paralysed the defence with the speed of his finishing effort.

Clever Lead-Up Work

Clever lead-up work characterised the movement which gave Heidke his first-half try.

Brosnan came away from midfield to serve winger Dawson. The Kangaroo champion exploited the touch-line objective to deceive the defence, and when he had Norths on the wrong leg he cross-kicked for Heidke to sweep into the attack, gather smartly, and dive over to give Brothers their 8-2 lead at half time.

It is many years since a Brisbane Club crowd saw a better forward display than that given by Eddie Brosnan.

The big policeman forward revelled in the heavy going and he showed pace at times that left the opposition standing leaden-legged. He was the most spectacular forward on the ground.

He kicked magnificently, and the conversion of Thornton's try earned him an ovation. It was the best kick of the match.

North's back missed Roy Stewart, but Rudd, Breen, and Thornton worked tremendously hard in a well beaten division.

Carr had a bone in his left hand broken. He retired from the game at half-time. Kearney, North's hooker, had his collarbone broken six minutes after the resumption of play in the second half.

Points scorers: Brothers 22 (tries by Pascoe, Heidke, Brosnan, Reardon, Nugent, and Creedy; Ridgewell converted two, Northern Suburbs 9 (try by Thornton which Ryan converted; Ryan also landed two penalty goals).



Vic Rudd (Norths) finds himself in a "pocket" of Brothers' tacklers, where E. Brosnan seems intent on challenging Rudd's right to the ball . . . Incident in the League semi-final at the Exhibition No. 2 oval yesterday.



Monte Heidke, Brothers' giant forward, attempts to break through a tackle in the League match yesterday when Brothers beat Norths, 22-9.

1943

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 13 v VALLEYS 7

PARALYSING FINISH BY BROTHERS IN CUP FINAL

By L. H. KEARNEY

COMING from behind to unfold a paralysing finish, Brothers defeated Valley by 13 points to seven in the final of the Brisbane Rugby League Victory Cup championship at the Exhibition No. 2 Oval yesterday.

Brothers were down 7 to 5 at the interval, and remained in arrears until the 32nd minute of the second half, when they snatched the lead and afterwards went on to win by three tries and two goals to one try and two goals.

It was Brothers' fifth success in premierships since the inception of the metropolitan League in 1922.

Their previous triumphs were in 1926, 1935, 1939, and 1942.

The teams were:—

BROTHERS. — Full-back, D. McLean; three-quarters, L. Dawson, J. Reardon, R. C. Andrews, M. Pascoe; stand-off half, L. Creedy; half-back, L. Ridgewell; forwards, W. Law (captain), R. Nugent, F. Doyle, L. Heidke (retired hurt, replaced by K. Arnold), E. Brosnan, E. W. Morcom.

VALLEY.—Full-back, J. White; three-quarters, J. Kellaway, J. Buffet, L. Walker, B. McLeod; stand-off half, G. Kellaway; half-back, J. Grice; forwards, F. Neumann (captain), R. Farrar, J. Ebbern, H. Scraggs, J. Barnes, R. Schultz.

Brothers fully merited their success, for they were steady in adversity when their champion ruck forward, Monte Heidke, retired with a torn right shoulder ligament seven minutes before half time; and they were collectively cool, speedy, and resourceful when the closing scoring opportunities presented themselves.

It took a supreme effort to curb Valley's fighting spirit, but it was accomplished, and in such a convincing fashion as to leave no doubt in the minds of the 3000 spectators regarding Brothers' superiority in general forward tactics and back-line attacking strategy.

Scrums Even

The scrummaging honours were fairly even. Valley winning 18 to 10 in the first half, while Brothers gained 16 to 14 in the second half.

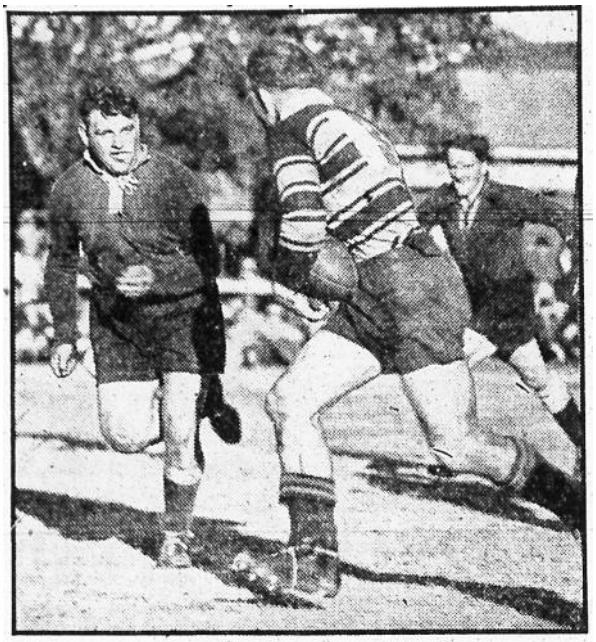
Valleys early success was due to Barnes' clever hooking.

It was unfortunate for Valley that this player was injured early in the second half. Barnes played on, but Scraggs took over the hooking duties. The deputy Valley rake found the experienced Arnold too artful and smart and Brothers got a definite run of the ball in the closing stages. It was this advantage that gave Creedy, Dawson and Ridgewell their attacking opportunity in the 32nd minute of the second half and also finally contributed to the territorial gain which enabled Pascoe to flash in and score the most brilliant individual try.

Brothers' back-line stars were Reardon, Dawson, Andrews, Pascoe, Creedy, and Ridgewell, while in the forwards Brosnan, Heidke, Doyle, and Morcom did fine work.

Valleys best were Farrar (who received a special trophy for his display), Scraggs, and Ebbern in the forwards, and Grice (half), J. Kellaway (winger), and Walker and Buffet (centres).

Points Scorers.—Brothers (13), tries by Creedy, Ridgewell, and Pascoe, two conversions by Ridgewell, d. Valley (7), try by J. Kellaway; a conversion and penalty goal by White.



Eddie Brosnan, Brothers' forward and spearhead of attack, attempts to break away through Valley's defence, while H. Scraggs sets out to cut him off. R. Farrar (right) and J. Grice (both of Valley) are in the background. An incident in yesterday's Rugby League cup final.

RESULTS

24 JULY MINOR SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL

Northern Suburbs 17 (Otago 3, Breen, Swain tries; Stapleton goal) d. Southern Suburbs 14 (D.Johnson, Callinan tries; Crouch 3 goals, Bath goal).
Norths: M. Crank, H.Swain, H.Melrose (c), K.Schreck, J.Otago, C.Ryan, J.Stapleton, R.Stewart, P.Breen, R.Tynan, V.Rudd, K.Schmidt, C.Thornton.
Souths: B.Johnson, R.Pegg, J.Vinson, G.Macrae (c), L.Pegg, D.Crouch, D.Johnson, E.Bright, C.Martin, H.McKinnon, H.Bath, R.Stewart, W.McKee, S.Callinan.
Referee: Col McKinnon.

31 JULY MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL

Fortitude Valley 34 (Farrar 2, Ebbern 2, Walker, Scraggs, McLeod, J.Kellaway tries; Lindwall 5 goals) d. Past Brothers 7 (Brosnan try; Ridgewell 2 goals).
Valleys: R.Lindwall, J.Kellaway, L.Walker, J.Grice, B.McLeod, F.Neumann (c), G.Kellaway, J.Buffett, H.Porter, H.Scraggs, R.Farrar, W.Walmsley, J.Ebbern.
Brothers: R.Stanton, L.Dawson, J.Reardon (c), J.O'Malley, P.Angus, L.Creedy, L.Ridgewell, W.Law, K.Arnold, E.Brosnan, L.Heidke, F.Doyle, M.Calligan.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

7 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL

Past Brothers 22 (Pascoe, Heidke, Brosnan, Reardon, Nugent, Creedy tries; Ridgewell 2 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 9 (C.Thornton try; Ryan 3 goals).
Brothers: D.McLean, L.Dawson, J.Reardon (c), M.Pascoe, L.Creedy, L.Ridgewell, W.Law, K.Arnold, R.Nugent, E.Brosnan, L.Heidke, E.W.Morcom.
Norths: F.Carr, M.Crank, H.Melrose (c), K.Schreck, J.Otago, C.Ryan, R.Hockings, P.Breen, R.Tynan, V.Rudd, K.Schmidt, Kearney, C.Thornton.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

14 AUGUST GRAND FINAL
EXHIBITION NO 2 OVAL

Past Brothers 13 (Creedy, Ridgewell, Pascoe tries; Ridgewell 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 7 (J.Kellaway try, White 2 goals).
Past Brothers: D.McLean, L.Dawson, J.Reardon, R.C.Andrews, M.Pascoe, L.Creedy, L.Ridgewell, W.Law (c), R.Nugent, F.Doyle, L.Heidke, E.Brosnan, E.W.Morcom. Reserve: K.Arnold.
Valleys: J.White, J.Kellaway, J.Buffet, L.Walker, B.McLeod, G.Kellaway, J.Grice, F.Neumann (c), R.Farrar, J.Ebbern, H.Scraggs, J.Barnes, R.Schultz.
Referee: Col McKinnon. ***Crowd: 3,000.***

1944

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	6	1	3	122	50	13
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	6	1	3	137	100	13
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	135	82	12
BROTHERS	5	1	4	106	84	11
WESTERN SUBURBS	5	1	4	113	117	11
EASTERN SUBURBS	0	0	10	73	258	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 32 v Brothers 11

BROTHERS GO DOWN TO NORTHS IN CUP

By L. H. KEARNEY

IN their most brilliant success of the present Rugby League season, Norths, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, put Brothers out of the Victory Cup final three. Norths won, 32 points to 11.

North qualified to meet the losers of next Saturday's semi-final, Valley v. Southern Suburbs. The grand final will be played next month.

Norths' victory primarily was due to outstanding play by the half-backs, Lindsay, Delaforce (stand-off), and "Buck" Jones (scrum worker), and Colin Thornton (last down forward).

Jones was a will-o'-the-wisp in attack, often dazzling the opposition defence with his electrical invasions.

Thornton, in the loose and in destructive spotting, gave the spectators a glimpse of that grand interstate form which marked his football before the war.

The only blemish in his play was a tendency to flout the off-side law on the "blind" side of the scrummage.

Delaforce, both in attack and defence, gave his best display of the season.

Spectacular Try

Winger H. Swain opened Norths' scoring with a spectacular solo effort.

Hughie Melrose always was in the picture. He scored two tries, one a penalty award the result of a glaring obstruction by a Brothers' forward.

R. Stewart, Norths' forward, retired injured, and was replaced by J. Hedge 13 minutes after the kick-off.

Full-back J. Bateman kicked grandly. He landed six goals.

Brothers contributed to their own undoing. They kept the game too close and starved brilliant wingers O'Dwyer and Patterson.

O. Heidke and Brosnan overdid the bullocking style of rucking.

SCORERS.—Northern Suburbs (32): Tries, H. Swain, C. Thornton, H. Melrose (2), C. Jones, J. Otago. Goals, J. Bateman, five conversions and one penalty goal. C. Jones converted one.

Brothers (11): Tries, L. Creedy, R. Patterson, and G. O'Dwyer. L. Ridgewell landed a penalty goal.

1944

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 27 v Souths 10

LEAGUE FORM TIPS VALLEY TO WIN TITLE

By L. H. KEARNEY.

ON the form revealed in the major semi-final yesterday, Valley should win the B.R.L. premiership. Their all-round display in beating Souths 27-10 was reminiscent of that which brought them success in 1941.

Valley's win takes them into the final, but Souths will get another premiership opportunity, for they will meet Northern Suburbs in the special semi-final next Saturday.

Valley were superior in every department of the game except hooking. Souths showed pronounced superiority as ball-getters in the set scrummages.

They gained possession 26 to 12, but this advantage was offset by the magnificent display of Valley's forwards. Scraggs, Westaway, Dall, Summerell, Arundell, and Porter who, in rucking and loose play, were like giants in opposition to pigmies.

Scraggs and Westaway revealed form that would take them into a Queensland side.

Fine Team Work

Valley's team work was excellent. The attacking finish of flankman Bob Jackson, who scored two spectacular tries, and the other try-getters, Bill Dall, Jack Kellaway, and George Kellaway, compared with the best unfolded in first grade football this season.

Valley's defence, too, rose to great heights.

The tackling of G. Kellaway, Grice, and Walker kept the opposition in a vice-like grip for two-thirds of the 80 minutes played.

Another fine feature was the all round work of custodian Danny O'Connor. He gave an almost perfect display.

His goal kicking, too, was of a high order. He landed six goals, including three conversions, two penalties, and one field effort.

Souths Stale

Souths were disappointing. Many close students asked, have they gone stale?

Forwards who previously were brilliant were leaden legged while their backs generally so sprightly were never really dangerous.

The game was praiseworthy for its fine sporting spirit, the referee, Col McKinnon, giving his best exhibition of the season.

The scorers were:—Valley: Tries by Jackson (2), J. Kellaway, Dall, G. Kellaway; O'Connor six goals. Souths: Tries by Bath and Kingston; Johnson converted both.

In the early special competition match, Northern Suburbs after a scoreless first half defeated Eastern Suburbs by 15 to nil. North's tries were scored by Thornton, Hedge and Bates. Bateman converted two and Bates one.

1944

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 23 v Souths 11

Brilliant Burst Takes Norths To League Final

By L. H. KEARNEY

PARALYSING bursts of aggression in the second half of their match with Southern Suburbs at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, took Northern Suburbs to the final of the Rugby League Victory Cup premiership.

The grand final, between Norths and Valley, will be played at the Brisbane Cricket Ground next Saturday.

Norths scored 10 points in six minutes of yesterday's second half to win by 23 points to 11.

Outstanding features of Norths' display were:—

Sturdy defence when Souths led by 11-7 with the breeze in the first half.

Magnificent goal kicking by full-back Ron Bateman, three of his seven successful efforts being from positions in the vicinity of the half way line.

Superb hooking by N. McEwan who beat his rival, H. Bath, by 32 to 17.

Will o' the wisp breakaways by half-back C. Jones, who kept the opposition in two minds.

Smart and determined finishing by the try scorers—Swain, Otago and McEwan.

Sterling all-round support by Melrose and Bates centres; Stapleton, substituting for Delaforce, and forwards Stewart, Power, Thornton, Hedge, and Rudd.

Australia's champion second row forward and national heavyweight boxing star, Herb Narvo (Newtown, Sydney) and Rex Harrison, New South Wales stand-off half, turned out for Souths.

Both played useful games, but Narvo's individualistic style rather upset the smoothness of Souths attack.

Harrison, too, failed to team well, although his nice placement kicks and follow-on smothering tackles gained much territory on occasions.

Souths took a frightful risk and paid the penalty in playing Harry Bath, one of their best loose players of the season, in the hooking position. He was hopelessly beaten by rival McEwan, and was rendered impotent in the loose by his tied-up position in the scrummages. Bernie Johnson, L. Yuke, Kealy, and Kingston worked tremendously hard for Souths.

Wise Decision

Eric Bowe, Barcaldine and Queensland centre, was on the ground ready to play for Norths but the club's selectors decided against breaking up the centre understanding between Melrose and Bates.

It was a wise decision, as this pair teamed admirably.

Scorers. — Northern Suburbs: Tries by Swain, Otago, and McEwan. Bateman converted each try, and landed four penalty goals (seven in all). Kealy scored Souths only try which B. Johnson converted. B. Johnson also kicked a penalty goal, and Bath landed two penalty goals.

1944

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 16 v NORTHS 12

GOALING SHOCKS IN LEAGUE FINAL

By L. H. KEARNEY, Sunday Mail Sporting Writer

BRILLIANT goal-kicking featured the Rugby League Victory Cup final won by Valley, 16-12, at Northern Suburbs' expense, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Danny O'Connor (Valley) landed five goals from seven attempts and Ron Bateman (Norths) six goals from seven attempts.

Putting One Through

Danny O'Connor, Valley full-back, pilots one through the posts in the B.R.L. final against Norths yesterday. He established an Australian record in 1940, when he kicked 12 goals from 14 attempts, playing for Queensland against N.S.W.



These combined efforts—11 goals from 14 attempts—of the rival full-backs were reminiscent of Danny O'Connor's Australian League record of 12 goals from 14 attempts established in the Queensland-New South Wales match in Brisbane in 1940.

Valley deserved success against Norths. They were only up two points, six to four, at half time, but against the wind in the second half they did their best attacking work, scoring two tries to the opposition's nil.

Two spectacular tries by Bob Jackson and Roy Westaway helped to pave the way for Valley's victory.

The lead-up work to Jackson's try was superb combination by Grice (half), G. Kellaway (stand-off half) and Walker (centre).

They handled the ball admirably, each "drawing" his rival defender in such a way as to preclude any possibility of a cover defender being left to upset the continuity of the attack.

Jackson crowned the effort with a great finishing run which covered a third of the field.

Westaway's try was another thriller. He brushed off two centre field tacklers and then made a runaway effort for 60 yards.

Westaway Shines

Westaway played his best game of the season. His loose play could not be faulted, while in the tight he worked like a Trojan.

He was awarded Mr. Les Peake's special trophy for being Valley's best all-round player.

Bill Whyte, a former Valley hooker, played surprisingly well after being in New Guinea, but his hooking rival, N. McEwan, beat him by 23 scrummage possessions to 18.

Valley's failed to exploit Jackson's flank—apart from his fine try, he was forced to forage for his own opportunities which were limited because of breakdowns to the inner back connecting links.

Grice was a hard worker, but on the day he was shaded by his rival "Buck" Jones, who did not deserve to be on beaten side.

Outstanding for Norths were goal-kicker Bateman and Jones in the backs Rudd and Hedge in the forwards.

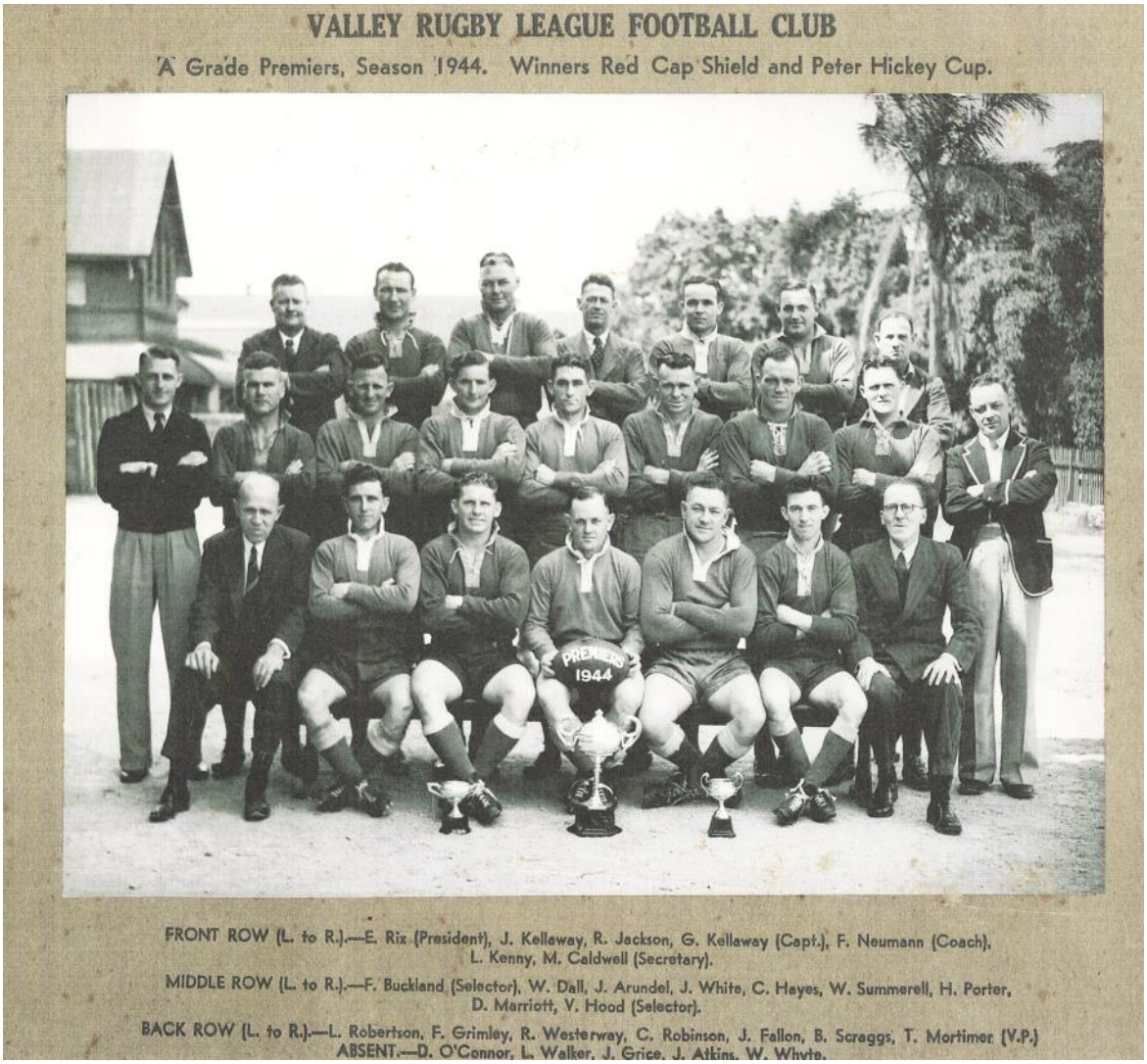
It was Valley's sixth premiership success since the inception of the Brisbane Rugby League in 1922. Their previous triumph was in 1941.

The attendance was 8000 (men in uniform free), the receipts more than £300 being a club record for the season.

The season financially has been the league's most profitable in the last 15 years.

1944

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 16 v NORTHS 12



RESULTS

19 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 32 (Melrose 2, Swain, Thornton, Jones, Otago tries; Bateman 6, Jones 1 goal) d. Past Brothers 11 (Creedy, Patterson, O'Dwyer tries; Ridgewell goal).
Norths: R.Bateman, J.Otago, H.Melrose (c), J.Bates, H.Swain, L.Delaforce, C.Jones, C.Thornton, M.Power, R.Stewart, E.Dempsey, V.Rudd, N.McEwan. Reserve: J.Hedge.
Brothers: J.Ryan, G.O'Dwyer, L.Creedy, J.Nelson, R.Patterson, J.Dore, L.Ridgewell, B.Aberdeen, E.Brosnan, L.Heidke (c), D.Goodman, K.Finch, J.Ryrie.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

26 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 27 (Jackson 2, J.Kellaway, Dall, G.Kellaway, tries; O'Connor 6 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 10 (Bath, Kingston tries; Johnson 2 goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, R.Jackson, J.Kellaway, L.Walker, J.Atkin, G.Kellaway (c), J.Grice, W.Dall, J.Arundel, R.Westaway, B.Scraggs, W.Summerell, H.Porter.
Souths: B.Johnson, R.Pegg, J.Vinson, L.Yuke, S.Callinan, D.Johnson, J.Langton, M.Kingston, J.Jager, T.Stanford, H.Bath, N.Brough, W.Tyquin (c).
Referee: Col McKinnon.

2 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 23 (Swain, Otago, McEwan tries; Bateman 7 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 11 (Kealy try; Bath 2, B.Johnson 2 goals).
Norths: R.Bateman, J.Otago, H.Melrose, J.Bates, H.Swain, J.Stapleton, C.Jones, C.Thornton, M.Power, R.Stewart (c), J.Hedge, N.McEwan, V.Rudd.
Souths: B.Johnson, R.Pegg, J.Vinson, L.Yuke, J.Langton, R.Harrison, D.Johnson, N.Hocking, H.Bath, M.Kingston, R.Rogers, H.Narvo, E.Kealy.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

9 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 16 (Jackson, Westaway tries; O'Connor 5 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 12 (Bateman 6 goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, R.Jackson, L.Walker, J.Kellaway, J.Atkin, G.Kellaway, J.Grice, W.Dall, J.Arundel, W.Summerell, B.Scraggs, W.Whyte, R.Westaway.
Norths: R.Bateman, J.Otago, H.Melrose, J.Bates, H.Swain, J.Stapleton, C.Jones, C.Thornton, M.Power, R.Stewart, J.Hedge, V.Rudd, N.McEwan.
Referee: Col McKinnon. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

1945

BRL: SOUTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	1	218	123	17
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	2	1	221	103	16
VALLEYS	5	0	5	226	123	10
WESTERN SUBURBS	4	1	5	116	185	9
BROTHERS	4	0	6	111	208	8
EASTERN SUBURBS	0	0	10	53	260	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 21 v Wests 10

SCRAGGS BLAZED WAY FOR VALLEY

By L. H. KEARNEY

FINISHING the game with a badly jarred shoulder, Bert Scraggs unfolded a second-row forward display which was the inspiration of Valleys' 21-10 victory over Western Suburbs in the No. 2 Rugby League premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Scraggs received splendid support from Henry Porter, front row forward, and from the Army stand-off half, Des Creedy.

But for sustained vigour, intelligent backing-up, and alertness in making openings for better placed colleagues, Scraggs was the most colourful player on the field.

He played prominent parts in the lead-up to the tries scored by Neumann, Creedy, and Porter.

West Outplayed

Wests, on the day, were clearly outplayed by a better balanced side, served by stronger key players. But they went to defeat gallantly.

Wests had a fair share of the ball from set scrummages, 32 to 18 and from the attacking angle should have done better, but the old football truism that "you play as well as the opposition lets you" was vindicated by Valley's sounder defence when the pressure was on.

Creedy, the serviceman discovered in Darwin by Kangaroo representative, Ross McKinnon, completely eclipsed Wests' brilliant stand-off half, Joe Crawford, in both attack and defence.

Repeatedly he broke through Crawford's defence to start big territorial Valley invasions.

McKinnon's Praise

Ross McKinnon was a spectator. After the match this former Australian star expressed the opinion that Creedy is the type of player likely to go a long way in the game.

Porter scored two tries, and was always in the thick of the fight. Tireless and vigorous, he helped to worry Wests out of the picture in the second half.



H. Porter

Two spectacular individual tries were scored. Manning, Wests' right winger, from 40 yards out intercepted a high pass from Creedy to Walker, and raced on unchallenged to score. Many thought that Manning should have been penalised for knocking the intercepted ball on in the air, but as he recovered it while the ball was in the air the knock-on rule was not infringed.

The other spectacular effort came from Valley's winger, Bob Smith, who, when seemingly cornered, gave the "dummy" to flash over for a try in the right-hand corner.

Valley's points were: Tries by Porter (2), Neumann, Creedy, and Smith; O'Connor converted three.

Wests' tries were scored by Day and Manning. Crawford kicked two penalty goals.

This victory qualifies Valley to meet the losers of next Saturday's No. 1 semi-final between Northern Suburbs and Southern Suburbs in the special semi-final.

The winning team of the No. 1 semi-final will advance into the final.

1945

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 12 v Souths 8

McEWAN, NORTHS' MATCH WINNER

Superb Hooking Gives 12—8 Win In R.L. Cup Final

By L. H. KEARNEY

A MASTERLY display of hooking, rucking, and loose play by Noel McEwan, backed by grand support by his forward colleagues, paved the way for Northern Suburbs' 12-8 victory over Southern Suburbs in the final of the Peter Hickey Cups at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

McEwan's hooking was the most skilful and successful exposition seen in Brisbane Rugby League club football for many seasons.

North's triumph advances them into the final of the B.R.L. premiership and leaves Souths with another chance of qualifying when they meet Valley, the winners of the No. 2 semi-final, next Saturday.

McEwan outraked his rival, C. Martin, by a two-to-one margin, gaining possession 42 to 19.

This superiority kept Norths piping the attacking tune, and the constant harassing so wearied Souths that they were unable to cross the winners' line.

Souths' eight points came from four penalty goals kicked by Bernie Johnson.

McEwan was not content to rest on his hooking laurels.

He was in the thick of it in the rucks, frequently coming away as the ball carried to bring supports into line to make big territorial gains.

He also dove-tailed cleverly into the lead-up handling movement, which was capped with a try by winger H. Swain.

FORWARDS ON TOP

Norths' remaining forwards, however, must share the glory with McEwan, for Breen, Stewart, Rudd, Power, and Paxton tenaciously wore down their rivals with superb rucking and loose play.

Norths' backs never attempted anything elaborate in the attacking line, but they constantly worried the opposition. When the ball swung against them Sue See, Bates, Melrose brothers, O'Brien, and Swain never allowed the opposition to make much ground.

O'Brien, centre to H. Melrose, probably played his best game since coming over from Rugby Union.

He snapped an artistic field goal, and scored a try, carrying B. Johnson on his back as he dived over.

SOUTHS BAD LUCK

Souths had more than their share of bad luck. They lost State second-rower, Harry Bath, 23 minutes after the kick-off. Bath was in bed with influenza in the earlier part of the week. He was running a temperature when he left the field to be replaced by J. Neale.

In the second half Galbraith, front row forward, had a rib broken after some heavy tackling play. He retired for 10 minutes and returned temporarily to the game. Finally he was forced to leave the field.

Souths had to battle the last 20 minutes with a forward short.

However, Souths were a great disappointment. They lacked the sting shown in their previous display against Wests in the final series of the second round of the premiership on August 12.

Mr. Bob White gave a creditable refereeing display. He maintained fine control and made a worthwhile spectacle of a gruelling, tackling match.

Norths' tries were scored by Swain and O'Brien. Paxton landed two penalty goals, while O'Brien snapped a field goal. B. Johnson kicked four penalty goals for Souths.

Half-Back Smothered





Souths' half-back, Bernie Johnstone, runs into a pocket in the Peter Hickey Cup final yesterday, and is being smothered by a North Suburbs' defender. The players constituting the pocket are H. Melrose (left), T. O'Brien centre, and M. Power, behind the tackler. At left N. McEwan, whose hooking was a match-winning factor.

1945

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 22 v Valleys 6

SOUTHS QUALIFY FOR RUGBY LEAGUE TITLE GAME

Valley Trounced By 22-6 In Gruelling Match

By L. H. KEARNEY, Sunday Mail League Writer

BRILLIANT loose forward play by Bill Tyquin and magnificent goal kicking by Bernie Johnson paved the way for Southern Suburbs to defeat Valley 22-6 in a gruelling match at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Souths' triumph qualifies them to contest he 1945 Brisbane Rugby League premiership final agains Northern Suburbs next Saturday.

It was a decisive victory, demonstrating Souths' complete mastery over the opposition. Valley was beaten by Souths in the two premiership rounds by 7-3 on May 19, and by 24-7 on August 4.

Resourceful backing up and the ability to sense openings rewarded Tyquin with two spectacular tries.

For the first he trailed Nev. Brough, Souths' winger, who made a brilliant and speedy thrust to penetrate Valleys' defence, leaving the gap for Tyquin, to flash through.

The same pair figured in Tyquin's second try-scoring effort. On that occasion, Tyquin was the opener as well as the finisher. Brough dovetailed to make ground from Tyquin's service, and then sent the ball back to Tyquin, who sped through the bewildered Valley defence to score behind the posts.

Superb Kicking

Bernie Johnson's goal kicking was superb. He converted each of Souths' four tries, besides landing a grand penalty goal.

I doubt whether a better conversion has been seen in recent seasons than his successful effort from brother Dave's second-half try.

He had to go outside the touch line to measure off his five yards approach to the ball.

Souths never looked like losing their early grip of the game. They led 7-3 at the interval. Renewing their dominancy 15 minutes after the resumption of the second half they went on to add 15 points to their rivals' additional lone try.

Martin, Souths' hooker, who was completely eclipsed by Noel McEwan, Norths' hooker, in the recent Peter Hickey Cup final, held his own against Tynan, and his interstate props, Westaway and Porter.

Martin held a slight advantage at half-time—16-12, and he finished the match on even terms—24 possessions to each hooker.

Outstanding Rucker

Interstate forward Harry Bath came right out of his shell to be Souths' outstanding rucker. He held his own against the rival giants, Porter, Westaway, and Scraggs, and probably did more downright hard work than any one, barring the evergreen Harry Porter.

It was Porter's last club game here, and he made his exit in a blaze of glory.

He was honoured after the match by his club mates, and received Mr. Harry Hunter's special trophy for being the best Valley forward on the ground.

A feature of the game was the sturdy defence of Dave Johnson, Souths' stand-off, and his outsiders, L. Pegg and J. Atkins. Rarely did this trio relax in their tackling tenacity.

Some of Souths' forwards, notably Kingston and Martin, also excelled in destructive play. The wingers, R. Pegg and Brough, and ull-back, Murphy, aided in keeping the opposition's score down to two tries.

The try by Thompson, South's second rover, was a nice effort, following a brilliant short thrust by Brough, who was probably South's best attacking back-line player.

Valley's backs had enough of the ball to have left their imprint on the spectacular features of the game, but apart from Len Kenny's try, scored five minutes after the kick off, the blue jerseyed attackers were rarely in the picture. Valley's other score came from a rucking effort by Porter.

The gruelling nature of the tackling caused many casualties.

B. Johnson, Kingston, R. Pegg, D. Johnson, Brough, of Souths, received ambulance treatment.

Jones (Valley) retired with an injured collarbone 29 minutes after the start of the second half, while Porter finished the game with an injured rib. Hayes also sustained an injury to his shoulder.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS, 22 (Tyquin (2), D. Johnson and Thompson, tries; B. Johnson converted four and landed one penalty.

VALLEY, 6 (Kenny and Porter tries).

In the top picture H. Bath (Souths) is breaking away from a sortie in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. The picture below shows Henry Porter, Valley star forward evading a tackle by C. Martin (Souths).





1945

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v NORTHS 11

BATH, R. PEGG WERE MATCH WINNERS

Souths Take First Rugby League Premiership; Defeat Norths By 21 to 11

By L. H. KEARNEY

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Harry Bath, forward spearhead, and R. ("Bubbles") Pegg, outstanding try scorer, with three, paved the way for Southern Suburbs' first B.R.L. premiership win at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Souths defeated Northern Suburbs by 21 to 11 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Bath surpassed the best he has ever unfolded in B.R.L. premiership football. In the rucks he was splendid.

Time after time he barraged through the rival forward cordon to make great territorial gains.

His try in the right-hand corner five minutes before half-time was one of the most spectacular forward efforts unfolded this season.

He flashed away from a ruck to hurl his 14½ stone of brawn and muscle with irresistible force through Norths' massed defenders.

Winger Pegg was outstanding. Each of his three tries was the result of resourceful backing up and electrical finishing speed.

He was lucky, I thought, in gaining his first try, as in the lead up, the referee, Mr. Col. McKinnon, was seemingly cut off from the play. The scorer's "feeder," brother Len, seemed from the stands to knock the ball on and then appeared to pass forward, in sending "Bubbles" on his try-scoring mission.

The half-back combination of the Johnson brothers surpassed that of their rivals, Sue See and Bates, while Bernie Johnson, in landing three goals, equalled the season's record of Danny O'Connor (Valley)—45 goals.

Others to play praisworthy parts in Souths' success were full-back L. Murphy, who scored a spectacular try a few minutes before full time, centres L. Pegg and G. MacRae, who replaced N. Brough (injured), and forwards Martin, Kingston, and Thompson. Tyquin, who was injured in the Army match last Sunday, was subdued.

Norths' best in a very disjointed second half team were Carr (fullback), O'Brien (centre), and forwards Paxton, Power, and Stewart.

Souths' success yesterday was deserved, despite the burden of handicaps carried by the opposition, who fielded injured players, H. Melrose (captain) and N. McEwan. The latter hooked well (26-18), but his loose play lacked its usual sparkle.

Melrose in both defence and attack was physically unable to do himself justice.

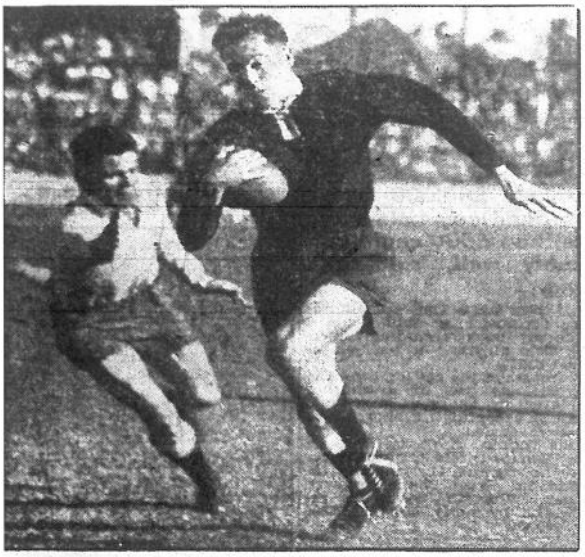
Against the breeze, Souths were down 11-8 at the interval, but they completely overshadowed their rivals to add three tries, a conversion, and a penalty goal to a scoreless second half by Norths.

SCORERS.—Souths: Tries by R. Pegg (3), Bath, and Murphy; B. Johnson kicked two penalty goals and converted one try. **Norths:** Tries were scored by Power (2) and Paxton; the latter converted one

The gross receipts, £461, and an attendance of 10,000, were B.R.L. premiership match records

The net gate was £365, the entertainment tax being £95/8/.

Winger In Flight



R. ("BUBBLES") Pegg, Southern Suburbs' wing three-quarter, who scored three tries to pave the way for Souths' 21-11 victory over Northern Suburbs in the Rugby League final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. In the picture Pegg is shown out-pacing his wing rival, H. Swain, in one of his characteristic dashes.

THE MIGHTY SOUTHS	PREMIERS 1945	
A GRADE	**RESERVE**	**THIRD**
Murphy.L	Burgess B	Neal J.
Pegg.R	Whiteley W.	Ross T.
Pegg.L,Captain	Hall K.	Freeman R.
Atkins.J	Davenport W.	Verrenkamp E.
Brough.N	Pratley S.	Pratley S.
Johnson.D	Verrenkamp E.	Whillans L.
Johnson.B	Callinan T.	Phipps H.
Kingston.M	Hill P.	Warener J.
Martin.C	Johnson E.	Dunne L.
McKee.W	Brabon A.	Plunkett T.
Bath.H	Jarvis F.	Crocker H.
Thompson.A	Marshall J.	Sheehy P.
Tyquin.W	Jones A.	Mc.Kinnon R.
RESERVES:		
Luke.L	Cameron W.	Gibson A.
Keily.E	Killie F.	Campbell B.
McCree.G	Curley M.	Hardy W.
Ecklund.N	Padgett K.	

Under 17	Under 16
Donaldson.G	Brady.B
Ellaby.D	Mcglynn.R
Newman.R	Olsen.H
Bann.J	Ainsworth.W
Hardy.O	McIvor.R
Graham.D	Noran.H
Adcock.B	Wilson.N
Hookway.W	Walters.H
Simpson.V	Messinger.D
Albert.H	Hayes.W
Pring.D	Keily.P
Dodd.R	Spinos.S
Kruse.G	Harris.F

Souths won 5 out of the 6 premierships

Easts won the under 20

Souths also became the first club to complete the BRL "grand-slam" by winning the first, reserve and third grade titles, and added victories in the Under 16 and Under 17 divisions as well! The victory in A grade was their first since their former entity, Carlton, won premierships in 1921, '25 and '30.

The grand slam of the top three grades was not replicated until the post-Broncos era when Redcliffe won all three grades in 1994. They also repeated the feat in 1997 and 2003.

1945

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v NORTHS 11



RESULTS

18 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 21 (Porter 2, Neumann, Creedy, Smith tries; O'Connor 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Day, Manning tries; Crawford 2 goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, L.Walker, E.Riddell, R.Smith, D.Creedy, J.Clydesdale, F.Neumann, J.Tynan, D.Jones, R.Westaway (c), B.Scraggs, H.Porter.
Wests: J.White, C.Mollett, R.Fisher, D.Mullins, C.Manning, J.Crawford, J.Thompson, J.Miller, N.Gibbons, B.Shelton, G.Day, C.Green, F.Henderson.
Referee: Len Jacobsen.

25 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Northern Suburbs 12 (Swain, O'Brien tries; Paxton 2, O'Brien goals) d. Southern Suburbs 8 (B.Johnson 4 goals).
Norths: F.Carr, H.Swain, H.Melrose (c), T.O'Brien, J.Melrose, J.Bates, N.Sue See, N.Paxton, M.Power, R.Stewart, P.Breen, V.Rudd, N.McEwan.
Souths: L.Murphy, R.Pegg, L.Pegg (c), J.Atkin, N.Brough, D.Johnson, B.Johnson, M.Kingston, C.Martin, H.Galbraith, H.Bath, A.Thompson, W.Tyquin. Reserve: J.Neale.
Referee: Bob White.

1 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 22 (Tyquin 2, D.Johnson, Thompson tries; B.Johnson 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 6 (Kenny, Porter tries).
Souths: L.Murphy, R.Pegg, L.Coates, J.Atkin, N.Brough, D.Johnson, B.Johnson, M.Kingston, C.Martin, W.McKee, H.Bath, A.Thompson, W.Tyquin (c).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, A.Hunt, L.Walker, C.Hayes, D.Creedy, J.Clydesdale, J.Fallon, D.Jones, D.Tynan, B.Scraggs, R.Westaway, H.Porter (c).
Referee: Stan Chambers.

8 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 21 (R.Pegg 3, Bath, Murphy tries; B.Johnson 3 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 11 (Power 2, Paxton tries; Paxton goal).
Souths: L.Murphy, R.Pegg, L.Pegg (c), J.Atkin, N.Brough, D.Johnson, B.Johnson, M.Kingston, C.Martin, W.McKee, H.Bath, A.Thompson, W.Tyquin. Reserve: G.Macrae.
Norths: F.Carr, H.Swain, H.Melrose (c), T.O'Brien, J.Melrose, J.Bates, N.Sue See, N.Paxton, M.Power, R.Stewart, P.Breen, V.Rudd, N.McEwan.
Referee: Col McKinnon. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

1946

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTERN SUBURBS	7	1	2	224	146	15
VALLEYS	7	1	2	196	166	15
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	1	2	162	159	15
BROTHERS	4	0	6	170	202	8
NORTHERN SUBURBS	3	1	6	146	138	7
WESTERN SUBURBS	0	0	10	100	190	0

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 17 v Souths 8

REARDON AT HIS BEST
Wizardry Inspires Brothers To Win

By L. H. KEARNEY

UNFOLDING a display, reminiscent of his efforts with the Kangaroos in England in 1937-38, Jack Reardon inspired Brothers to defeat Southern Suburbs by 17 to 8 at the Brisbane Cricket ground yesterday.

Reardon's clever, constructive, and tactical play in the first 40 minutes tied Souths into knots.

His genius time after time paved the way for the territorial gains which enabled Brothers to have a stranglehold on the game with a 12 to nil lead at half-time.

Reardon's success kindled enthusiasm in his club mates, who rallied to his aid, and gave an exhibition that for sparkle and cohesive excellence must be ranked as one of the best first half efforts witnessed in this season's club football.

Brothers' pack responded with such vim and cleverness that Souths' pack, with test forward, Reg Kay, and State breakaway, Bill Tyquin, was made to look quite mediocre.

Never Recovered

Souths never recovered from the first half trouncing, although there were periods in the second session when they temporarily took the initiative away from Brothers.

The grand defence of Reardon and the supporting backs, allied to the fighting forward tenacity of Eddie Brosnan and his supporters, never allowed Souths to raise the hopes of their partisans.

Felix Doyle, by herculean bustling efforts near the line, was responsible for Brothers' first two tries.

A clever handling attack, which was finished off by Kelly, gave Brothers their third try. Reardon, Ridgwell, and Nugent had a share in this movement.

A brilliant opening up attack by stand-off, Kelly, played a big part in Reardon's brilliant try, which gave Brothers a 12-0 lead at half time.

Winger Sheehan ran 50 yards to score for Brothers in the second half. The try was converted by Seymour.

Down 17-0 after 12 minutes' play in the second half, Souths' winger, Reg Pegg, opened his team's scoring account with a try in the left-hand corner, which Murphy converted.

Souths' remaining try came from a brilliant lone effort by centre Ted Verrenkamp.

Winger Gerald Halpin (Brothers) retired injured seven minutes before half time. He was replaced by W. Anthony.

Bobby White's excellent refereeing did much to make the game fast and spectacular.

As a result of the win Brothers qualified to contest the special semi-final against the losers of next Saturday's No. 1 semi-final between Eastern Suburbs and Valley.

Souths have been eliminated from the premiership.

Scorers : — Brothers 17 : Tries by Doyle (2), Kelly, Reardon, and Sheehan; one conversion by full-back J. Seymour. Souths 8 : Tries by Reg Pegg and Verrenkamp; one conversion by Murphy.

Defenders Tricked



JACK REARDON (Brothers), making one of his characteristic attacking bursts in the League semi-final against Southern Suburbs at the Brisbane Cricket ground yesterday. The fine positional running of Reardon is indicated by the clever way he has taken the play away from defending winger Reg Pegg (No. 2.)

1946

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 20 v Valleys 5

EASTS WIN, BUT GLUM Star Half Taken To Hospital

Easts Move In Attack



EASTERN SUBURBS full-back, J. Doonar, making an opening, trailed by J. Alexander, in Rugby League semi-final against Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Easts won by 20 to five.

By L. H. KEARNEY

BEATING Valley by 20 points to five, after their star half-back Bernie Johnson had been taken to hospital with a broken left collar bone, Eastern Suburbs yesterday qualified for the Rugby League premiership final.

Johnson's injury will keep him out of the final, and bar him from selection for the floodlight match against Balmain.

Johnson retired from the game 12 minutes after the kick-off. His deputy, H. Kissick, played well, but Johnson's loss dimmed Easts' cohesive brilliance. J. Alexander, a reserve, filled Kissick's centre position.

The issue, however, was never in doubt. Easts were markedly the better combination, especially in the vanguard.

Capital hooking by Cliff Green enabled Easts to lead by 10 points to two at the interval.

Scoring two tries in the first nine minutes of the second half, Easts went ahead 20 to two.

They afterwards eased, but sound defence kept Valley down to a single try.

Eight minutes before the bell, Paul Steinheuer, Easts' hefty second-row forward, was carried off with an injured right ankle. He is to have it x-rayed. There were several minor casualties.

Turbulent interludes, with occasional flying fists, marked the play, but referee Len. Jacobsen promptly used firm methods.

Easts' pack of forwards in the first half were complete masters. Hooker Cliff Green gained possession 20 times to rival J. Clark's seven.

Kissick's lead up play to Jack Ryrie's try was particularly smart.

The spectacular tit-bit of the match, however, was the combination of full back J. Doonar and stand-off Dave Johnson, which paved the way for J. Schatz's first try. The duo paralysed Valley's defence to make things easy for Schatz's crowning effort.

Green (hooker) and Schatz were prominent in McLennan's opening try in the second half. A mishandle and fumble by J. Hourigan (Valley centre) gave Schatz his second scoring chance.

A speedy individual effort by winger R. Wise was responsible for Valley's only try.

Steinheuer, Green, Jack Ryrie, O'Neill, Jager, and McLennan all played big parts in Easts' success. Schatz, Doonar, and D. Johnson stood out in the backs.

O'Connor (full back) and Brohman (forward) received trophies for being Valley's best players. Test forward Roy Westaway (Valley) played with a badly gashed right thumb. He was injured at his work late on Friday, and showed courage in taking the field. The injury needed attention after the match. Several stitches were inserted in the wound.

Eastern Suburbs (20), tries by Schatz (2), J. Ryrie, and R. McLennan; goals by Doonar, three conversions and one penalty.

Valley (5), try by Wise; penalty goal by O'Connor.

1946

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 17 v Brothers 14

RESERVE LEAGUE STAR WINGER 'FIND' AS FORWARD

RUGBY LEAGUE—By L. H. KEARNEY

UNKNOWN as a forward, Ray Ward, former Easts' winger, a last-minute substitution for test player, Roy Westaway, played an outstanding part in Valley's 17 to 14 victory over Brothers in the League semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

As a result of their win Valleys qualified to meet Eastern Suburbs in the final of the B.R.L. premiership next Saturday.

Valley deserved their victory. They were the better balanced team, and displayed superior tactics, which did credit to their coach, Fred Neumann.

Although they never tried anything elaborate in attack, and made errors, especially in the first half, they were much steadier under pressure, and tackled with a grimness that revealed the old traditional "die hard" spirit.

In the absence of Westaway, who sustained an injury at work the previous week, Ivan Blow captained Valleys with admirable judgment.

Blow was up against Jack Reardon, one of the cleverest tacticians in the game, and on the day outgeneralled the old Kangaroo master.

Valley, with the assistance of a stiff south-wester, led at half-time by nine points to four, but their position was not considered safe.

International Vic Armbruster and several other veterans gave Brothers a chance of turning the tables in the second half with the helping breeze.

Rallied Too Late

Valley, however, upset calculations by adding to their lead in the first minute after the resumption. With 10 minutes to go they were in front 17-9.

Brothers tried desperately to open up the game in the closing minutes, but their handling rallies came too late, although they reduced their deficit five minutes before full time.

The game never rose to spectacular heights, the general trend of play being marked by fierce tackling exchanges.

Still the tense battle held the interest of 7000 spectators to the final bell.

Brothers at no stage revealed the bright, skilful football which they unfolded against Southern Suburbs in the No. 2 semi-final.

Their forwards, especially in the second half, "bullocked" too much.

Brosnan, Nugent, Rooney, Aberdeen, Doyle, and Arnold foolishly tried to make it a rucking game, but Valley's pack—Ward, Clark, Thompson, McLennan (who took Jones' place when he retired hurt), Arundell, and Brohman—never allowed their rivals to get on top.

Brothers mistaken forward tactics probably cost them the match.

Instead of going after points, they closed the game up, and thereby reduced their scoring opportunities.

Danny O'Connor kicked grandly for Valley, whilst his custodian work was featured by superb handling.

Horrigan, in the centre, Kenny, on the flank, the halves, Blow and Williamson, stood out for Valley, whilst Ward headed a fine pack of forwards.

Brothers' full-back, Seymour, did his job well. His goal kicking, too, was excellent.

Reardon and Ridgwell were easily Brothers' best backs, although Reardon started off rather shakily.

Brosnan, Doyle, and Aberdeen were the pick of Brothers' six.

VALLEY (17): Tries, Kenny (2) and Ward; goals, O'Connor two conversions and two penalties.

BROTHERS (14): Tries, Halpin and Nugent; goals, Seymour two conversions and two penalties.

Carried Off, Injured



VALLEY FORWARD Davy Jones, being carried off the field eight minutes before half-time in the League semi-final between Brothers and Valley at Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Jones was replaced by McLennan. He suffered a head injury, but recovered later.

1946

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 5 v EASTS 2

Action Shots Of League

ACTION pictures of the League final between Valley and Easts taken at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. TOP: Ray Ward (Valley), moves in to snap up the ball, after Roy Westaway had lost possession when tackled by Easts' centre, Nev Ryrie. BOTTOM: Len Kenny (Valley) attempting to stop Easts' winger, Jack Schatz.





Shock In Rugby League Final

VALLEY DOWN EAST'S IN HARD GAME

LEAGUE—By L. H. KEARNEY

VALLEY sprang the biggest surprise of the Rugby League season by defeating Eastern Suburbs by 5 points to two in the final of the 1946 premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

It was Valley's seventh premiership success since the inauguration of the Brisbane Rugby League in 1922.

Their previous triumphs were in 1924-31-33-37-41 and 44.

Hardness of the drought-parched ground added to the fierceness of the tackling. The game was held up eight times in the second half on account of minor casualties.

Most serious injury was the scalp wound sustained by Easts' centre, Bert Kissick.

Although the tackling was terrifically hard, both teams took their battering unruffled. The game was admirably controlled by Test referee, S. W. Chambers.

Never Ruffled

Valley deserved their win. They were the sounder balanced side, and cooler under pressure, whilst their positional line kicking was vastly superior both with the the north-east wind and against it.

They took the lead 21 minutes after the start and never afterwards lost their grip on the situation, despite tremendous second half bids by Easts

Every Valley unit contributed his share in the triumph, but there were four outstanding players—O'Connor (full-back), Horrigan (centre), Williamson (half-back), and Arundell (forward).

Williamson, recently back from 4½ years in the Army, played a grand game at half-back.

His line kicking at times was uncannily accurate. Time and again he extricated Valley from parlous-looking positions and drove the opposition back 30 and 40 yards with placement kicks reminiscent of England's Test half, Tommy McCue.

Williamson also initiated the brilliant handling movement which led to Hayes cross kicking for Kenny to flash over and score the only try of the match. This was obtained midway through the first half.

Horrigan made some superb centre field thrusts, and kicked cleverly to touch. His tackling was also destructive.

O'Connor played another of his faultless games, his handling being flawless.

Arundell did a grand job in both rucks and loose. He received capital support from Westaway, Clark, Thompson, Ward, and Brohman.

Easts never reproduced the form revealed when they beat Valleys 36-11 on August 3, and 20-5 in the No. 1 semi-final on August 31.

Their selectors made a mistake in allowing half-back Bernie Johnson, to play.

Johnson injured a collarbone a fortnight ago.

He definitely favoured the sore shoulder, and showed little of his customary dash and thrustfulness.

Full back J. Doonar was right off his game. He got his side into many difficulties as the result of weak clearance kicking and faulty positional running.

Schatz received few real opportunities, but he did some heavy tackling.

Kissick, with his head in bandages throughout the second half played courageously.

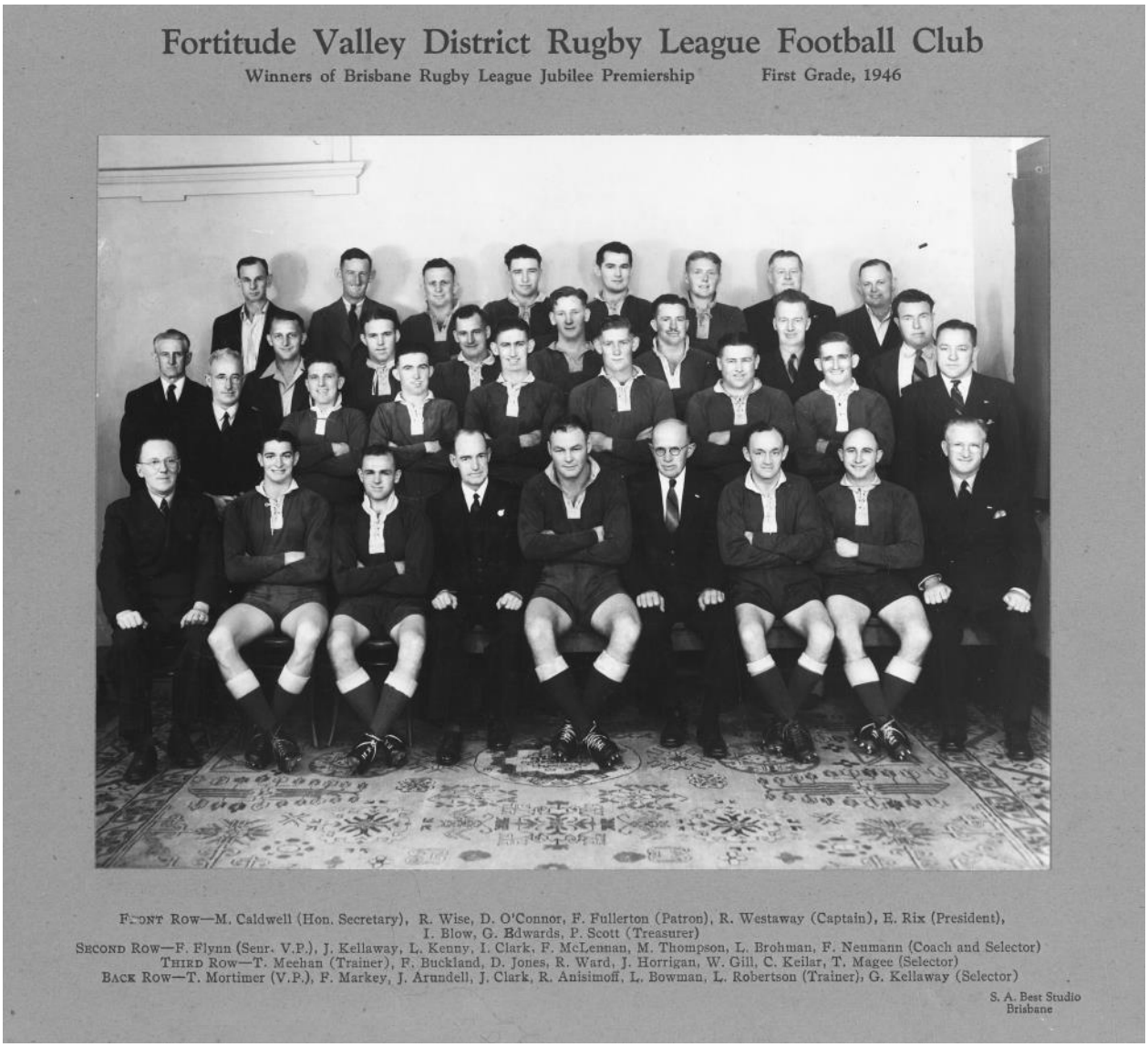
Green, East's hooker, did well. He gained possession 37 to 31.

Jack Ryrie played lionheartedly, but his pack, apart from hooking, was shaded by a more virile opposition.

Valley (5), try by Kenney, conversion by O'Connor; Easts (2), penalty goal by Doonar.

1946

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 5 v EASTS 2



RESULTS

24 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 17 (Doyle 2, Kelly, Reardon, Sheehan tries; J.Seymour goal) d. Southern Suburbs 8 (R.Pegg, Verrenkamp tries; Murphy goal).
Brothers: J.Seymour, J.Sheehan, J.Reardon (c), J.Keim, G.Halpin, E.Kelly, L.Ridgewell, F.Doyle, E.Brosnan, B.Aberdeen, R.Nugent, K.Arnold, J.Rooney. Reserve: W.Anthony.
Souths: L.Murphy, R.Pegg, L.Pegg, E.Verrenkamp, S.Pratley, W.Callinan, J.Grice, R.Kay, B.Shepherd, J.Neale, N.Brough, A.Thompson, W.Tyquin.
Referee: Bob White. ***Crowd: 4,000.***

31 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Eastern Suburbs 20 (Schatz 2, Ryrie, McLennan tries; Doonar 4 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Wise try; O'Connor goal).
Easts: J.Doonar, A.Stillaway, N.Ryrie, H.Kissick, J.Schatz, D.Johnson, B.Johnson, J.Jager, C.Green, F.O'Neill, P.Steinheuer, J.Ryrie (c), R.McLennan. Reserve: J.Alexander.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, J.Horrigan, R.Wise, C.Hayes, I.Blow, R.Williamson, R.Westaway (c), J.Clark, M.Thompson, D.Jones, J.Arundell, L.Brohman.
Referee: Len Jacobsen. ***Crowd: 6,000.***

7 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 17 (Kenny 2, Ward tries; O'Connor 4 goals) d. Past Brothers 14 (Halpin, Nugent tries; Seymour 4 goals).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, R.Wise, J.Horrigan, C.Hayes, L.Kenny, I.Blow (c), R.Williamson, R.Ward, J.Clark, M.Thompson, D.Jones, J.Arundel, L.Brohman. Reserve: R.McLennan.
Brothers: J.Seymour, J.Sheehan, J.Reardon (c), J.Keim, G.Halpin, E.Kelly, L.Ridgewell, F.Doyle, B.Aberdeen, E.Brosnan, R.Nugent, K.Arnold, J.Rooney. Reserve: W.Anthony.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 7,000.***

14 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 5 (Kenny try; O'Connor goal) d. Eastern Suburbs 2 (Doonar goal).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, J.Horrigan, C.Hayes, R.Wise, I.Blow, R.Williamson, R.Westaway (c), J.Clark, M.Thompson, R.Ward, J.Arundel, L.Brohman.
Easts: J.Doonar, J.Schatz, H.Kissick, A.Stillaway, D.Johnson, B.Johnson, J.Jager, C.Green, F.O'Neill, J.Ryrie (c), R.McLennan, N.Ryrie, T.Drysdale.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

1947

BRL: EASTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	1	1	215	121	17
VALLEYS	8	0	2	172	138	16
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	4	1	5	162	165	9
NORTHERN SUBURBS	3	0	7	173	187	6
BROTHERS	2	1	7	105	144	5
WESTERN SUBURBS	2	1	7	125	187	5

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 34 v Norths 19

Souths run Norths off feet in hurricane league finish

PILED UP 15 POINTS IN EXTRA TIME

RUGBY LEAGUE.—By L. H. KEARNEY

SCORING 15 points to nil in a paralysing finish in the 20 minutes extra time ordered, Southern Suburbs defeated Northern Suburbs by 34 to 19 in the first Rugby League premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

It was the most dramatic finish and eventful game for many seasons, the trend of play unfolding some staggering changes.

Scores were even, 19-all, at the end of the scheduled 80 minutes' play.

One Southern Suburbs' male supporter collapsed from excitement, and a lady supporter of the same club fainted as Pratley scored for Souths to make the scores 19 all in the closing minutes of the scheduled 80 minutes play.

Northern Suburbs, with the breeze in the first half, led 17 to 7.

When the conditions were reversed, Norths only added a penalty goal, whilst Souths added two tries and three penalty goals

Norths dispute try and goal

Souths' equalising try three minutes from the bell was disputed by Northern Suburbs' officials and players after the match.

It was claimed that winger Stan Pratley, when diving for the line, lost possession of the ball.

The referee, Frank Ballard, however, gave a prompt decision, suggesting that Pratley had grounded the ball properly.

Norths' officials also disputed Ian Jones' first penalty goal for Souths.

They claimed that the ball did not go over the cross bar, but both touch judges raised their flags, indicating that a goal had been kicked.

Apart from these disputed points, Southern Suburbs won the game like champions

On the brilliant finishing form they displayed, they now become a real menace to the two leading teams, Eastern Suburbs and Valley, who meet in the major semi-final next Saturday

During the extra time of 10 minutes each way, Souths scored three tries and three conversions.

It was truly a remarkable finish following their second half recovery, when they scored 12 points to Norths' 2

Jones lands eight goals

Probably the outstanding individual feature of the game was the deadly accuracy of Ian Jones' goal kicking for Souths.

He registered eight goals—five penalties and three conversions, from 11 attempts.

C. Martin Norths' hooker, did a great job

On a beaten side he gained possession from set scrummages 33 times to B. Shepherd's 24.

Some of the try-scoring movements by each side were really brilliant in conception and execution.

The way Rolley (Norths) moved inside to pave the way for Nolan's first try was artistic.

Nolan showed rare opportunism in scoring from a breakdown reverse passing attack by Verrenkamp (stand-off half) and White (centre).

Souths' first try came from a superb handling movement by Neale, Tyquin, and White (the scorer)

Rolley showed fine judgment and footwork in evading tacklers to score Norths' final try before half-time.

Bright's breakaway to make Neale's first try in the second half stamps him a greatly improved forward.

Pratley showed great determination in scoring the vital equalising try which was questioned by Norths' officials.

A superb inside reverse pass by Jones gave Pratley his second try, six minutes after the kick off of the first extra period.

Arm broken by heavy tackle

Norths were unlucky losing Norman Paxton's services in the first minute of the second 10 minutes' play.

He was taken to hospital with a broken arm the result of a heavy tackle.

Afterwards Norths went to pieces and quick tries were scored by White (Souths' brilliant centre) and Tyquin, who played one of his best club games this season.

Verrenkamp (Souths) was up against some deadly spotting, but he unwound several fine penetrative thrusts.

Neale was another Southerner to cover himself with glory It was his best display.

Jones, White, Freeman, and Pratley were a much more impressive set over the closing periods.

Nolan, Rolley, and Atherden stood out in Norths' backs, whilst Anderson, Paxton, and Dempsey worked tremendously hard in N'orths' pack.

Southern Suburbs (34 points): Tries by Pratley (2), White (2), Neale, Tyquin; goals, Jones four penalties and three conversions. **Northern Suburbs** (19 points): Tries by Nolan (2) and Rolley; goals, O'Malley three penalties and two conversions.

1947

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 12 v Valleys 7

EASTS GO TO RUGBY LEAGUE FINAL

FIERCE BRAWL AT END OF SEMI-FINAL

RUGBY LEAGUE.—By L. H. KEARNEY

A "FREE-FOR-ALL" fist brawl, which had been developing over the closing minutes of play, broke out as the final bell rang in the major Rugby League semi-final between Easts and Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Easts won by 12 points to 7, and will go straight into the final. Their victory also won for them the President's and Hickey cups.

The brawl in a few seconds developed into a real Donnybrook, and turned the zone in front of the goal posts at the Stanley Street end into a melee of fighting humanity.

At the height of the flare-up every player in the storm centre seemed to be hurling "haymakers."

Prompt action by the officials in charge of the game and non-playing combatants quelled the disturbance after it had lasted a minute.

When complete order was restored, the rival players left the field in a fraternising mood.

Valley, who lost yesterday, get another chance of qualifying for the final next Saturday, when they meet Southern Suburbs, who eliminated Northern Suburbs in the minor semi-final on August 23.

Yesterday's game as a spectacle was most disappointing.

The scrummaging was slovenly and there was too futile kicking by both sets of backs.

Diagonal running by inner backs completely "starved" the spectacular try-scoring possibilities of the flankmen—Schatz and Kille (Easts) and Kenny and Wise (Valley).

Scrummage worst this season

The scrummages were the worst seen this season, and they were a travesty.

The referee, S. McVie, showed a definite weakness in functioning two and three scrums in order to get the ball into play.

Time and again when he ordered a third scrummage the ball came out more illegally than it did from the first and second scrummages.

The frequency of these futile battles for hooking possession ruffled the tempers of the players.

When the first scrum was wrong McVie should have penalised the side at fault.

The play-the-ball rucks were also an eyesore at times. The new rule was flagrantly broken by both sets of forwards.

There were only three spectacular incidents in the match.

Schatz's wing effort, which produced Easts' first try, came from a really fine cohesive movement.

Kissick's try in the second half showed up his clever footwork in out-finessing Smitheran, Valley's centre, and O'Connor, Valley's custodian.

Characteristic burst by Kenny

Valley's only try came from one of Len Kenny's characteristic interceptions, crowned by great speed, as he flashed over the line.

The most spectacular player on the field was East's full back, Jim Doonar.

He seemed the only kicker who knew where the touch-line was He also kicked two fine penalty goals and converted Kissick's try.

Easts' pack were livelier and got more of the ball, Green, hooking for Easts, gaining 35 possessions to Clark's 22.

Jack Kellaway retired with an injured pelvis bone.

Wise came on to take the flank position for Valley, whilst Smitheran went to the centre position.

EASTS (12 points): Tries by Schatz and Kissick; goals, two penalties and a conversion by Doonar.

VALLEY (7 points): Try by Kenny; goals, two penalties by Horrigan.

Downing his man

THERE WERE no beg pardons in the tackling in the League semi-final between Easts and Valley at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Picture shows Jimmy Arundell (Valley) with an all embracing and leg lever tackle bringing rival forward, J. Jager, to earth. Easts won 12-7, and now go direct to the final. Valley get another chance to qualify for the final by meeting Southern Suburbs, who eliminated Norths in the minor semi-final on August 23.



1947

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 5 v Valleys 2

SOUTHS NOW IN RUGBY LEAGUE FINAL

VALLEY KICKED FAVOURS AWAY

RUGBY LEAGUE.—By L. H. KEARNEY

VICE-LIKE defence, and clever wet ground strategy with a minimum of technical errors, enabled Southern Suburbs to defeat Valley by five points to two in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

The victory takes Souths into the final of 1947 Rugby League premiership, in which they will meet Eastern Suburbs next Saturday.

The game was played on a sodden ground, the centre of the field being a quagmire, and the ball leaden and greasy.

But even making an allowance for the adverse conditions, Valley used kicking tactics which must have sent a cold shudder down the spine of their coach, Fred Neumann.

A good average class schoolboy team would never have kicked their favours away as Valley did.

Main offenders were Bobby Williamson, half, and Jack Horrigan, centre, two key men, who should have realised the utter futility of high kicking to a sure catching opposition.

The traditional wet-ground "grubber" kick was never exploited.

As a result, Valley, although they received a plentiful supply of the ball, never looked like winning.

The referee, Mr. V. Lynagh, whose display was one of the best of the season, gave Valley every chance.

He awarded them 25 penalty awards to Souths' 17.

In the second half he was particularly severe on Souths' hooker, B. Shepherd, who had seven scrum breaches given against him.

The scrummaging honours were fairly even, South securing possession 27 times, to Valleys' 25

Souths avoided long kicking

The marked difference between the teams was Souths' ability to make more headway when in possession.

Apart from a few successful line kicks by Murphy and Tyquin, Souths refrained from long kicking. By this manoeuvre they kept possession of the ball for longer periods than did the opposition.

It is many years since I have seen better captaincy, in the circumstances, than that shown by Bill Tyquin.

He always had his men under control, saw to it that they did the right thing in attack, and was a giant in cover defence himself.

Tall Ernie Bright also gave a grand forward display for Souths, and was backed up by Brough, Ekeland, Neale, and Shepherd.

Souths lost Thompson with an injured shoulder in the 31st minute of the first half.

His substitute, Ekeland, was a power of strength over the gruelling second half, when Souths' better rucking did much to keep Valley on the defensive.

Ian Jones landed a penalty for Souths after eight minutes' play.

This was the only score to half-time.

In the thirteenth minute of the second half a spectacular thrust by Verrenkamp led to Tyquin scoring from the resulting play-the-ball sortie.

Valley's only score was a penalty goal by O'Connor in the 25th minute of the second half.

A few seconds later O'Connor missed a "sitter" from the goal mouth.

Claim recall not justified

Valley officials claimed that Heath was wrongly penalised just before half time, when he looked set for a try.

The incident resulted from a checked clearance kick by Verrenkamp.

Heath, off the rebound, looked like scoring when he was recalled.

International referee Frank Moynihan said that Heath regained the ball off his own knock on and not off a rebound.

Both full backs Murphy (Souths), and O'Connor (Valley), handled the greasy ball admirably.

Verrenkamp and Johnson (Souths) were bright in patches, whilst White, Jones, Freeman, and Pratley well held the opposing three-quarters.

Arundell and Blackford were Valley's outstanding forwards, but Clark at times was well in the picture.

Valley's inner backs appeared to be right off their game.

Valley's star winger, Len. Kenny, was never given a chance to thrill the big crowd.

1947

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 15 v SOUTHS 2

Rejected player for city team star in B.R.L. premiership final

CALLINAN TO TAKE SEA JOB

RUGBY LEAGUE.—By L. H. KEARNEY

GIVING a classical display reminiscent of Englishman Tommy McCue, 21-year-old Terry Callinan was the inspiration in Eastern Suburbs' victory over Southern Suburbs by 15 to 2 in the B.R.L. premiership final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Callinan's dazzling football completely upset the judgment of the B.R.L. selectors, who omitted him from the Brisbane team to oppose Western Suburbs (Sydney) on Monday.

All ready to pounce



BILL TYQUIN, Souths' captain, gets ready to pounce as Cliff Green, Easts' hooker, with plastered nose, and colleague J. Atkins stoop for the ball in yesterday's B.R.L. premiership final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

Easts' success crowned a sequence of remarkable achievements.

They won every trophy event contested this season—the President and Pike Cups, Stapleton memorial trophy, Taudevin Shield, Easter Cup, and the 1947 premiership.

Callinan ran rings round his rival, Bernie Johnson, whom the selectors chose for Monday's floodlight match.

Just out of his engineering apprenticeship, Callinan will leave Sydney in January to join the merchant marine.

He will go to sea with the ambition of gaining a first engineer's marine ticket.

Played big part in three tries

Callinan scored one brilliant try after ducking out of tackles by Murphy and Tyquin. His snappy attack and reverse pass sent Jack Ryrie over for Easts' first try, and his brilliant short kick and recovery paved the way for Ron McLennan's try in the second half.

Bill Tyquin, Souths' captain, finished the match with a badly lacerated left eye.

Several stitches had to be inserted in the wound.

He will not play for Brisbane against Sydney Western Suburbs on Monday night.

His place will probably be filled by Brough or Bright.

Souths lost Neale, front-row forward, eight minutes before half-time.

He retired with a damaged ankle. His place was taken by Ellis.

A big factor in Easts' success was the remarkable hooking of Cliff Green.

He beat his rivals, Shepherd, and afterwards Bright, by 34 to 18.

Unruly scrums; change ordered

The scrums became so unruly in the middle stage of the second half that referee Frank Ballard ordered Souths' hooker, B. Shepherd, out of the position.

Bright then took over Souths' hooking.

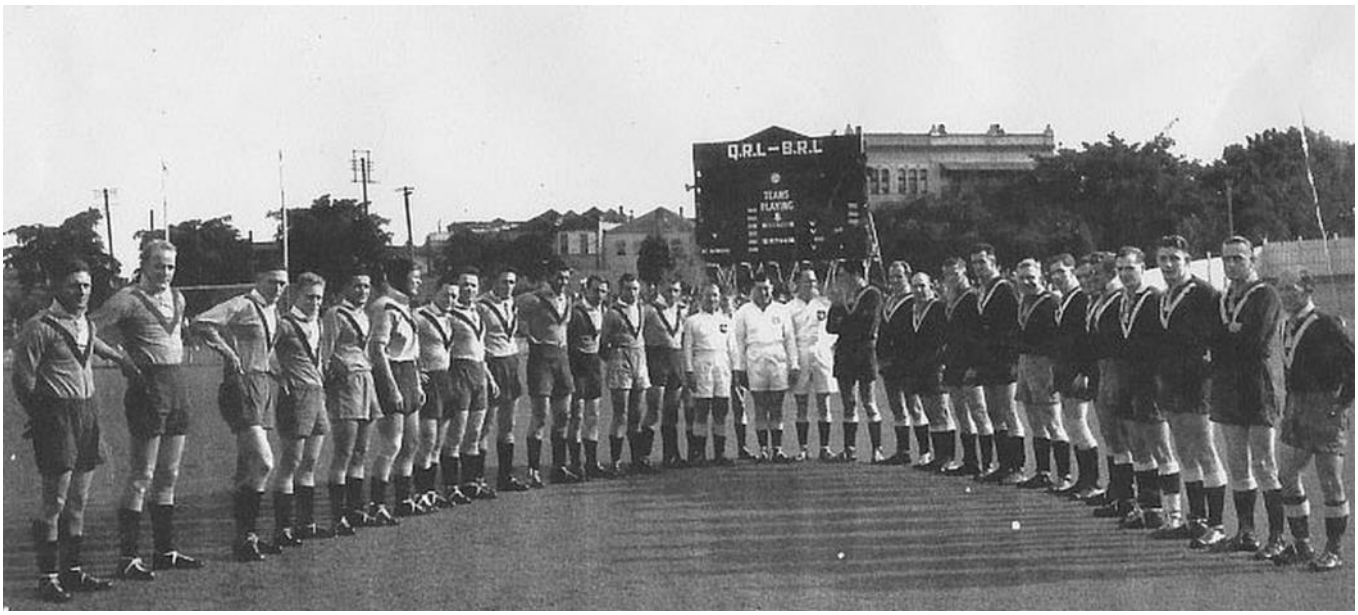
The Ryrie brothers, Jack (captain) and Neville coach, played grandly in Easts' vanguard. They were capitally supported by McLennan, Jager, Green, and Drysdale.

Easts' backs were a purposeful and efficient combination.

Souths, without the ball from the majority of set scrummages, adopted wrong tactics in trying to make rucking their strong point.

Better results would have been gained had Ekelund, Bright, Brough, and Tyquin endeavoured to open up play for their starved back liners.

Easts (15): Tries by J. Ryrie, McLennan, and T. Callinan. Goals, Doonar one conversion and two penalties. Jones kicked a penalty goal for Souths.



1947

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 15 v SOUTHS 2



RESULTS

23 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 34 (Pratley 2, White 2, Neale, Tyquin tries; Jones 8 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 19 (Nolan 2, Rolley tries; O'Malley 5 goals).
Souths: L.Murphy, S.Pratley, R.White, I.Jones, R.Freeman, E.Verrenkamp, B.Johnson, E.Bright, B.Shepherd, J.Neale, N.Brough, A.Thompson, W.Tyquin (c).
Norths: J.O'Malley, R.Hambleton, J.Nolan, J.Rolley, L.Donovan, G.Atherden, N.Sue See, D.Anderson, N.Paxton (c), J.Frischkorn, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, R.Shelton.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 4,000.***

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 12 (Schatz, Kissick tries: Doonar 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 7 (Kenny try; Horrigan 2 goals).
Easts: J.Doonar, J.Schatz, H.Kissick, J.Atkin, R.Kille, T.Callinan, W.Callinan, N.Ryrie, J.Ryrie (c), R.McLennan, J.Jager, C.Green, F.O'Neill.
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, J.Horrigan, J.Kellaway, S.Smetheran, S.Heath, R.Williamson (c), R.Ward, L.Brohman, J.Arundel, F.McLennan, J.Clark, K.Blackford.
Referee: S.McVie. ***Crowd: 6,500.***

6 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 5 (Tyquin try; Murphy goal) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (O'Connor goal).
Souths: L.Murphy, S.Pratley, R.White, I.Jones, R.Freeman, E.Verrenkamp, B.Johnson, J.Neale, B.Shepherd, E.Bright, A.Thompson, N.Brough, W.Tyquin (c).
Valleys: D.O'Connor, L.Kenny, J.V.Clark, J.Horrigan, S.Smetheran, S.Heath, R.Williamson (c), R.Ward, L.Brohman, J.Arundel, F.McLennan, J.Clark, K.Blackford.
Referee: Vic Lynagh.

13 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 15 (J.Ryrie, McLennan, Callinan tries; Doonar 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 2 (Jones goal).
Easts: J.Doonar, J.Schatz, J.Atkin, H.Kissick, R.Kille, W. Callinan, T.Callinan, T.Drysdale, C.Green, J.Jager, R.McLennan, J.Ryrie (c), N. Ryrie.
Souths: L.Murphy, S.Pratley, R.White, I.Jones, R.Freeman, E.Verrenkamp, B.Johnson, E.Bright, B.Shepherd, J.Neale, N.Brough, N.Ekelund, W.Tyquin (c). Reserve: Ellis.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 9,500.***

1948

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	0	2	195	128	16
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	3	223	144	14
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	0	5	153	128	10
BROTHERS	5	0	5	141	120	10
NORTHERN SUBURBS	3	0	7	111	211	6
VALLEYS	2	0	8	105	195	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Easts 36 v Brothers 5

Brothers, team of 'crocks'

EASTS HAVE RUNAWAY LEAGUE WIN

By L. H. KEARNEY

BROTHERS were a beaten team before they took the field against Eastern Suburbs in the No. 2 League premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Their 36 to 5 defeat came as no surprise to those in the inner circle of the club's executive.

"We have no chance, we are a team of 'crocks'," said a prominent Brothers' official before the game.

Crack Brothers' forward, Jack Rooney, had to withdraw from the side selected because of a carbuncle on his knee.

Half-back Kelly and winger Ballinger also were "crocks," but in desperation they took the field to give Brothers a semblance of strength.

Brothers were never in the hunt, and their inability to take advantage of the stiff westerly wind in the second half was clear evidence of lack of physical fitness and proper training.

Easts' win sends them into the No. 3 special semi-final against the losers of the No. 1 semi-final between Wests and Souths next Saturday.

Brothers have been eliminated, whilst the winner of the No. 1 semi-final will go straight into the final of the B.R.L. premiership.

Flew from holiday

Hooker Cliff Green, who broke into his annual holiday and flew from Thangool to Brisbane on Friday, was a big factor in Easts' success.

He gained possession 12 to 9 against rival Keith Arnold in the first half, and 19 to 12 in the second.

He received splendid support from a well balanced set of forwards, who completely dominated the game.

Tommy Drysdale had a great day, scoring three tries.

He was in the vanguard all the while, and on the spot when the scoring zone was in sight.

Ron McLennan flashed some of his interstate form, whilst evergreen Jack Ryrie did yeoman service in intelligently opening up the game for his supports.

Weise, Jager, and Green also figured in many of East' swarming attacks.

Bert Kissick, the captain, played a capital game at half, whilst young Morrison and Kille were always aggressive three-quarters.

Impressive debut

Teenager Arthur Russell made an excellent debut at full-back.

Often he enterprisingly raced his front linesmen into position.

Against the wind in the first half, Brothers were down 23 to 3.

The change over did not improve them, as they scored a lone penalty to 13 additional points by Easts.

Eastern Suburbs (36 points), tries by Drysdale (3), McLennan, Weise, Kille, Schatz, Callinan, Beckett five conversions and a penalty goal. d. **Brothers** (5 points), try by Porter, penalty goal by Godwin.

IPSWICH.—Tivoli 20 (tries by Poulton, Lugg 2, Bland, Robertson, Grice, also goal by Grice), d. West End 8 (O'Donnell 4 goals). Booval and C.Y.M.S. played a 9-all draw. Scorers: C.Y.M.S., tries by Flannery (2), Wilson. Booval, try by Porter and 3 goals by Hawkins.

1948

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 22 v Souths 9

WESTS GO TO LEAGUE FINAL

South muzzled by vice-like defence

By L. H. KEARNEY

MAINTAINING a vice-like grip in defence and turning on a brilliant second-half attacking display, Western Suburbs defeated Southern Suburbs by 22 to 9 in the major semi-final of the Rugby League premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

As a result of the win Wests go straight into the final, whilst Souths get another chance to qualify against Eastern Suburbs next Saturday.

Wests completely bottled up Souths' attackers, who could score only one try, and three goals.

On the other hand, Wests' scored four tries and five goals.

Coach "Ack" Jones had Wests in wonderful condition, and when the captain, Hughie Melrose, called on his men to apply the pressure, they rose magnificently to the occasion.

So good was Wests' football over the vital second half that it is hard to understand how Souths ran away with the two previous premiership matches.

In these games, Souths won by 21 to 6 and 21 to 10, or eight tries, nine goals, 42 points, to Wests' four tries, two goals, 16 points.

● *Torrid rucking*

It was a pulsating game full of torrid rucking, solid scrummaging and more colour and dash from individuals than in any other club match this season.

Souths did a grand job in the first half to be down only two points—5 to 7 at the interval.

Their forwards at this stage looked the more impressive, with Crocker, Ekelund Veivers, and Brough tigerish in the ranks and penetrative in loose play.

But a big change came in the second half, Souths' six finishing much stronger.

Wests backs were always grand in defence, and after the change-over against a modified breeze, they became the masters in attack.

Outstanding for Wests were Sims (forward) and Reis (half-back) in attack, with Kay, Lyons, Hunt, Irwin, and Melrose and full-back White, solid all round.

Reis received a trophy from a private donor for rendering Wests' the most useful service.

Jack White, Wests' custodian, kicked five goals, including a brilliant 60 yards field goal, from six attempts.

Souths backs were disappointing with Pegg and his supports lacking the initiative to throw off Wests' "spotters."

Their forwards, however, stuck to their task manfully.

Scrummaging honours were close, Wests gaining possession 21 to 20. Penalties favoured Souths 12 to 9.

Points scorers.—Western Suburbs (22), tries by Sims, Reis, Walker, Lyons; goals, White three conversions, one penalty and one field goal. Southern Suburbs (9), try by Ekelund; goals, Jones two penalties and one conversion.

SPEEDSTER BOTTLED UP

REG ("BUBBLES") PEGG, speedy Souths' centre, did not have a chance to reveal his pace in this incident in the Rugby League semi-final against Wests at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. He is being firmly tackled from behind, while R. Lyons, Wests' breakaway, looms up behind ready to lend his weight should the tackle be ineffective.



1948

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 16 v Souths 14

GREEN LOSES ONLY 7 OF 50 SCRUMMAGES

South's fight back right to the death

By L. H. KEARNEY

CLIFF GREEN, Easts' hooker, gave a display without parallel in B.R.L. history at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, when he lost only seven of 50 scrummages in the semi-final against Souths.

His hooking was the match-winning factor, Easts winning 16-14 to qualify for the final.

Souths almost pulled the game out of the fire in the last nine minutes.

Throwing everything they had into their finishing bursts, they scored two tries and a goal in this period.

Easts piled up a lead of 14-3 in the first half, but they only added two points—a penalty goal—in the second, while South put on 11—three tries and a goal.

Souths did not win a scrum in the second half until after 20 minutes' play.

Fifteen minutes after the start Souths lost J. Veivers, a second-row forward, who retired injured.

Lost teeth, but star

Apart from Green's magnificent hooking, Jack Jager provided the individual highlight of Easts' display.

Two of his front teeth were knocked out as the result of striking Pegg's heels in a low diving tackle in the first half, but he played on.

His display was the best he has given in his three years' association with Easts.

Jager overshadowed such giants as McLennan, Drysdale, and Ryrie by his thrustful bursts and snappy dashes, which often made territorial gains.

Most picturesque handling movement of the match was initiated by him.

He broke smartly away from a loose sortie, and in a flash Ryrie, Kissick, and Kille swept the attack goalwards with superb handling, for Kissick to finally back up and score the gem try of the match.

Neilsen (Souths) and Kille, and Schatz (Easts) were each responsible for brilliant flank tries.

Three minutes before the half-time bell sounded, McLennan (Easts) completely hoodwinked the defence, to score after being served from the scrum base by Stanton.

Pegg (Souths) scored a colourful try in the second half when he intercepted from a break down by Stanton, Easts' half.

White, Souths' fly half, cut through cleverly to place Allingham, substitute for Veivers, in a scoring position, to start Souths' "grandstand" finish.

SETTING BACKS MOVING

KEITH HAIG, Souths' half, whips round the scrummage to open an attack for his outsiders in the match against Easts at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Supporting Haig is lock forward, Nev Brough (left), while Easts' forwards, Ron McLennan (right), and Jack Ryrie (next to him) are shooting across to act as cover defenders.



Souths' final try, scored three minutes from the bell, came from a cleverly executed penalty cross kick by Brough, which sent White over for Jones to convert.

Scorers: Easts (16), tries by Kille, Schatz, Kissick, McLennan; goals, Doonar, conversion and penalty. Souths (14) tries by Neilsen, Pegg, Allingham, and White. Jones converted one.

Wests and Easts will meet in the grand final of the premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground next Saturday.

1948

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 14 v EASTS 7

Smashing tackles
WESTS' DISPLAY IN ENGLISH TEST CLASS

By L. H. KEARNEY

GIBRALTAR-LIKE defence, aided by grand goal kicking by Jack White, enabled Western Suburbs to defeat Eastern Suburbs by 14 to 7 in the final of the B.R.L. premiership at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Only in Test matches by Englishmen have I seen tackling so destructive as that of Western Suburbs in the second half.

Easts' pressure at times was tremendous, but their tearing rushes were checked with tackles of smashing force.

Easts' hooker, Cliff Green gained possession 14 to nine in the first half and 21 to six in the second, giving an aggregate of 35 to 15.

Such masterly hooking would have broken the spirit of ever an international team, but Wests rose to the heights of their greatest teams of the 1916-22 period.

White's boot told

White's goal kicking was almost flawless.

He scored eight of Wests' 1(points—three penalty goals in th(first 21 minutes and a conversion later.

White's positional kicking both with a helping north-easter and later when the breeze changed to a south-easter was the finest witnessed from a full back this season. He tackled grandly, too.

It was the finest club game of the season. Attendance was 6000 and gate receipts £500.

Early in the second half when Easts wrote off their half-time deficit of four points and led by 7 to 6 it looked guineas to gooseberries on Easts taking command of the game.

The unconquerable spirit and desperate courage of Hughie Melrose and his men turned the tide in the eighteenth minute of the second half and seven minutes before the full time bell Wests scored their second try which put the issue beyond doubt.

Wests' whole team must share in the honours, for every man was heroic in defence.

Sims, Irwin pick

Probably Bill Sims stood out a shade more prominently in forward attack, whilst Irwin was the sharpest mover of Wests' backs.

Easts lost Ron McLennan with a torn leg muscle a minute before half-time. His place was taken by T. Hannan.

Eight minutes before full time, Kissick (Easts) retired with an injured back

Green (hooker), Ryrie, and Weise were Easts' best forwards, whilst the pick of their backs was Bill Callinan, who scored a clever opportunist try as the result of smart following.

It was Wests' fourth B.R.L. premiership, their previous triumphs being 1922, 1932, and 1936.

Mr. Alby Williams, the first president of the Western Suburbs' Club, who flew from Sydney with his son, Ivor, to witness the match said:—"Wests' standard is very high. Had they a hooker of Green's calibre they would compare favourably with Wests' best teams of my day."

Scorers: Wests (14), tries by Irwin and McAllister; White kicked three, penalty goals and converted Irwin's try. Easts (7), try by Callinan; penalty goal and conversion by Doonar.

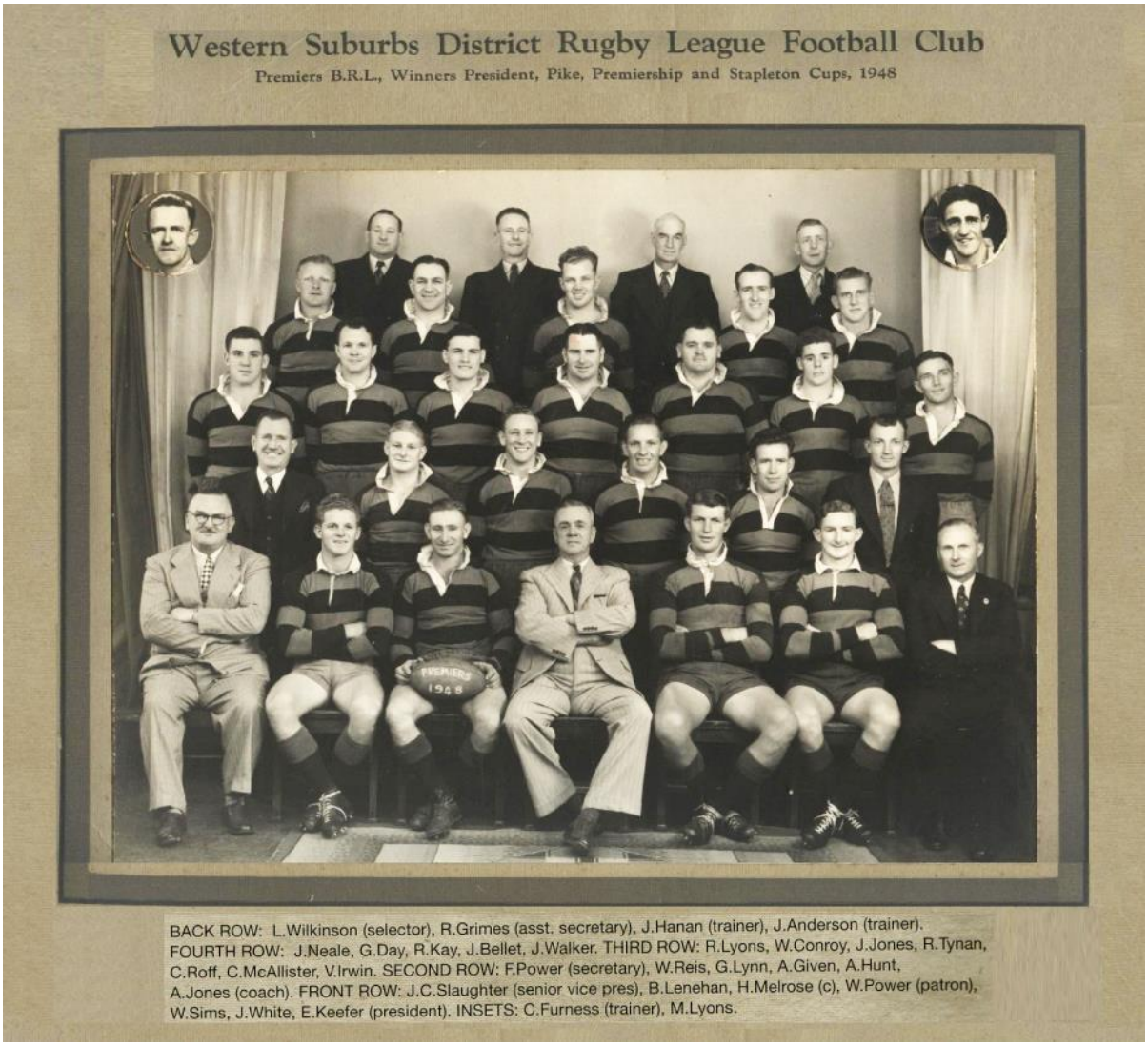
Caught in possession



WESTS' FORWARDS R. Lyons and J. Neale trap Easts' fullback, J. Doonar, in possession in the League final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

1948

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 14 v EASTS 7



BACK ROW: L.Wilkinson (selector), R.Grimes (asst. secretary), J.Hanan (trainer), J.Anderson (trainer). FOURTH ROW: J.Neale, G.Day, R.Kay, J.Bellet, J.Walker. THIRD ROW: R.Lyons, W.Conroy, J.Jones, R.Tynan, C.Roff, C.McAllister, V.Irwin. SECOND ROW: F.Power (secretary), W.Reis, G.Lynn, A.Given, A.Hunt, A.Jones (coach). FRONT ROW: J.C.Slaughter (senior vice pres), B.Lenehan, H.Melrose (c), W.Power (patron), W.Sims, J.White, E.Keefer (president). INSETS: C.Furness (trainer), M.Lyons.

RESULTS

21 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 36 (Drysdale 3, McLennan, Weise, Kille, Schatz, Callinan tries; Beckett 6 goals) d. Past Brothers 5 (Porter try; Godwin goal).
* Easts: A.Russell, R.Kille, C.Morrison, H.Kissick (c), J.Schatz, L.Beckett; W.Callinan, R.McLennan, J.Ryrie, T.Drysdale, J.Jager, C.Green. A.Weise. Reserve: A.Morrison.
* Brothers: K.Godwin, J.Ballinger, C.Coonan, H.Rowden, B.Cotter, J.Keim, E.Kelly, J.Rooney, Keith Arnold, J.Carroll. T.Maule, Ken Arnold, J.Fallon. Reserve: Porter.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

28 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 22 (Sims, Rees, Walker, Lyons tries; White 5 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 9 (Ekelund try; Jones 3 goals).
Wests: J.White, B.Lenehan, H.Melrose (c), V.Irwin, C.McAllister, S.Hunt, W.Reis, R.Lyons, J.Walker, W.Sims, R.Kay, B.Tynan, J.Neale.
Souths: L.Murphy, I.Jones, R.Neilsen, R.Pegg, S.Pratley, R.White, K.Haig, N.Brough, J.Veivers, A.Thompson, H.Croker, F.Jarvis, N.Ekelund.
Referee: Vic Lynagh.

4 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 16 (Kille, Schatz, Kissick, McLennan tries; Doonar 2 goals) d Southern Suburbs 14 (Neilsen, R.Pegg, Allingham, White tries; Jones goal).
Easts: J.Doonar, J.Schatz, L.Beckett, H.Kissick (c), R.Kille, W.Callinan, R.Stanton, R.McLennan, T.Drysdale, J.Ryrie, A.Weise, C.Green, J.Jager.
Souths: L.Murphy, R.Neilsen, I.Jones, R.Pegg (c), S.Pratley, R.White, K.Haig, N.Brough, A.Thompson, J.Veivers, H.Crocker, F.Jarvis, N.Ekelund. Reserve: J.Allingham.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

11 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 14 (Irwin, McAllister tries; White 4 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 7 (Callinan try; Doonar 2 goals).
Wests: J.White, B.Lenehan, H.Melrose (c), V.Irwin, C.McAllister, A.Hunt, W.Reis, R.Lyons, J.Walker, W.Sims, R.Kay, R.Tynan, J.Neale. Reserve: T.Hannan.
Easts: J.Doonar, J.Schatz, J.Atkin, H.Kissick (c), R.Kille, W.Callinan, R.Stanton, J.Jager, C.Green, A.Weise, T.Drysdale, J.Ryrie, R.McLennan.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 6,000.***

**Teams as selected*

1949

BRL: SOUTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	1	234	124	17
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	0	2	170	140	16
BROTHERS	4	1	5	186	149	9
VALLEYS	3	2	5	156	202	8
WESTERN SUBURBS	2	2	6	155	222	6
NORTHERN SUBURBS	2	1	7	115	179	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 35 v Valleys 7

PARALYSING BURST IN RUGBY LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

BROTHERS CRUSH VALLEY

Riot of scoring in 20 minutes of extra time

By L. H. KEARNEY

BROTHERS, after finishing seven-all against Valley in the Rugby League semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday, unfolded a paralysing finish in the extra 10 minutes each-way periods to win by the staggering score of 35 to 7.

In the regular scheduled time of 80 minutes, Brothers scored only one try, yet in the first 12 minutes of the prolonged game they added 23 points.

In the full extra time of 20 minutes, Brothers added six tries and five conversions, or 28 points, to Valley's nil.

It was the greatest upset in the last decade, the spectators being bewildered by Brothers' tornado-like finish which completely obliterated Valleys' defence and left them absolutely impotent as an attacking force.

Under recognised Rugby League semi-final conditions, extra time has to be played when scores are even at the termination of the 80 minutes' play.

When referee V. Lynagh ordered the extra periods, each of 10 minutes' duration, Valley thudded like a dynamited chimney stack.

In the first 60 seconds, Brothers stormed all over their rivals, and once the scoring stampede started there was no holding their inspired and better conditioned forwards, led by Queensland representatives, Eddie Brosnan and Jack Rooney.

Bax outstanding

Playing together in magnificent style, Brothers' vanguard took complete charge of the game.

Rooney (2), Brosnan, and Davies poured through Valleys' demoralised defence to score spectacular individual tries.

The kudos for Brothers' glorious finish, however, must not be apportioned entirely to their pack.

The highlight of the 80 minutes drawn section of the game was the brilliance of Brothers' half-back, Bobby Bax.

During these two tense, early periods of the game he was a man and a half in attack and defence.

Best of season

Bax gave the finest all-round half-back display I have seen in Brisbane first grade football this season.

Other outstanding players on the day for Brothers were Ned Marshall (full-back), particularly in defence, Brian Cotter and Johnny McMahon (wingers), Kev Schafer (centre), and young forwards Terry Coman (hooker), Brian Davies (second rower), and Alan Roseneder (lock).

For Valley Jack Kellaway (defence), D. Dowling (all round), and forwards J. Purcell Doug Hall, K. Martin, and W Anderson (lock), played their parts gallantly before Brothers crushing finish started.

Brothers will now meet next Saturday's major semi-final losers of the Souths—East match in the eliminating semi-final on August 27.

The winner of the major semi-final goes straight into the final, which is to be played on September 3.

Brothers 35 (Rooney 2, Brosnan Davies, Roseneder, Dick, and McMahon tries; Bax six conversions and a penalty).

Valley 7 (W. Anderson try, O'Connor conversion and penalty).



BOBBY BAX, Brothers' half-back, who played a big part in the 35—7 defeat of Valley at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, bounds away from a breaking scrum with J. Fallon in support. Kangaroo D. Hall is moving across to intercept Bax. Bax kicked seven goals for Brothers.

Below: Bob Bax being tackled by Duncan Hall.



1949

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 30 v Easts 16

• Whirl-wind second half eclipsed Easts

SOUTHS IN LEAGUE FINAL

Centres broke up defences

By L. H. Kearney

DOWN 13-10 at half-time after being lashed by penalty awards by referee Ballard, Souths regained their morale to defeat Easts by 30-16 in the major Rugby League semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Their amazing recovery was due to grand team work and superb centre field penetrativeness by Reg Pegg and Ian Jones.

This triumph advances Souths straight into the premiership final.

Easts get another chance to qualify against Brothers in the eliminating semi-final next Saturday.

Souths during the second half scored 20 points to their rival's three.

This margin was a fair indication of Souths' attacking superiority.

A special tribute is due to referee Frank Ballard for disciplining Souths the way he did.

Four times he trapped Souths' three-quarters glaringly offside, and these positional errors were capitalised by Easts' fullback, Jack O'Malley, who kicked faultlessly.

A partisan section of the crowd criticised the "man in white" for the seeming severity of his penalty awards, and Souths' infringing players became completely ruffled under the "caning."

Souths' scintillating recovery in the second half was ample evidence that they possess the attacking spectacular traits of a very fine combination.

Wilted under pressure

Easts had every opportunity after being well on top in the first half, but under the pressure of Souths' more artistic handling and speedy individualism, the "Tigers" lost all their ferocity and faded out of the picture as tame as lambs.

The game was remarkable for the scoring ability of the rival goal kickers.

Ian Jones (Souths) landed six, and his rival Jack O'Malley four.

Len Kenny and Alan Thompson were the outstanding try scorers with two each.

It was Kenny's best display since his return from England.

However, Souths backline stars were centre Reg ("Bubbles") Pegg and fly half Ian Jones.

Each worked the centre sector to cut holes in Easts' defence.

Pegg was dazzlingly brilliant at times, and he made some grand territorial gains besides playing important opening roles for two of Souths' tries.

Bill Tyquin showed fine generalship in pulling Souths together in the second half, and at times he dovetailed superbly in attacking moves.

Hooker's advantage

Hooker Charlie Martin did a great job for Easts. He beat F. McLennan early, and afterwards shaded Bill Cameron, who relieved McLennan.

Apart from O'Malley's goal kicking the most colourful feature of Easts' losing display was the sound defence of Bob Kille. Kille was married after the match.

Easts' defence was weak in the centre when Souths applied the pressure in the second half. They badly missed Keith Brown, who is on the injured list.

Bruce Baker, Jack McPhail, Ernie Bright, Ron McLennan, and Tom Drysdale stood up to Souths' forwards in the first half, but they were raced off their legs in the second half.

Souths lost the services of Tom Harris and Mick Crocker in the first half.

Bill Cameron came on for Harris and Crocker was deputised by Ray Neilsen.

Souths 30 (Kenny 2, Thompson 2, L. Pegg and W. Cameron tries; Jones 4 penalties, 2 conversions).

Easts 16 (Martin, Ryrie tries; O'Malley 4 penalties and a conversion).



ERNIE BRIGHT, Easts' prop, is up-ended by a rival in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final against Souths at the Cricket Ground. J. McPhail (31) waits in vain for the pass, and Mick Crocker, Souths second rower, (at right), is handy to smother Bright.



Above: Souths play against Brothers at the Brisbane Cricket Ground at the Gabba in 1949, quite likely the Presidents Cup game won by Brothers that year. The players noted on the caption from left to right are Thompson, Rooney, Neale, Arnold, Bax, Brosnan (with ball) and Cotter.

Below: Bob Bax is hit hard by Souths forward Harold (Mick) Crocker.



1949

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 15 v Brothers 6

Easts conquer Brothers in dramatic League boilover

INSPIRED GAME BY McLENNAN

Gave masterly touch to attack at centre

By L. H. KEARNEY

SWITCHED to the centre position in a last-minute desperate bid to consolidate the backs, Ron McLennan played an inspired game to be Eastern Suburbs' match winner against Brothers in the knock-out premiership semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Easts' convincing triumph by 15 points to six qualified them to meet Southern Suburbs in the final of the district club championship next Saturday.

It was one of the most dramatic and sensationa boilovers in recent seasons.

Brothers were hot favourite: at the start and even at half-time, when Easts led by 7-6 Brothers monopolised the betting picture, and no one seemed anxious to back Easts' chance against Brothers' formidable pack.

Memory of Souths' crushing victory over Easts in the major semi-final on August 20 and Brothers' paralysing finish against Valley in the minor semi-final on August 13, scared Easts' supporters.

Easts' players, however, did not share the pessimistic outlook of their supporters.

They battled it out with Brothers' ferocious pack finally to tame them, and they also completely hog-tied Brothers' back line attackers by unfolding some of the ablest and most convincing tackling seen in club football this season.

McLennan throughout was Easts' master mind.

His handling, pace, positional play, and crashing fends, reminiscent of Mat McCoy, New South Wales champion, cut Brothers' defence to ribbons.

The former Queensland lock forward showed such class in his new centre position that he suggests possibilities as a State "find" to oppose England and New South Wales next season.

Sixteen minutes after the start of the game, McLennan scored a magnificent try after Bill Callinan had pierced the opposition's inner defence. Ron's finishing pace was a revelation of speed and positional resource.

Thirty minutes after resumption he figured in another grand scoring effort, which completely nonplussed Brothers and electrified the crowd.

He crowned his glorious display with another superb penetrative burst which sent co-centre L. Blaik galloping goalwards, to send winger Frank Zahner over for a try in the corner a minute before the final bell.

Bruce Baker, Easts' forward, gave his finest display of the season, but he somewhat marred his brilliant breakaways by being "nailed" in possession to the detriment of his trailing supports.

Bill Callinan and Bob Kille did some grand destructive work for Easts, and Ted Dempsey, Tom Drysdale, hooker Charlie Martin, Ernie Bright, and Nev Ryrie showed great fighting tenacity against Brothers' tigerish pack.



UNABLE TO extricate himself from Ron Stanton's tackle, Brothers' forward, Jack Rooney looks round for support in the B.R.L. semi-final against Easts at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. At left Charlie Martin (in headgear) is ready to check Rooney's pass.

● Bax's good job

Ed. Brosnan, Jack Rooney, Brian Davies, Tom Maule, hooker Terry Coman, and Alan Roseneder made a great fight of it, but their task was doubled banked as the result of inadequate support from Brothers back liners, with the exception of half, Bobby Bax, whose defensive work was immense.

Brothers had the bad luck to lose Johnny McMahon, centre, five minutes before half-time, and Brosnan throughout was greatly handicapped by a badly jarred and swollen elbow.

Eastern Suburbs (15), tries by McLennan (2) and Zahner; goals, Baker, two penalties. O'Malley, one conversion.

Brothers 6, tries by Maule and Rooney.

Below: Souths and Brothers in 1949 playing for the Presidents Cup (Brothers won 14-4 though Souths would later win the premiership). Bob Bax is with the ball with Souths' Tom Tyquin coming in to tackle him.



1949

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 22 v EASTS 8

Souths' League job easier

SPEARHEAD LOST EARLY BY EASTS

By L. H. KEARNEY

SOUTHERN Suburbs won their second Rugby League premiership by defeating Eastern Suburbs, 22-8, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Their previous championship win was in 1945.

Sending off of Ron McLennan by referee S. W. Chambers, was a real tragedy to Easts, as McLennan was playing grandly, being an inspiration in both attack and defence.

McLennan's try in the 33rd minute of the first half, was the spectacular gem of the match.

Served by Baker and Callinan, McLennan diagonally shot away to paralyse Souths' defence with one of the most electrical bursts of speed unfolded by a club player this season.

Souths were only leading by three penalty goals (six points)—to one try (three points) at the interval.

Loss of McLennan (see story on Page 1) completely demoralised Easts, as they were forced to withdraw lock forward, Neville Ryrie, from the pack and send him out to fill McLennan's vacated position at centre.

● Team crumbles

WITH only five forwards against Souths' experienced and well blended pack of six, Easts quickly crumbled.

A neat kick and recover by Stan. Pratley paved the way for Len. Kenny to score and Jones to goal eight minutes after resumption.

Baker (Easts) with a penalty goal endeavoured to revive Easts' dying hopes.

But Souths, 10 minutes later, took a stranglehold on the game when Reg. Pegg scored after a delightful handling move by Jones, Pegg, and Kenny, and then back to Pegg to crown the effort.

● Margin increase

SOUTHS went further ahead when Frank McLennan scored after neat lead-up work by Kenny and White.

Jones' goal gave Souths a 19-5 lead with 14 minutes to play.

Souths went to 22 to five when Kenny scored, in the right-hand corner five minutes before the bell.

Easts made a gallant final effort, Stanton scoring as the bell rang with Souths holding a winning margin of 22-8.

Charlie Martin, Easts' hooker, with depleted pack support, gave a remarkable exhibition of hooking.

He won possession 15 to seven in the second half, his figures for the match being 30 to 16.

Only for his success, Souths' winning margin would have been considerably greater.



BOB KILLE (Easts' winger) raised the dust on the hard ground at the Cricket Grounds yesterday when he went down with the ball after diving into a pocket of South tacklers. J. Veivers (13) is about to pounce for the kill. Frank McLennan, on the right, and Len Pegg, on the left, are ready to complete the smother.

● Colour lacking

APART from the few spectacular scoring movements, it was not a pretty game to watch.

The tackling was tremendously hard and gruelling, but there were too many ugly incidents after the tackles had been completed.

There was too much "playing of the man," which naturally had a jolting influence on the game as a spectacle.

Souths' forwards were not a great force early, but against the weakened opposition they excelled in both rucks and loose in the second half.

Australian representative for New Zealand tour, Alan Thompson, J. Vievers, H. Crocker, and W. Tyquin, stood out.

● Winners' best

The Pegg brothers—Reg and Len—also Kenny and half-back, R. White, were the pick of Souths' backs.

However, Ian Jones kicked finely. His goaling tally for the season, with the Peter Hickey Cup final to be played next Saturday, is 60.

Half-backs Ron Stanton and W. Callinan, and Centre L. Black in attack, and R. Kille in defence, were conspicuous for Easts.

Apart from hooker C. Martin, Easts' best forwards were Baker and Drysdale.

Attendance was 7000 and receipts £485.

Souths 22 (tries by Kenny 2, R. Pegg, F. McLennan; goals, I. Jones three penalties and two conversions).

Easts 8 (tries by Ron McLennan and Stanton; goal Baker a penalty).

1949

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 22 v EASTS 8



RESULTS

13 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 35 (Rooney 2, Brosnan, Davies, Roseneder, Dick, McMahon tries; Bax 7 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 7 (Anderson try; O'Connor 2 goals).
Brothers: E.Marshall, B.Cotter, K.Schafer, J.Harris, J.McMahon, S.Dick, R.Bax, A.Roseneder, J.Fallon, B.Davies, E.Brosnan (c), T.Coman, J.Rooney. Coach: Bill Dall.
Valleys: D.O'Connor (c), D.Smythe, H.Aldridge, J.Kellaway, L.Donovan, R.Lynagh, D.Dowling, W.Anderson, K.Martin, D.Hall, A.McSween, R.Graham, J.Purcell. Coach: R.Ebbern.
Referee: Vic Lynagh.

20 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 30 (Kenny 2, Thompson 2, L.Pegg, W.Cameron tries; Jones 6 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 16 (Martin, Ryrie tries; O'Malley 5 goals).
Souths: N.Lesina, L.Kenny, L.Pegg, R.Pegg, S.Pratley, I.Jones, R.White, W.Tyquin (c), H.Crocker, A.Thompson, F.McLennan, J.Veivers, T.Harris.
Easts: J.O'Malley, L.Beckett, N.Ryrie, L.Blaik, R.Kille, W.Callinan (c), R.Stanton, R.McLennan, B.Baker, T.Drysdale, C.Martin, J.McPhail, E.Bright.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

27 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 15 (McLennan 2, Zahner tries; Baker 2, O'Malley goals) d. Past Brothers 6 (Maule, Rooney tries).
Easts: J.O'Malley, F.Zahner, R.McLennan, L.Blaik, R.Kille, W.Callinan (c), R.Stanton, N.Ryrie, T.Drysdale, B.Baker, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, E.Bright.
Past Brothers: J.Goodwin, B.Cotter, E.Marshall, J.Harris, J.McMahon, J.Fallon, J.Harris, R.Bax, A.Roseneder, T.Maule, B.Davies, E.Brosnan (c), T.Coman, J.Rooney.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

3 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 22 (Kenny 2, Pegg, F.McLennan tries; Jones 5 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 8 (R.McLennan, Stanton tries; Baker goal).
Souths: N.Lesina, L.Kenny, L.Pegg, R.Pegg, S.Pratley, I.Jones, R.White, W.Tyquin (c), H.Crocker, A.Lewis, A.Thompson, F.McLennan, J.Veivers.
Easts: J.O'Malley, F.Zahner, R.McLennan, L.Blaik, R.Kille, W.Callinan (c), R.Stanton, N.Ryrie, B.Baker, T.Drysdale, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, E.Bright.
Referee: Stan Chambers. ***Crowd: 6,532.***

1950

BRL: EASTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	0	2	224	115	16
EASTERN SUBURBS	6	0	4	138	186	12
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	1	4	164	142	11
VALLEYS	4	1	5	127	181	9
BROTHERS	4	0	6	155	132	8
NORTHERN SUBURBS	2	0	8	132	184	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 23 v Valleys 14

SOUTHS OUT-PACED VALLEY

Losers missed injured hooker

By L. H. KEARNEY

AFTER a ruthless but scrupulously fair tackling game, which resulted in five players leaving the field injured, Souths eliminated Valley from the Rugby League premiership yesterday, winning by 23—14.

Valley fought back desperately in the second half, but Souths' 12-2 lead at the interval proved the winning factor.

Valley reduced Souths' lead to 18-14 in the 28th minute of the second half, but a flank try by winger R. Dodds, three minutes from the bell, clinched the issue for Souths.

Each team lost two important key players through injuries in the first half.

Winger Stan Pratley (mouth injury) and centre Ray White (head laceration) were Souths' casualties.

Valley lost hooker Ray Graham with an ankle injury, and stand-off half J. Lichtnauer, with a torn thigh ligament.

Souths sustained a further loss when Dave Johnson was carried off with a kidney injury in the 20th minute of the second half.

Hooker's loss felt

Hooker Ray Graham's injury made a terrific difference to the trend of the game, for Valley, who normally hold their own for ball possession were badly outpointed by Souths' hooker, D. Cahill, after Graham limped off the field in the 33rd minute of the game, after being treated for 12 minutes by the ambulance on the sideline.

In fact, while Graham was lying on the side line Souths added 10 points in 12 minutes.

The game never rose to any great spectacular heights apart from a magnificent 65 yards scoring run by Valley centre Peter Ryan, in the 22nd minute of the second half.

Giving Valley all their alibis, Souths were the better team on the day.

Veivers, who scored two dashing and determined "bull dogging" tries for Souths, was the best forward on the ground.

Crocker solid

Crocker played surprisingly well in view of his crushed finger, the result of an injury at work during the week.

Thompson was also prominent with some heavy rucking, especially in the second half.

Frank Harris and Tom Tyquin and hooker D. Cahill played their parts well.

V. Fraser (half), I. Jones (winger), and Dave Johnson (centre, injured) were the pick of Souths' backs.

Pope kicked magnificently for Valley, landing four goals from five attempts.

His general play was also conspicuous.

Smyth, Houston, and Dowling in the backs, and McSween Comadira, and Anderson worked tremendously hard for Valley.

As the result of this victory Souths advance to the special semi-final against the loser of the No. 1 semi-final between Wests and Easts next Saturday

The latter winner goes straight into the premiership final.

SLIPS OUT OF TACKLE



RAY WHITE, Souths' centre breaking through and slipping out of a tackle by Valley's half back, Dudley Dowling (No. 7). Test forward Mick Crocker with bandaged right index finger is shooting up to support White. A head injury just before half-time forced White to retire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NO. 2 PREMIERSHIP SEMI-FINAL: Souths 23 (Vievers 2, Croker, Jones, and Dodds tries; Van de Velde, two conversions and two penalty goals) d. Valley 14 (Ryan and Comadir tries; Pope, three penalty goals and one conversion).

1950

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 14 v Easts 3

Easts' shock reversal

SOUNDLY BEATEN BY WESTS, 14-3

By L. H. Kearney

UNFOLDING a staggering reversal of form, compared with their crushing defeat in the Peter Hickey Cup on August 19, Wests galloped roughshod over Easts to win the No. 1 Rugby League semi-final by 14-3 at the Brisbane cricket ground yesterday.

This triumph advances Wests straight into the premiership final, and forces Easts to play Souths in the extra semi-final next Saturday to find the other finalist.

Easts defeated Wests so soundly by 27-16, a fortnight ago that their feeble display yesterday came as a great shock to their supporters.

But the result of the game again proved the soundness of the old football saying that "You play as well as the opposition allows."

While Easts could do nothing right, being sluggish and tantalisingly inaccurate in their handling and positional play, Wests, on the other hand, made few mistakes.

They retained possession of the ball and were more polished in all phases of the handling game.

Coach "Ack" Jones, had Wests in wonderful fettle, and his well conceived training plans were excellently carried out by the team's captain, Col McAllister, who, as an individualist, also rose to magnificent heights by scoring two brilliant tries.



BOB KILLE

RUGBY LEAGUE

NO. 1 SEMI-FINAL.—Wests 14 (McAllister 2 tries; White two conversions and two penalties), d. Easts 3 (Ron Stanton try).

Goal kicker Jack White also played a fine winning part, converting McAllister's tries and landing two additional penalty goals, or eight of Wests' 14 points.

Another worthwhile factor in Wests' success was the splendid hooking of Johnny Flynn.

Up against a recognised club champion in Charlie Martin (Easts), Flynn shaded his redoubtable rival by 25 to 24.

Flynn's big share of the ball from set scrummages enabled Wests to keep Easts mostly on the defensive.

McAllister's tries were real gems of quick thinking and dazzling finishing speed.

His first effort came from a superb infield pass by Merv. Long, and the scissors action of McAllister in coming on the inside of Long at dazzling pace cut Easts' defence to ribbons.

Splendid timing

McAllister's second try was another artistic effort, and was performed similarly, but this time 19-year-old Alec Watson made the inside opening for his captain to again slice Easts' defence with another paralysing burst of speed and delightful positional play.

Wests, against a fairly stiff westerly wind, did a grand job in holding the upper hand by 2 to nil at half-time.

When Wests got the breeze at their backs and the sun in the face of the opposition in the second half, they shot ahead to lead 14 to nil in the 28th minute of play.

Easts' only try was registered by half-back Ron. Stanton, after being neatly served by Bruce Baker, nine minutes before the bell.

Easts' pack, when they did go into loose play, were never as effective in possession as Wests' forwards were in similar circumstances.

Bruce Baker, Easts' loose head, was not a success in the position.

Bob Kille, making a reappearance after a long lay-off was Easts' most spectacular backline player. He made several fine touch-line bursts, and tackled like a Trojan.

The game was well handled by referee Vic. Lynagh.

1950

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 15 v Souths 6

Stanton key man in Easts' sound win over Souths

TEAM IN FINAL AGAINST WESTS

By Jack Reardon

WITH a comfortable win of 15-6 over Souths at the Cricket Ground yesterday Eastern Suburbs have earned the right to play Wests in the Rugby League final next Saturday.

Greater penetration in the halves and centres gave Easts the attacking edge over their more orthodox opponents.

Easts scored three tries and did not allow Souths over their goal line.

Easts 20-year-old scrum half, Ron Stanton, was the soundest and most brilliant back on the field.

He was particularly fast away from scrums and went through openings in a flash.

Stanton is developing a football brain and varies his play well.

He and five-eighth Keith Brown completely overshadowed Souths pair, Val Fraser and Kev. Lawrence, in the first half, and Davey Johnson, who replaced Fraser, could do no better.

Easts' must also be credited with solid defence, particularly in the first half, when Souths won seven of the 16 set scrums.

In the second half, however, hooker Charlie Martin gave Easts a much greater share of the ball, winning the scrums 14-7.

Handling weak

Souths' attacking machine did not function well. The inside backs dropped the ball too frequently, and when it did reach the wingers they were not fast enough to take advantage of a slight overlap.

Easts' young centre, Len Blaik, played a fine game. He is an elusive type, with a good burst of speed, but has yet to acquire polish to his play.

The match provided a great forward battle. Easts' rucking and scrumming was greatly strengthened by the return of Ted Dempsey. There are few better for this type of play.

Dempsey led a solid rucking pack, in which Tom Drysdale and Jim Walker were also prominent.

Souths forwards could not carry the added burden of dropped passes and orthodoxy provided by their backs and still shine in open play.

Attack disjointed

Their attack was disjointed, but Thompson, Velvers, Crocker, and Fred Harris worked harder than any other players on the field.

Souths took the field without lock forward Tom Tyquin and winger Stan Pratley, both victims of influenza.

Souths also lost their selected half, Val Fraser, 30 minutes after the start of the game.

Easts lost winger Bob Kille when he suffered concussion in a heavy tackle.

Souths' six points came from three penalties by Bernie Johnson.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NO. 3 SEMI-FINAL: Easts 15 (Christenson, Blaik, Brown tries, Baker 3 goals), d. Souths 6 (B. Johnson 3 goals).

CAUGHT IN CLUTCHES



EASTS' winger Norm Feurriegal (with the ball) tackled underneath by Souths' winger, Ian Jones, and on top by Souths' captain Alan Thompson.

1950

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v WESTS 10

Easts take Rugby League final

HOOKING OF MARTIN WIN FACTOR

By JACK REARDON

EASTERN SUBURBS, with a surfeit of ball from scrums, defeated Wests by 14-10, at the Cricket Ground yesterday in one of the hardest B.R.L. finals seen for many years.

In a position to dictate the attack, Easts turned on a mixture of classy attacking football and heavy rucking, and on the day deserved their win.

Wests' backs, however, defended magnificently to hold Easts down to two tries.

Easts front row combination of Charlie Martin (hooker) and Ted Dempsey (prop forward) won the first half scrums by 16-7, and in the second half by 14-4.

Wests, with so little of the ball, were unable to get their potentially stronger attacking backs functioning.

Both sides tackled fiercely throughout the match, but referee Frank Ballard kept a firm hand with the result the game was particularly clean.

Wests were further handicapped when their solid rucking second row forward, E. Bishop, was sent from the field midday through the second half for indiscriminate kicking and for continually breaking the rules.

Wests missed Bishop in the rucks, where Easts dominated the final stages of the game.

● Was forwards' day

Five-eighth Keith Brown and half-back Ron Stanton started several delightful attacking moves for Easts, but the credit for the win must go to the forwards, who stuck to a heavy task for the full 80 minutes.

Second rower Tom Drysdale played his best game of the season. He did the correct thing with the ball every time he handled it, and his defence was superb.

Bruce Baker was another outstanding player. Besides making penetrating dashes through the rucks and in the open he scored 11 of Easts' points with four goals and a try.

Dempsey, Walker, and Alan Stanton also did valuable work, but Walker could have improved his game and his team's chances by passing more frequently instead of trying to crash the first tackler every time.

● Missed goal-kicker

Wests, although forced to concentrate largely on defence, still scored an equal number of tries to Easts. Unfortunately, goal kicker Jack White was out of touch.

Wests seldom showed signs of weakening under the sustained assault by Easts, and were attacking on the final bell.

Ken Parry's quick passing from the rucks was an object lesson to all Rugby League players, and had some of Wests' forwards copied his tactics they could have made up for their poor share of the ball from scrums.

Wests' half back, Bert Kisslick, was their outstanding back.

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP FINAL: Easts 14 (Baker, A. Stanton tries; Baker 4 goals), d. Wests 10 (Parry, Lenehan tries; White 2 goals).

He missed by inches



RON STANTON, Easts' clever half-back, narrowly missed scoring a try when he was bumped out of touch by Wests' forward, Ken Parry, during the Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Stanton was only inches away from the goal line.

. . . but he went on to score



WESTS' front row forward, Ken Parry, pulls through a high tackle by Easts' lock forward, Jim Walker, to score his team's first try during yesterday's Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground.

1950

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v WESTS 10



1950 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League. BRL A Grade Premiers - Peter Hickey Cup Winners - Frank Fullarton Trophy. ***Front Row:*** *J. Garrigan (Hon Sec); N. Feuerriegel ; Jack Atkin (Coach); Rob Kille (Captain); A.G. Welch (President); Tom Drysdale (V. Capt); Keith Brown; Ron Stanton; W. Robertson (Treas.)* ***Second Row:*** *Hec McInnes; B. Milne; J. O'Malley; R. Christensen; Ted Dempsey; S. Griffiths; R. Otway; J. Mitchell.* ***Third Row:*** *C. Kahler; Alan Stanton; K. Busteed; J. Walker; F. Zahner; Bruce Baker; L. Guy; G. Halliday.* ***Fourth Row:*** *A. Anderson; Charlie Martin; J. McPhail; F. McKenzie; Ken Schatz; J. Cornish (Selector).* ***Back Row:*** *F. Thomsen (Selector); M. Kent; Len Blaik; N. Rolley; A. Lawrence (Asst Sec & Selector).*

▼ RESULTS

26 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 23 (Veivers 2, Crocker, Jones, Dodd tries; Van de Velde 4 goals) d.
Fortitude Valley 14 (Ryan, Comadira tries; Pope 4 goals)
Souths: M.Van de Velde, S.Pratley, A.Hungerford, R.White, I.Jones, D.Johnson, V.Fraser, T.Tyquin, J.Veivers, H.Crocker, A.Thompson (c), D.Cahill, F.Harris. Reserve: R.Dodd.
Valleys: N.Pope, D.Smythe, P.Ryan, D.Houston, H.Aldridge, J.Lichtnauer, D.Dowling, W.Stanley, W.Anderson, K.Martin, P.Comadira, R.Graham, A.McSween.
Referee: Stan Chambers.

2 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 14 (McAllister 2 tries; J.White 4 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 3 (R.Stanton try).
Wests: J.White, C.McAllister (c), B.Lenehan, V.Irwin, A.Watson, M.Long, H.Kissick, L.Bacchi, H.Symonds, E.Bishop, K.Parry, J.Flynn, R.Lyons.
Easts: J.O'Malley, R.Christensen, L.Blaik, J.Atkin, R.Kille, K.Brown, R.Stanton, J.Walker, B.Baker, T.Drysdale, S.Griffiths, C.Martin, A.Stanton.
Referee: Vic Lynagh.

9 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 15 (Christensen, Blaik, Brown tries; Baker 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 6 (B.Johnson 3 goals).
Easts: J.O'Malley, R.Kille (c), L.Blaik, J.Atkin, R.Christensen, K.Brown, R.Stanton, J.Walker, T.Drysdale, B.Baker, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, A.Stanton. Reserve: N.Feuerriegel.
Souths: B.Johnson, K.Panitz, R.Dodd, R.White, I.Jones, K.Lawrence, V.Fraser, T.Harris, H.Crocker, J.Veivers, A.Thompson (c), D.Cahill, F.Harris. Reserve: D.Johnson.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

16 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 14 (Baker, A.Stanton tries; Baker 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Parry, Lenehan tries; White 2 goals).
Easts: J.O'Malley, R.Kille (c), L.Blaik, J.Atkin, R.Christensen, K.Brown, R.Stanton, J.Walker, T.Drysdale, B.Baker, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, A.Stanton.
Wests: J.White, B.Lenehan, A.Watson, V.Irwin, C.McAllister, M.Long, H.Kissick, L.Bacchi, E.Bishop, H.Symonds, R.Lyons, J.Flynn, K.Parry.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 6,000.***

1951

BRL: SOUTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	3	325	170	18
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	0	4	336	211	16
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	0	4	242	172	16
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	0	4	266	205	16
BROTHERS	5	0	7	289	309	10
WYNNUM MANLY	2	0	10	175	378	4
VALLEYS	2	0	10	182	368	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 25 v Norths 15

Wests beat Norths

LONG KEY MAN IN WIN

By L. H. KEARNEY

MERV LONG, a local product from his junior days, was the key player in Wests' 25—15 win over Norths in the B.R.L. No. 2 premiership semi-final yesterday.

He kept rival fly-half, George Atherden, in a tackling sandwich, and was always alert in keeping his back liners in a thrustful mood.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS.

Wests 25 (Mohr 2, McDonald 2, McAllister tries, While penalty and conversion, Mohr 2 conversions, Long field goal), d. Norths 15 (Champion, Greenwood, Walker tries, Johnston penalty and two conversions).

On one occasion with the defence out of position he took a leaf from Frenchman Puig Aubert's book, snapping a brilliant field goal.

But Wests were by no means a one-man team, their team-work being the secret of success.

Wingers Pat. Mohr and Wally McDonald scored two tries each, with centre Col. McAlister chalking up the fifth try.

Wests' success qualifies them for the No. 3 semi-final against the loser of next Saturday's major semi-final between the leaders, Souths and Easts.

Norths' defeat eliminates them from the premiership after winning the President and Pike Cups earlier in the season.

Bright opening

The first half of yesterday's match was brilliantly contested, with Wests leading by 15 to 10 at the interval.

Norths, favoured by a slight breeze in the second half, were patchy, and did not make a scoring impression until the 37th minute, when Walker scored for Johnston to convert, leaving Wests on top with a 10 points margin, 25 to 15.

Full-back Ray Johnston played a sound game, and kicked well for Norths.

Their new winger, Reg. Wakefield, however, was a disappointment.

Apart from Wests' try-scorers, and Long, half-back Smith was impressive, and forwards, Parry, Sims, Cannon, Bishop, Gray, and Flynn, were always in the thick of it.



NORTHS' fullback, Ray Johnstone, shapes to fend off Wests' half-back, Dave Smith, during yesterday's B.R.L. semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground. Wests won 25—15.

1951

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 27 v Easts 16

SOUTHS WERE MASTERS BEAT EASTS TO WIN HICKEY CUP AND WAY TO B.R.L. GRAND FINAL

By Jack Reardon

BETTER use of scoring opportunities and solid defence gave Souths a 27-16 win over Easts in yesterday's B.R.L. semi-final and a clear passage to the grand final on September 15.

Easts will now play Wests next Saturday for the right to meet Souths in the grand final.

The win also gave Souths the Peter Hickey Cup.

Souths fully deserved their win yesterday, coming from a 0-6 deficit to win with less of the ball from scrums.

Hooking was the only department in which Easts' forwards were on top, Charlie Martin winning the ball 21-14 over Souths' 18 years' old Leo Johnson.

Penalties favoured Souths by 27 to 23.

Forwards mobile

Souths' forwards more than matched their opponents in the rucks and the greater mobility of Tyquin, Crocker, Harris, and Veivers repeatedly put Souths back on the attack or stopped Easts' overlap with cover defence.

Tom Tyquin has shown steady improvement this season, and yesterday reached top form with a non-stop game, and a grand 50 yards run for a try.

"Mick" Crocker played a smooth game, in which he was an ideal link in attack and a mighty destroyer in defence.

Easts opened up brilliantly and it seemed that their sustained attack must prevail.

But Souths' defence, in which backs Fraser, Wilson and Fallon were giants, was too strong and did not allow an Easts' try until 12 minutes from full-time.

Souths' backs were also able to strike back in attack as shown by the fact that four of their five tries were scored by backs.

Easts were unlucky to lose winger Bob Kille, who left the field after only seven minutes of play.

Kille's replacement, J. Munro, faced more than he could handle in Souths' strong running winger Jack Ballinger.

Ballinger scored two tries in the first half and one in the second half after Dave Smyth had been transferred to that wing.

Halves solid

It was no fault of Keith Brown or Ron Stanton that Easts lost.

Five-eighth Brown was always dangerous in attack and scored two fine tries, in which he ran for more than 50 yards, swerving and fending off tacklers.

Consistent half-back Stanton has never played better and varied his play beautifully with blind-side runs and short kicks.

Lock forward Jim Walker appeared to be the only Easts' forward who could stay with Souths in the open.

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP

Semi-final, A grade: Souths 27 (Ballinger 3, Tyquin, Wilson tries; Panitz 6 goals) d. Easts 16 (Brown 2 tries; Baker 5 goals).



HE'S GOOD, THIS FORWARD Souths' front row forward, Tom Harris, showed that he was more than a "prop" in this run with the ball, in which he gained 50 yards for his team, at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Easts' forward, Bruce Baker, is hot on his trail and eventually got him. Story, Page 15.

1951

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 17 v Wests 7

Easts win after extra time

WESTS WENT DOWN HARD

By Jack Reardon

EASTS yesterday qualified for their sixth consecutive B.R.L. premiership final by defeating Wests 17 to 7 after 20 minutes extra time in the third semi-final.

Scores at full-time were seven-all but in the extra time Easts scored two tries, both of which were converted.

Gallant Wests went down in a blaze of glory. I have never seen a team stage such a defensive battle against heavy odds.

Beaten for the ball in scrums by 28 to 7 in the first 80 minutes they kept Easts penned within their own territory by sheer relentless tackling.

The game was a typical semi-final. It seldom rose to spectacular heights but the crowd at the Cricket Ground was kept at fever pitch by the non-stop play and close scores.

Grim tackling

Easts, with a surfeit of the ball from scrums, often threatened to break through.

But attack after attack, led by Stanton and Brown (in the backs), Walker, Polley and Baker (in the forwards) broke down under the sustained tackling of Wests.

Easts' lock forward, Jim Walker, began like a champion and caused Wests many anxious moments.

But the real star of Easts was front rower Merv Polley. For 120 minutes, Polley didn't stop running or pushing in the scrum.

His game yesterday is the closest approach I have seen to the "perpetual motion" of Jack Ryrie.

Wests were forced to take the field without star five-eighth Merv Long, who is suffering from a jarred shoulder.

Alec Watson handled the stand-off job capably, but I think he would have done better still as centre, with Col McAllister as five-eighth.

First half produced the most brilliant patches of the game.

Easts' first try was a fine movement in which Bruce Baker reversed play, sent Keith Brown away, and Jim Walker chimed in with a great burst to score.

But Wests' try was the gem of the match. Their forwards had battled up the field to Easts' quarter and a quick pass by Cannon sent the backs away for winger Wally McDonald to leave Easts' defenders standing with a paralysing burst to the corner.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SEMI-FINAL

Easts 17 (Walker, Stanton, Baker tries; Baker 4 goals), d. **Wests 7** (McDonald try; Mohr 2 goals).



ALEC WATSON, Wests five-eighth, caught with his feet off the ground by Len Blaik (East) during the Rugby League match at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Supporting Watson is Wests' half-back, Dave Smith. Easts won after extra time had been played.

1951

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 20 v EASTS 10

SOLID LEAGUE FINAL

Crowd of 7000 sees Souths down Easts

By JACK REARDON

BIGGEST club Rugby League crowd (7000) since 1946 yesterday saw Souths beat Easts 20 to 10 in a torrid premiership final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

With both sides giving and taking terrific crashing tackles, a flare-up was inevitable.

It came midway through the second half, and nearly every forward on the field, plus quite a few backs, joined in the fight which milled in a tight packed mass for half a minute.

No damage was done, and referee Jack Casey got immediate control again with a few quick penalties.

"Better side won"

Easts' coach, Nev Ryrie, and captain, Ron Stanton, said after the match "the better team won."

Souths' superiority was most marked in the forwards, where Veivers, Crocker, Harris and Tyquin had too much pace and staying power for Easts.

Surprise of the match was the performance of Souths' young hooker, Leo Johnson, who shaded Charlie Martin, of Easts, 17 to 16 for the ball from scrums.

The punishing tackles of Souths' centre, Leo Fallon, appeared to upset some of Easts' backs, and they often lacked their old snap in attack. Fallon was also prominent in attack, with powerful runs which at times cut swathes in Easts' defence.

While Souths appeared the better team for most of the match, they could not afford to relax on their lead at any stage. Easts' five-eighth, Keith Brown, and lock forward, Jim Walker, put up magnificent battles.

Easts' forwards erred tactically in the second half when, with a major share of the ball, they continued to use useless barging tactics instead of opening up the game with their backs.

Half-time lead

Souths led by 12 to 5 at half-time as the result of a snap try by Fraser and a fine combined effort by White, Wilson, and Panitz. Panitz kicked three goals.

Easts' first-half try was scored by Greaves after Stanton had cut through well, Baker kicking a goal from the touch line.

Easts had their best period early in the second half and took their score to 10-12 when Smyth and Brown swapped passes for Smyth to score near the posts.

"Mick" Crocker and Nev Wilson each scored good individual tries in the second half for Souths.

Referee Jack Casey handled a difficult game well.

RUGBY LEAGUE

FINAL

Souths 20 (Fraser, Panitz, Crocker, Wilson tries; Panitz 4 goals) d. Easts 10 (Greaves, Smyth tries; Baker 2 goals).

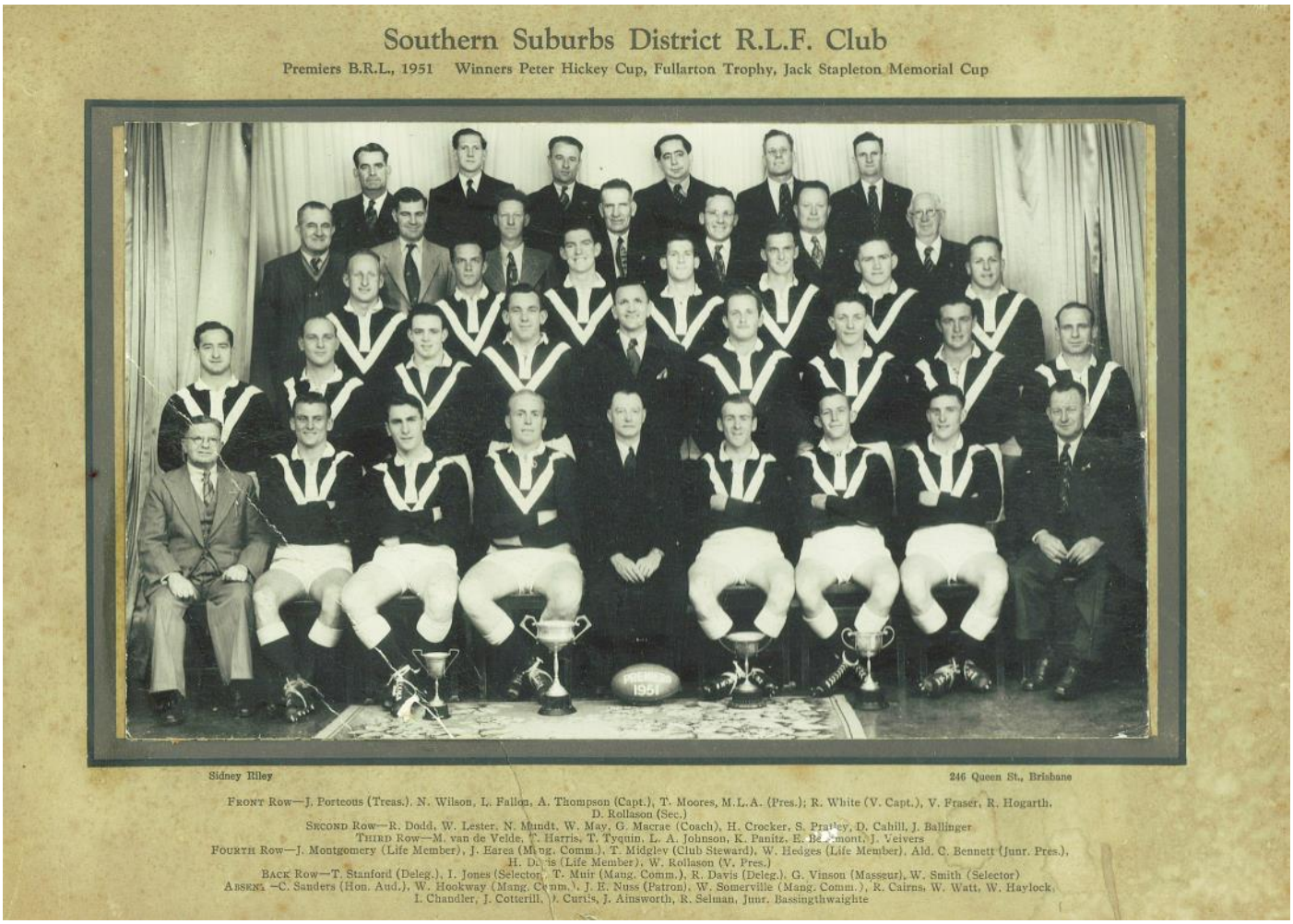
CROCKER FAILED TO STOP THIS TRY



FLYING tackle by Test lock forward "Mick" Crocker, of Souths, just fails to stop a try by Easts centre, Stan Greaves, during yesterday's Rugby League premiership final, won by Souths at the Brisbane Cricket Ground by 20 to 10.

1951

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 20 v EASTS 10



RESULTS

25 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 25 (Mohr 2, McDonald 2, McAllister tries; White 2, Mohr 2 goals; Long field goal) d. Northern Suburbs 15 (Champion, Greenwood, Walker tries; Johnstone 3 goals).
Wests: J.White, P.Mohr, A.Watson, C.McAllister, W.McDonald, M.Long, D.Smith, G.Cannon, E.Bishop, J.Flynn, W.Sims, A.Gray, K.Parry.
Norths: R.Johnstone, W.Champion, G.Nash, M.Ackerman, R.Wakefield, G.Atherden (c), R.Greenwood, K.Nugent, T.Rolls, W.Davies, G.Walker, S.Hassum, L.Wilson.
Referee: Tom Hempenstall.

1 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Southern Suburbs 27 (Ballinger 3, Tyquin, Wilson tries; Panitz 6 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 16 (Brown 2 tries; Baker 5 goals).
Souths: R.Hogarth, K.Panitz, N.Wilson, L.Fallon, J.Ballinger, R.White, V.Fraser, W.May, H.Crocker (c), T.Tyquin, J.Veivers, L.Johnson, T.Harris.
Easts: A.Russell, D.Smyth, S.Greaves, L.Blaik, R.Kille, K.Brown, R.Stanton (c), F.Zahner, B.Baker, T.Drysdale, M.Polley, C.Martin, E.Dempsey. Reserve: J.Munro.
Referee: Vic Lynagh.

8 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Eastern Suburbs 17 (Walker, Stanton, Baker tries; Baker 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 7 (McDonald try; Mohr 2 goals).
Easts: K.Busteed, R.Kille, L.Blaik, S.Greaves, D.Smyth, K.Brown, R.Stanton, J.Walker, K.Godwin, B.Baker, M.Polley, C.Martin, E.Dempsey.
Wests: J.White, P.Mohr, C.McAllister, W.McDonald, O'Brien, A.Watson, D.Smith, G.Cannon, E.Bishop, J.Flynn, W.Sims, K.Gray, K.Parry.
Referee: Jack Casey.

15 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Southern Suburbs 20 (Fraser, Panitz, Crocker, Wilson tries; Panitz 4 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 10 (Greaves, Smyth tries; Baker 2 goals).
Souths: R.Hogarth, K.Panitz, N.Wilson, L.Fallon, J.Ballinger, R.White, V.Fraser, W.May, H.Crocker, T.Tyquin, J.Veivers, L.Johnson, T.Harris.
Easts: K.Busteed, R.Kille (c), L.Blaik, S.Greaves, D.Smyth, K.Brown, R.Stanton, J.Walker, K.Godwin, B.Baker, E.Dempsey, C.Martin, M.Polley.
Referee: Jack Casey. ***Crowd: 7,000.***

All teams as selected.

1952

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	0	2	356	140	24
BROTHERS	11	0	3	370	227	22
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	0	6	323	196	16
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	0	6	271	214	16
VALLEYS	5	0	9	217	337	10
WYNNUM MANLY	5	0	9	180	358	10
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	4	0	10	188	230	8
SOUTH COAST	3	0	11	155	355	6

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Easts 28 v Norths 14

Norths' defeat in B.R.L. semi-final came as real shock

YOUTHFUL EASTS TOO FAST

13 Points in first 17 mins.

By JACK REARDON

GREATER speed and superb positional play gave youthful Easts Rugby League team a shock 28-14 win over Norths in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday.

Easts thus qualified for the No. 3 semi-final on August 23.

They will play the loser of next Saturday's semi-final between Wests and Brothers.

Easts' win yesterday was a tribute to their coach, Nev Ryrie. He has moulded a clever attacking team from a blend of youth and experience.

Scoring 13 points in the first 17 minutes Easts provided a shock from which Norths failed to recover.

Smart backing

Slick passing and backing up gave 20-year-old forward, Joe Baker, a try after four minutes.

Half-back Ken Booth sliced the defence three minutes later to send winger Don Baker over for another try.

Booth again danced out of several tackles to give winger Busteed the third try.

Thrown on the defence by Easts' early success, Norths failed to produce their best form.

A contributing factor to their failure was rival hooker Charlie Martin's winning of the scrums by 26-14.

Defence solid

But Easts provided another surprise in the power of their defence. Norths were able to score only two tries.

Most surprising feature of the game was the performance of Easts' forwards. Led by "Beau" Harkins and Merv. Polley, they outstayed their heavier and more experienced opponents.

Harkins did an amazing amount of work. Playing front row, he was one of Easts' best cover defenders.

Once I saw him break from a scrum near halfway and get across to tackle Norths' fast winger Bob Hales several yards from the corner flag.

Lock forward Jack Warburton was another great worker for Easts. His defence around scrums and rucks played havoc with Norths' attacking plans.

Best feature of Easts' play was their backing up. Whenever an Easts' player broke away he found support on both left and right.

Reserve grade semi-final between Norths and Souths lasted 100 minutes without a decision being reached.

Scores after the normal 80 minutes were 12-all. An extra 10 minutes each way produced a further three points by each side. The match will be replayed on a date to be decided by the B.R.L.



EASTS' Rugby League star forward, "Beau" Harkins, shaping to fend off a tackle by Norths' forward, R. Davey, during yesterday's B.R.L. semi-final at the Cricket Ground. Jack Warburton, of Easts, is supporting Harkins. Easts won 28-14.

B.R.L. SEMI-FINALS

First grade: Easts 28 (D. Baker 2, Busteed, Booth, J. Baker, Harkins tries; Poole 5 goals), d. Norths 14 (Drysdale, Hales tries; Johnston 4 goals).



Easts v Norths at the Gabba in 1952. Easts' players Ken Booth, Keith Hopp, Reg Pegg and Beau Harkins, while Norths Tom Drysdale is about to pounce.

1952

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 36 v Brothers 22

11 A-side in 2nd half

WESTS DOWN BROTHERS IN TORRID LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

By JACK REARDON

RUGBY League minor premiers Wests yesterday beat Brothers 36-22 in a torrid semi-final at the Cricket Ground. Both teams finished the match with 11 men.

Three players were taken to hospital. They were Ken Fogarty and Steve Dick, Brothers, and Eric Bishop, Wests.

Fogarty was admitted to hospital with concussion. Dick and Bishop both had head cuts stitched.

Wests lost hooker Allan Hornery after 25 minutes of the second half. He was sent off by referee Frank Ballard.

O'Brien stars

Wests appeared much the superior team in the first half. They led by 17-7 at half-time. Brilliant tries were scored by McDonald and O'Brien.

O'Brien was not in the original team selected by Wests. When McPherson advised Wests that he was not fit to play, O'Brien came into the team. He was once again one of Wests' best players.

No replacement

Brothers' centre, Steve Dick, was injured less than a minute before half-time. Brothers had insufficient time to bring on a replacement for Dick before the teams left the field.

Brothers' coach, George Jager, appealed to the B.R.L. chairman, Mr. Ron McAuliffe, to be allowed a replacement. B.R.L. management committee ruled against the appeal.

Wests won because they had too much experience and brilliance in the backs. Long, McAllister, and Watson can all make openings. Winger McDonald needs very little opening to score. He landed three tries.

The forwards were evenly matched. Fogarty of Brothers won first half scrums 13-12 against Hornery. Best forward of the 12 on the field was 20-year-old Bennie Williams of Wests. He played a non-stop game and showed intelligence and speed.

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP.

A grade; semi-final: Wests 36 (McDonald 3, Dempsey 2, Williams, Watson, O'Brien tries; Mohr 6 goals) d. Brothers 22 (Biffin, Griffiths, Goodwin, Semple tries; Dall 5 goals).

1952

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 13 v Easts 9

GRAND FINISH IN R.L.

Brothers up when Easts starve backs

By JACK REARDON

GRAND recovery by Brothers' Rugby League team against Easts in yesterday's semi-final at the Cricket Ground gave them the right to meet Wests in the final next Saturday.

Brothers won by 13-9 after being down 7-2 at half time and down 9-2 early in the second half.

Brothers lighter pack was mainly responsible for the win.

Terrier-like tackling by La Caze, Fogarty, Griffiths, solid rucking by Fallon, Goodwin, and Semple kept Easts hemmed in their territory for most of the second half.

Remarkably accurate goal-kicking by Brothers' full-back Dinny Dall put Brothers within striking distance of Easts in the second half.

With 12 minutes' play left Easts led 9-8. Dall landed three goals from three attempts.

Brothers' winning points came when lock forward Paul La Caze gathered from a scrum, served winger Vince Hore on the blind side, then backed up to score after Hore had broken out of three tackles. Dall landed another goal from the touchline.

FIRST SCORERS at the Cricket Ground: D. Dall (Brothers) and A. Poole (Easts).

I think Easts lost the match because they tried to keep play in the forwards in the second half. There are no better forwards in Brisbane than "Beau" Harkins and Merv. Polley, of Easts.

They were magnificent yesterday in heavy conditions. But Easts have scoring backs, Senior, Baker, and Booth, and they were given little chance in the second half to score.

Easts' try in the first half was a gem. Centre Ken Busteed broke the line, drew the opposition, and passed perfectly for winger Don Baker to score in the corner.

A slashing 60 yards' run by Baker and lock forward Warburton five minutes after half-time finished inches short of a try.

Scrums were won by Easts 23-22. Penalties favoured Brothers 15-12.

Norths' reserve grade team proved too rugged and consistent for Wests in their semi-final at the Cricket Ground. Norths won by 16-7.

In the under 16 years semi-final Souths beat Brothers 13-6. Souths' lock forward D. Darcey played a fine game. He looks like a State player in the making.

RUGBY LEAGUE

A. GRADE SEMI-FINAL

Brothers 13 (La Caze try, Dall 5 goals) d. Easts 9 (D. Baker try, Poole 3 goals).

1952

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 15 v BROTHERS 14

WEST FINAL BY A POINT

By JACK REARDON

IN one of the greatest Rugby League finals ever seen in Brisbane, Wests yesterday won the 1952 club premiership by defeating Brothers 15-14.

Terrific tackling and non-stop action had the 9000 spectators in a constant uproar. Final 10 minutes of the game when only one point separated the teams, was played to a continuous chant of "Go on Wests—Go on Brothers."

Popular summing-up of the game was that Brothers were the better team on the day. But Wests would have been unlucky to lose the premiership because of their brilliant football throughout the season.

With their premiership win Wests have now "scooped the pool" of BRL's major trophies. They previously won the President's Cup and the Pike Cup for this season. They play Norths in the Peter Hickey Cup final next Saturday.

Wests clinched their win yesterday with less than three minutes of play left. In a scramble for the ball near Brothers goal posts, Semple of Brothers was ruled offside. Pat Mohr of Wests kicked the goal to give his side the lead 15-14.

In typical fighting spirit Brothers fought back immediately and centre Steve Dick, who played grandly, went within a few yards of scoring a try.

In a game in which stamina and courage were most needed, Brothers' young forward Ted Griffiths was outstanding. His thickset figure was always prominent in attack or defence.

Griffiths' heroic game was little above the performances by Fogarty, Fallon, Semple, Goodwin, and La Caze of Brothers, Williams, Dempsey, and Bishop of Wests.

Wests' ace winger, Wally McDonald handled the ball only four times during the match. Once it was kicked to him by a Brothers' player, once he gathered a loose ball and scored a try and twice it was passed to him by a team mate.

Hit centres

Main reason for McDonald's "starvation" was the defence of Brothers' centres, Steve Dick and Vince Hore. They gave Wests' centres, Col McAllister and Alec Watson, a torrid time and cut off frequent threatening movements.

Wests' "reprieved" hooker Allan Hornery won the hooking duel against Ken Fogarty 23-21. Penalties also favoured Wests 14-10.

Brothers led at half-time 14-7. They had scored two shock tries. Both tries were gems of timing. Half-back McNamara sped through to take a short pass from Fogarty to score between over for Mohr to take the last pass and score.

Mohr missed an easy conversion of the try, leaving Brothers in front 14-13. In their typical fashion, Brothers went back to the attack and game little winger Kev Slater had his fifth "near miss," being tackled two yards short of scoring.

With less than three minutes to go, Semple of Brothers was ruled offside in a scramble for the ball and Mohr landed an easy penalty to make the scores 15-14.

Brothers were attacking on Wests line at the final whistle.

A GRADE FINAL

Wests 15 (Dempsey, McDonald, Mohr tries, Mohr 3 goals), d Brothers 14 (McNamara, Semple tries, Dall 4 goals)

First scorers at the Cricket Ground: Dempsey (Wests) and Dall (Brothers).

SPORT 5

Tight struggle for League club premiership



WESTS' Rugby League forward, Bennie Williams, going down in a tackle by Vince Hore, of Brothers' in yesterday's Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground. Semple and Fogarty, of Brothers, and Bishop, of Wests, are in support. Wests won 15-14.



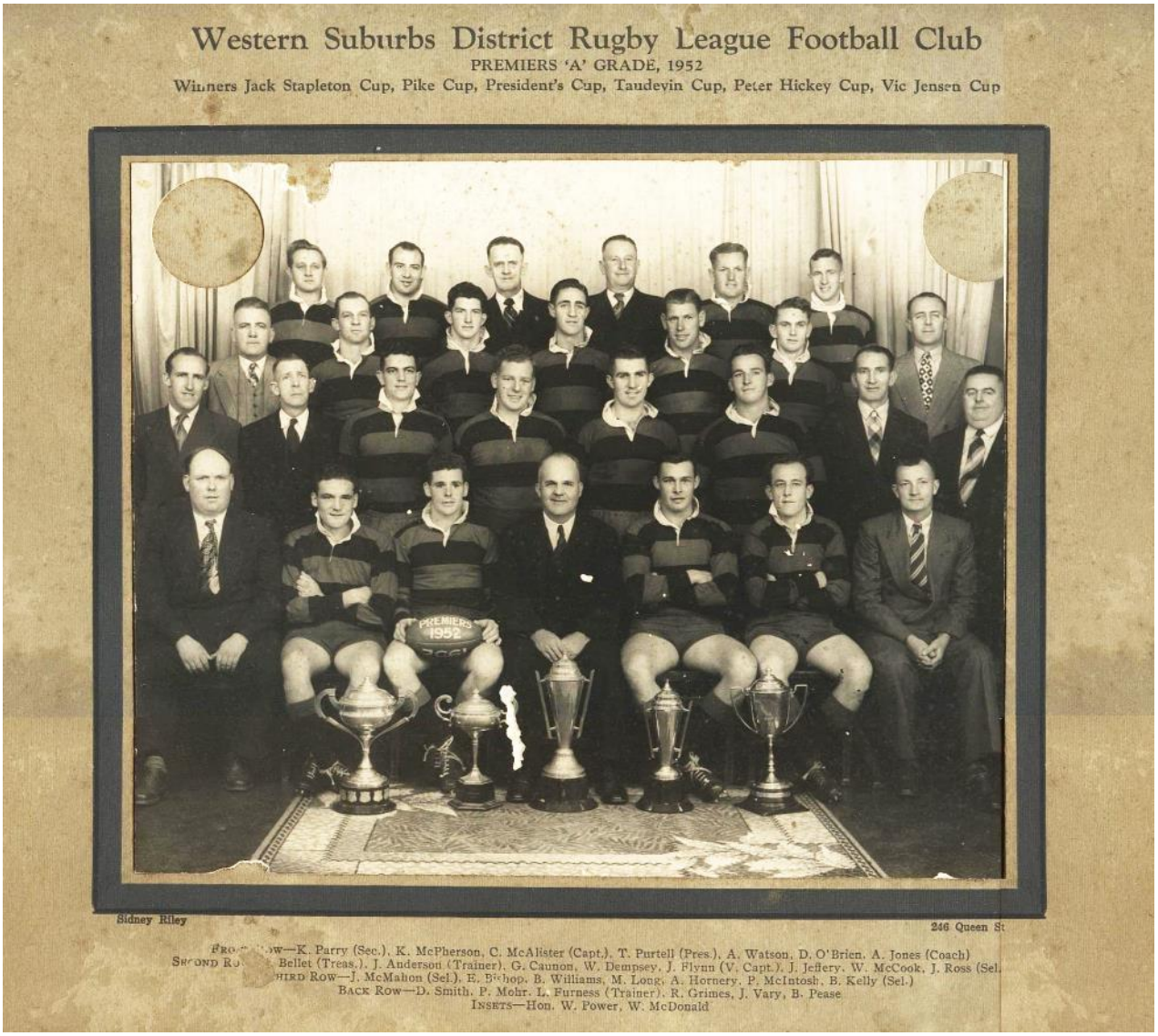
TED GRIFFITHS, of Brothers, takes a pass, whilst Mohr and Watson, of Wests, measure him for a tackle.



GAMEST WINGER in Brisbane, Kev Slater (Brothers) sets out on one of his numerous runs. O'Malley, of Brothers, smiles in the background whilst Griffiths (Brothers) and Dempsey (Wests) tangle.

1952

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 15 v BROTHERS 14



RESULTS

9 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 28 (D.Baker 2, Busteed, Booth, J.Baker, Harkins tries; Poole 5 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 14 (Drysdale, Hales tries; Johnstone 4 goals).
Easts: A.Poole, D.Baker, C.Senior, K.Busteed, N.Mackay, D.Turner, K.Booth, J.Warburton, J.Baker, R.McGrath, C.Harkins, C.Martin (c), M.Polley.
Norths: R.Johnstone, R.Hales, B.McConachie, D.Harrison, R.Wakefield, G.Atherden, R.Greenwood, T.Drysdale, R.Davey, W.Davies, E.McGrath, S.Hassum, G.Walker. Reserve: F.Humphrey.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

16 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 36 (McDonald 3, Dempsey 2, Williams, Watson, O'Brien tries; Mohr 6 goals) d. Past Brothers 22 (Biffin, Griffiths, Goodwin, Semple tries; Dall 5 goals).
Wests: P.Mohr, W.McDonald, A.Watson, C.McAllister (c), D.O'Brien, M.Long, P.McIntosh, E.Bishop, G.Cannon, J.Flynn, A.Hornery, B.Williams, W.Dempsey.
Brothers: D.Dall, K.Slater, V.Hore, S.Dick, J.Biffin, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, P.La Caze, J.Fallon (c), E.Griffiths, F.Goodwin, K.Fogarty, D.Semple.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

23 AUGUST PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Past Brothers 13 (La Caze try; Dall 5 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 9 (D.Baker try; Poole 3 goals).
*Brothers: D.Dall, K.Slater, S.Dick, V.Hore, J.Gallagher, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, P.La Caze, E.Griffiths, J.Fallon (c), F.Goodwin, K.Fogarty, D.Semple.
Easts: A.Poole, D.Baker, C.Senior, K.Busteed, N.Mackay, D.Turner, K.Booth, J.Warburton, J.Baker, R.McGrath, C.Harkins, C.Martin (c), M.Polley.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

30 AUGUST GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Western Suburbs 15 (Dempsey, McDonald, Mohr tries; Mohr 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 14 (McNamara, Semple tries; Dall 4 goals).
Wests: P.Mohr, W.McDonald, A.Watson, C.McAllister (c), D.O'Brien, M.Long, P.McIntosh, G.Cannon, E.Bishop, B.Williams, A.Hornery, J.Flynn, W.Dempsey.
Brothers: D.Dall, K.Slater, V.Hore, S.Dick, J.Gallagher, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, P.La Caze, E.Griffiths, J.Fallon (c), D.Semple, K.Fogarty, F.Goodwin.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 9,000.***

*Teams as selected.

1953

BRL: SOUTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	16	0	5	553	277	32
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	0	7	465	338	28
NORTHERN SUBURBS	13	1	7	439	274	27
VALLEYS	11	3	7	515	333	25
BROTHERS	12	0	9	434	334	24
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	1	12	387	402	17
SOUTH COAST	5	0	16	317	519	10
WYNNUM MANLY	2	1	18	212	845	5

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 23 v Norths 10

Valley beat Norths in step to BRL final

DASHING WINGERS CLINCHED GAME

McDonald's sparkling play swung match

By JACK REARDON

SLASHING runs by Wally McDonald and Garry Barnett, plus "Diehard" defence, yesterday advanced Valley Rugby League team another step towards the BRL grand final.

Valleys beat Norths 23-10 in a hard -fought semi-final at the Cricket Ground.



RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP.—A grade, semi-final: Valleys 23 (Barnett 2 McDonald, tries: White 4, Pope, 3 goals) d Norths 10 (Greenwood 2 tries: Johnstone 2 goals)

NORTHS' Rugby League forward Dick Turner sets himself for one of his many determined runs against Valleys in the BRL semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Turner has just received the ball from Don Davey, who bit the dust after a tackle by Bob Cairns, of Valleys. Stan Hassum, of Norths, hurdles Cairns to back up. Despite inspired games by Turner, Davey, and Hassum, Valleys won 23-10.

Valleys were sent to a winning lead in the first half by the brilliant Wally McDonald who, but for a change in the district boundaries this season, could have been doing the same thing for Norths.

The ever alert McDonald gathered a loose ball in the 13th minute of the first half, dashed to Norths' full-back, Rae Johnston, then served Garry Barnett a beautiful pass for him to score.

Six minutes later McDonald received the ball at Norths' quarter line and with a blinding burst of speed scored in the corner.

Two goals by Norm Pope gave Valleys a 10-0 lead at this stage.

Mulgrew best

Norths, however, generally looked capable of pulling the game out of the fire.

Had it not been for inspired defence by some of Valleys' players, Norths could not have got on top during the second half with the strong wind behind them.

Valley five-eighth, "Nudgee" Mulgrew, was outstanding in defence.

He never missed his own man and tackled most of those missed by the forwards.

It was a typical semi-final. There were plenty of close rucks and some grim tackling by both sides but occasional flashes of brilliance lifted it to a fair standard.

Norths' gallant pack of forwards did not deserve to be on a losing side. Turner, Davey, Davies, Hassum and Rolls fought hard to the final whistle.

Lacked finish

They made numerous breaks through Valleys' defence around the rucks but again there was a lack of finish to Norths' supporting play.

Except for several vital lapses in handling, Norths' backs played better than I expected.

Half-back Ron Greenwood played his best game of the season. But Norths lacked a player with the shock scoring ability of McDonald.

Excellent goal kicking by Jack White and Norm Pope put the final nail in Norths' coffin for this season.

Pope landed three goals from six attempts, then, as captain, handed over to full-back Jack White, who kicked four grand goals from six attempts.

Barnett's dash

Playing with the gusty westerly wind in the first half Valleys led by 14-5 at half-time.

Norths made their best efforts early in the second half and looked like taking the lead, when they made the score 14-10.

Two fine penalty goals by Jack White, however, put Valleys ahead 18-10, and a final brilliant run by winger Barnett with yet another touchline effort by White, clinched the win at 23-10.

Valleys won scrums by 25-19; penalties favoured Norths 18-17.

Norths' reserve grade were down 5-14 at half-time in the early match against Souths, but rallied magnificently to win by 19-14.

1953

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 7 v Souths 2

MARTIN'S SUPERIOR HOOKING PAVED WAY TO SOUTH'S DEFEAT

Easts move into BRL grand final

Brown key man in back line moves

Overwhelming hooking superiority and the extra bit of penetration in the inside backs gave Easts a 7-2 win over Souths in yesterday's BRL semi-final at the Cricket ground.

Easts thus enter the grand final, whilst Souths must meet Valleys next Saturday to determine Easts' final opponent.

Hooker Charlie Martin yesterday gave Easts a 32-12 share of the ball from scrums.

Kev Coleman, who had replaced Alan Hornery as Souths' hooker, was forced to leave the field with a sprained wrist in the first half. He was replaced by front rower Ed Beaumont.

The extra bit of penetration for Easts came from their irrepressible five-eighth Keith Brown.

He has been one of the most consistent club players of the season, and yesterday he gained ground practically every time he handled the ball.

Brown's speed

It was Brown who, with his customary burst of speed, beat the first Souths' tackler, and set Easts' backs in motion to score the only try of the match, after 11 minutes of the second half.

Busteed, Blaik, and McCartney carried on with the movement, handling the muddy ball expertly for McCartney to score.

Luck did not run Souths' way in this match. They had the better of the game territorially, but lack of ball possession prevented them from capitalising on scoring positions.

Had 12 men

Souths also suffered from injuries, and finished the match with 12 men, after losing second-row forward, George Clark, with an injured shoulder early in the second half.

In the first half they had hooker Coleman and winger Pickup injured and replaced.

Ed Beaumont, who came on as hooker, got over the line from a Crocker pass, but lost the ball in a tackle.

Winger Richards, who replaced the injured Pickup, twice got within inches of scoring tries.

But full credit must go to Easts' forwards, particularly youngsters Alan Roseneder and Joe Baker.

Solid defence

These two players stopped frequent Souths' attacking movements, Roseneder in around the rucks, and scrums, and Baker, with his speed, preventing Richards from scoring two tries.

Souths were called on to do most of the defending. They did it well and repeatedly forced Easts back with punishing tackles.

Outstanding in this respect were half-back Norm McLean, "Mick" Crocker, Tom Tyquin, and Jack Veivers.

It was a surprisingly good game under the muddy conditions. In the second half the players of both sides became almost unrecognisable, so thickly were they coated with mud from the cricket pitch.

Few cautioned

Early exchanges between the forwards suggested that the game would develop into a torrid forward battle.

Crocker, under provocation, coupled with Polley, received one of his very few cautions.

Hogarth registered the first points of the match with a penalty goal after three minutes. Busteed equalised for Easts after 24 minutes, and the half-time scores were 2-all.

Easts scored their try after 11 minutes of the second half. Another Busteed penalty after 23 minutes gave them the final lead of 7-2.

Souths were attacking in Easts' quarter for the last eight minutes.

The "gate" yesterday was £259. The BRL will also collect £300 insurance because 11 points of rain fell in Brisbane between noon and 2 pm.

First scorers

First scorers at the Cricket Ground: Busteed (Easts) and Hogarth (Souths).

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP.—A Grade semi-final: Easts (McCartney try; Busteed 2 goals) d Souths 2 (Hogarth goal)

HALL FOR HOSPITAL

Kangaroo forward Duncan Hall will enter Beerwah Hospital to-day for surgery on his nose and throat.

"Dunc" said his main worry is his nose which gave him plenty of trouble on his two tours of England and France.

Hall denied rumours that he would be playing with South Sydney next season.

He said he had received a substantial offer from North Sydney, but had made up his mind to retire from active football. He feels quite sure now that he has played his last game.—JACK REARDON.



"OUT OF MY ROAD" seems to be Jack Veivers thought as he tries to walk out of Alan Roseneder's tackle in the Rugby League semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday.

1953

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 35 v Valleys 14

Souths go into final by trouncing Valley

BY JACK REARDON

COMBINING plenty of snap in attack, with excellent dove-tailing in defence, Souths Rugby League team yesterday easily beat Valleys in the BRL third semi-final at the Cricket Ground by 35-14.

Souths will now meet Easts in the grand final at the Cricket Ground next Saturday.

The Valley "diehards" died rather easily yesterday.

The McDonald threat eventuated infrequently and their forwards had no counter to the determination of Jack Veivers or the excellent distribution of ball from rucks and scrums by Souths' captain, "Mick" Crocker.

Veivers, who has qualified for both the best and fairest and the most improved player in Brisbane, was in irresistible form yesterday.

He scored two tries with determined thrusting runs away from the rucks, and his defence was faultless.

Smart half

Crocker played one of his best club games of the season. He often dropped off the scrum and sped away to make the extra man in attack.

His passes from behind the rucks were accurate, and he switched the direction of attack intelligently. This was "Mick's" most constructive game.

The player who took the eye most, however, was Souths' game little halfback, Norm McLean.

Usually an 80 minutes' tackler, McLean yesterday also shone in attack.

He cut through Valleys' defence to pave the way for three of Souths' tries and was always a danger in attack.

Norm Pope battled hard trying to inject some fire into Valleys' attack, but the necessary support was lacking.

Slow service

Slow service from scrums and rucks allowed Souths to cut off the supply of ball from ace scoring man Wally McDonald, languishing at outside centre.

McDonald got the ball only twice in favourable positions.

Once he left Souths' defence standing to score himself after grand lead-up work by Pope, and later he shot through clutching tacklers to reach the goal line and present Barnett with a try.

There was no weak Souths' player yesterday. Every man played his part well.

Five-eighth Val Fraser lifted the team's morale high when he snapped a neat field goal after three minutes of play.

Pickup difficult

Centre Col Senior showed up his critics by playing with a badly strained shoulder and, though obviously nursing it, did not flinch once.

Winger Pickup bamboozled his opponent, Barnett, with dodging runs; Don Baker scored two tries, and Norm Mundt was a sound link in attack and defence.

Hooker Alan Hornery won scrums 25-18. Forwards Pointing, Tyquin, and Harris completed a team which never appeared in danger of losing the match.

Down 17-2 at half-time, and down 22-2 two minutes after resumption, Valleys appeared stunned by the enormity of their task of overtaking Souths' score. They did not recover.

RUGBY LEAGUE

First Grade Semi-final: Souths 35 (Veivers 2, D. Baker 2, Tyquin, Mundt, Pickup, tries; Hogarth, 6 goals, Fraser, field goal), d Valleys 14 (McDonald, Barnett, tries; Pope, 4 goals).



TYPICAL running by Souths' Rugby League forward Jack Veivers during yesterday's BRL semi-final at the Cricket Ground. Veivers, Courier-Mail and BRL best and fairest player of the season, was again the best forward on the field yesterday. Here he is outdistancing Valley forward Bill Sims, and is back-fending another Valley player in a dash for the line.

1953

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v EASTS 4

SOUTHS' RUNAWAY R.L. FINAL

Record crowd sees grim, vicious match

By JACK REARDON

Record club crowd of 10,000 people at Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday saw Souths over-run Easts in the last 15 minutes of the BRL grand final to win by 21-4.

Souths became premiers for the fourth time since the war.

Souths' grand pack of forwards were the dominating factor in a match which had all the atmosphere of an England—Australia Test.

It was a grim match. Tackling was always vigorous and at times vicious.

At least six players of each side had deep cuts about the head.

Man-handled

While the game never appeared likely to get out of the control of referee Frank Ballard, I thought he overlooked too much reckless kicking in rucks and actual man-handling.

Otherwise Ballard handled the game excellently as a spectacle. He applied the advantage rule well with a minimum of hold-ups.

It was the ability of Souths' forwards, Crocker, Tyquin, Harris, Pointing, Hornery, and Veivers, to wear down Easts in both backs and forwards that won the game for Souths.

Easts' forwards stood up wonderfully well to Souths' big, vigorous pack, but they lacked the all round ability which enabled Souths to hold their own in rucks and scrums, and still chime in with the backs in attack and defence.

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP. — Grand final: Souths 21 (McLean, Hogarth, Fraser, Pickup, D. Baker, tries; Hogarth, 3 goals) d Easts 4 (Busteed, 2 goals)

Brown hurt

Easts were unlucky to lose key attacking player Keith Brown in the first half. He suffered a cut eye and was replaced by young Bob McCartney, who played well but without the penetration of Brown.

Souths appeared to work to a planned strategy. They played a tight forward game in the first half with the emphasis on retaining possession. It brought them a half-time lead of 5-2.

In the second half, however, they opened up the game and made more use of their backs.

Souths' defence was a credit to coach "Scotty" Macrae. He had them covering every possible attacking move by Easts in the first half. Only the genius of Keith Brown beat the dovetailing defence.

May have won

Although it will remain one of the many unanswered questions, I think that Easts, with Brown still on the field in the second half, could have pulled it off.

Unfortunately they lacked a penetrating back and a sharp player such as Brown to support those players who broke through several times.

Easts still looked capable of winning in the early stages of the second half. Harkins broke through a ruck to make a fine run over 50 yards.

This was followed by a similar break-through by Polley. Each time, however, the ball carrier was left to run alone by Easts.

Anyone's game

After seven minutes of the second half, Ken Busteed landed his second penalty to make the scores 5-4 in Souths' favour.

It was still anyone's game for the next 17 minutes. Play moved rapidly from end to end of the field. It was a tribute to the players' condition that they could stand up to the terrific tempo of speed and bumps.

Gradually, however, Souths' forwards got on top.

Crocker's speed and anticipation in attack and defence, plus Tyquin's backing up, the solid drive down the middle of the field by Pointing, Vievers, Harris, and Hornery, made it possible for their backs to slice through a tiring defence.

The record crowd also paid a record gate of £788. Previous best was in 1946 when £647 was taken at the gates.



PLENTY OF PUSH in this picture of action during yesterday's Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground. Whilst Jack Warburton of Easts tucks the ball under his arm and sets off for the goal line, Tom Harris (Souths, left) is impeded by Mev Polley (Easts). Polley's other hand pushes Tom Tyquin (Souths) whilst Tyquin carries it on to "Beau" Harkins of Easts. Souths won a torrid game 21.4.

1953

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v EASTS 4



RESULTS

22 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Fortitude Valley 23 (Barnett 2, McDonald tries; White 4, Pope 3 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 10 (Greenwood 2 tries; Johnstone 2 goals).
Valleys: J.White, G.Barnett, N.Pope, W.McDonald, K.Weldon, J.Mulgrew, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, N.McFadden, F.Kastrissios, H.Melville, R.Cairns, W.Sims.
Norths: R.Johnstone, R.Wakefield, N.Warburton, G.Atherden, T.Jones, K.Warren, R.Greenwood, J.Goldsborough, T.Rolls, R.Turner, R.Davey, W.Davies, S.Hassum.
Referee: Tom Hempenstall.

29 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Eastern Suburbs 7 (McCartney try; Busteed 2 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 2 (Hogarth goal).
Easts: A.Poole, C.McCartney, L.Blaik, K.Busteed, M.Morrison, K.Brown, K.Booth, A.Roseneder, J.Warburton, J.Baker, C.Harkin, C.Martin, M.Polley. Coach: N.Ryrie.
Souths: R.Hogarth, D.Baker, C.Senior, N.Mundt, K.Pickup, V.Fraser, N.McLean, H.Crocker, T.Tyquin, G.Clark, T.Pointing, K.Coleman, J.Veivers. Reserves: E.Beaumont, Richards. Coach: G.Macrae.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

5 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 35 (Veivers 2, D.Baker 2, Tyquin, Mundt, Pickup tries; Hogarth 6 goals; Fraser field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (McDonald, Barnett tries; Pope 4 goals).
Souths: R.Hogarth, D.Baker, C.Senior, N.Mundt, K.Pickup, V.Fraser, N.McLean, H.Crocker, T.Tyquin, F.Harris, T.Pointing, A.Hornery, J.Veivers. Coach: G.Macrae.
Valleys: J.White, G.Barnett, W.McDonald, N.Pope, P.Meredith, J.Mulgrew, R.Edwards, N.McFadden, K.McDougall, F.Kastrissios, H.Melville, R.Cairns, W.Sims. Coach: F.Neumann.
Referee: Col Wright.

12 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND
Southern Suburbs 21 (McLean, Hogarth, Fraser, Pickup, D.Baker tries; Hogarth 3 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 4 (Busteed 2 goals).
Souths: R.Hogarth, D.Baker, E.Collins, N.Mundt, K.Pickup, V.Fraser, N.McLean, H.Crocker (c), T.Tyquin, F.Harris, T.Pointing, A.Hornery, J.Veivers.
Easts: A.Poole, M.Morrison, L.Blaik, K.Busteed, G.McAllister, K.Brown, K.Booth, A.Roseneder, J.Warburton, J.Baker, C.Harkin, C.Martin, M.Polley.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

1954

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	1	234	124	17
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	0	2	170	140	16
BROTHERS	4	1	5	186	149	9
VALLEYS	3	2	5	156	202	8
WESTERN SUBURBS	2	2	6	155	222	6
NORTHERN SUBURBS	2	1	7	115	179	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 25 v Valleys 20

Valley out of the finals

A try by Brothers 18 seconds from full-time in the first semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday forced Valley out of the Brisbane Rugby League finals.

The try by Paul La Caze gave Brothers a 25-20 win over their rivals.

Brothers held only a shaky 2 point lead for nine minutes until La Caze went over to assure them victory.

It was the most gripping club game of the season.

The lead changed hands five times before Brothers were able to get on top.

And it was 19-year-old stop-gap winger Merv Lyons who was able to swing the game to Brothers' favour.

Valley led 17 to 12 after 20 minutes of the second-half, and were getting the upper hand.

Then from a scrum inside Valley's 35yd line the ball swung out to Lyons on the wing and he went for a magnificent try in the corner.

Dall missed his kick, and it left Brothers trailing by 15 to 17.

From another scrum two minutes later, five-eighth Ron O'Malley shot a gridiron pass out to Lyons over the head of two three-quarters.

Lyons gathered the ball and again scored in the corner with a sensational burst of speed.

Struck form

Dall converted a difficult goal, and it put Brothers in front 20 to 17. Dall later added a penalty to the score (22-17) before La Caze went over.

Brothers led 12-7 at half-time. But not until late in the second-half did they look winners.

Valley really struck form, and gave one of their most sparkling exhibitions for the season.

Their big front-row forward Athol Plater produced magnificent form, and was never off the ball.

Only once did he break down—and that was a vital kick at goal four minutes from full-time.

Intercepted

Valley winger Gary Barnett, intercepted a floating pass just over half-way and ran the length of the field to score near the posts.

The total was then 22-20 in favour of Brothers, when Plater missed what appeared an easy kick.

Brothers centre Sammy Tochinni and five-eighth Ron O'Malley were almost perfect at defence.

Lock John Bruton and hooker Phil Coman took charge of the heavy work, and were tireless.

Valley had every chance. They moved better, combined more crisply, but just could not make the grade.

Outside of Plater, second-row Bill Anderson was a tiger in the tight play. Ray Paulsen also did well.

Half-back Ray Edwards kept the three-quarters moving, but bad handling jolted several fine movements he started.

Jack Jones was prominent in the centre.

Brothers won the scrums 18 to 15. They also narrowly won the penalties 8-7.

Brothers will now meet the loser of the next semi-final between Wests and Norths.

This match will be played under floodlight at Exhibition oval on August 30.

A GRADE. SEMI-FINAL—Brothers 25 (La Caze, Lyons 2, Bruton, tries; Dall. 5 goals), d Valley 20 (Barnett, N Hurley 2 tries; Plater 4 goals.

Valley are now elimianted from the final.

1954

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 32 v Norths 17

WATSON SCORES 15 POINTS IN WESTS' 32-17 LEAGUE WIN

By JACK REARDON

RUGBY LEAGUE Test centre, Alex Watson, last night played one of the best games of his career for Wests in their 32 points to 17 win over Norths in the BRL semi-final at the Exhibition Oval.

Watson scored 15 points for Wests—three tries and three goals. Every time he handled the ball he made ground.

Wests, however, were not a one man team. Their forwards with Test forward, Duncan Hall, leading, tackled like demons and stood up to a solid Norths' pack for the full 80 minutes.

Norths were by no means disgraced. Their forwards were their main strength and if their backs had been as efficient in defence Norths could have won.

The Nundah boys, however, had no one in their backs to hold Watson. His strength and speed carried him through and away from tackles, which at times were less than half hearted.

Second rower, Stan Hassum, was Norths' outstanding player.

The nuggety little forward did not stop running, or tackling, and his game has improved immensely with backing up.

Ray Waldon and Don Davey also were hard workers for Norths.

Needed kicker

Norths could have done with a goal kicker last night.

Rae Johnstone, who practised for two hours at Nundah on Sunday, was right off form last night. He failed to land one goal.

Johnstone said after the match, "I think I left it all at Nundah."

Johnstone's game, otherwise was sound with some brilliant patches. However, his opponent, Ken McCrohon was also in top form. He was another of Wests' stars.

McCrohon played a major role in several of Wests' eight tries.

Twice he chimed in with the three-quarters to make the extra man.

Once he brought the ball up from his own position near the goal line and took play to half way, then made an opening for a try.

Hard tackling

Norths were first to score, when they forced play up to Wests' goal line, and a bad pass nearly let Doug Waldon in. From an ensuing ruck, however, Ray Waldon cut his way through to score.

There was some terrific tackling by both sides, and Wests battled hard to score. Twice they had men over the goal line, but failed to score.

Alex Watson landed a penalty goal to make it 3-2 in Norths' favour, but Wests' passing was too loose in the early stages for them to make the most of a major share of the ball from scrums.

Wests did not score a try until the 29th minute, when a heavy tackle by Horace Robertson of Keith Weldon forced the ball loose, and Duncan Hall toed it over the goal line for Biggs to score.

Norths' passing was much cleaner and neater than Wests, but Wests' defence held strong.

A splendid movement by Wests' three-quarters, in which full-back, McCrohon, joined, saw Watson force an opening to score and convert for Wests to lead 10-3.

Watson landed another five points for Wests just before half time, when McCrohon and McKenzie made an opening.

The match fell away as a spectacle early in the second half through heavy rucks and little back play. Norths scored to reduce Wests' lead to 15-6. Then Wests lost front rower, Vautin, with a head injury.

Wests, however, came back with another try. Their backs were proving more troublesome to Norths. They compiled a further 17 points.

Norths stuck it out. They kept on trying, and were full of running right to the end, adding another 11 points.

Got little ball

There were some smart movements from Norths' backs, but they had a small share of the ball, Wests' Johnny Flynn winning 22 scrums to opponent Stan Holdsworth's 10.

Halves Roy Greenwood and Bill Penman were always dangerous with the ball and each scored a neat try. With more ball they could have swung the game.

West's five-eighth, Col McAllister, and other centre, Peter McIntosh, played important roles in both attack and defence and made possible much of Alex. Watson's penetration.

Duncan Hall was also at his most powerful top and made some surprisingly fast long runs with the ball. He was well supported by Flynn, Russell, and Bishop.

Now in final

Wests will now go straight into the final, whilst Norths will meet Brothers next Saturday for the right to play Wests in the final.

Attendance was 7000, gate takings £550. First scorers were: R. Waldon (Norths, No. 13), and Watson (Wests, No. 4).

Scores: West 32 (Watson 3, Biggs 2, McKenzie, McAllister, Hall tries; Watson 3, McCrohon goals) d Norths 17 (Champion, Calder, Penman, Greenwood, R. Waldon tries; R. Waldon a goal).

Wests' Police Boys' club beat Glebe Police Boys' club in the curtain-raiser 27-13.



WESTS' WINGER Brian Briggs sets off for the goal line, but is well covered by Norths' Bill Champion in last night's Rugby League semi-final at the Exhibition Oval. Wests won 32—17.

1954

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 29 v Norths 8

Norths outclassed 29-8

SHOCK BY BROTHERS; IN RL FINAL

Play Wests for 1954 title

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS' Rugby League team yesterday played their way into the BRL grand final with a shock 29-8 win over Norths in the semi-final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

Brothers will now meet Wests at the Cricket Ground next Saturday for the 1954 premiership.

Trailing 3-8 at half-time Brothers, spear-headed by O'Malley in the backs, La Caze, Bruton, and O'Connor in the forwards, came back with a magnificent attacking burst in the second half.

In the second half Brothers scored 26 points to Norths' nil.

When a storm burst and heavy rain started to fall 11 minutes after half-time, Paul La Caze had just given Brothers a 13-8 lead with a typical try from a burst through the ruck.

From there Brothers' faster forwards gradually got on top and were able to make frequent openings for an alert and good-handling set of backs.

O'Malley grand

Five-eighth Ron O'Malley and second rower Brian O'Connor were the outstanding players of the match.

O'Malley who weighs less than 10 stone, stood up to a terrific pounding from Norths' fast-breaking forwards.

O'Connor's non-stop following of play and his solid tackling were rivalled by only that of Norths' mighty midget, Stan Hassum.

Norths, despite their improvement in the closing stages of the competition, have had a lot of bad luck.

They lost centre Thornton Jones and lock forward Nev Warburton before playing a semi-final.

Yesterday in the first half they lost five-eighth Bill Penman with a torn shoulder muscle, and Don Davey with a bad knee.

The heavy rain washed out any chance Norths had of fighting back after losing the lead in the second half.

Apart from Hassum, Norths were best served by full-back Rae Johnstone, who moved up to five-eighth when Penman was injured, Noel Smith coming in as full-back.

Second rower Dick Turner was also prominent in Norths' forwards, as was Doug Welford when he came on in place of Davey. Ron Greenwood and "Bluey" Weldon were the best of their backs.

Brothers' young pack, however, more than held their own with Norths. Johnny Bruton and Fred Proberts gave splendid support to the backs in both attack and defence.

Brothers' backs shone in defence in the first half, with McNamara, Tochinni, Duffy, Lyons, and Craven going in hard and low in their tackles. Full-back Dinny Dall has also improved his defence and was sound in other departments.

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE. Premiership semi-final: Brothers 29 (Bruton 2, La Caze, O'Malley, Craven, Lyons, Duffy tries; Dall 4 goals) d Norths 8 (R. Waldon, Hassum tries; Johnstone a goal).

1954

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 35 v BROTHERS 18

Brothers went down fighting

Wests take BRL final

PREMIERSHIP WAS TRIUMPH FOR HALL AND WATSON

By JACK REARDON

WESTERN SUBURBS yesterday became Brisbane Rugby League premiers for 1954 with a clear cut 35-18 win over Past Brothers in a stirring final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

It was one of the cleanest finals I have ever seen and was a triumph for Wests' skipper, Duncan Hall, who has had a splendid season in club and representative football.

Outstanding feature of the game, however, was a superb fighting second half by Brothers.

Trailing 2-15 at half-time, and 2-20 a few minutes after resumption, Brothers fought back in wonderful fashion to bring their score to 15-20 then 18-25.

Wests, however, had too much weight and experience for their younger opponents and got right back on top in the closing stages of the game.

Wests' full-back, Ken McCrohon, played an outstanding game and was mainly responsible for rallying Wests when Brothers were playing all over them mid-way through the second half.

Solid in defence, sound with the ball, and elusive in running, McCrohon gave one of the best exhibitions of full-back play seen in Brisbane for several seasons.

Full-back's class

When things looked black for Wests McCrohon several times turned defence into attack with a dodging run.

But the highlight of his play was a diving tackle of Brothers' winger, Johhny Craven.

Craven was about to force the ball for a try when McCrohon flew through the air and knocked the ball from Craven's hands.

Both teams finished the match a man short. Brothers' young lock, Johhny Bruton, received concussion six minutes from the start of the game and played the rest of the first half from memory. He did not take the field in the second half.

Test centre Alex Watson, who scored two glorious tries ant kicked four goals, fractured his left collarbone about ten minutes after the start of the second half and left the field.

Brothers had ample scoring opportunities. Hookers Terry Coman (Brothers) and Johnny Flynn (Wests) shared scrums at 20-all.

Dropped passes by Brothers, however, frequently enabled Wests to regain the initiative when Brothers should have been scoring.

Loss of Bruton's cover defence also handicapped Brothers.

Their best day

Some players on the day rose to great heights. Pat Russell, Eric Bishop, and Horace Robertson, of Wests, played probably their best games of the season.

Wests' centre, Peter McIntosh, was always dangerous with the ball and his tackling has improved immensely.

Brothers' best players were Paul La Caze, Ron O'Malley, Fred Proberts, and Brian O'Connor.

La Caze gave a grand display of non-stop tackling and running.

O'Malley took another battering from Wests' forwards, and his opponent, Col McAllister, but in my opinion did not make one mistake.

Nervous at start

Brothers' young three-quarters — Lyons, Craven, Tocchini, and Duffy—showed early signs of nervousness, but in the second half played like champions.

Despite the big scoring, there was no lack of good tackling. Tries were scored mainly through skilful manoeuvring of the extra man and from dropped passes.

In the early matches, Wests went down to Valleys in the reserve grade final, 15-13, after a rattling finish, with Wests trying for the equalising goal after the final bell.

In the third grade final between Norths and Wests, the lead changed four times. Norths won by 12-11 from a penalty goal in the last minute of the game.

The BRL sprint championship was won by R. Rogers, of Brothers.

Ken McCrohon, of Wests, won a special trophy, worth £5, donated by Owen Weller, of the Albert Hotel.

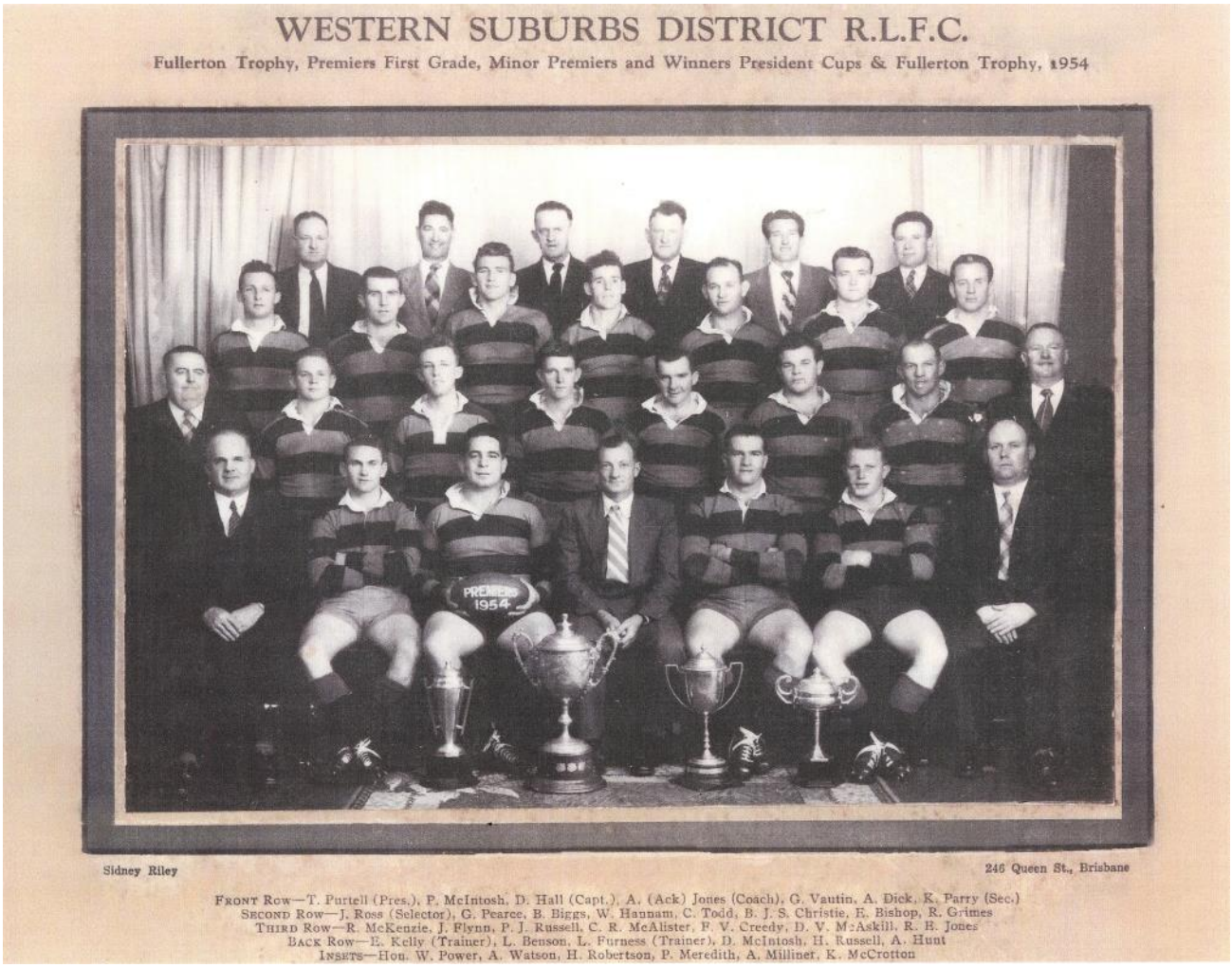
Pat Russell, Peter McIntosh (Wests), and Paul La Caze (Brothers) also won awards.

RUGBY LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP FINAL. — First grade: Wests 35 (Watson 2, Meredith 2, McIntosh, Bishop, McCrohon tries; Watson 4, McChohon 3 goals) d Brothers 18 (Craven, O'Malley, Proberts, Otago tries; Dall 3 goals).

1954

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 35 v BROTHERS 18



RESULTS

21 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 25 (La Caze 2, Lyons 2, Bruton tries; Dall 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 20 (Barnett 2, N.Hurley 2 tries; Plater 4 goals).
*Past Brothers: D.Dall, M.Lyons, S.Tochinni, T.Duffy, J.Craven, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, P.La Caze, B.O'Connor, F.Proberts, T.Coman, J.Otago.
Fortitude Valley: N.Lesina, N.Hurley, B.Hurley, J.Jones, G.Barnett, J.Mulgrew, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, W.Anderson, N.McFadden, A.Plater, A.McLucas, B.Eldridge.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND

Western Suburbs 32 (Watson 3, Biggs 2, McKenzie, McAllister, Hall tries; Watson 3, McCrohon goals) d. Northern Suburbs 17 (Champion, Calder, Penman, Greenwood, R.Waldon tries; R.Waldon goal).
Wests: K.McCrohon, R.McKenzie, P.McIntosh, A.Watson, B.Biggs, C.McAllister, P.Todd, E.Bishop, H.Robertson, P.Russell, D.Hall (c), J.Flynn, G.Vautin.
Norths: R.Johnstone, W.Champion, B.Calder, D.Waldon, K.Weldon, W.Penman R.Greenwood, L.Sleep, S.Hassum, R.Turner, D.Davey, S.Holdsworth, R.Waldon.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 7,000.***

4 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 29 (Bruton 2, La Caze, O'Malley, Craven, Lyons, Duffy tries; Dall 4 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 8 (R.Waldon, Hassum tries; Johnstone goal).
Brothers: D.Dall, M.Lyons, S.Tochinni, T.Duffy, J.Craven, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, P.La Caze, B.O'Connor, F.Proberts, T.Coman, J.Otago.
Norths: R.Johnstone, W.Champion, B.Calder, D.Waldon, K.Weldon, W.Penman, R.Greenwood, L.Sleep, S.Hassum, R.Turner, D.Davey, S.Holdsworth, R.Waldon.
Reserves: N.Smith, D.Welford.
Referee: Frank Ballard.

11 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANECRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 35 (Watson 2, Meredith 2, McIntosh, Bishop, McCrohon tries; Watson 4, McCrohon 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 18 (Craven, O'Malley, Proberts, Otago tries; Dall 3 goals).
Wests: K.McCrohon, R.McKenzie, P.McIntosh, A.Watson, P.Meredith, C.McAllister, P.Todd, E.Bishop, H.Robertson, P.Russell, D.Hall (c), J.Flynn, G.Vautin.
Brothers: D.Dall, M.Lyons, S.Tochinni, T.Duffy, J.Craven, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, P.La Caze, B.O'Connor, F.Proberts, T.Coman, J.Otago.
Referee: Frank Ballard. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

*Teams as selected.

1955

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	18	0	0	554	212	36
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	0	6	452	289	24
BROTHERS	12	0	6	472	376	24
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	0	12	262	366	16
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	11	330	362	14
WYNNUM MANLY	5	0	13	231	433	10
EASTERN SUBURBS	2	0	16	267	522	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 27 v Norths 8

NORTHS BEATEN BY BROTHERS IN DRAB GAME

Spoiled by tactics

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS' Rugby League team yesterday won their way to the B.R.L.'s third semi-final but must tighten up their play considerably to make the final against either Valleys or Wests.

In a colourless semi-final at the Cricket Ground Brothers had little trouble in beating Norths by 27-8.

They now meet the loser of next Saturday's second semi-final between Wests and Valleys.

Brothers, however, can improve considerably. Main contributing factor to yesterday's drab display was Norths' spoiling tactics.

Fast breaking lock Tom Rolls, second rowers Stan Hassum and Albert Riccardi, consistently harassed Brothers' halves, Mick McNamara and Ron O'Malley.

Cut off ball

Norths' inside backs, five-eighth Nev Warburton, centres Ivan Reed and George Graham, also stood up flat to cut off the supply of ball to Brothers fast wing pair, Frank Mellit and Jim Cowdle.

The result was a sad lack of constructive play and the game fell well below the standard expected from a B.R.L. semi-final.

There were some isolated bright patches. Brothers' left winger, Frank Mellit, scored a fine try in the first half after second rower Terry Duffy had sent him flying away.

Brothers' centre Vince Hore was always sharp, ran straight ahead, and scored a smart try in the first half with a rapier like thrust from 20 yards out.

Hore scored another try in the second half when Norths elected to try a passing movement on their own goal line.

Given a 31-8 majority of possession from scrums by their hooker, Phil Coman, Brothers always appeared to have the game well in hand.

Hickey star

They lagged a few times in the forwards, but Brian Davies always managed to lead them out of trouble.

Second rower Tom Hickey was Brothers' hardest working forward. He broke well from the scrums and was always up with the ball in loose play.

Brothers lost centre Jim Gallagher in the first half when he received a badly cut eye from an accidental knock.

Sam Tocchini, who replaced Gallagher, ran well to score a try in the second half after Hore had made a neat opening, but Tocchini fumbled the ball later to miss an easy second try.

Hassum's two

Norths' strongest department was the forward line where they held Brothers well in the rucks and in defence.

Nuggety second rower Stan Hassum worked tirelessly and found the energy to back up and score Norths' two tries.

Five-eighth Nev Warburton was their outstanding back and had plenty of thrust in possession.

Spectators who arrived early saw the best football from Norths and Easts C grade.

In a real thriller these two teams were five-all at the end of the scheduled 80 minutes. Ordered extra time of 10 minutes each way they were level again at the end of the 100 minutes.

The replay will probably take place at Davies Park next Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT WOOLLOONGABBA.—A grade semi-final: Brothers 27 (Hore 2, Mellit, Bruton, Tocchini tries; Davies 6 goals) d. Norths 8 (Hassum, 2 tries; Clerhorn goal).



AWAY! Terry Duffy, Brothers' second rower, brushes off Norths' tacklers at the start of his run which brought a try by flying winger Frank Mellitt in the Rugby League semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Behind Duffy are J. Tomlinson (Norths) and Tom Hickey (Brothers). Brothers won a drab match 27-8.

1955

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 20 v Wests 14

WESTS DOWNED BY VALLEYS

20–14 margin

BY JACK REARDON

SUPERB tries by Ken McCaffery in each half and a late recovery in the second half yesterday gave Valley "Die-hards" a 20-14 victory over Wests at the Cricket Ground.

It also gave Valleys a straight passage into the B.R.L. grand final on September 10.

Wests, last year's premiers, will now play Brothers in the third semi-final under floodlight at the Exhibition oval on September 5.

McCaffery's two tries yesterday were the best individual efforts seen in club football for many seasons.

He opened the scoring for the match after 18 minutes, with a beautiful burst of speed from 35 yards out, to beat converging Wests' defenders and score.

Flashing feet

McCaffery's second-half try, again the first one of the session, came from a brilliant 75 yards run, in which the international, with flashing feet, swerved his way through, surging away from tackler after tackler, to dive clear of Alex. Watson's final effort to stop him.

McCaffery's tries put Valleys into winning positions.

Valleys' winning tries, however, came from understanding and fine blind side play between half-back Ray Edwards and lock forward Ray Paulsen.

These two players were responsible for two tries scored by Valleys in the final eight minutes.

Paulsen, on each occasion, dropped off the scrum, took the pass from Edwards, and firstly sent winger Dick Davies over, and secondly scored himself.

Watson shaken

Unlucky Wests did not get the breaks in this match. Their most dangerous attacking player, Alex Watson, was sickened early by a head tackle and lost a little of his sharpness.

Watson, with a typical strong burst, opened the way for Wests' first try, sending forward George Vautin over near the posts.

When Vautin scored, however, Watson was lying unconscious on the ground. Carried off, he came back on the field after seven minutes but had lost two teeth from the knock and had four other teeth chipped.

RUGBY LEAGUE

A GRADE.—2nd semi-final: Valleys 20 (McCaffery 2 Davies, Paulsen tries, Pope 4 goals), d. Wests 14 (Vautin, Bowman tries, McCrohon 2, Wyvill, Watson goals).

1955

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 21 v Wests 15

BROTHERS' SLASHING WIN PUSHED WESTS OUT OF FINAL

BY JACK REARDON

PLAYING a brand of football only their closest supporters thought they could produce, Brothers team last night had a glorious 21-15 win over Wests in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Exhibition Oval.

Brothers will now meet Valleys in the A Grade grand final at the Cricket Ground on Saturday.

They also have teams in the reserve and third grade finals.

Brothers captain, Brian Davies, kicked six goals from eight attempts to give his team their winning margin. Both sides scored three tries.

It was easily the best club game of the season, providing a 10,000 crowd with nonstop attack from both sides and some of the finest tackling seen for a long time.

Gate receipts of £938 were a record for a B.R.L. club match.

There was little to choose between the forwards. Strong penetrative runs by Duncan Hall, for Wests, were offset by Brian Davies' crashing bursts, which frequently relieved the pressure on Brothers.

Outstanding forwards on the night, however, were Brothers' second rower Tom Hickey and Wests' lock, Pen Wyvill.

Hickey, with his second row partner, Terry Duffy, played tirelessly.

They backed up intelligently and Hickey showed exceptional speed several times to make long gains.

Wyvill played constructively in attack and was also a fine defender. He played for most of the match with a badly cut right eye.

Tocchini was star

Brothers' young centre, Sam Tocchini, was the outstanding back. He made several beautiful openings, and defended splendidly.

Little behind Tocchini was Brothers' fullback, Mick Shannon, and those two saved Brothers from cracking in a crucial 15 minutes of the second half.

With Wests applying terrific pressure on their line Brothers looked certain to go to pieces. But Tocchini and Shannon, with fine diving tackles, stopped several certain scoring moves by Wests.



BROTHERS' Rugby League captain Brian Davies about to put his hands in jeopardy as he reaches for the ball amongst boots in a ruck in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Exhibition O v a l last night. Brothers beat Wests 21-15 and will meet Valleys in the grand final next Saturday. Other players in the picture from left to right are: T. Hickey (B), J. Flynn (W), E. Bishop (W), D. Hall (W), and B. Biggs (W).

Flynn sent off

Wests finished the game with 12 men. Their hooker, Johnny Flynn, was sent off the field after 30 minutes of the second half.

Referees' chairman Joe Thompson, stated after the game that referee Col Wright had sent Flynn off for "using offensive language."

Wests could have won the game. The scrums were shared 13-all, but when he left the field Flynn was leading in the second half by 6-2 after Coman had won the first half 8-6.

Wests' backs mishandled at vital stages with a try in the making, but they also produced some classical attacking football with five-eighth Ron McKenzie their best, and fullback Ken McCrohon neat and sure as always.

Details:—

Brothers 21 (McIlitt, McNamara, Bruton tries; Davies 6 goals) d. Wests 15 (Reynolds, Biggs, McKenzie tries; McCrohon 3 goals).

1955

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 17 v BROTHERS 7

MULGREW AS VALLEYS' HERO

Brothers beaten in R.L. final

By JACK REARDON

MICKEY MULGREW, 20-year-old electrician and a last-minute replacement, proved a match winner for Valleys in a spirited, spine-tingling B.R.L. grand final in which Brothers went down in glory by 17-7 at the Cricket Ground.

Mulgrew had been in and out of the first grade team this season.

Yesterday he played on the wing for Valleys when Gary Barnett withdrew with an injured leg.

In breath taking dashes Mulgrew scored two tries, the second of which, scored after a 75 yards individual effort, proved the turning point of the match.

Brothers were glorious in defeat. Their tackling, equal to that produced against Wests last Monday night, has not been bettered in any club game I have ever seen.

But, paradoxically, they should never have been called on to do so much tackling.

Ball monopoly

Their hooker, Phil Coman, gave them a 27-11 share of the ball against Jack McLean, of Valleys, after winning the first half 16-5.

Brothers, therefore, should have been able to dictate the trend of the game. But they lost the ball too frequently in tackles, enabling Valleys to regain possession and attack.

Ken McCaffery scored his try, a grand 70 yards run, after a pass from Brothers centre, Vince Hoare, had gone astray.

Apart from Mick Mulgrew the most useful back on the field was Brothers' fullback, Mick Shannon.

He twice outkicked his opponent, Norm Pope, in exchanges and made only the one mistake in the game, missing McCaffery, but many internationals have done that.

There were some splendid displays by second rowers Terry Duffy and Tom Hickey, of Brothers, and Norm McFadden, of Valleys. All three tackled superbly and worked tirelessly.

Clean game

After one incident, in which Brian Davies retaliated for a stiff arm tackle of centre Sam Tocchini, it was a remarkably clean game, for which credit must go to referee Nev. Kelly.

Attendance of 14,000 paid a record club gate of £1020/13/3. Previous best gate for a club final was £788/3/7 in 1953.

First scorers

FIRST SCORERS at the Cricket Ground: M. Mulgrew (5, Valleys) and B. Davies (13, Brothers).

Scrums: Brothers (P. Coman) 27, Valleys (J. McLean) 16; penalties: Brothers 16, Valleys 11.

Attendance 14,000; gate receipts £1020/13/3 (record).

RUGBY LEAGUE

WOOLLOONGABBA: A grade premiership final: Valleys 17 (M. Mulgrew 2, McCaffery, tries; Pope 4 goals) d. Brothers 7 (Melit, try; Davies 2 goals).



THREE ON ONE: Two Valleys forwards and one Brothers back caught in a one-legged balancing act during the B.R.L. grand final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. But for Shannon, Brothers full-back, it was "curtains" as Valley lock, Ray Paulsen, crashed him to the ground. The other player is Valley hooker, Jack McLean. Valleys won 17-7.

1955

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 17 v BROTHERS 7

Fortitude Valley District Rugby League Football Club

BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERS – SEASON 1955

Undefeated B.R.L. Premiership Competition – Played 20, Won 20 – Points For 581, Against 232

Winners B.R.L. Cup, Jensen Pennant, Pike Cup, Club Champions, and Taudevin Cup



Front Row—P. J. SCOTT (District Hon. Sec.), R. F. EDWARDS, N. B. POPE (Capt.), F. W. NEUMANN (Pres. & Coach), A. C. PLATER (V. Capt.), M. L. MULGREW, D. C. STANFIELD (Dist. Hon. Treas.).

Second Row—B. HURLEY, J. MULGREW, T. L. MACCHERONI, K. A. McCAFFERY, F. KASTRISSIOS, W. P. ANDERSON.

Third Row—G. A. COMADIRA, R. N. PAULSEN, B. L. ELDRIDGE, G. J. BARNETT, T. B. FOTHERINGHAM.

Back Row—N. CASEY, N. McFADDEN, J. G. McLEAN, H. WARDEN (Masseur), J. M. DAVIES, D. KENN, C. SHERWOOD.

Absent—N. J. LESNA, H. M. McCARTHY, G. SOUVLIS.

▼ RESULTS

20 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 27 (Hore 2, Melit, Bruton, Tocchini tries: Davies 6 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 8 (Hassum 2 tries; Cleghorn goal).
Brothers: M.Shannon, J.Gowdie, V.Hore, J.Gallagher, F.Melit, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, T.Duffy, T.Hickey, E.Otago, P.Coman, B.Davies (c).
Norths: R.Weimers, R.Collins, G.Graham, I.Reed, K.Weldon, N.Warburton, T.Hassum, T.Rolls, S.Hassum, A.Riccardi, Tomlinson, W.Davies, R.Waldon, D.Waldon.
Referee: Col Wright.

27 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 20 (McCaffery 2, Davies, Paulsen tries; Pope 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 14 (Vautin, Bowman tries; McCrohon 2, Wyvill, Watson goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c), J.Davies, B.Hurley, J.Mulgrew, G.Barnett, K.McCaffery, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, W.Anderson, N.McFadden, A.Plater, J.McLean, B.Fotheringham.
Wests: K.McCrohon, C.Beesley, N.Reynolds, A.Watson, B.Biggs, R.McKenzie, C.Todd, P.Wyvill, H.Robertson, D.McAskill, D.Hall (c), G.Vautin.
Referee: Nev Kelly.

5 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
EXHIBITION GROUND

Past Brothers 21 (Melit, McNamara, Bruton tries; Davies 6 goals) d. Western Suburbs 15 (Reynolds, Biggs, McKenzie tries; McCrohon 3 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, J.Gowdie, V.Hore, S.Tocchini, F.Melit, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, T.Duffy, T.Hickey, E.Otago, P.Coman, B.Davies (c).
Wests: K.McCrohon, K.Bowman, N.Reynolds, C.Beesley, B.Biggs, R.McKenzie, C.Todd, P.Wyvill, E.Bishop, D.McAskill, D.Hall, J.Flynn, G.Vautin.
Referee: Col Wright. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

10 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 17 (M.Mulgrew 2, McCaffery tries; Pope 4 goals) d. Past Brothers 7 (Melit try; Davies 2 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c), J.Davies, B.Hurley, J.Mulgrew, M.Mulgrew, K.McCaffery, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, W.Anderson, N.McFadden, A.Plater, J.McLean, B.Fotheringham.
Brothers: M.Shannon, J.Gowdie, V.Hore, S.Tocchini, F.Melit, R.O'Malley, M.McNamara, J.Bruton, T.Hickey, T.Duffy, E.Otago, P.Coman, B.Davies (c).
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 14,000.***

1956

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BROTHERS	15	0	3	616	313	30
WESTERN SUBURBS	14	0	4	515	337	28
VALLEYS	11	0	7	458	290	22
WYNNUM MANLY	7	0	11	340	543	14
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	12	275	466	12
NORTHERN SUBURBS	4	2	12	293	471	10
EASTERN SUBURBS	4	2	12	321	406	10

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 40 v Wynnum 13

Valley Rugby League team yesterday beat Wynnum-Manly 40-13 in the B.R.L. second semi-final at Larg Park but had no easy passage to victory.

Wynnum - Manly played far better than the final scores indicated, even though they were down 22-5 at half-time.

Two brilliant tries by five-eighth Bobby Cook early in the second half put the Bay-siders well in the picture.

With the score at 22-13 and their captain, Keith Brown, playing the game of his career, Wynnum-Manly hammered at the Diehards' line and only desperate defence, with Norm Pope steady as a rock, kept them out.

Play in final

Valleys have now qualified for the final next Saturday, but their opponent will not be known until after the B.R.L. Management Committee meets tonight.

Valleys 40 (M. Mulgrew 2, Pope, Paulsen, Edwards, McCaffery, Siebenhausen, McFadden tries; Pope 7, McCaffery goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 13 (Cook 2, R. Greenhill tries; R. Greenhill 2 goals)

1956

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 16 v Wests 8

League game abandoned

REF'S DECISION STUNNED 5000

In the most sensational ending to a Brisbane Rugby League Club match ever seen, referee Col. Wright abandoned play in the semi-final between Brothers and Wests at the Cricket Ground yesterday.

When play was abandoned, 17 minutes from full time, Brothers were leading 16-8.

The crowd of about 5000, which had given Wright a mixed reception during play was "stunned" when Wright blew a long determined blast on his whistle, waved his arms to signal "no game" and left the field.

He was escorted to the referees' dressing-room under the main stand by police and members of the Brisbane Referees' Association.

The premature ending came after Wright had ordered Wests centre Alex Watson off the field for allegedly passing a "remark" when he was penalised for being offside.

Watson apparently refused to leave the field.

Wests' captain Duncan Hall allegedly supported Watson and was also ordered off, and apparently refused to leave.

Wright waited for about four minutes then blew his whistle and left the field.

No statements were available from the referee or his associates, but the B.R.L. Management Committee held a special meeting at the Ground.

Secretary Ron McAuliffe later announced that referee Wright, having terminated play before fulltime, will have to make a report before 5 p.m. to-morrow.

The referee's report will be heard by a special meeting of the B.R.L. Management Committee at 6 p.m. to-morrow.

Any players cited by referee Wright will be dealt with by the B.R.L. Judiciary Committee which meets at 7 p.m.

The Management Committee, under the B.R.L. Constitution, has the power to order a replay or award the match.

Wests claim

Wests club officials and players consider that Wright had been unfair to them during the game.

Penalties favoured Brothers by 15-8 when the game was abandoned.

Wests' five-eighth Ron McKenzie was a regular offender for offside.

Wests were particularly upset by Wright's penalty against McKenzie when he intercepted a pass from Brothers half back Mick McNamara, intended for five-eighth Vince Hore.

I think McKenzie was offside then.

He certainly started from a long way back and came through fast, but he also started very early and collected the pass when he was right alongside Hore.

Tense game

It was a rugged, tense game with severe tackling, some very late, but had been free of major incidents.

Brothers' attack was thrown out of gear early by Wests' solid tackling and spotting tactics, and Wests had an early lead of 3-0.

Brothers' defence was ragged early, but they gradually settled down and at half time led by 11-5.

They went to 16-5 after 12 minutes of the second half, but mulled the kick-off and Norm Reynolds, of Wests, snatched up a loose ball to score well and make it 16-8.

Brothers were attacking solidly again when play ended.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND. — B.R.L. semi-final: Brothers leading 16-8 when game abandoned. Scorers, Brothers: Coleman, Melit tries; Davies 5 goals. Wests, Jackson, Reynolds tries; Lees a goal.

REAL ACTION!



WESTS Rugby League fullback Ken McCrohon gets away a diving pass as he is tackled by a Brothers' player in the B.R.L. semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Ron Jones (5) Wests' wingar is on the spot to take the ball.

...AND THEN A WALK-OFF



REFEREE Col Wright runs off the field at the Cricket Ground yesterday after abandoning the B.R.L. semi-final between Wests and Brothers 17 minutes from full time. There's a bewildered air about the players of both sides as they also leave the field.

Referee "justified" on League stand

BY JACK REARDON

RUGBY League referee Col Wright had every moral justification for abandoning Saturday's semi-final between Wests and Brothers at the Cricket Ground.

With 17 minutes of play left, Wright ordered Wests' players Alex Watson and Duncan Hall from the field. Both players refused to go.

In the Laws of the Game concerning the referee's duties), Rule 42 states: "He shall at his discretion suspend or terminate the game, whenever, for reason of darkness, interference by spectators, or other causes, he may deem it necessary—.

Rule 50 says: "The referee, having given a decision on any point, other than touch and touch in goal play, cannot under any circumstances alter it."

One alternative

Wright could not, therefore, allow Watson and Hall to remain on the field and allow play to proceed.

If he had he would have thrown away every vestige of authority and the game could have developed into a shambles.

He had, perhaps, one alternative, to call a policeman and have him remove the players from the field.

It needs little imagination to think what would have happened then.

The B.R.L. Management Committee now has the ball. It meets to-night at six to consider the case. It can award the match or order a replay.

In my opinion, only one fair decision can be make, and that is to award the match to Brothers.

Brothers had nothing whatsoever to do with the incidents which led up to the abandonment of the match. They were leading by 16-8 and any other decision but awarding Brothers the match would be penalising them for someone else's offence.

1956

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 23 v Valleys 9

WESTS WILL TAKE FIELD, SAYS HALL

NAME WRIGHT TO CONTROL LEAGUE FINAL

BY JACK REARDON

FOLLOWING Western Suburbs' 23-9 victory over Valleys in the B.R.L. preliminary final at the Exhibition Oval last night, the Referees' Appointment Board chose Col Wright to control the grand final between Wests and Brothers on Saturday.

Wests' captain, Duncan Hall, however, said after the match, "We will play under any referee, and I think we can win again."



REFEREE Nev Kelly (right) keeps an eagle eye on play in the Rugby League preliminary final between Wests and Valleys at Exhibition Oval last night. Valley winger J. Davies (2) has the ball and is working up speed to try to burst through the defence. Valley forward, Norm McFadden (9), and Ron McKenzie (far left) are prominent in the action. Wests won 23-9.

I think the appointment of Wright is one of the most tactless ever made.

Wright is the referee who was concerned in the incident from which the recent bitter League dispute arose.

Whilst I originally agreed with Wright's decisions—when he first ordered Alex Watson and Duncan Hall off the field, then abandoned the match when Watson refused to leave, I think that some other referee should have been appointed to Saturday's grand final.

Need change

It would appear that a majority of the members of the referees' appointment board want a resumption of the dispute.

Members of the board are Tom Hempenstall, and Les Sharp, nominated from the Referees' Association, T. Gledhill, G. Files, and R. Ashby nominated by Brisbane District clubs.

I think it is time that the B.R.L. stepped in and changed the Board set-up. Too many clubs have expressed dissatisfaction with appointments this season for the position to be tenable.

This latest appointment confirms the clubs' attitude to the appointment Board. It may yet bring about a change in the set-up.

Wests played too well for Valleys last night and had the edge on them for most of the match.

Wests' stars

Wests' full-back Ken McCrohon played a brilliant game, scoring Wests' first two tries through intelligent positional play. His general play was also sound in defence and fielding of the ball.

Centre Norm Reynolds was another outstanding Wests' player. Eric Bishop, Duncan Hall, and Jackson were the best of their forwards.

The game was a hard fought, grim tackling affair. Valleys' five-eighth, Ken McGaffery, took plenty of punishment, but was always a danger in attack. I thought he played one of his best all-round games of the season.

Two injured

Valleys were unlucky to lose centre "Nudgee," Mulgrew and prop Rod Siebenhausen with head injuries in the first half. Both were replaced, but their cover defence was badly missed by the "Diehards."

Valley full-back and captain Norm Pope was outshone by his opponent Ken McChohon. But showed plenty of courage and coolness under pressure.

Valleys had enough possession from scrums to win.

Their hooker "Locky" Smith was down 7-9 in the first half to Jack McLean, but won second half scrums 12-2. Penalties favoured Valleys 22-10.

Pope and Valley's coach, "Firpo" Neumann, said after the match, "Wests played too well for us."

Scores: Wests 23 (McCrohon 2, Monkland 2, Little tries; Lee 1 4 goals), d. Valleys 9 (McDonald a try; Pope 3 goals). Reserve grade: Brothers 12 (Grenning, Kannar tries; Stirling 3 goals), d. Wests 6 (Atkins 3 goals). First scorers: McCrohon (1, Wests), and McDonald (4, Valleys). Attendance 9588, receipts £770/10/.

1956

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 17 v WESTS 10

B.R.L. final to Brothers

O'CONNOR STAR IN WESTS' 17-10 LOSS

By JACK REARDON

Brothers' Rugby League team yesterday defeated Wests by 17-10 in a thrilling B.R.L. grand final at the Cricket Ground to win their first premiership since 1939

Better handling and team work, and superb cover defence by 19-year-old lock Barry O'Connor proved the deciding factors in Brothers' win.

There were also two smart tries by winger Frank Melit, in which he beat Ken McCrohon and outpaced Alex Watson.



HEFTY young Brothers' lock forward, Barry O'Connor, attempting to fend off Western Suburbs' winger Geoff Little during yesterday's Rugby League grand final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

With a long, loping run O'Connor cut off any breaks through by Wests' backs.

His tackling around the scrums and rucks also harrassed Wests' halves.

Jim Duncan, Brian Davies, and Tom Hickey were also mighty tackling forwards for Brothers.

In the backs Mickey Shannon, Morrie Lyons, and Sam . Tocchini repeatedly stopped dangerous runs by Watson, Reynolds, and Little.

Brothers, who led by 7-4 at half-time, appeared to have the game well in hand until the closing stages, when Wests, winning a procession of scrums, dominated the attack and scored two tries.

Wests captain, Duncan Hall, rose to great heights as a leader and as a forward. He deserved to be on a winning side because he made enough openings for Wests to be well in it.

Twice Hall slammed through walls of defence to get to the fullback and leave his supports with clear runs for tries only to see passes dropped.

Both teams suffered from injuries. Brothers lost their five-eighth, Vince Hore, in the first half with a badly gashed chin. He was replaced by Terry Duffy, who played well at centre.

Lock Joe Jackson did not take the field for Wests, Don McAskill coming in as second row and Eric Bishop playing lock.

Wests also lost three-quarter Geoff. Little with a head injury 15 minutes from the end and finished with 10 men.

Hookers even

Brothers' hooker, Phil Coman, won first-half scrums 11-4, but his opponent, Jack McLean, evened the score with a second-half tally of 13 to Coman's six.

Penalties favoured Wests by 15-8 for the match, referee Col. Wright caning Brothers nine times in the second half for scrum breaches. Wests were penalised only once in the second half.

First penalty of the day was against Alex. Watson for being offside, but he did not offend again during the match.

It was a hard match with some solid tackling, which at times became vicious, but there was only one caution issued by Wright, to Duncan (Brothers) and Leal (Wests).

to Melit who, in a thrilling run, beat McCrohon, then outpaced Watson to score in the corner.

Davies missed goaling and the half-time scores 7-4 in Brothers' favour.

Brothers were soon on the attack on resumption and had Wests defending hard. Shannon shot through for 40 yards from a well designed movement.

Then Davies switched play for Duffy and O'Connor to whip the ball across to Melit, who won a race against McCrohon and Watson for the corner.

Davies goaled again to make it 12-4.

From the kick off after that try, Tocchini gathered and beat four men in a swerving run to send Lyons flying.

Fight back

Lyons beat more men then, when cornered, kicked infield and Brothers swarmed after the ball over the goal line for O'Malley to score.

Davies again goaled and it looked all over.

Wests showed that they were far from beaten, however, and Watson, Little, and McCrohon gained 60 yards from a brilliant passing movement.

Watson broke through and when tackled managed to get the ball away to Ryan to score.

Wests kept up the pressure and found Brothers defence short on one side McCrohon shot up to take the pass from Watson to score.

The try was again unconverted and the match ended with the score unchanged.

Attendance was 14,000; gate receipts were a club match record of £1263/14/9.

Brothers' lock, Barry O'Connor, was chosen by three judges as the outstanding player of the match and won the canteen of cutlery donated by Red Brennan.

RUGBY LEAGUE

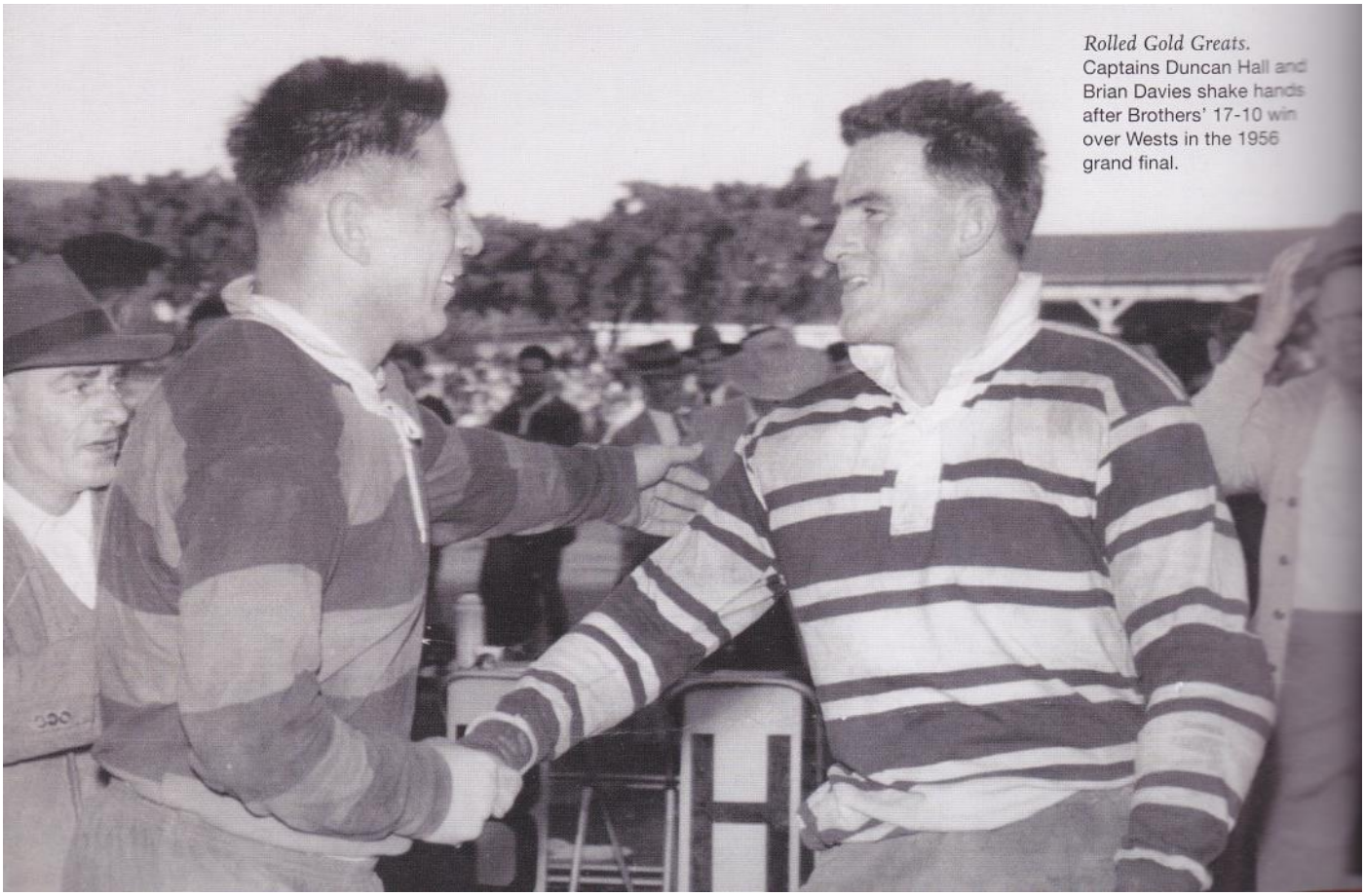
AT BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND, — Premiership Grand final: Brothers 17 (Melit 2, O'Malley tries; Davies 4 goals), d. Wests 10 (Ryan, McCrohon tries; McCrohon 2 goals).

1956

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 17 v WESTS 10



Below: Action from the 1956 grand final at The Gabba. From left: Brian Davies, Duncan Hall, Jim Duncan, unidentified Wests' victim, Eddie Otago, referee Col Wright, Phil Coman.



Rolled Gold Greats. Captains Duncan Hall and Brian Davies shake hands after Brothers' 17-10 win over Wests in the 1956 grand final.

1956

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 17 v WESTS 10



RESULTS

25 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 16 (Coman, Melit tries; Davies 5 goals) d. Western Suburbs 8 (Jackson, Reynolds tries; Leal goal).
Brothers: M.Shannon, F.Melit, M.Lyons, S.Tocchini, R.O'Malley, V.Hore, M.McNamara, B.O'Connor, T.Hickey, J.Duncan, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, E.Otago.
Wests: K.McCrohon, W.Monkland, N.Reynolds, A.Watson, R.Jones, R.McKenzie, D.Ryan, J.Jackson, D.Hall (c), H.Robertson, P.Leal, J.McLean, A.McMillan.
Referee: Col Wright. ***Crowd: 5,000.***

26 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 40 (M.Mulgrew 2, Pope, Paulsen, Edwards, McCaffery, Siebenhausen, McFadden tries; Pope 7, McCaffery goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 13 (R.Cook 2, R.Greenhill tries; Greenhill 2 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c), J.Davies, T.Maccheroni, J.Mulgrew, M.Mulgrew, K.McCaffery, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, N.McFadden, W.Anderson, R.Siebenhausen, L.Smith, P.Riordan.
Wynnum: B.Partridge, R.Boardman, K.Vaughan, K.Brown (c), R.Lester, R.Cook, N.Johnson, J.Walker, V.Long, R.Greenhill, G.Crouch, D.Townsend, L.Greenhill.
Referee: Jim Wallace.

5 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
EXHIBITION OVAL

Western Suburbs 23 (McCrohon 2, Monkland 2, Little tries; Leal 4 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 9 (McDonald try; Pope 3 goals).
Wests: K.McCrohon, W.Monkland, N.Reynolds, A.Watson, R.Jones, R.McKenzie, D.Ryan, J.Jackson, E.Bishop, H.Robertson, D.Hall (c), J.McLean, A.McMillan. Reserve P.Leal.
Valleys: N.Pope (c), J.Davies, T.Maccheroni, J.Mulgrew, M.Mulgrew, K.McCaffery, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, W.Anderson, N.McFadden, P.Riordan, L.Smith, R.Siebenhausen.
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 9,588.***

8 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Past Brothers 17 (Melit 2, O'Malley tries; Davies 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Ryan, McCrohon tries; McCrohon 2 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, F.Melit, S.Tocchini, M.Lyons, R.O'Malley, V.Hore, M.McNamara, B.O'Connor, J.Duncan, T.Hickey, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, E.Otago. Reserve: T.Duffy.
Wests: K.McCrohon, W.Monkland, N.Reynolds, A.Watson, G.Little, R.McKenzie, D.Ryan, E.Bishop, D.McAskill, H.Robertson, D.Hall (c), J.McLean, P.Leal.
Referee: Col Wright. ***Crowd: 14,000.***

1957

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BROTHERS	17	0	1	555	284	34
VALLEYS	13	1	4	481	256	27
WESTERN SUBURBS	9	0	9	463	440	18
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	9	466	371	17
EASTERN SUBURBS	7	1	10	413	401	15
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	13	379	535	10
WYNNUM MANLY	2	1	15	306	536	5

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 12 v Norths 8

Wests down Norths 12-8 after late burst

By JACK REARDON

IN THE tightest rucking match of the season, Wests Rugby League team yesterday snatched a late victory by 12-8 over Norths to keep their premiership chances alive.

Norths led by 8-4 until the accidental wheeling of a scrum gave Wests lock, Joe Jackson, his chance.

Jackson dashed over for the first try of the game, with only 12 minutes of playing time left.

Jackson's try made the score 7-8.

Then Alex Watson landed a fine goal from a difficult angle to give Wests the lead for the first time, at 9-8.

Then Wests' full-back, Ken McCrohon, dashed up into the three-quarters to make the extra man and he sent Geoff Little flying for another try, to make the final score of 12-8.

Norths, now out of the premiership, were by no means disgraced.

Their terrier pack handed out a lacing to Wests' bigger set yesterday, and the Nundah six deserved to be on a winning side.

Wests, as winners of yesterday's semi-final, will now play the loser of to-morrow's number one semi-final between Brothers and Valleys.

Fine recovery

Norths have made a wonderful recovery through this season. In their first competition match in April they were beaten by Wests 62-20.

Yesterday they took the lead 2-0 after one and a half minutes play, led by 8-4 at halftime, and kept Wests out until the 68th minute.

Norths pack, with Leo Senior, Morrie Laurent, Alex Farquhar, and Graham Rogers, most prominent, gave Wests a lesson on ruck control, and on how to maintain possession.

Their other two forwards, Barry O'Donnell and Don Lucas, played looser and were always dangerous in attack, solid in defence.

Grand tacklers

It was not a spectacular game, there was too much close rucking, but it gripped the spectators with the hard tackling and close scores.

Wests gained a major share of the ball from scrums by 15-10, but made too many early mistakes in handling and positional running to impress as threats for the premiership.

There was some outstanding tackling from Wests by forward Harry Hooson and centre Warren Beck, who drove in hard to bury the Norths man with the ball.

But Wests showed a lack of team combination for most of the game. They were a bunch of individualists, whose last thought appeared to be to look for and serve the man in support.

Full-back Ken McCrohon, in desperation, spent at least 15 minutes up in the rucks trying to find the loose ball to start some attack.

But Norths' defence was good. They wouldn't take dummies, and only once, when Geoff Little scored, did they tend to hang off the man with the ball.

Norths' play was concentrated in their strength in the forwards, and they went very close to bringing it off.

Penalties favoured Norths by 17-11. Attendance was approximately 7000 with receipts about £400.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND.—A grade, semi-final: Wests 12 (Jackson, Little, tries; Dobbs, McCrohon, Watson goals), d. Norths 8 (Dall 4 goals).

1957

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 20 v Valleys 12

Valleys beaten— Brothers in final

BY JACK REARDON

BEFORE the biggest Brisbane crowd ever to watch club football, Brothers Rugby League team held off a late strong bid b y Valleys at Lang Park yesterday to win the B.R.L. number one semi-final by 20-12.

Brothers now go-straight into the Grand Final, which will be played at the Cricket Ground on September 14. Valleys will play Wests at the Cricket Ground next Saturday for the right to meet Brothers in the Grand Final.

He had a firm grip on game



PILE DRIVING tackle by Brothers' forward Brian Davies sent Valley centre Mick Mulgrew (4) back for yards with the help of Sam Tocchini, who has a firm grip on Mulgrew's jersey, during the Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Valley five-eight Barry Brennan (6) waits in vain for a pass whilst Brothers' halfback Mick McNamara, hovers in the background for the possible loose ball.

Official estimate of the crowd yesterday was 20,000.

The concrete terraces on the eastern side of Lang Park and at both ends of the field, were packed tight with spectators.

Yesterday's match was the fifth clash this season between Valleys and Brothers and it was their hardest. No quarter was asked, or given, in a full-blooded contest of hard tackling.

Tackling severe

Brothers finished two men short. Five-eighth— Vince Hore left the field in the 25th minute of the second half with a dislocated collarbone.

Centre Morrie Lyons received a severe bump on the head early in the second half. He was off the field for seven minutes. Then he left the field again five minutes from the end.

The severe tackling took toll of both sides. Valley lock, Ray Paulsen, was carried off with a head injury five minutes from the end, and Ray Edwards injured his shoulder right on full-time.

Brothers opened spectacularly, giving the ball plenty of movement in quick switches and long passing.

Hore over

Barry O'Connor made the opening for their first try when he swerved past Paulsen and sent Hore flying over.

Brian Davies scored their next try with a typical strong run right through the middle of a ruck and Brothers led by 12-4 at half-time.

Valleys had made too many handling errors in the first half to appear a threat to Brothers.

But they tightened up in the second half and made it 12-9 after six minutes when Mick Mulgrew sent winger Don Lind over and Norm Pope landed a beautiful goal from the touchline.

Brothers showed that they still had the edge on their opponents when O'Connor, Hore, and Lyons, with quick passing, sent Melit over.

Then Hore arrowed through with a beautiful burst to get past Pope and sent Melit over again, to make it 20-9.

Closed game

Then, with their backs disorganised, Brothers' forwards had to try and take charge and they closed the game up considerably.

It was then that Valleys made their strongest bid. Edwards, Paulsen, Lind, and Pope each made penetrative runs to go close to scoring.

Barry Brennan was nearly over; then from a ruck the ball whipped across the three-quarters to Pope, who had moved up, and he scored the last points.

Ray Edwards (Valleys) and Peter Gallagher (Brothers) each won £5 bonuses donated by bookmakers Bill McLeod and Dan Condon.

First scorers: Pope (1, Valleys) and Davis (11, Brothers).

Scores: — B.R.L. semi-final: Brothers 20 (Melit 2, Davies, Hore tries; Davies 4 goals) d Valleys 12 (Lind, Pope tries, Pope 3 goals). Reserve grade semi-final, Wests 24 d Norths 11. Third grade semi-final, Wests 13 d Norths 7.

1957

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 18 v Wests 12



WESTS' Rugby League forward Duncan Hall is lectured by referee Jim Wallace three seconds after taking the field just before half-time during the B.R.L. semi-final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Wallace apparently lectured Hall on the use of an arm in a tackle. Valleys beat Wests by 18-12.

Valleys too fast; beat Wests, 18-12

By JACK REARDON

VALLEY Rugby League "Diehards" played their way into the Brisbane Grand Final yesterday when they produced too much speed and polish to beat Wests by 18-12 in a thrilling final.

Valleys will now meet the minor premiers, Brothers, in the Grand Final at the Cricket Ground next Saturday.

Playing probably their best football of the season Valleys' patched up team scored two tries in the first half to lead by 8-4 at the break.

Then in the second half they played with dash and combination to lead by 18-4 after 20 minutes, then held out a strong Wests' bid in the closing stages of the game.

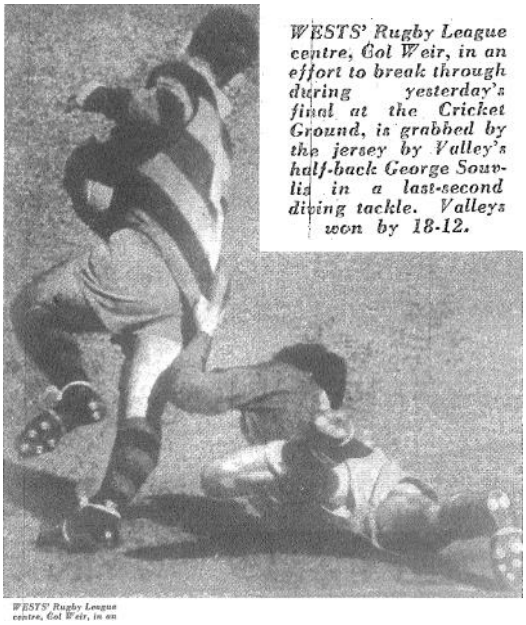
Both teams took the field without key players. Valleys half-back Ray Edwards could not play and was replaced by George Souvlis.

Wests' vigorous non-stop forward Eric Bishop, was unable to play because of a carbuncle on his knee and Don McAskill took his place.

Valleys' victory was a triumph for a team which has been kept up on the top line by key men in Norm Pope, Ray Edwards, and Ray Paulsen, plus keen team spirit.

Wests had the team on paper to win the final, but they made too many mistakes to beat a determined team like Valleys were yesterday.

Wests had ample opportunities to score. Alex Watson, Geoff Little, and Colin Weir made sufficient openings for the necessary tries, but there was a lack of finish in their attack.



WESTS' Rugby League centre, Col Weir, in an effort to break through during yesterday's final at the Cricket Ground, is grabbed by the jersey by Valley's half-back George Souvlis in a last-second diving tackle. Valleys won by 18-12.

WESTS' Rugby League centre, Col Weir, in an

Hall's two bursts

Wests' only two tries came from bursts by coach Duncan Hall, who took the field six seconds before half time after lock Joe Jackson had been forced to go off with an injured shoulder

Within three seconds of taking the field Hall had received a caution from referee Jim Wallace.

Wallace called Hall out of a scrum, lectured him for an apparent tackling breach and indicated "no more or else," then blew the half-time whistle.

It was a game which kept the 9381 spectators cheering because of the continual attack and change of fortune in general play.

Valley centre, Mick Mulgrew, who has played centre in the last few matches, was a continual menace in the first half.

Their winger, Mick Beirne, after a shaky first half, played brilliantly in the second session.

He made several long runs with speed which left defenders trailing. Beirne

Soper bright

But the best and most consistent players on Valleys' side were forward Darby Soper and full-back Norm Pope.

Lightest forward on the field, Soper played two stone above his weight in defence, and like a half-back in attack.

There were early thrills when Mick Mulgrew, and then Alex Watson made threatening breaks through the defence.

The first score came from a penalty goal by Dobbs after 23 minutes.

But a few minutes later Mulgrew went through with a beautiful burst of speed, centre kicked at the full-back, for Beirne to gather coolly and score.

Pope missed the goal, but Valleys led by 3-2.

Valleys scored again soon afterwards when Barry Brennan made a superb burst, passed inside at the full-back, for Stan Hick to score. Pope converted; then Ken McCrohan landed a penalty goal for Wests, to make the half-time score 8-4.

Pope then made a try for Souvlis and kicked two goals. Valleys went to 18-4 when Beirne scored a splendid try.

After 26 minutes of the second half Hall started a rush which finished with hooker John McLean scoring.

Then Hall again dashed away for a 30 yards run, passed to centre Col Weir who scored. McCrohon goaled to make it 18-12.

Heavy tackling

Penalties were even at 7 all and scrums favoured Wests by 20-18.

Referee Jim Wallace gave a bright display of advantage ruling and kept the game moving well.

Gate receipts were £567/15/.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND.—A grade (final: Valleys 18 (M. Beirne 2, S. Hick, G. Souvlis tries; N. Pope 3 goals) d. Wests 12 (J. McLean, C. Weir, tries; K. McCrohan 2, K. Dobbs goals)

1957

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v BROTHERS 17

POPE'S BOOT GAVE VALLEYS B.R.L. GRAND FINAL, 18–17

Brothers lost in last five mins.

BY JACK REARDON

BRILLIANT tries by 20-year-old winger Mick Beirne and accurate goal kicking by Norm Pope gave Valley 'Diehards' an 18-17 victory over Brothers in the B.R.L. premiership grand final at the Cricket Ground yesterday.

Beirne sprinted over 60 yards with only five minutes' play left to outpace Brothers' cover defenders and score between the posts.

That left Valleys still trailing by 16-17 but Pope, cool as a deep-freeze, converted the try.

It was the most important goal Pope has ever kicked and gave the "Diehards" victory by one point.

It was a thrilling finish to a tense, exciting, and close match.

Pope, record points scorer, landed six goals from eight attempts to win the match for Valleys.

Brothers, who looked the more convincing team throughout the match, scored three tries to Valleys two, but Brian Davies succeeded only three times from nine attempts at goal.

Mick Shannon kicked one close goal from his only attempt.

But it was winger Mick Beirne who took the laurels for Valleys' win.

This tall youngster came into Valleys only for the third round of fixtures. In the last two games he has gained confidence and yesterday played like a seasoned class winger.

Beirne, former schoolboy sprinter, left Brothers defence standing to score a try in the first half, after George Souvlis had sent Stan Hick away through an opening. Hick forced his way into position to send Beirne flying.

Brothers, whose defence was splendid on all other occasions, left a thin line on the blind side to allow both of Valleys' tries.

Out of place

Their fullback, Mick Shannon, who did not miss a tackle, was missing from his position when the last try was scored by Beirne.

Shannon had moved up just once too often to take part in Brothers' attack in Valleys' quarter.

It was the sixth meeting of the two teams. Brothers had won four of their clashes with Valleys.

The only time the "Diehards" have won are the President's Cup final and the premiership grand final, on both occasions by one point.

It was a fierce tackling game, which at times threatened to develop into a fiery one.

But the players kept control of themselves, and with the close scoring the record club crowd of 16,151 (receipts £1184) stayed to the end.

Brothers spent at least 80 per cent. of the playing time in Valley's territory, but it was Valleys who seemed to have the ball for most of the game, although scrums favoured Brothers 17-11.

Brothers forwards, with Tom Hickey, Peter Gallagher, and Terry Duffy outstanding, gave a grand exhibition of hard low tackling around the rucks and in cover defence.

Barry O'Connor played his best game of the season. His cover defence was superb, and the only man whom he could not catch was the vital one, Beirne.

O'Connor also scored a fine try in which he brushed off Ray Paulsen like a fly, then outpaced Norm Pope.

Forwards star

Great credit must also go to Valleys forwards, whose only experienced man is lock Ray Paulsen.

Youngsters in Mel Hansen, Bob Gehrke, Ron Chaplin and lightweight Darby Soper stood up manfully to a difficult task of holding a more experienced Brothers pack.

Brothers' skipper, Brian Davies, although closely watched and shadowed by tacklers, scored a grand try and was always in the vanguard of his team's attacking efforts down the middle.

Of the inside backs I thought Brothers' centre Morrie Lyons outstanding.

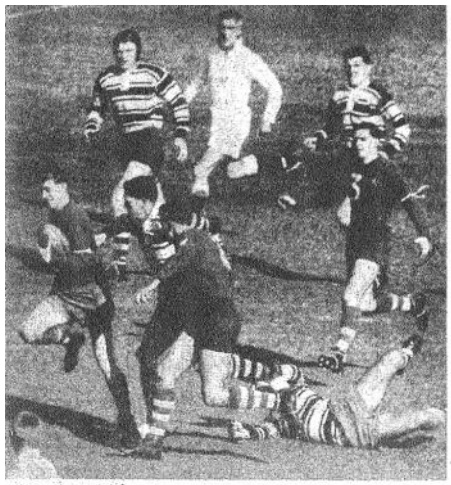
He pulled and swung out of tackles frequently, did not miss a man in defence and was a constant threat to Valleys.

Valleys' half-back, George Souvlis, again proved an excellent replacement for Ray Edwards.

Souvlis' smart work played important parts in both tries by Valleys.

Vital link

Centre Stan Hick was another important link in Valleys team, with sound defence and occasional smart attack.



VALLEY five-eighth Barry Brennan, with the ball, is putting everything into an effort to get away from a tackle by Brothers' winger Roy Elmer after beating a tackle by Brothers' Sam Tecchini (on ground). Mick Beirne is on hand to support Brennan and at the rear are Peter Gallagher (headgear), referee Nev Kelly, half-back Mick McNamara and Valley centre Stan Hick (3)



VALLEY centre Stan Hick goes to the ground heavily after a tackle by Brothers' centre Morrie Lyons. Brothers' forward Terry Duffy is on hand to go for the loose ball, whilst Valley centre Mick Molgraw (4) is also there to take further part. In the background are Brothers' half-back Mick McNamara, referee Nev Kelly, and Valley hooker Bob Gehrke.



VALLEY captain Norm Pope, kicks the two-points conversion goal which gave his team the one point margin over Brothers. For Pope it was the most important goal of his career, because it gave his team the B.R.L. grand final by 18-17. Yesterday he landed six goals from eight attempts. Pope's unerring boot, which had made him the record point scorer, was largely responsible for Valleys reaching the grand final.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND.—Grand Final: Valleys 18 (Beirne 2 tries; Pope 6 goals), d. Brothers 17 (Davies, Burns, O'Connor tries; Davies 3, Shannon goals).

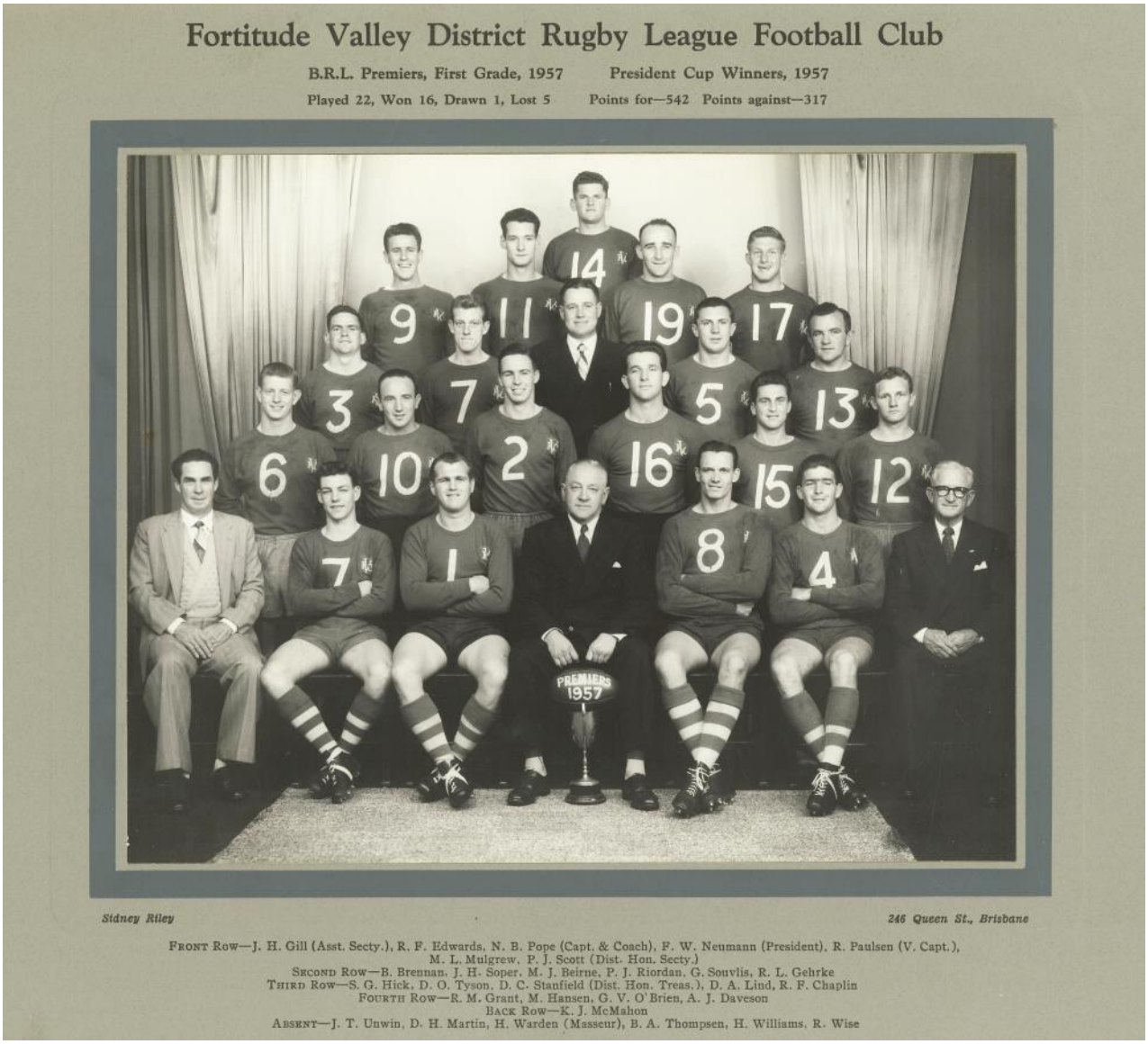
THE MAN —and boot



VALLEY CAPTAIN Norm Pope is chaired off the field after Valleys beat Brothers 18-17 in the Rugby League grand final at the Cricket Ground yesterday. Arrow points to the boot that kicked 12 points. See Page 40.

1957

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v BROTHERS 17



▼ RESULTS

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Western Suburbs 12 (Jackson, Little tries; Dobbs, McCrohon, Watson goals) d. Northern Suburbs 8 (Dall 4 goals).
Wests: K.McCrohon, B.Erickson, W.Beck, A.Watson (c), R.Ryan, G.Little, B.Robinson, J.Jackson, K.Dobbs, E.Bishop, H.Hoosan, J. McLean, A.McMillan. Coach: Duncan Hall.
Norths: D.Dall, F.Metassa, I.Reed, S.Norris, R.Collins, W.Thomas, G.Stanaway, B.O'Donnell, L.Senior, M.Laurent, A.Farquhar, G.Rogers, D.Lucas.
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 7,000.***

1 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 20 (Melit 2, Davies, Hore tries: Davies 4 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 12 (Lind, Pope tries: Pope 3 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, F.Melit, S.Tocchini, M.Lyons, R.Elmer, V.Hore, M.McNamara, B.O'Connor, T.Hickey, P.Gallagher, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, K.Herbert.
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Beirne, K.McMahon, M.Mulgrew, D.Lind, B.Brennan, R.Edwards, R.Paulsen, R.Grant, D.Soper, M.Hansen, R.Gehrke, R.Chaplin.
Referee: Col Wright. ***Crowd: 20,000 (record).***

7 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 18 (Beirne 2, Hick, Souvlis tries; Pope 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 12 (McLean, Weir tries; McCrohon 2, Dobbs goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Beirne, S.Hick, M.Mulgrew, D.Lind, B.Brennan, G.Souvlis, R.Paulsen, R.Grant, D.Soper, M.Hansen, R.Gehrke, R.Chaplin.
Wests: K.McCrohon, B.Erickson, W.Beck, G.Little, C.Weir, A.Watson (c), B.Robinson, J.Jackson, K.Dobbs, D.McAskill, H.Hoosan, J. McLean, A.McMillan. Reserve and coach: D.Hall.
Referee: Jim Wallace. ***Crowd: 9,381.***

14 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND

Fortitude Valley 18 (Beirne 2 tries; Pope 6 goals) d. Past Brothers 17 (Davies, Burns, O'Connor tries; Davies 3, Shannon goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Beirne, S.Hick, M.Mulgrew, D.Lind, B.Brennan, G.Souvlis, R.Paulsen, R.Grant, D.Soper, M.Hansen, R.Gehrke, R.Chaplin.
Past Brothers: M.Shannon, R.Elmer, J.Gallagher, M.Lyons, F.Melit, S.Tocchini, M.McNamara, B.O'Connor, T.Duffy, T.Hickey, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, P.Gallagher. Reserve: Burns. Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 16,151. (Gabba club record)***

1958

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	14	0	4	434	336	28
VALLEYS	11	1	6	336	318	22
BROTHERS	10	1	7	517	328	21
WYNNUM MANLY	8	1	9	369	397	17
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	9	379	458	17
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	0	13	307	400	10
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	13	278	412	10

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 33 v Wynnum 20

BROTHERS IN B.R.L. FINAL, BUT FORM SUSPECT

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS yesterday beat Wynnum-Manly by 33-20 in the B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park but will need to show better staying power to have a chance of beating Wests or Valleys in the next two matches.

Brothers, by their win, have qualified to play Wests next Saturday in the B.R.L. final.

The winner of that match will play Valleys in the Grand Final on September 20.

Leading by 21-2 at half-time, Brothers went to a 33-7 lead after 30 minutes in the second half; then, with few exceptions, their team decided to rest on their laurels.

In the last 10 minutes Wynnum-Manly took complete charge of the game and added 13 points with three fine tries and two goals.

Earlier, Brothers had produced some great football to score nine tries.

Second rower Brian O'Connor gave a fine display of positional play and strong running to score four tries.

O'Connor and Vince Nicholas were the pick of both teams with their vigorous tackling and consistent backing up.

Wynnum start well

Wynnum-Manly started well and kept Brothers busy defending their line in the early stages. Forwards Law, Mcurant, Lewis, and Long attacked strongly and kept Brothers in check.

Brothers did not score a try until 18 minutes had passed; then Eric Petersen sliced through cleverly, and a quick pass from a ruck sent Lyons over.

Then the powerful Brothers' pack of Davies, the O'Connor brothers, Peter Gallagher, and Nicholas applied the pressure, and Gallagher twice served good passes for Brian O'Connor to score.

Petersen and Lyons combined again for another try and Brian O'Connor crossed for his third try just before half-time, to make it 21-2.

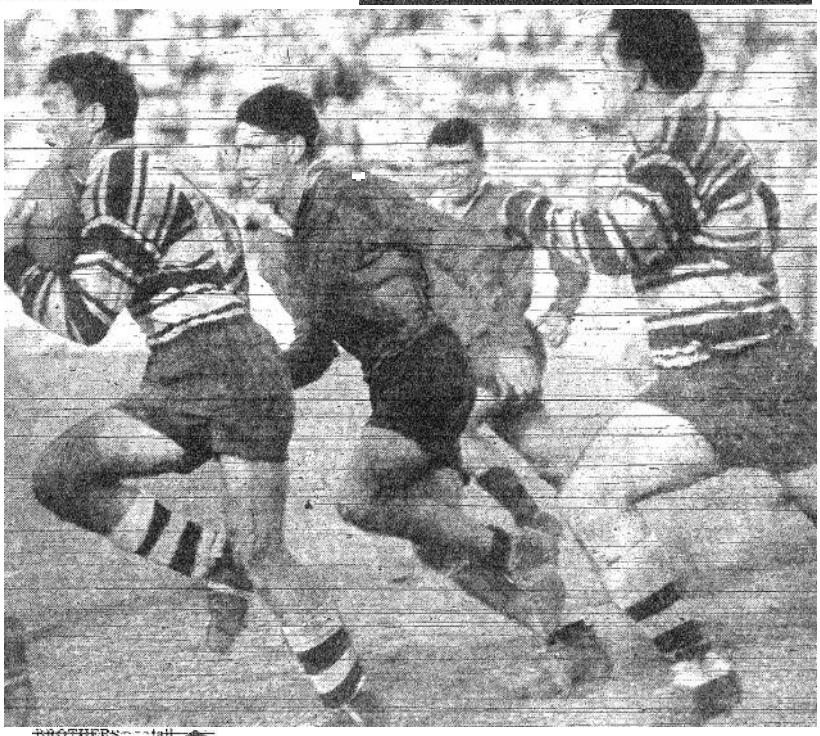
Cook's dash

Late in the match Brown, Johnson and Cook scored spectacular tries for Wynnum Manly. Cook's try was a typical 55 yards effort.

First scorers: Phillips (8, Wynnum - Manly), and Davies (11, Brothers).

A GRADE: Brothers 33 (Brian O'Connor 4, Lyons 3, Nicholas, Davies tries; Davies 3 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 20 (Fox, Brown, Cook, Johnson tries; Phillips 4 goals).

ON HIS WAY FOR FOURTH



BROTHERS' star scoring Rugby League forward Brian O'Connor races away with the ball for the last of his four tries in the B.R.L. semi-final against Wynnum-Manly at Lang Park yesterday. Backing him up is his captain, Brian Davies (right). Wynnum-Manly players in pursuit are forwards Noel Mcurant and Keith Lewis.

1958

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 25 v Wests 16

WESTS HAD NO ANSWERS TO VALLEYS TEAMWORK

BY JACK REARDON

SHOWING typical "Diehard" spirit. Valleys came from behind to beat Wests by 25-16 in yesterday's B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park.

Wests will now play the winner of today's semi-final between Brothers and Wynnum-Manly on September 13, for the right to meet Valleys in the Grand Final on September 20.



WESTERN Suburbs half-back Barry Muir shapes to send out one of his accurate passes during the B.R.L. semi-final against Valleys at Lang Park yesterday. Muir is about to be tackled by a Valleys player, but got his pass away in time.

VALLEYS hard-working forward Ron Chaplin (No. 13) sends out a pass to his winger Dick Davies during the B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Behind Chaplin is Wests lock Warren Beck, and coming up in support is Valleys and State hooker Bob Gehrke (No. 12). Valleys qualified for the grand final by beating Wests 25-16.

Valleys produced some of the best club football of the season during the second half of yesterday's match.

They finished right on top after trailing by 8-0 after 12 minutes from the start and 8-5 at half time.

The team work and backing up by Mel Hansen, Des Mannion, "Nudgee" Mulgrew, and Ray Paulsen thrilled the big crowd of 10,330, who paid £665—a record "gate" for a B.R.L. club game other than a premiership final.

Hansen has not played so well since the Brisbane—England game in early July.

He positioned himself perfectly alongside the ball carrier to score two tries in the second half and took part in many Valleys' attacking movements.

Valleys' young five-eighth, Des Mannion, also played his best game of the season.

His dextercus handling kept alive the surge of attack with which Valleys overwhelmed Wests in the second half.

Mannion also showed plenty of courage in playing on after he had taken a terrific tackle under the ribs from Joe Jackson in the first half.

Jackson was Wests' best player alongside winger Barry Erickson.

Jackson was a powerful tackler right throughout the 80 minutes, and he did some clever things in attack.

Erickson's 4

Winger Erickson had one of his best games and scored all of Wests' four tries.

Three of his tries were gems of speed and ability to stay on his feet after brushing off high tackles and take off again at top speed.

He took his total of points over the century mark, all from tries.

A feature of the game was the terrific tackling battle between the rival centres, Jackson and Watson (Wests) and the Mulgrew brothers, Mick and "Nudgee" (Valleys).



RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. semi-finals, A grade: Valley 25 (Hansen 2, Gehrke, Mannion, Davies tries, Pope 5 goals), d. Wests 16 (Erickson 4 tries, Stevens 2 goals).

1958

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 37 v Wests 5

Team discard turned tide in Brothers' final

By JACK REARDON

DISCARDED winger Noel Garvey scored a 45 yards runaway try yesterday at Lang Park to put Brothers on the trail of an overwhelming win over Wests by 37-5 in the Brisbane Rugby League's final.

Brothers went to a 10-5 lead over Wests from Garvey's first try, after the half-time scores of 5-all.

Brothers went on to outpace and outmanoeuvre their opponents with deft switches of attack and some brilliant attacking football.

Garvey scored his tide-turning try only two minutes after half-time.

Brothers had been pressing Wests, but Wests came away on the attack with the ball moving out to Cadman's wing.

McMillan chimed into the attack, but his pass to Cadman was slow, and in a flash Garvey dashed through, collected the ball, and outsped the defence to plant the ball between the posts.

Garvey, who is one of the fastest wingers in Brisbane, was dropped from Brothers' side for this match and replaced by Frank Melit.

Garvey went on to the field only after centre Morris Lyons had pulled a thigh muscle and retired early in the first half.

Melit then moved in to the centre position and both he and Garvey played brilliantly to score two tries each.

The driving force of captain Brian Davies kept Brothers up to the full pressure point under the hard tackling of Wests' forwards.

But the key man in their attack was five-eighth Vince Hore.

Hefty tackling

Hore was up against one of the most punishing legal tacklers in Queensland in Wests' five-eighth, Joe Jackson, but Hore's neat twist and turn kept him out of trouble from Jackson and enabled him to make breakthroughs and also to set his three-quarters on attack.

Territorially Brothers always had the better of the game but for the first half, and for about 10 minutes of the second half, they had to face a terrific barrage of hefty tackling from Wests, and could not penetrate that last ditch line.

Lock Warren Beck, who tackled in close and out amongst the wings and centres, shone in Wests' defence.

Doug. Hamilton was the power behind the defence around the rucks.

But Brothers' big pack absorbed the punishing tackles and, under the direction of Davies, kept up their attacking pressure until Wests wilted.

In such a powerful pack it is hard to single out a star. Barry O'Connor, at lock, always looks awkward with the ball, but somehow manages to make that last vital pass for tries.

His brother, Brian, again positioned himself perfectly for another two tries, but put most of his energy, like Vince Nicholas and Peter Gallagher, into the tight stuff where it was most necessary yesterday.

Early lead

Wests looked to be well in the running in the first half, when they led by 3-0 then 5-2 and kept level 5-all at half-time.

But Wests lacked penetration both back and forward. Alex Watson was disappointing in attack. He did little but try to draw an opponent and send the ball on.

Penalties favoured Wests by 16-12.

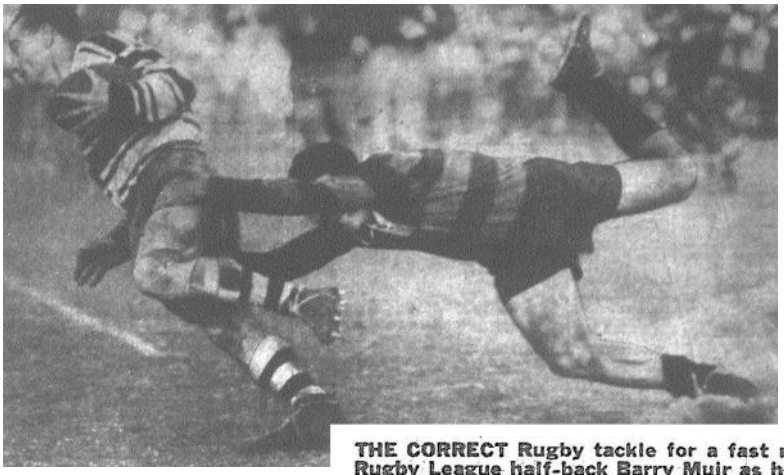
First scorers: Erickson (2 Wests) and Davies (11, Brothers).

Attendance of 14,781 was a record for a club match other than a Grand Final, so were the receipts of £899/6/0 which beat the corresponding "gate" of last year at the Cricket Ground by £332.

Brothers will now play Valleys in the Grand Final at Lang Park next Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — First grade B.R.L. final: Brothers 37 (Melit 2, Brian O'Connor 2, Garvey 3, Hore 2 tries; Davies 3 goals) d. Wests 5 (Erickson 1 try; Stevens 1 goal)



THE CORRECT Rugby tackle for a fast man is well illustrated by Wests Rugby League half-back Barry Muir as he stretches out in a diving effort to pull down Brothers five-eighth Vince Hore during the B.R.L's final at Lang Park yesterday. Brothers outpaced Wests in the second half to win by 37-5 and now meet Valleys in the Grand Final next Saturday.

1958

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 22 v VALLEYS 7

NEW "TERRIBLE SIX"

CRUSH VALLEY IN R.L. FINAL

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS Rugby League young "Terrible Six" pulverised Valleys into submission in a fiery B.R.L. grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

After one of the greatest displays ever seen by a club pack of forwards in Brisbane, Brothers won by 22-7 before the biggest club crowd in B.R.L. history.



STRONG running by Valley Rugby League centre "Nudgee" Mulgrew as he bumped off a Brothers tackler but is grabbed from behind by winger Jim Gallagher during the grand final at Lang Park yesterday. Brothers won by 22-7.

Brothers have had two previous packs of forwards who were dubbed the "Terrible Six."

I saw only the 1939 set and feel sure that they could not have lived with this big, vigorous bunch.

The hard game kept the record grand final crowd of 20,000, who paid the biggest "gate" of £1679/4/6, on their toes right to the end when Brothers were starting to break through the tiring Valley team.

It would be unfair to pick out a star in this six.

Brothers, led by Test skipper Brian Davies, who played one of his best club games, Brian O'Connor Vince Nicholas, Peter Gallagher, Phil Coman, and replacement Tom Hickey, stuck to the grim rucks and found time to back up and run with the backs.

Real threat

Barry O'Connor, moved out from lock when centre Frank Melit left the field in the first half, produced his customary non-stop cover defence and was a consistent threat in attack.

The full blooded tackling by the big Brothers' pack and their hard running left the Valley forwards with little answer in the way of attack and a full time job in defence.

The star of the beaten pack was lightweight second rower Darby Soper, who kept up his hard driving, low tackles for the full 80 minutes.

Petersen best back

But while Brothers' forwards always held the upper hand in the forward tussle, their backs were putting Valleys backs down heavily in a no-quarter tackling match.

Not too many backs were able to penetrate because of the grim tackling, but "Brothers' centre, Eric Petersen, whose strong bursts had "Nudgee" Mulgrew scrambling to get close enough to put him down, was the outstanding back in the match.

Petersen tried out with Valleys at the start of the season but was graded to the reserves.

He switched to Brothers, and in the third round of fixtures proved to be their soundest back in both attack and defence.

Five-eighth Vince Hore produced another fine game for Brothers, and his punishing tackles took toll of Valleys' young five-eighth, Des Mannion.

Pope's tribute

Valley's captain - coach Norm Pope, said after the match:

"Brothers were by far the better side. They left no gaps, and I thought at one stage I should count the number of Brothers' players on the field.

"They left no gaps and when we attacked they always seemed to have two men always there to tackle our one."

Brothers' coach, Bob Bax, said: "I always thought this season that we had the best side in the competition with all fit and in condition together.

"This is the best pack of forwards I have seen in Brisbane since I first joined Brothers in 1947, but our backs also played a very important part in the win."

Brothers did not look like losing the game from the first five minutes.

Valleys made scattered attacking raids but for at least 90 per cent. of the time Brothers were attacking in Valley's territory.

Melit injured Half-time lead

Melit, who was switched to centre when Lyons had to withdraw, made two splendid breaks before he injured his left leg and had to leave the field.

He had the speed and intelligence to get outside his opponents and nearly brought off a sensational early try.

Tom Hickey, who came on as a replacement and played lock, filled the position well and set up the final Brothers' try for Jim Gallagher.

Valleys were credited with winning scrums 20-13, but they did not have the ball as often as that, probably because heavy tackling by Brothers caused them to lose it.

Valleys scored first when Pope goaled from a penalty after four minutes, but Davies equalised after seven minutes.

Davies' dash

Brothers were consistently pressing Valleys in their 25 and were only driven back by two clearing kicks from Pope and Mannion.

Davies made a penetrating run through a ruck and then after a series of play-the-ball the Test captain sent a perfect pass to speedy Nicholas, who cleared out along the touchline and around behind the posts to score. Davies goaled to make it 7-2

Valleys fought back hard to get into Brothers' territory and attacked consistently but Brothers hard tackling shook the ball loose and they regained possession to take play back again.

Davies landed another penalty goal to make the score 9-2 then soon after he stood in a tackle and Brian O'Connor was nearly over before Ray Paulsen pulled him down.

It was still 9-2 at half-time and Brothers were soon on the attack again on resumption.

Five minutes after half-time Brothers led 12-2 from a splendid try by Noel Garvey.

Then Davies goaled again from a penalty to make it 14-2.

With 10 minutes' play left Valleys made their only successful attack when winger Dick Davies dummied, shot away down the middle of the field, and from a ruck Gehrke dashed over.

Pope goaled from touch and it was 14-7.

Grew weary

But by then Valleys were too weary to keep up their pressure.

Brian O'Connor burst through a ruck, left Pope sprawling, and scored between the posts.

Then Hickey made a dash to send Gallagher over for the last try with only a minute to go.

Davies landed five goals from eight attempts. Pope had only three attempts and kicked two goals.

Penalties favoured Valleys by 9-7

FIRST SCORERS: Pope (1, Valleys) and Davies (11, Brothers)

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.— Grand Final, Brothers 22 (Brian O'Connor, N. Garvey, V. Nicholas, J. Gallagher tries; B. Davies 5 goals) d Valleys 7 (Gehrke, try; Pope 2 goals).



BROTHERS' captain Brian Davies grins happily after the Rugby League grand final yesterday, when Brothers beat Valley 22-7. Last year they lost on a last-minute try. Holding the Cup, Brian said: "We made sure this year."

1958

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 22 v VALLEYS 7



CAMERA SHOWS HOW A GAMBLE PAID OFF . . .

THIS section of the record crowd at Rugby League headquarters at Lang Park yesterday showed why Brisbane Rugby League officials were the happiest sportsmen in Brisbane.

Last year the executive took a gamble—it decided to leave the Brisbane Cricket Ground and establish its own playing area in the face of pessimists who said the move was premature and certain to fail.

Jubilant Rugby League secretary (Mr. Ron McAuliffe) said last night: "Our move has been completely justified.

"We had a record premiership final crowd estimated at 20,000, and a record club 'gate' of £1678, £500 better than last year at the Cricket Ground.

"The crowd was 5000 up on our previous premiership grand final best."

"Best year"

Mr. McAuliffe added: "The Brisbane Rugby League will enjoy the greatest financial year since its inaugural year of 1922.

"The main contributing factor to this great success has been the move to Lang Park.

"Work at Lang Park commenced in 1956, and the Queensland and Brisbane Rugby Leagues conjointly have spent £81,000 on the grounds. With continued public support we envisage a total expenditure on the ground of £250,000 within five years."

For spectator

A week ago Clive Churchill, international full-back, said in Brisbane: "Lang Park is the finest sporting oval I have ever played on."

Lang Park has been specifically designed for football from a spectator viewpoint. In yesterday's huge crowd the farthest spectator from the playing area was 72ft. up in the air, but only 30 yards from the side line.

In summer months the Queensland Amateur Athletic Association has been given the use of the ground on Saturdays for £5 or 10 per cent. of the "gate," whichever is the greater.



Below: Valleys' winger Don Lind escapes the clutches of Noel "Oodles" Garvey in the 1958 grand final. In the background the record crowd of 20,000 is stacked high on the Lang Park terraces. Garvey is the father of well known Australian actor, Damien Garvey.



Keeping the ball alive. Brothers tore Wests to bits in the 1958 preliminary final. From left: Phil Coman, Doug Hamilton, Vince Nicholas, Brian Davies, Mick McNamara.



From left: Brothers' centre Eric "Crunch" Petersen forces Mick Mulgrew to spill the ball in the 1958 grand final, the first played at Lang Park. Looking on are Jim Gallagher (left) and Dick Davies (right).

1958

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 22 v VALLEYS 7

Past Brothers Rugby League Football Club

BRL Premiers 1958



BACK ROW: J.E.Gallagher, P.V.Hore. THIRD ROW: E.L.Petersen, P.M.Gallagher, B.P.O'Connor, E.W.Otago, N.D.Garvey. SECOND ROW: F.W.Melit, J.P.Byrne, P.J.Loth, T.A.Hickey, D.L.Bullock, M.J.Lyons. FRONT ROW: S.P.Logan (pres.), B.M.O'Connor, B.Davies (capt.), Rev. Br.K.V.Gunn (patron), M.Shannon (v.capt.), B.V.Nicholas, R.D.Bax (coach). ABSENT: P.J.Coman, M.McNamara, K.Herbert.

▼ RESULTS

6 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 25 (Hansen 2, Gehrke, Mannion, Davies tries; Pope 5 goals) d. Western Suburbs 16 (Erickson 4 tries; Steven 2 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), J.Davies, M.Mulgrew, J.Mulgrew, S.Hick, D.Mannion, W.Kluss, R.Paulsen, D.Lind, K.Bartholomai, M.Hansen, R.Gehrke, R.Chaplin.
Wests: D.Stevens, B.Erickson, J.Jackson, A.Watson, A.Orchard, R.Cadman, B.Muir, W.Beck, K.Day, D.Hamilton, H.Londy, J.McLean, D.O'Farrell.
Coach: D.Hall.
Referee: Jim Wallace. ***Crowd: 10,330.***

7 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Past Brothers 33 (Brian O'Connor 4, Lyons 3, Nicholas, Davies tries; Davies 3 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 20 (Fox, Brown, Cook, Johnson tries; Phillips 4 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, J.Gallagher, M.Lyons, E.Petersen, N.Garvey, V.Hore, M.McNamara, Barry O'Connor, V.Nicholas, Brian O'Connor, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, P.Gallagher. Coach: R.Bax.
Wynnum: A.Birks, J.Geraghty, R.Fox, K.Brown, J.Balderson, B.Cook, N.Johnson, B.Philips, M.Barnfield, V.Long, H.Law, K.Lewis, N.Meurant.
Referee: Col Wright.

13 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL LANG PARK
Past Brothers 37 (Melit 2, Brian O'Connor 2, Garvey 2, Hore tries; Davies 8 goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Erickson try; Stevens goal).
Brothers: M.Shannon, F.Melit, M.Lyons, E.Petersen, J.Gallagher, V.Hore, M.McNamara, Barry O'Connor, Brian O'Connor, V.Nicholas, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, P.Gallagher.
Reserve: N.Garvey. Coach: R.Bax.
Wests: D.Stevens, B.Erickson, C.Weir, A.Watson, R.Cadman, J.Jackson, B.Muir, W.Beck, D.Hamilton, K.Day, H.Londy, J.McLean, A.McMillan.
Coach: D.Hall.
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 14,781.***

20 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL LANG PARK
Past Brothers 22 (Brian O'Connor, Garvey, Nicholas, J.Gallagher tries; Davies 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 7 (Gehrke try; Pope 2 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, J.Gallagher, F.Melit, E.Petersen, N.Garvey, V.Hore, M.McNamara, Barry O'Connor, V.Nicholas, Brian O'Connor, B.Davies (c), P.Coman, P.Gallagher. Reserve: T.Hickey.
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), J.Davies, M.Mulgrew, J.Mulgrew, D.Lind, D.Mannion, W.Kluss, R.Paulsen, K.Bartholomai, D.Soper, M.Hansen, R.Gehrke, R.Chaplin.
Referee: Jim Wallace. Crowd: 20,000 (record).

Norm Pope piled on the points

"The term "points machine" has been linked with a few players, but none deserve the description more than Norm Pope.

In Rugby League records in Brisbane, Norm occupies an enviable spot.

Few players have dominated the Rugby League points-scoring scene as he did in the 1950s.

It is a tribute to his ability that he was selected for the Australian team against New Zealand in the third Test at Sydney in 1956.

Pope was a scoring freak.

In the 25 Years Ago section of this programme there is an item about him setting a Brisbane Rugby League record in 1953. That was when he kicked 19 goals from 22 attempts and scored a try in a Brisbane A grade match for a personal tally of 41 points.

That was one of the highlights of a career during which he established himself as one of the greatest goal kickers Queensland has seen.

And his all-round game was just as impressive. He was an outstanding leader and an enterprising, hard-running full back.

In the 1950s the standard of Rugby League both in New South Wales and Queensland was at a peak.

In the Brisbane scene alone there were such great names as Duncan Hall, Brian Davies, Alec Watson, and Mick Crocker who set a cracking pace.

It was not that Norm Pope scored so many points because of a weak standard all-round – the calibre of players was top-class.

Pope, who came to Brisbane from the Balmain juniors, scored 1,267 points in five seasons. They came from 33 tries and 584 goals. This is the great Pope record in those five years:

In 1953 he played 26 matches, scoring six tries and kicking 139 goals for 296 points.

In 1954 he had 23 games for 10 tries and 108 goals, giving a total of 246 points.

In 1955 he played 24 matches for four tries and 118 goals – a total of 248 points.

In 1956 he broke a shoulder and played only 18 matches for three tries and 69 goals – 147 points.

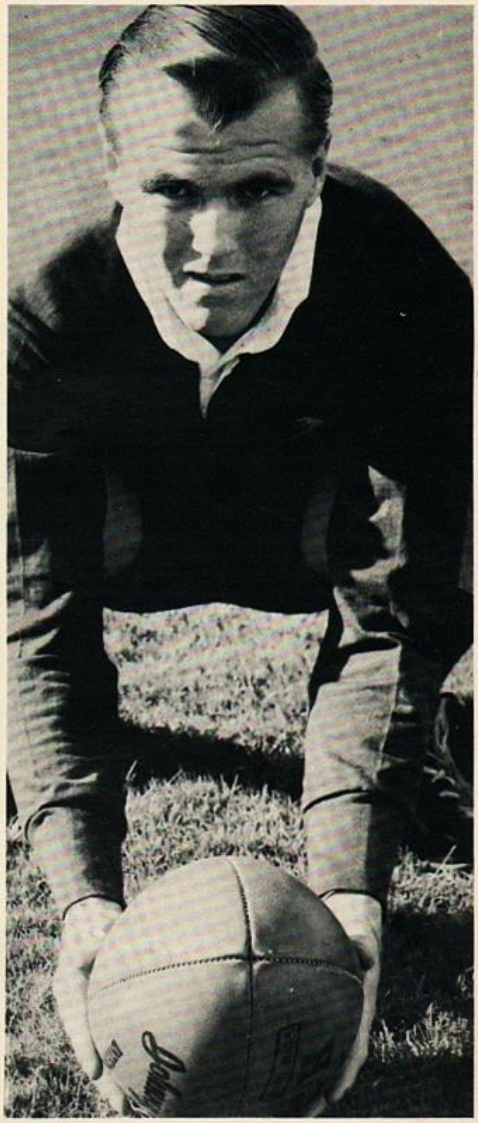
In 1957 he had 32 games for 10 tries and 150 goals – a total of 330 points for the year.

Pope captained Valleys in the team's undefeated run for the 1955 premiership.

In 1972, at the age of 40, Norm Pope made a one-match comeback. At the time he was coaching Wests and when ace kicker Wayne Stewart and deputies Nev McDonald and Errol Stock also were casualties, Pope filled in as full back.

He showed he had not lost the old magic, taking high balls under pressure and defending without a blemish. He steered three goals over, and his long, raking punts were worth many yards to Wests.

These days Pope, after coaching Valleys, Easts and Wests, takes it easy on the sideline and following the fortunes of his old club, Valleys, keenly.



NORM POPE in his heyday . . . he came to Valleys from Balmain juniors in 1950.

Below Left: Brian Davies at the Gabba playing against Wynnum. **Below Right:** Brother's forward Peter Gallagher.







Above Left: Action at the Gabba in a Wests v Valleys game.



Above Right: Don Cory for Souths about to pass the ball.



Above: A Wests v Valleys game at Lang Park. Barry Muir is on the left. **Below Left:** Don Cory playing for Souths takes the ball up. **Below Right:** The view from the outer at Lang Park.





1959

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

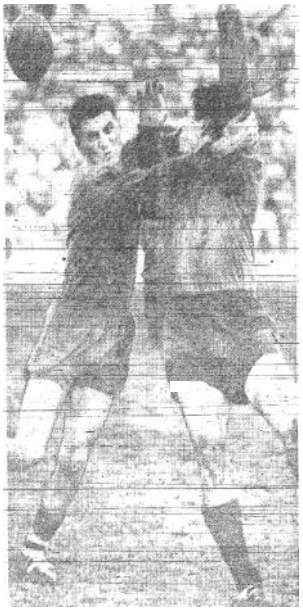
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	13	0	5	465	272	26
BROTHERS	10	1	7	401	343	21
WYNNUM MANLY	10	0	8	320	307	20
VALLEYS	10	0	8	383	415	20
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	1	9	431	398	17
WESTERN SUBURBS	6	0	12	327	397	12
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	13	317	514	10

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 15 v Valleys 11

WYNNUM-MANLY QUALIFY FOR B.R.L. FINAL BY DOWNING VALLEYS 15-11



WYNNUM-MANLY captain Keith Brown kicks the ball through in a play-the-ball by Valleys winger Bob Devantier in the Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. "Nudgee" Mulgrew misses and the ball goes through his legs. Wynnum-Manly won 15-11.



WYNNUM-MANLY Rugby League centre Alan Peever (right) gets a high pass back infield over the top of an attempt to block of Valley halfback George Souvlis in the Lang Park game yesterday.

BY JACK REARDON

WYNNUM-MANLY Rugby League team reached their highest spot since entering the B.R.L. competition when they beat Valleys by 15-11 at Lang Park yesterday to qualify for the final.

Wynnum-Manly will play Norths next Saturday at Lang Park for the right to meet Brothers in the Grand Final on September 19.

This is the third time that Wynnum-Manly have reached the semi-finals, but it is their first semi-final win in first grade.

They had to withstand a determined challenge in the second half by Valleys, and the result was in doubt right to the final minute, when Steele Davis landed a penalty goal in front of the posts.

The game provided a torrid clash between the two sets of forwards, but referee Col Wright got on top early in the match when he issued two quick cautions and awarded eight penalties, five to Wynnum-Manly and three to Valleys.

Lost chances

It was a keen hard game, but at times became very scrappy with bad handling and lost possession in tackles.

Both sides lost scoring opportunities through misunderstandings and dropped passes.

There was no score for 22 minutes, then mishandling by Valleys backs allowed Keith Brown to scoop up a loose ball. He passed to Brian Phillips, who stood firmly in a tackle and sent Lionel Morgan flying on to score.

The Baysiders scored another opportunist try in the first half when more bad handling by Valleys forwards allowed Bob Greenhill to kick the ball through. He followed the kick, again regathered, and scored between the posts.

Steele Davis converted both tries and Wynnum-Manly led by 10-nil at half-time.

Recovery bid

Big Wynnum-Manly prop, Harold Law, did some tremendously strong tackling in the first half. He put every pound of his weight into lov driving tackles, which always sent his victim back.

Vallays started their traditional recovery immediately on resumption. They stormed at Wynnum-Manly's line and within three minutes had scored a try when Nev Casey ran well to make a man over for Bob Devantier to score wide out.

But Wynnum-Manly replied immediately when Alan Peever pushed off a weak tackle, ran well and set up the opening for Morgan to score his second try.

Valleys found a blindside weakness in Wynnum-Manly's ruck formation and pounded at it for Gray to force his way over. Then Paulsen crashed through to score between the posts.

injured right wrist showed no fracture.

Brian Phillips (backs), and Bob Greenhill (forwards) won special bonuses of £5 each, awarded by Wynnum Manly business people.

Attendance was estimated at 18,000.

Details:

Wynnum-Manly 15 (Morgan 2, Greenhill tries; Davis 3 goals) d Valleys 11 (Gray, Devantier, Paulsen tries, Pope goal).

1959

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 26 v Norths 14

BROTHERS INTO FINAL

Hore key man in 26-14 win

By JACK REARDON

BRILLIANT attack by five-eighth Vince Hore spearheaded a thrilling win for Brothers over Norths by 26-14 in the B.R.L.'s first semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The win gave Brothers a straight passage into the Grand Final on September 19.

Boring holes in Norths' defence, Hore scored one try on his own and played a major role in four more of Brothers' six tries.

It was a spirited game and kept the record semi-final crowd of 10,516 (£904/10/) cheering until Brothers finally got on top with about 15 minutes to go.

Norths had a patchy day and will now have to meet the winner of today's semi-final between Valleys and Wynnum-Manly, for the right to play Brothers in the grand final.

It was a splendid team effort by Brothers and the win was a tribute to coach Bob Bax, who has instilled team spirit and the will to win into a mixture of veterans and young promoted lower graders.

Bax said: "That special training session with the forwards on Wednesday night did it."

Bax had called on former State prop, now State selector, Bill Law to give his new forwards some hints, particularly on ruck formation and scrums.

Scrums to Coman

Brothers pack, with a makeshift front row of former second rower Vince Nicholas and promoted reserve grader Alec Kolomeitz supporting verteran hooker Phil Coman, won scrums by 12-7.

Penalties favoured Norths by 15-5.

But it was in cover defence and in the tight rucks that the reorganised Brothers' forwards really rose to the occasion.

Peter Gallagher and Les Carter were most prominent in breaking the line. Carter, who started this season as a centre, shows great promise as a second rower.

Gallagher played one of his best games. His strong running from rucks had Norths' forwards and inside backs worried, and his cover defence was a vital destructive force against Norths' attack.

Brothers lost their lock, Stan Jackson, with broken ribs after 19 minutes' play, then just before half-time Wally Dennis, who replaced Jackson, was taken off with torn shoulder muscle. He was replaced by Ted Otago, who went to the front row with Gallagher moving to lock.

Brothers backs showed more speed and understanding than Norths. The service from the scrums by halfback Mick McNamara and the quick clearing of the rucks gave Brothers backline every opportunity.

Norths, by comparison, were sluggish and their backs frequently took passes standing flat footed so that the wingers had too few chances in attack.

This was not the fault of their halfback, Ken Anderson, who threw good passes.

Centre Bill Pearson was always a threat to Brothers. He was hard to bring down and carved the way for a try by Mick Cox in the first half.

Norths would have done better with some good old fashioned straight running and quick passing.

Solid trio

Norths' forwards worked hard in defence with Lloyd Weier, Nev Warburton, and Hughie Kelly most prominent.

One of Brothers' most successful new selections was Ted Puller on the wing. Puller scored two tries through speed and determination and did a good job in defence.



DOWN in the dust went Norths' big forward Lloyd Weier from a diving tackle by Brothers' forward Vince Nicholas in the Brisbane Rugby League's semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. In support of Nicholas are Phil Coman (left), then Morris Lyons and Ted Puller. The other Norths' man behind Lyons is hooker Roy Dixon.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK—1st grade, semi-final: Brothers 26 (Puller 2, Peterson, Lyons, Garvey, Hore tries; Shannon 3, Kolomeitz goals) d. Norths 14, (Cox, Pearson tries; Dall 2, Kelly 2 goals).

1959

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 12 v Wynnum 3

They will meet Brothers in League Grand Final

NORTHS' BOYS WERE REAL MUDLARKERS

Ken. Anderson was star in beating Wyn.-Manly 12-3

By JACK REARDON

MUDDY conditions at Lang Park yesterday brought the best out of Norths' Rugby League team, who beat Wynnum-Manly by 12-3 in the B.R.L. final and thus qualified to meet Brothers in next Saturday's Grand Final.

Coyne great leader

Norths gave a vastly improved performance on their previous game, and must now be rated as a better-than-even chance of beating Brothers in the Grand Final.

Norths captain, Jack Coyne, played with wonderful spirit and set a strong example in determination that his forwards followed.

Forced to rebuild their side after losing forwards Lloyd, Weier and Hughie Kelly through injuries, and Clive Churchill to the Kangaroos, Norths' reconstructed side revelled in the mud and slush to look like winners from the start.

Their secretary, Harry Kirby, said: "That's the tonic our side needed and I have every confidence in their ability to win the premiership."

Star of the game was Norths' halfback, Ken Anderson, who gave his best display since coming to Norths from Sydney.

The match was played for the most part in steady rain and for the full period in slippery mud.

This made no difference to Anderson, who ran better with the ball than he has done before.

But the big feature of his play was his strong defence. I thought Anderson tackled twice as many men as any other player on the field.

He did the leadup work which brought Norths' first try when he shot away from a scrum in a 20-yard dash, drew two tacklers to himself, then sent a well directed overhead pass to Billy Thomas.

Thomas sent the ball on to Bill Pearson and winger Fonda Metassa was given a clear run to the line.

Smothered tackles

Using field glasses, I had a good view of what Anderson did in defence and he repeatedly stopped Wynnum-Manly's attack with smothering tackles of both backs and forwards.

Strong defence was indeed a feature of Norths team.

Wynnum - Manly won scrums for the match by 20-15 but did not score until Keith Brown flew over in the corner in the 79th minute of the game.

Nev Warburton and "Smiler" Kirkman were other top forwards and Norths are lucky that they had two such players as Bob Poulsen and Ray Waldon to call on as replacements.

Wynnum-Manly bogged down in the heavy going and were badly disorganised about the middle of the second half.

I thought their best players were hooker Keith Lewis, second rower Steele Davis, lock Ron Ellicombe, and halfback Ned Green.

They had bad luck in losing powerful five-eighth Brian Phillips with a knee injury.

Phillips suffered his injury after about 10 minutes and was severely handicapped even though he stayed on until just before half-time.

The strong running of Phillips was missed by his team and none of the other backs seemed able to break the line in attack.

Forwards Lewis and Davis did retain their ability to penetrate, and four times Lewis sliced through a ruck to make long gains which should have been tries with better support.

Norths' backs handled particularly well under the conditions. Regular five-eighth Johnny Catton and centre Billy Thomas switched positions. It seemed a better arrangement.

Winger Fonda Metassa had a good match. He scored one try in good fashion and later took Norths into position for their second try with a crossfield run and a kick through.

Rain, rain, more rain

IN pouring rain and heavy mud underfoot, Norths Rugby League captain and forward Jack Coyne (with ball) strains to pull out of a tackle by Wynnum-Manly forward Steele Davis during the B.R.L. final at Lang Park yesterday.

Other Wynnum-Manly forwards, Keith Lewis (right) and Harold Law, are ready to block Coyne.

In the background are other Norths forwards (from left) Ray Waldon, Greg Fowler, and Nev Warburton.

Gave up easy kicks

Norths led by only 2-0 at half time but should have been further ahead. They took tap penalties from two easy goalkicking positions right in front of the posts.

The Baysiders went very close to scoring just before halftime when Bob Greenhill made a crashing run to open up the way for Lionel Morgan, who was pulled down about two feet short of the goal line.

Ron Ellicombe had also burst through well and with the line open his pass to winger John Geraghty was intercepted.

Wynnum-Manly won the first four scrums in the second half and their attack was more spirited. But Norths' first try seemed to dampen them again.

Lewis made his third breakthrough and Rex Fox, who had replaced Phillips, backed up well but he was heavily tackled with no one else in support.

From then the Baysiders looked an impotent, disorganised side and it was not until the last minute that Keith Brown, who had seen little of the ball, made two dashes and scored from the second.

The attendance of 9941 and gate receipts of £841/7/ were surprisingly good in view of the bad weather.



RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. final: Norths 12 (Metassa, Fowler tries; all 3 goals) d Wynnum-Manly 3 (Brown try)

1959

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 25 v BROTHERS 18

NORTHS' FIRST LEAGUE CROWN FOR 19 YEARS

FINAL SCORES **NORTHS 24, BROTHERS 18**

Beat Brothers in Grand Final

By JACK REARDON

NORTHERN SUBURBS Rugby League team won their first B.R.L. premiership for 19 years when they came from behind to beat Brothers by 24-18 in a thrilling Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday.

Rallied under Coyne's drive

For the first 20 minutes Brothers played like champions, and went to an 8-0 lead.

But by halftime Norths had rallied wonderfully under the driving leadership of captain-coach Jack Coyne, and were in front by 16-8.

Norths always looked like winners in the second half, despite spasmodic bursts of attack by Brothers.

Norths last won a B.R.L. premiership in 1940 when they also beat Brothers.

Norths' officials yesterday invited all members of that winning team to Lang Park as their guests to the match and to the celebrations last night.

It was a grand triumph for coach Jack Coyne, who took over from Clive Churchill as Norths' coach when Churchill went to England as coach of the Kangaroos.

But it was an even greater triumph for replacement forward Bob Poulsen, who was the outstanding forward of the match.

Poulsen suffered a recurrence of knee trouble in a trial match early this season and came back as coach and captain of Norths' third grade.

Poulsen was called into the first grade team with veteran Ray Waldon when Lloyd Weier and Hughie Kelly were injured.

It was a splendid try by Poulsen which gave Norths the lead for the first time.

The scores were 8-all when Poulsen took a pass from a ruck 20 yards out from the goal line and swerved his way through strongly to score.

Hefty Ray Waldon made his presence most felt in the scrum, where his strength helped Norths' hooker, Greg Fowler, to cut even, 8-all, with Phil Coman in the first half. Coman won second half scrum 7-4.

Took risks with injured men

BROTHERS suffered badly through injuries when they lost captain fullback Mick Shannon and strong forward Brian O'Connor with recurrence of their injuries in the first half.

Ted Otago, who was also carrying a strained leg muscle, replaced O'Connor. Leo Carroll went on for Shannon, but went to the wing, while winger Ted Puller went to fullback.

Brothers' officials were well aware of those injuries and took a calculated risk in playing Shannon, O'Connor, and Otago.

The disorganisation of Brothers' team became obvious in the last 10 minutes before halftime when cover defence was lacking and uncertainty crept into their ruck work.

Good tackling

But Norths' forwards had started to get on top before that and the strong tackling of Nev Warburton, Coyne, John Kirkman, and Poulsen was driving Brothers back.

Coyne said during the week that he was coaching Norths on the assumption that they would lose the ball.

But Norths' backs made great use of the even share of possession and halfback Ken Anderson was always a threat in attack.

The game was played in a splendid spirit by both sides and was the cleanest grand final for many years.

Only one scuffle took place, and that was between the halfbacks, Ken Anderson (Norths) and Mic McNamara (Brothers) late in the second half.

Brothers proved that they had plenty of running left in them in the second half.

They had started badly on resumption and appeared to be cracking badly under the hammering of Norths' forwards.

Norths kept driving them back and scored their fifth try to go to a 19-8 lead.

But from there Brothers again looked like getting on top and scored two tries to Norths one in the remaining time.

One of the brightest backs of the match was Brothers' winger Teddy Puller, who scored one try and crossed for two others, but was recalled by referee Jim Wallace.

Puller looked the most dangerous back in either side and it was bad luck for Brothers that such a potential scoring medium had to go to fullback for the second half.

Centres even

There was little to choose between the two sets of backs. Brothers' inside men, McNamara, Vince Hore, and Morrie Lyons, were bright and always likely to provide an opening.

But Anderson, Billie Thomas, and Johnny Catton were equally threatening for Norths.

All four wingers, Garvey, Puller, Metassa, and Cox, scored tries, but that by Garvey was the best of the match.

Brothers were defending desperately in their own quarter and got possession. A quick heel and a quick pass to Garvey, on the blind side, saw the winger take it in his stride.

He beat Metassa, then outstripped the cover defence and stepped around the fullback to score after a 65 yard run.

Brothers' forwards started off very convincingly, with Brian O'Connor and Peter Gallagher most prominent in strong runs and crushing defence.

A fit O'Connor could have kept them on top, but with Ted Otago only half fit and lacking the thrust of O'Connor, Brothers pack were gradually submerged for a vital period when Norths got on top.

Future stars

But two very promising forwards have come to light for Brothers in the semi-finals and finals.

They are youngsters Alec Kolomeitz and Lou Carter, who were still full of running in the last few minutes of yesterday's game.

Carter made several breaks which should have produced scoring results, but the support did not get to him in time.

There was more than 30 minutes' delay in the start of the main match due to numerous injuries in the early matches and the running of the B.R.L. sprint championships. The match finished in semi-darkness.

The attendance of 18,921 was about a thousand less than the attendance at last year's grand final.

Gate receipts of £1582 were about £20 less.

Excited Clive did "Fling"

Kangaroo coach Clive Churchill did a "highland fling" in a hotel telephone booth in Warrington, Lancashire, last night.

The Sunday Mail, in a special overseas telephone call, told him his Brisbane club, Norths, had won the football premiership.

For several seconds there was silence. Then the "Little Master" exploded in an excited voice that must have made the Indian Ocean radio air waves vibrate.

'Knew they could'

"You beaut, you beaut!" he said. "24-18 you say. Gosh, this is the medicine I need.

"Tell the boys they're wonderful, and thank them—now don't forget—for what they have done for me.

"Gee, I'll dash off a cable straight away to them.

"I knew they could do it—I'll be back there next season for sure."

Churchill said he was just leaving with the Kangaroos (it was 10.15 a.m. over there) for the match against Warrington.

He had been eating breakfast when Norths were fighting for victory at Lang Park.

"Don't forget Jack Coyne," he added. "He must have done a wonderful job on the lads since I left."

(Coyne took over Norths' coaching job when Churchill left for overseas.)

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A Grade, grand final: Norths 24 (M. Cox, P. Metassa, K. Anderson, R. Poulsen, R. Waldon, J. Kirkman, tries; D. Hall, 3 goals) d. Brothers 18 (T. Puller, R. Garvey, M. Lyons, M. McNamara, tries; A. Kolomeitz 2, M. Shannon, goals).



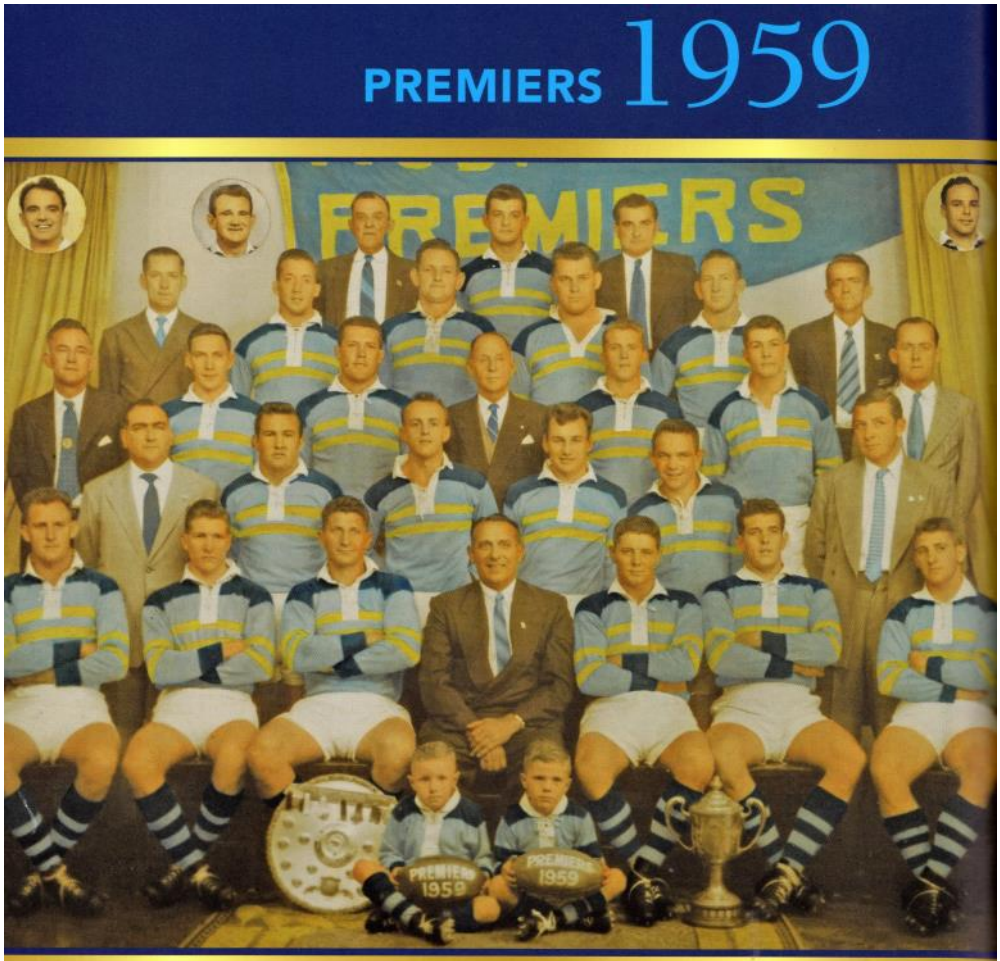
DIVING tackle by Norths' Rugby League forward Ray Waldon stops progress by Brothers' forward Vince Nicholas in the B.R.L. Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday. Jack Coyne, of Norths, stumbles over Waldon's outstretched legs. Norths won by 24-18.



EYES on the goal line aread, Norths' big skipper Jack Coyne is away with the ball, but is covered by Brothers' forward Peter Gallagher (in headgear). Brothers' winger Noel Garvey runs to cut Coyne off and Norths' forward Nev Warburton is racing up to support Coyne.

1959

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 25 v BROTHERS 18



Northern Suburbs District R.L.F.C.
Premiers First Grade & Winners Minor Premiership, Peter Scott Memorial Trophy,
Vic Jensen Flag, Frank Fullarton Trophy, & B.R.L. Champions, 1959

IN FRONT: Peter Dixon, Bruce Hand (Mascots).
FRONT ROW: N.G. Warburton, G.R. Fowler, W. Pearson (V. Capt.), J. Bayada (Pres.), K.R. Anderson, B.F. Stevens, J.J. Catton.
SECOND ROW: Alan Ward (Sen. V.P. & Del. B.R.L.), K.G. Weedon, W.A. Thomas, M. Cox, S. Kirkman, H.B. Kirby (Sen. Secty.).
THIRD ROW: W.H. Butterworth (Masseur), J.R. Hannam, R.A. Poulsen, Ald. W.H. (Bill) Cook (Patron), M. Laurent, R.H. Dixon, K.F. Hyde (Team Manager)
FOURTH ROW: A.L. Bishop (Hon. Treas: & Del. B.R.L.), R.H. Collins, R.F. Waldon, L.M. Weier, H. Kelly, R. Richards (Hon. Jun Secty.).
BACK ROW: H. Batchelor (Comm.), F. Matassa, S.G. Hassum.
INSETS: Clive Churchill (Capt. & Coach), J. Coyne (V. Capt.), D. Dall.
ABSENT: V. Gohdes, N. Paxton, E. Spain, R. Johnson (Selectors), W. Burrup, G. Jones (Masseurs).

▼ RESULTS

5 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 26 (Puller 2, Petersen, Lyons, Garvey, Hore tries; Shannon 3, Kolomeitz goals) d. Northern Suburbs 14 (Cox, Pearson tries; Dall 2, Kelly 2 goals).
Brothers: M.Shannon, N.Garvey, M.Lyons, E.Petersen, E.Puller, V.Hore, M.McNamara, S.Jackson, P.Gallagher, Brian O'Connor, V.Nicholas, P.Coman, R.Braban.
Reserve: W.Dennis, E.Otago, A.Kolomeitz.
Coach: R.Bax.
Norths: D.Dall, M.Cox, W.Pearson, W.Thomas, F.Metassa, J.Catton, K.Anderson, J.Kirkman, N.Warburton, H.Kelly, L.Weier, R.Dixon, J.Coyne (c/c).
Referee: Jim Wallace. ***Crowd: 10,516.***

6 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Wynnum-Manly 15 (Morgan 2, Greenhill tries; Davis 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 11 (Gray, Devantier, Paulsen tries; Pope goal).
Wynnum: B.Boyd, L.Morgan, K.Brown, A.Peever, J.Geraghty, B.Phillips, M.Green, R.Ellicombe, S.Davis, B.Fox, H.Law, K.Lewis (c), R.Greenhill.
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), R.Gray, G.Little, N.Casey, R.Devantier, J.Mulgrew, G.Souvlis, R.Paulsen, N.Hookway, G.O'Brien, K.Macreadie, R.Gehrke, A.Quintner.
Referee: Col Wright. ***Crowd: 18,000.***

12 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 12 (Metassa, Fowler tries; Dall 3 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 3 (Brown try).
Norths: D.Dall, M.Cox, W.Pearson, W.Thomas, F.Metassa, J.Catton, K.Anderson, J.Kirkman, N.Warburton, R.Poulsen, R.Collins, G.Fowler, J.Coyne (c/c).
Wynnum: B.Boyd, L.Morgan, K.Brown, A.Peever, J.Geraghty, B.Phillips, M.Green, R.Ellicombe, S.Davis, B.Fox, H.Law, K.Lewis, R.Greenhill.
Referee: Nev Kelly. ***Crowd: 9,941.***

19 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 24 (Poulsen, Metassa, Cox, Anderson, Waldon, Kirkman tries; Dall 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 18 (Puller, Garvey, Lyons, McNamara tries; Kolomeitz 2, Shannon goals).
Norths: D.Dall, M.Cox, J.Catton, W.Pearson, F.Metassa, W.Thomas, K.Anderson, J.Kirkman, R.Poulsen, N.Warburton, J.Coyne (c/c), G.Fowler, R.Waldon.
Brothers: M.Shannon, N.Garvey, M.Lyons, E.Petersen, E.Puller, V.Hore, M.McNamara, P.Gallagher, A.Kolomeitz, B.O'Connor, L.Carter, P.Coman, V.Nicholas. Reserves: E.Otago, L.Carroll. Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Jim Wallace. ***Crowd: 18,921.***

1960

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	15	0	6	411	291	30
NORTHERN SUBURBS	14	1	5	376	254	29
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	1	6	425	343	29
WESTERN SUBURBS	13	0	8	371	293	26
BROTHERS	11	0	10	356	303	22
REDCLIFFE	7	0	14	318	415	14
WYNNUM MANLY	4	0	17	288	487	8
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	3	2	16	273	432	8

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 10 v Easts 8

WESTS FORWARDS HELPED CRUSH EASTS

BY JACK REARDON

WESTS Rugby League team played their way into the preliminary final without their star, Test halfback Barry Muir, when they beat Easts 10-8 in a tough semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Wests will now play Valleys next Saturday for the right to meet Norths in the Grand Final on September 17.

In one of the hardest and most exciting games of the season Wests won through their big pack of forwards and sustained defence.

There was some glorious low diving tackles by Barry Ryan, Col Weir, of Wests, and Noel Morgan, Easts' fullback.

First grade, second semi-finals: Wests 10 (W. Beck, B. Erickson tries; I Price, A. McMillan goals) d. Easts 8 (R. McAllister, R. Swan tries; Hagan goal).

Ryan was moved in to halfback when Barry Muir had to withdraw because of his selection in the World Cup team.

Weir shifted from centre to five-eighth, and reserve grader Max Martin went in as centre.

Weir did a very thorough job of keeping Easts' five-eighth, Col McCartney, in check.

Easts lacked imagination in attack. There was little attempt to counter Wests' spotting defenders, who at times were well offside.

Referee Col Wright warned hookers John Drennan (Easts) and Bob Doyle (Wests) for continued scrum breaches early in the match.

Then after 20 minutes play he ordered both captains to shift the hookers to other positions.

Paddy Morgan took over as Wests' hooker, and Bob Parker moved in for Easts. Easts won scrums 21-18.

Were battered

Big Alan McMillan and lock Ken Day were also prominent for Wests with punishing tackles.

McMillan used his weight in attack and Easts' inside backs took a battering trying to stop the big fellow.

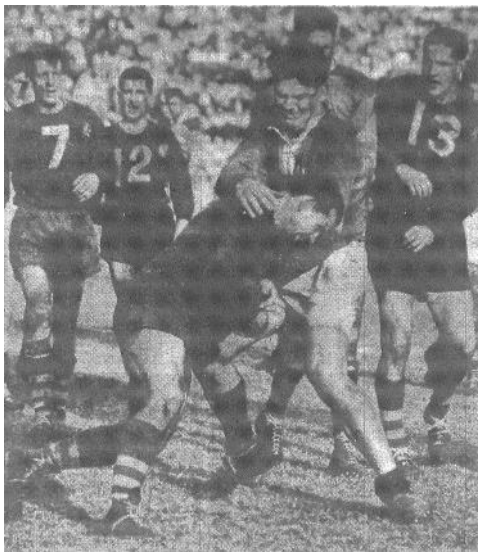
Easts' forwards were great triers but they were no match for Wests. Frank Duncan and Bob Parker were their best.

Easts' halfback, Stan Neave, showed a lot of dash in the second half. Winger Bob Zeller showed great speed to beat three defenders in a 50 yards burst from which Ray Swan scored.

1960

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Valleys 0

WEIER A GIANT-KILLER



CLASH between two tough Rugby League forwards in the semi-final at Lang Park yesterday when Norm McFadden, of Valleys, tried to barge through a tackle by Norths giant, 16½-stone forward Lloyd Weier, who has blood streaming from a cut near his eye. Others in the picture are Des Tyson (no. 7), L. Winiaw (no. 12) and Max Evans (no. 13). Norths won by 20-0.



Above: Valleys vs Norths at Lang Park 1960.

20-0 Rout for Valley

By JACK REARDON

Northern Suburbs Rugby League team made a strong bid for their second successive premiership when they outclassed Valleys in attack to win the first semi-final by 20-nil at Lang Park yesterday.

Norths go straight into the Grand Final which will be played at Lang Park on September 17.

Valleys must now survive the final on September 10 against the winner of today's second semi-final between Easts and Wests at Lang Park.

Norths produced some brilliant backline play yesterday with Bill Pearson, Norm Hynes, and John Hannam in top form.

But the man of the match was Norths' giant young forward Lloyd Weier.

Running off the rucks to take passes on the move, he used every ounce of his 16½ stone weight to make ground. It always took more than one Valley defender to bring him down.

Weier has shown great improvement under the coaching of Bob Bax this season. He is now starting to look for support when he makes his powerful runs.

It is a long time since Valleys have failed to score. Goalkicker Norm Pope played but had only one attempt at a goal which missed narrowly.

Barry O'Donnell, who was to take over the goal kicking, missed at his only attempt.

Norths had a halftime lead of 10-0 and Valleys were expected to rally in the second half when they had a strong wind at their backs.

4 Tries

But their supporters looked in vain for the traditional Diehard recovery and Norths were still attacking strongly at the final siren when they scored their fourth try.

Norths' powerful five-eighth Bill Pearson swerved through Valleys' threequarter line defence and away from Pope to score Norths' first try.

Halfback Hannam had set the position up with a weaving run from a ruck and his quick heeling of the ball from the next ruck saw Pearson take the pass at his top.

Valleys had scoring opportunities but centre Nev Casey had a bad day and twice tied himself up with wild stepping and propping.

Scrums went to Norths by 15-14 but Norths made much better use of their possession and held the ball for longer periods than Valleys.

Penalties favoured Valleys by 11-10.

Attendance was 7000, receipts £711/4/.

Easts had an easy win over Wests in the teams' relay.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. semi-finals, 1st grade: Norths 20 (W. Pearson, J. Bates, N. Hynes, K. Doherty tries; J. Hannam 4 goals) d. Valleys 0.

1960

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 22 v Wests 2

VALLEYS TROUNCED WESTS 22-2; NOW MEET NORTHS IN GRAND FINAL

By JACK REARDON

Valleys romped into the Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final when they whipped Wests in a great second half scoring burst to win a tough final at Lang Park yesterday by 22-2.

Valleys will now meet Norths in the Grand Final next Saturday.

Livelier and younger forwards, plus speed and determination on the wings, gave Valleys their win.

Every time wingers Bob Gray or Graham Shields handled the ball they made progress.

Shields scored two magnificent tries, and Gray one from a strong fending run.

There was plenty of "needle" in the game, particularly in the forwards, and referee Neville Kelly issued cautions to McFadden and Clarke, of Valleys, and Morgan and Doyle, of Wests.

Wests missed the speed in defence and attack of lock Ken Day, who has been in bed since he suffered a badly bruised thigh in a collision with team mate Peter Moore at training on Tuesday night.

Warren Beck took over as lock but lacked the finesse needed for the job.



NORM POPE, Valleys' captain, celebrated his 29th birthday with a great performance.

Valleys staged a complete reversal of form shown in their match against Norths a week ago, when they were beaten by 20-0.

They might benefit from yesterday's hard match in preparation for next Saturday's clash against Norths.

Valleys finished the match with 12 men after hooker Len Winlaw had been carried off the field following a heavy tackle midway through the second half.

Winlaw recovered in the dressing room just before the finish of the game and was taken to hospital for precautionary examination for possible head injuries.

Was great birthday for Pope

VALLEYS' win was a great birthday present for captain-coach Norm Pope, who celebrated his 29th anniversary with a solid defending game and some good goalkicking.

He landed five goals from eight attempts.

Neat-footed little winger Graham Shields scored one of the best tries of the season in the first minute of the second half.

Centre "Nudgee" Mulgrew and forward Mel Hansen did the leadup work, for Hansen to get the ball out to Shields at the halfway mark.

The stocky little winger shot away to beat the cover defence, then veered in to check fullback Gerry, who was coming across fast.

Then Shields went out again and shot away with a beautiful swerve and change of pace to score in the corner.

He scored from another 50 yards' burst after intercepting a loose pass and again swerved cleverly to beat the defence.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A Grade: Preliminary Final: Valleys 22 (G. Shields 2, R. Gray M. Evans tries; N. Pope 5 goals) d. Wests 2 (I. Prime goal)

But I thought the real star of the Valleys team was second row forward Norm McFadden.

Full-blooded tackles and consistent backing up kept McFadden under the eye of the spectators for the entire match.

He also made several strong bursts through the middle of rucks to open up attacking movements for Valleys.

Halfback "Tiger" Tyson and five-eighth Des Mannion were sound connecting links and great defenders.

It was a willing first half in which both teams showed up strongly in defence. No tries were scored in this torrid 40 minutes and the halftime score was 2-all.

I thought the turning point of the game was that 10 minutes just before halftime when Wests pinned Valleys down inside their own 25 yards area but could not make the vital breakthrough.

Wests put everything into that effort. Paddy Morgan, Col Weir, Darcy Ryan and Peter Moore made progress in runs which might have brought tries.

Possession from scrums was evenly shared at 19-all, while penalties also finished even, 13-all.

Attendance was 8000, receipts £799/14/6.



WITH BLOOD-STAINED mouth, West's giant forward, 16-stone Alan McMillan (left), gets a pass out to supports after he pulls out of a tackle by Valleys halfback, Don Tyson.



VALLEY forward Mel Hanson (no. 11) gets his pass away although tackled by Wests winger Barry Erickson in yesterday's Rugby League final at Lang Park. Valleys won by 22-2.

1960

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v VALLEYS 15

NORTHS FIRST FOR 31 YEARS TO WIN TWO FINALS IN ROW

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS' Rugby League team held off a desperate late challenge by Valleys to win yesterday's B.R.L. Grand Final by 18-15, and thus registered their second successive premiership.

Bruising tackles and hard, crashing runs by the forwards of both teams made it one of the toughest grand finals in B.R.L. history.

Norths became only the second team to win two B.R.L. premierships in a row. The last was University club in 1928-29.

The win was a triumph for Norths' coach, Bob Bax, who took over a depleted side this season.

Norths had lost 13 of last year's first grade squad and got away to a bad start in the competition, losing four of their first six games.

Then they won 11 games straight and finished second in the competition.

"Too good"

Bax said after the match: "I thought we were the better side on the day and further ahead of Valleys than the scores indicated."

Valleys were very good losers and paid tribute to Norths better attack.

Norm Pope said: "We had enough ball to win, but Norths were too good on the day."

Norths always had the edge with team attack, their general play was more constructive, and each of their tries was the result of clever attacking play.

Smart try

Valleys' forwards scored one very good try, in which Norm McFadden, Barry O'Donnell, Mel Hansen, and Bill Clarke ran and handled like backs for Clarke to score.

Without detracting from Bob Gray's efforts, his two tries came more from Norths' mistakes than from good lead-up work by Valleys.

Gray had to run well and strongly to score both tries. He was the focal point of Valleys attack and was always a threat when the ball came his way.

Lost Shields

Valleys had bad luck in losing their smart little winger Graham Shields with a cut head after only four minutes play. His absence cut into Valleys' attack.

There were no weak spots in Norths lineup. I thought Bill Pearson, Jim Hannam, and Norm Hynes the best of their backs, and every forward stuck to his job well with Lloyd Weier and Barry Stevens earning special mention.

Norm McFadden was Valley's strongest player and never stopped running in attack or defence. Bob Gray was the best of their backs.

Referee Henry Albert handled the tough match well.

Valleys won scrums by 19-12 and penalties favoured Norths by 15-14.

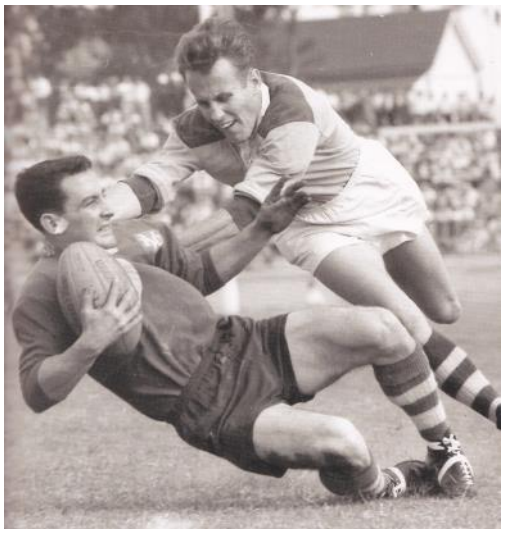
Attendance was 14,000, receipts £1715/17/.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—Grand Finals 1st grade: Norths 18 (I. Massie, J. Bates, N. Warburton, L. Glover tries; J. Hannam 3 goals) d. Valleys 15 (R. Gray 2, W. Clarke tries, N. Pope 3 gls)

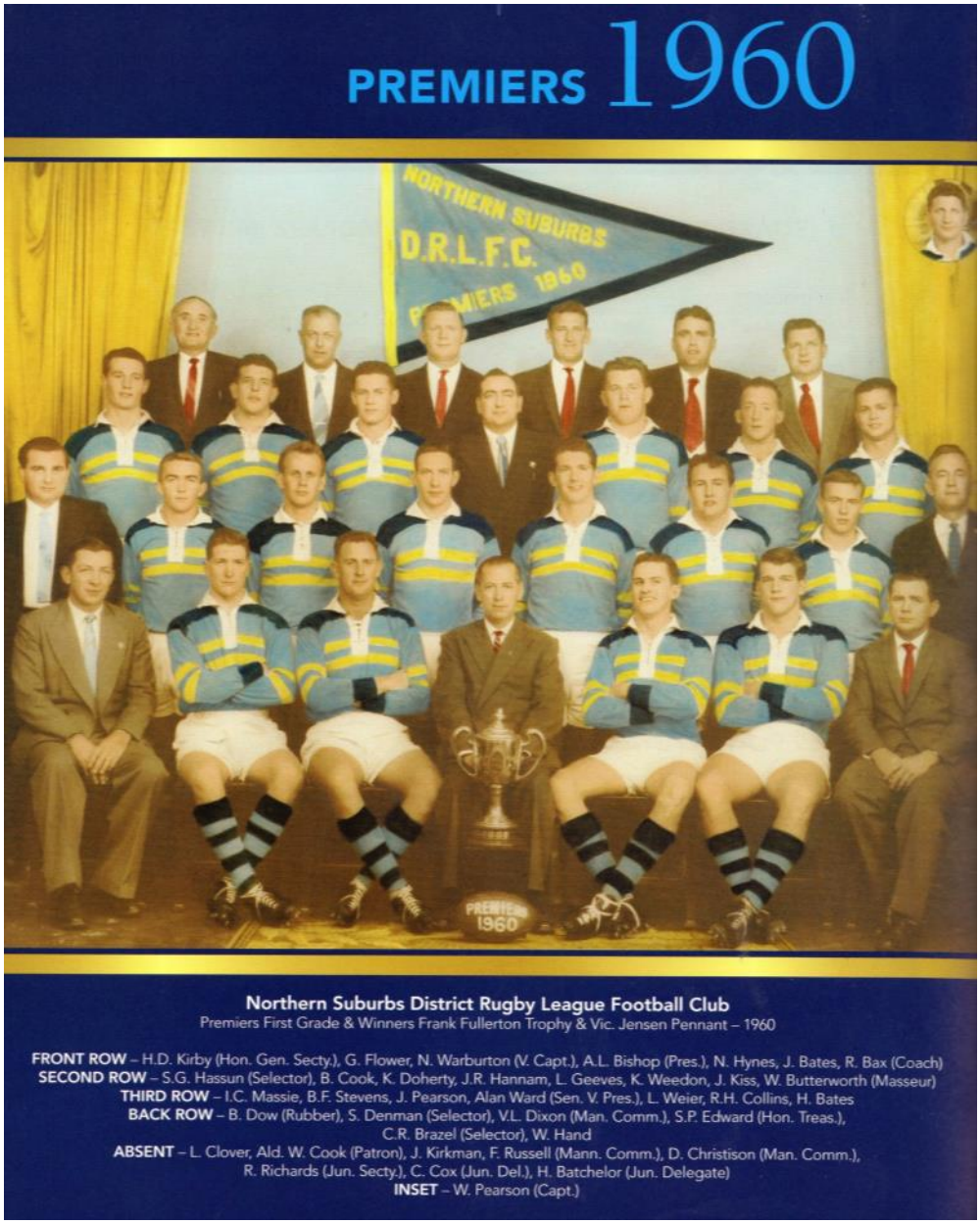


Teammates carry mercurial Norths' skipper Bill Pearson after the 18-15 win over Valleys in the 1960 grand final. From Left: Jim Hannam, Bobby Cook, Greg Fowler, Bill Pearson, Barry Stevens, Harry Bates, Ian Massie.



1960

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v VALLEYS 15



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club
Premiers First Grade & Winners Frank Fullerton Trophy & Vic. Jensen Pennant – 1960

FRONT ROW – H.D. Kirby (Hon. Gen. Secty.), G. Flower, N. Warburton (V. Capt.), A.L. Bishop (Pres.), N. Hynes, J. Bates, R. Bax (Coach)
SECOND ROW – S.G. Hassun (Selector), B. Cook, K. Doherty, J.R. Hannam, L. Geeves, K. Weedon, J. Kiss, W. Butterworth (Masseur)
THIRD ROW – I.C. Massie, B.F. Stevens, J. Pearson, Alan Ward (Sen. V. Pres.), L. Weier, R.H. Collins, H. Bates
BACK ROW – B. Dow (Rubber), S. Denman (Selector), V.L. Dixon (Man. Comm.), S.P. Edward (Hon. Treas.), C.R. Brazel (Selector), W. Hand
ABSENT – L. Clover, Ald. W. Cook (Patron), J. Kirkman, F. Russell (Mann. Comm.), D. Christison (Man. Comm.), R. Richards (Jun. Secty.), C. Cox (Jun. Del.), H. Batchelor (Jun. Delegate)
INSET – W. Pearson (Capt.)

RESULTS

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 16 (Massie 2 tries; Gordon 3 goals, Brown, Spring field goals) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (Payne, Scanlan tries; Clarke 4 goals).
Norths: B.Spring, F.Metassa, G.Harrison, J.Gordon, D.Adams, R.Cattanach, J.Brown (c), J.Adams, J.Hicks, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Fowler, D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, A.Miers, L.McGuire, B.Wilson, M.Kapper. Reserve: J.Payne. Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Henry Albert.

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 23 (Haggett, Thompson, Lea tries; Stewart 5 goals, Robson, Thompson field goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 13 (Denman try; Lobegeiger 5 goals).
Wests: K.Craven, M.Allen, R.Thompson, W.Stewart, B.Cook, G.Manson (c), D.Lea, T.Haggett, I.Robson, R.Twist, J.McDonald, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: K.Lingard.
Easts: P.Lobegeiger, G.Lawson, J.Kellett, D.Wakerley, J.Denman, A.Currie, A.Elliott, D.Morris, N.Croft, G.Connell, L.Geeves (c/c), K.Murphy, R.Lewis.
Referee: Don Lancashire.

6 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 17 (Gill 2, Retchless tries; Clarke 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 14 (Stewart, McCarron tries; Stewart 4 goal).
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, M.Retchless (c), A.Scanlan, D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Payne, A.Miers, M.Kapper, B.Wilson, L.McGuire. J.Payne. Coach: H.Holloway.
Western Suburbs: K.Craven, M.Allen, W.Stewart, R.Thompson, B.Cook, G.Manson (c), D.Lea, T.Haggett, R.Twist, I.Robson, J.McDonald, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: K.Lingard.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

13 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 14 (Metassa, Massie tries; Gordon 3 goals, Spring field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (Clarke goal).
Norths: B.Spring, F.Metassa, G.Harrison, J.Gordon, D.Adams, R.Cattanach, J.Brown (c), J.Adams, J.Hicks, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Fowler, D.Simpson. Reserve: W.Williamson. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Payne, A.Miers, L.McGuire, B.Wilson, M.Kapper. Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 34,752.***

Rothmans Medal: John Brown (Norths).

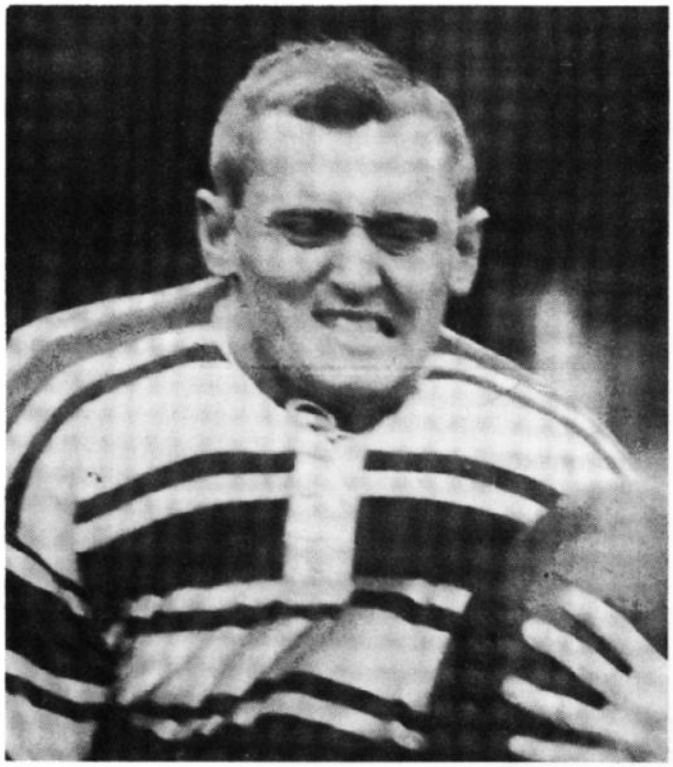


Below: Lloyd Weier with the ball for Norths about to be tackled by Kevin Brasch playing for Valleys.



WHO IS THIS?

Who is this determined fellow, gritting his teeth, and looking extremely anguished? And the short back and sides haircut definitely establishes him as a man of a bygone Rugby League era. If you haven't guessed who it is, the clue is you hear him on TV frequently. On Channel 0. Of course . . . it's George Doniger, pictured as he made a crashing dash for Brothers in 1963. George was a champion goal-kicker.







Above Right: Action from the 1962 Peter Scott Memorial Trophy game between Norths and Redcliffe at Lang Park.

Below: An early 1960's photo of Souths including test players Frank Drake and Mick Vievers about the time that team mascots like the Magpie began to appear on BRL jerseys. Souths made it to the 1963 Grand Final but lost to Norths.



1961

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	16	0	5	443	248	32
REDCLIFFE	13	0	8	430	302	26
VALLEYS	12	1	8	407	328	25
WESTERN SUBURBS	10	2	9	359	355	22
BROTHERS	10	1	10	370	328	21
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	1	13	281	387	15
WYNNUM MANLY	7	0	14	282	529	14
EASTERN SUBURBS	6	1	14	292	396	13

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 30 v Wests 7

Valleys down Wests 30–7

By JACK REARDON

VETERAN Rugby League fullback Norm Pope made a striking return to first grade yesterday to lead Valleys to a shock win over Wests by 30-7 in the B.R.L. second semi-final at Lang Park.

Before the biggest club crowd of the season, 16,000, the Valley team responded superbly to Pope's drive and organisation on the field.

The Valley forwards met and matched Wests in their strongest departments, the rucks, and finished on top in one of the most gruelling encounters of the season.

THEY'RE NOW BIG THREAT TO TOPS

NORM POPE turned 30 yesterday and got his best birthday present in Valleys' rejuvenated form which gave them a 30-7 win over Wests.

It is now Valleys, who loom as the big threat to Norths for the B.R.L. premiership, and under Pope's leadership they look capable of taking it out.

Pope was dropped to reserve grade a month ago, but was brought back for this match when it was obvious that the team lacked leadership.

He played well yesterday and kicked six goals from 11 attempts.

The result was astounding in the light of recent match form, which showed Valleys just scraping home by one point against Souths and drawing with Wests, while Wests beat Brothers and thrashed Redcliffe.

Valleys will now play Redcliffe in the preliminary final at Lang Park next Saturday, and on the form they showed yesterday should win handsomely.

The winner of this match will then play Norths in the grand final at Lang Park on September 23.

The big crowd was in an uproar from the start as Neil Hookway, Norm McFadden, Don Lind, and Reg. Collins traded rib-crushing and head-busting tackles with Ken Day, Hughie Kelly, Greg Early, and Bob Doyle.

Softened-up

They had the backing of powerful tackling by five-eighth Des Mannion.

Backs scored five of Valleys' six tries, but most credit should go to their forwards.

The attempts to "soften up" their opponents, by both sides, lasted for about 20 minutes during which referee Henry Albert cautioned four players in three serious flareups.

The fullblooded encounters appeared to take more out of Wests. They could not reproduce the penetration they showed against Brothers and Redcliffe.

Paddy Morgan was Wests' only forward still full of running at the end of the game.

Ken Day had taken terrific punishment. Bob Doyle, Greg Early, and Hughie Kelly were frustrated by the solid Valley ruck defence.

Wild passing

Barry Muir tried desperately to get the break through for Wests, particularly in the second half when Valleys' score was mounting.

Valleys scored the only try of the first half when centre Nev Clarke and halfback Des Tyson opened up the way for Neil Hookway to flash over. They led by 5-2 at the break.

A penalty by Pope and a try by Mick Mulgrew put Valleys ahead by 10-2 and from there the result was never in doubt.

Neat winger George James and centre Nev Clarke each scored two tries in Valleys' second half runaway.

Wests' only try came about 10 minutes before fulltime and was fittingly scored by Paddy Morgan after he had struggled through for 40 yards.

First scorers: K. Lohman (4, Wests) and N. Hookway (13, Valleys).

RUGBY LEAGUE.—First grade, second semi-final: Valleys 30 (G. James 2, N. Clarke 2, N. Hookway, M. Mulgrew tries; N. Pope 6 goals) d Wests 7 (P. Morgan try; K. Lohman 2 goals).

1961

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 29 v Redcliffe 5

NORTHS' BACKS TOO SPEEDY

By JACK REARDON

NORTHERN SUBURBS speedy League team ran riot in the second half of yesterday's B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park to overwhelm Redcliffe by 29 points to five.

Norths, who had led by 10-3 at half time after the favour of a gusty wind at their backs, upset second-half calculations by adding 11 points in the first 14 minutes of the second session.



NORTHS' Rugby League forward Johnny Bates (No. 10) is stopped during one of his many strong runs by Redcliffe second rower Cliff Robinson. In the background in support are, from the left, Lees Glover (3 Norths), Bob Bell (9 Norths), then Col Raven (Redcliffe), and at right Greg Fowler (Norths).

Brilliant backline movements, with quick passing and splendid backing up, gave Norths seven tries to one by Redcliffe.

Jimmy Sutton, 21-year-old winger from Maryborough, playing in his first game for a month, scored four splendid tries in which he always beat at least two tacklers.

Norths, who are minor premiers, now go straight into the grand final on September 23 in which they will play the winners of next Saturday's preliminary final.

Redcliffe, as losers of the number one semi-final, will play in the preliminary final, against the winner of today's second semi-final between Wests and Valleys.

Norths have too much speed and strength in all departments for the lighter Redcliffe side.

Their second-row forward Johnny Bates, standing wide from rucks, frequently carved holes in Redcliffe's backline defence, and was the only forward to score a try.

Norths' 16-stone giant prop Lloyd Weier was also a constant threat to Redcliffe with his powerful running off the rucks.

Won scrums

International hooker Bob Gehrke gave Redcliffe a winning share of the ball from scrums which he won by 18-14, but Redcliffe lacked penetration and even their consistent backing up could not overcome the blanket cover defence by Norths.

Redcliffe fullback and coach Ken McCrohon had a mixed game. He missed some tackles but brought off others in grand try-stopping dives.

Generally, Redcliffe failed to reproduce the form which put them in second place in the competition.

Norths played like a premier team. There was thrust and penetration from forwards and backs and always a man in support.

Bates solid

Fullback Harry Bates played one of his best games. He showed strong defence and his ventures into the attack were well timed.

Among the forwards, Bob Poulsen was strong in the middle field play, and always fed his backs.

At least four of Norths' tries came from a break-through near their own quarter-way line, but were not individual efforts; always, there were at least four men handling the ball.

Their best was started by a break-through to Pat Pyers in which he served Henry Hegarty for a 30-yard burst.

From the resulting ruck the ball was whipped across to the other wing, with Hannam, Pearson, Pyers, Glover, Johnny Bates, and Harry Bates handling before Sutton was sent diving into the corner to beat the cover defence.

That was the try that took Norths to 15-5 soon after halftime.

Bob Poulsen started another one from his own quarter soon afterwards.

Winger's break

Lloyd Weier swept through the gap made by Poulsen and Sutton was again on the job to finish it off with a 50-yard run.

Redcliffe defence by this stage appeared to be shattered and there were some very weak tackles.

Norths' winger Henry Hegarty scored the next try, then made the early break for another by Les Glover.

Then Pat Pyers cleverly weaved his way through to the fullback and sent a well-judged pass inside for Sutton's fourth try.

Sutton's clever positioning alongside supports was a feature of Norths' attack.

First scorers: J. Bates (10, Norths) and W. Henricks (4, Redcliffe).

Attendance was satisfactory, despite the rain; 8472 paid £896/1/.

4 Of 7 tries to Sutton

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A grade semi-final: Norths 29 (Sutton 4, Glover, Hegarty, Bates tries; Hannam 4 goals) defeated Redcliffe 5 (Henricks, try K McCrohon goal).

1961

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 20 v Redcliffe 14

VETERAN POPE TAKES VALLEYS INTO LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Redcliffe downed 20-14



By JACK REARDON

Veteran fullback Norm Pope played Valley Rugby League team into the Grand Final when he set up three tries for winger George James, 18, in the second half of the B.R.L. final at Lang Park yesterday.

Valleys trailed Redcliffe by 7-10 at half-time and by 7-14 nearly half-way through the second half.

But Pope's well-timed excursions into the backline produced the three tries which gave Valleys a 20-14 win.

Valleys will now meet their traditional rivals Norths in the Grand Final at Lang Park next Saturday.

Valleys won a big share of the scrums in the early stages and it was Redcliffe who were handing out the punishing tackles.

This I suspect was a tactical move by Redcliffe to throw Valleys off balance.

Used ball

Brilliant line kicking by fullback Ken McCrohon kept Redcliffe on the attack until well into the second half.

His accurate goal kicking also put Redcliffe ahead by 14-7.

At that stage Redcliffe appeared to have the game in hand.

Then Pope, who had noticeably changed his own tactics, began to make more appearances in the attack.

Finally his break through at halfway found Neil Hookway in support, and the big forward ran well to serve winger James for a try.

Lost grip

Despite relief from pressure by McCrohon's well-judged kicks and some good running by John Treeby, Col Weier and Wally Henricks, Redcliffe started to lose their grip on the game.

Valleys always came back with purposeful forward play and twice in ten minutes they got over the line but had tries disallowed.

James, Mannion and Lewis sent Hookway clear, but just as the big forward was about to place the ball he dropped it over the line and although he fell on it referee Henry Albert ruled no try.

Minutes later, Clarke sent McFadden through a gap, but a hard tackle by Weier jolted the ball out of McFadden's hands, and although Lewis scooped it up and went over, Albert correctly ruled no try.

But Pope made no mistake about the next one when he chimed into the attack from a ruck and sent James over untouched.

Pope landed the goal from right near the touch line and this put Valley ahead 17-14.

Valleys, realising that time was growing short, then deliberately held possession, making little effort to attack through fear of dropped passes giving Redcliffe possession.

But Collins burst through the middle and was stopped five yards short of a try by McCrohon's tackle.

But it was Pope again who shot into the attack as extra man and sent James over for the final try.

Comeback

It has been a great comeback by Pope, who was dropped a month ago by Valley selectors, but recalled for the match against Wests last week.

It was a tough exciting final, and Redcliffe as promised, stuck to their open style of play and nearly brought it off.

Their attack was much more convincing than Valleys until that final 20 minutes when the Diehards really "turned it on."

Bob Gehrke won scrums 20-11, but penalties favoured Valleys by 11-16.

Attendance was 10,921, receipts £1263/3/.

First scorers: D. Mannion (6, Valleys) and K. McCrohon (1, Redcliffe).

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A Grade: Preliminary final: Valley 20 (James 3, Mannion tries; Pope 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 14 (McDonald, Cox tries; McCrohon 4 goals).

VALLEY Rugby League team away on the attack against Redcliffe in the B.R.L. final at Lang Park yesterday. Winger Mick Mulgrew has just thrown a perfect pass to forward Norm McFadden. In the background are Reg Collins (11) and Jim Lingard (3), then Redcliffe centre John Treeby. Valleys won by 20-14.

REDCLIFFE forward Col Weier clear for a break through except for one leg — which is well held in diving tackle by Valleys forward Neil Hookway.



1961

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 29 v VALLEYS 5

NORTHS THRASHED VALLEYS TO BE LEAGUE TOP DOGS

Licked Valley 29-5

By JACK REARDON

NORTHERN SUBURBS thrashed Valleys by 29-5 in the Rugby League grand final before a record club crowd of 19,824 at Lang Park yesterday.

It gave Norths a B.R.L. record of three consecutive premierships.

Valleys just could not contain the brilliant attack and superior speed of Norths, who unwound some superb football in the second half to score 26 points to Valleys' three.

Norths' smart right winger Jim Sutton, scored another three tries to take his total to seven in two matches.

Norths' left winger, Henry Hegarty, crossed for two tries and was over for a third when Norm Pope knocked the ball from his hands with a desperate dive.

Norths' other two tries came from second row forward Johnny Bates, and his brother, fullback Harry Bates.

Bates good

Johnny Bates revelled in the fast, open play in the second half.

He positioned himself perfectly in backing up and played an important part in four of Norths' tries.

Five tries from their wingers indicates the style of football Norths played.

They attempted right through the match to keep the ball moving out to the wings with quick passes.

But they looked leg-weary at half-time, when they led by only 3-2, and had been unable to pierce Valleys' dogged defence during three all-out assaults.

Their one first-half try was scored while Valleys' hard-tackling lock forward Don Lind, was off the field getting attention to a hand injury.

Valleys were quickly on the job after halftime.

Found gaps

Forward Neil Hookway twice found a gap down the middle to take play into Norths' quarter, then Pope ranged up into the backs to force his way over for a try. This gave Valleys a 5-3 lead.

But the hope was short-lived. Norths came back very quickly.

Big Lloyd Weier burst through at half-way and after some scattered ruck play the ball suddenly was whipped out along Norths' backs for Pearson and Pyers to create an overlap for winger Sutton's first try.

Five minutes later Norths' centre Les Glover cut through from his own quarter, survived a vicious stiff arm, and took play well into Valleys' territory.

Jim Hannam landed two beautiful goals from the touchline to convert both tries.

These 10 points in five minutes put Norths ahead by 13-5.

Clinched win

Johnny Bates clinched the game for Norths seven minutes later when he burst through strongly, pushed off Pope, and then sent winger Hegarty over in the corner.

With the score 16-5 against them Valleys still did not give up. They kept coming back to Norths' territory in attack.

But the superior speed which gave Norths their big attacking advantage also enabled them to get across in cover defence to stop Valleys.

It was Johnny Bates again who put Norths further ahead when he "stole" the ball from a Valley player and raced 50 yards to score untouched.

Bates was still not finished. He took a close pass on his own 25 yards line from Weier, drew the Valleys winger in, and sent Sutton racing clear to score his third try.

An intercept by Harry Bates, also near his own line, gave him a clear run for 75 yards for Norths' final try.

One of the hardest working players on the field was Valleys scrum half Des Tyson. He, like some of his team mates, did not deserve to be on a losing side.

Barry O'Donnell, Don Lind, Norm McFadden, and Reg Collins were great defenders.

Battled on

But their counterparts in Norths, Johnny Bates, "Dinger" Bell, Ian Massie, and Lloyd Weier, tackled equally well, and were still able to get out in support of the backs in attack.

Norths centre Pat Pyers was always a worry to Valleys defence. His speed and penetration was a feature of Norths' game.

Norths' five-eighth, Bill Pearson, played one of his best games.

He tackled as many forwards as he did backs and his quick, accurate passes kept his three-quarters on the move.

The record club crowd of 19,824 paid a record "gate" of £2539/12/6. Programme sales took the gate well over £2700.



NORTHS' forward Lloyd Weier grimaces as his Valley opponent Reg Collins forces him down in a punishing high tackle at Lang Park yesterday.



Crunch . . . . Pope meant it

FLYING tackle by Valley Rugby League fullback Norm Pope stops Norths' winger Henry Hegarty just as he was going over for a try. Norths' won the grand final at Lang Park by 29-5 yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

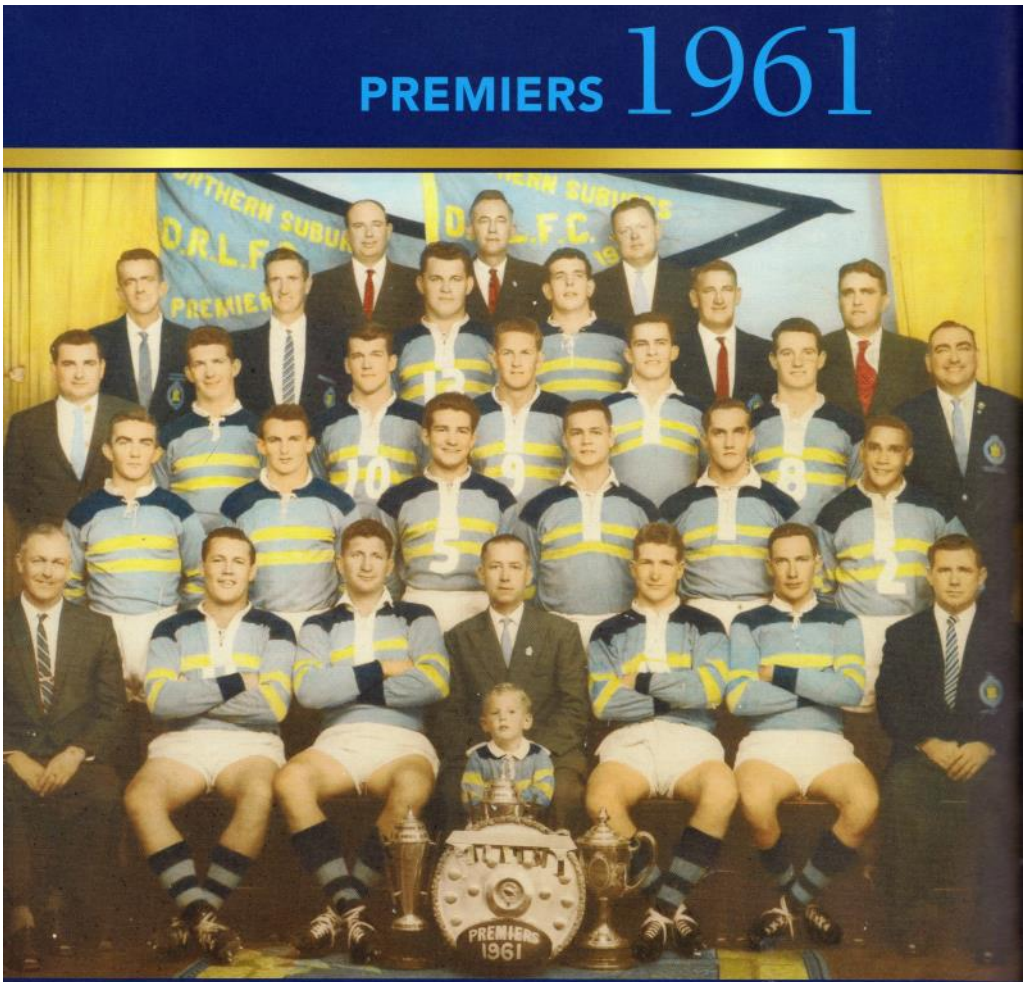
At Lang Park: Brisbane Rugby League Grand Finals: A Grade. Norths 29 (D. Sutton 3, Hegarty 2, H. Bates, J. Bates tries; Hannam 4 goals) d. Valleys 5 (Pope try, goal)



THE "SMALL FRY" got into the act when triumphant Norths' players chaired their captain, Bill Pearson, off the field. Bill's son, Mark, 3, was chaired off with his father.

1961

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 29 v VALLEYS 5



Northern Suburbs Districts Rugby League Football Club
PREMIERS A GRADE B.R.L. CHAMPIONSHIP – 1961
Minor Premiers – Winners President's Cup, Vic. Jensen Pennant, Peter Scott Memorial Cup & Frank Fullerton Trophy

FRONT ROW – O.S. Denman (Hon. Gen. Secty.), R.A. Poulsen, Bill Pearson (Capt.), A.L. Bishop (Pres.), G. Fowler, J. Hannam, R. Bax (Coach)
IN FRONT – Mark Pearson (Mascot)
SECOND ROW – B.L. Cook, J. Sutton, H.S. Bates, L.J. Glover, H.H. Hegarty
THIRD ROW – S.G. Hassum (Selector), L.J. Geeves, R.J. Bates, R.A. Bell, N. Hynes, I.C. Massie, Alan Ward (Del. B.R.L.)
FOURTH ROW – R. Richards (Selector), D.M. Christison (Man. Comm.), L.M. Weier, B.F. Stevens (V. Capt.), S. Edwards (Hon. Treas.), C. Brazel (Selector)
BACK ROW – C.H. Cox (Man. Comm.), W. Butterworth (Man. Comm.), M. Rees (Man. Comm.)
ABSENT – K. Turner, M. Baldwin, P.Pyers, N. Warburton, K. Doherty, N. Stephan (Manager), Ald. W. Cook (Patron)

RESULTS

9 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 29 (Sutton 4, Glover, Hegarty, J.Bates tries; Hannam 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 5 (Henricks try; McCrohon goal).
Norths: H.Bates, H.Hegarty, L.Glover, P.Pyers, J.Sutton, W.Pearson (c), J.Hannam, I.Massie, R.Bell, J.Bates, R.Poulsen, G.Fowler, L.Weier. Coach: R.Bax.
Redcliffe: K.McCrohon (c/c), S.McDonald, J.Treeby, W.Henricks, M.Cox, C.Carter, B.Luff, C.Weier, C.Robinson, B.Teys, C.Raeen, R.Gerhke, R.Boxsell.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 8,472.***

10 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 30 (James 2, Clarke 2, Hookway, Mulgrew tries; Pope 6 goals) d. Western Suburbs 7 (Morgan try; K.Lohman 2 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Mulgrew, J.Lingard, N.Clarke, G.James, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, B.O'Donnell, N.McFadden, R.Collins, K.Lewis, N.Hookway.
Wests: R.Fagg, W.Howard, B.Bertwhistle, K.Lohman, D.Bowers, L.Connell, B.Muir (c), J.Lohman, K.Day, G.Early, P.Morgan, R.Doyle, H.Kelly.
Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 16,000.***

16 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 20 (James 3, Mannion tries; Pope 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 14 (McDonald, Cox tries; McCrohon 4 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Mulgrew, J.Lingard, N.Clarke, G.James, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, B.O'Donnell, N.McFadden, R.Collins, K.Lewis, N.Hookway.
Redcliffe: K.McCrohon (c/c), S.McDonald, J.Treeby, W.Henricks, M.Cox, R.Newlands, B.Luff, C.Weier, C.Robinson, B.Teys, D.Webb, R.Gerhke, R.Boxsell.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 10,921.***

23 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 29 (Sutton 3, Hegarty 2, H.Bates, J.Bates tries; Hannam 4 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Pope try; Pope goal).
Norths: H.Bates, J.Sutton, L.Glover, P.Pyers, H.Hegarty, W.Pearson (c), J.Hannam, I.Massie, J.Bates, R.Bell, R.Poulsen, G.Fowler, L.Weier. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), M.Mulgrew, J.Lingard, N.Clarke, G.James, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, B.O'Donnell, N.McFadden, R.Collins, K.Lewis, N.Hookway.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 19,824.***

1962

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	15	1	5	404	276	31
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	13	1	7	336	273	27
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	325	352	22
VALLEYS	11	0	10	295	279	22
REDCLIFFE	10	0	11	333	318	20
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	0	13	337	395	16
BROTHERS	8	0	13	319	374	16
WYNNUM MANLY	7	0	14	250	325	14

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 13 v Easts 9

Pope's kicking swung game to Valleys

BY JACK REARDON

VALLEYS battled their way into the Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final when they held off a stirring second half challenge by Easts in the second semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Captain-coach Norm Pope booted the Diehards to a 13-9 win with five goals, including a smart field goal early in the second half.

Each side scored only one try.

Valleys, handicapped by the absence of forward leader Neil Hookway and injury to star winger Bob Gray, who hobbled with a bad ankle, loom as threats to Norths and Souths for the premiership.

Valleys now meet Souths next Saturday for the right to play Norths in the grand final.

Easts, down 9-2 at half-time, put up a wonderful second-half effort to score seven points to four.

With Col McCartney's strong running inspiring the backs, and fiery Mel Jobst disturbing Valleys' forwards, Easts took the second-half honours and were attacking with spirit at the final siren.

Tactical lapse

I thought Easts could have used the short kick to advantage.

Kicks by "Kit" Carson and McCartney had Valleys in trouble twice, but they failed to take advantage of this tactic again.

Some Easts' supporters claimed lack of possession. But statisticians had Easts' hooker, Brian Blowes, in front 14-11 over Valleys' Alan Stimson in scrums.

Ugly flare-ups

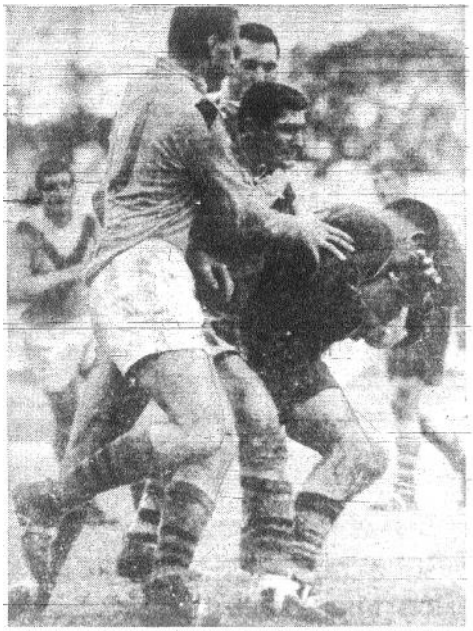
Valleys, however, held possession for longer periods. Once they retained the ball for eight minutes, without a scrum or penalty, and battled their way upfield for 75 yards.

There were some spiteful moments in the match which produced two ugly flareups, but generally referee Henry Albert maintained strong control.

No player was really outstanding in attack. The brightest man with the ball was Easts' fullback Ron Oxenham, who also defended well.

Valleys' centre Mick Retchless impressed me as the soundest player in all departments and stood up well under pressure in his first A grade semi-final.

Attendance was 11,500.



TYPICAL action in the hard tackling Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Easts' hooker Brian Blowes moved in for a hip and arm tackle of Valleys' second rower Bill Clarke (with the ball). On Blowes' right was team mate Steele Davis. Also in the picture are Mel Jobst (Easts) left background, Mel Hansen (Valleys, lower face obscured), and Alec Quinter (Valleys) right background.

1962

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 21 v Souths 6

NORTHS BIG PACK BROUGHT 21—6 WIN OVER SOUTHS

BY JACK REARDON

NORTHS' big pack of forwards wore down their lighter opponents to win a hard tackling Brisbane Rugby League semi-final by 21-6 against Souths at Lang Park yesterday.

It was a much closer game than the scores suggest and Norths only clinched their win when Lloyd Weier crashed over for his second try just seven minutes from fulltime.

Until then Souths were right in the running and had been attacking strongly with Ivan Jones, Frank Drake, and Ron Dutton worrying Norths' defence in bright attack.

Souths had shocking luck when their international forward Mick Veivers was forced to leave the field.

Seven minutes after the start of the game Veivers received a badly bruised hip.

Veivers received the injury when he dived yards on to a loose ball over Norths' goal-line and opened the scoring.

His dive took him in among Norths' players who were trying to clear the loose ball. Veivers was accidentally kicked.

Missed bursts

Souths missed Veivers' strong centre field bursts, which could have opened up the way for more variety in their attack.

Nevertheless, the lighter Souths' forwards stuck gamely to the job of holding Weier, Bob Poulsen, Johnny Bates, and Ian Massie.

Lightweight second rowers Ken Aitken and Keith Hookway got through an amazing amount of tackling.

I have not seen a player tackle more opponents than did Aitken.

Norths were never really on top for any length of time until that last 10 minutes.

They had led at half-time by 8-6 and went to 11-6 when Weier made a grand 50 yards run and carried two tacklers over the line to score.

Poor kicking

Souths suffered other injuries. Winger Stan McDonald, forward Ben Wall, and hooker Reg Webster left the field for ambulance attention and centre Paul Pyers played the second half with a rib injury.

Souths had opportunities to lift their score with penalties, but goal kickers Stan McDonald and Ben Wall were right off form and missed seven attempts between them.

Souths' backs were always dangerous. Dutton, Smith, Pyers, and halfback Jones repeatedly cut the first line of Norths' defence but Massie, Poulsen, Bates, and McLean from the forwards provided a very solid cover defence.

Dutton was responsible for one of the best tries of the match.

He broke clear just inside his own half and was away like a rocket.

Out of the "blue," fullback Frank Drake flashed up alongside him and was sent over from 25 yards out.

It was superb backing-up by Drake.

Drake was closely watched by Norths and their defence was quick to smother him when he moved up to his three-quarters.

Massie smart

Norths' lock, Ian Massie had one of his best games.

He engineered the movement which brought Norths' first try and backed up well to score it.

His cover defence was sound and he moved into the attack with judgment.

Norths' most punishing tackler was five-eighth Bill Pearson, who frequently managed to collect his man, ball and all.

Centre Brian Cook was another good player for Norths.

Referee Don Lancashire handled the game well. He was particularly severe on offside play and caned both sides heavily in the first half.

Attendance was 8000; receipts of £1047/8/ were £150 up on the corresponding match last year.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A semi-final: Norths 21 (Weier 2, Massie, Sutton, Meteasa tries; Hannam 3 goals) d. Souths 6 (Veivers, Drake tries).



LAST-DITCH effort by Souths' five-eighth Ron Dutton (in black) was too late to stop Norths' front-rower Lloyd Weier from crashing over for his second try in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park. Norths won 21-6, to go into the grand-final next Saturday week. Weier was one of Norths' forward stars.

1962

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 15 v Souths 9

Valleys stand-in winger settled Souths

● NOW FOR NORTHS IN GRAND FINAL

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

LAST MINUTE replacement winger Jim Lingard put Valleys into the Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final with two tries at Lang Park yesterday.

Valleys pushed Souths out of the premiership calculations with a three-tries-to-one 15-9 win, and will meet the premiers, Norths, next Saturday in their third successive Grand Final.

Lingard, who has played out the majority of the season as a reserve grader, was brought in at the last minute when Valleys top winger Bob Gray withdrew.

I believe Gray's withdrawal was not caused by a leg injury which put him in doubt earlier.

The game was closer than the try scoring indicates, and if Souths had had someone to finish off their good general play they might have found themselves in the grand final.

Practically all of the second half was played in Valleys' half, and at times dangerously close to their line.

But Valleys' dogged defence and more than average handling errors by Souths made sure that "close" was as far as Souths came to scoring.

Souths and Brisbane hooker, Reg Webster, gave his team a 17-11 share of the ball and what Souths' attackers did with it must have had Valleys' supporters frightened on occasions, until Souths came within a few yards of Valleys' line.

Started well

On these frequent occasions, after Souths had soundly rucked up the field, two things happened.

Valleys tightened their defence, which is probably their greatest attribute; and Souths lost the ball either by foolish passing or in jolting tackles.

Souths started the match well with centre Des Smith and five-eighth Ron Dutton dangerous as Valleys' tacklers held off or allowed themselves to be bumped off.

Looked safe

WHEN Souths led 9-5 at halftime they had thoroughly deserved their lead and looked capable of holding it.

Their lead came from three goals by Stan McDonald, who started well, but missed two reasonably easy ones in the closing stages, and a really fine individual try by centre Gary Balkin.

Balkin's try came in the 32nd minute when the defence held off for a fraction and the stocky replacement centre was through in a flash.

Souths were unlucky to lose their improved lock Kel Cranston only six minutes earlier.

Souths started the second session like a winning team

But a glorious penalty goal of more than 50 yards by veteran Pope after five minutes reduced Souths' lead to 9-7.

In the 17th minute of the second half, Valleys little winger Graham Shields was given a clearing pass.

He moved around and passed his opposite, McDonald, stepped out of a diving tackle by Ben Wall, drew Drake, and sent a glorious pass inside to Mick Retchless, who finished the move with a try near the posts.

Pope kicked it and Valleys were in front 12-9.

Miskicked

This did not put the game in the bag for Valleys, but Souths' fullback Drake made it a certainty with three minutes to go with a rather ill-placed drop-out from under the posts.

The kick was intended for his winger, Denis Farrell, who went high for it, failed, and the ball landed in the arms of Lingard, who scored.

Valleys led 15-9 and played out the closing seconds with little risk of losing.

Ten thousand people paid £1310/18/ to see the match.

AT LANG PARK.—A grade, prelim. final: Valleys 15 (Lingard 2, Retchless tries; Pope 3 goals) d. Souths 9 (Balkin try; McDonald 2 goals).



HEMMED in, with no escape, at Lang Park, yesterday was Valley five-eighth Des Mannion, who was sandwiched and tackled by Souths' two internationals, fullback Frank Drake (right) and second-rower Mick Vievers, during yesterday's League preliminary final.



SOUTHS' CHANCES THROWN AWAY

FRANK DRAKE

By BOBBY BAX, as told to a Staff Reporter

SOUTHS, masterminded by their international fullback Frank Drake, yesterday played Valley into yet another Grand Final at Lang Park.

Valley, as usual, played their safe, vigorous game while Souths frittered away ball possession with ridiculous passes and lack of combination.

Souths' goalkicker, Stan McDonald, after landing a "bottler" with a 50-yard angled replacement, murdered three easier attempts AND Souths' chances of winning.

"Ace" goalkicker Norm Pope landed three of his usual goals.

Drake securely smothered any remaining chances just before fulltime with the most senseless line dropout in B.R.L. history.

"SPECULATOR" MISFIRED

Drake, a favourite punter from way back, hopped on a million-to-one pop which didn't come off. He tried a drop-out to winger Denis Farrell, who was unprepared for any such emergency, and Valleys' last-minute replacement, Jim Lingard, took the ball at his top and ran over unopposed to seal the game for his side.

Souths' halfback, Ivan Jones, ran around in circles while Ron Dutton's indifferent display at five-eighth completely jolted Souths' service.

Youthful centres, Gary Balkin and Des Smith, provided Souths with their only ray of hope.

Unfit Mick Veivers should never have taken the field—but Souths were desperate when great tackling second-rower Ken Aitken withdrew from the side.

1962

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 22 v VALLEYS 0

NORTHS DO IT AGAIN! LACE VALLEYS FOR 4th LEAGUE WIN

By Jack Reardon

NORTHERN SUBURBS took out their fourth successive Brisbane Rugby League grand final when they trounced Valleys 22-0 at Lang Park yesterday.

Norths looked winners from the start when their backs made early penetration. They led by 17-0 at half-time.

Giant forward Lloyd Weier clinched the win with a 50 yards run to score midway through the second half.

Valleys lacked penetration against the solid defending Norths team. Their best attack came at the end when winger Graham Shields, with brilliant footwork, beat three defenders and started an attacking movement which ended a foot short of the goal-line.

It is many years since a team failed to score in a Grand Final in Brisbane.

Valleys, however, could have had some consolation points on the board had Norm Pope been selfish and tried to kick goals from penalties.

But with the score 22-0, when penalties were awarded within kicking range, Pope did the right thing and put the ball in the air, trying for five points instead of two.

One goal kick

The match was remarkable in that Pope, one of the outstanding goalkickers in the game, had only one attempt at goal from the 22 penalties awarded to Valleys.

Pope said after the match: "Norths are a great team; they were too good for us today.

"But I am proud of our team, after all they fought their way up from the bottom of the points table to the grand final with eight straight wins."

Was reversed

Valleys' hooker, Alan Stimson, won scrums by 13-7 in the first half.

This was not to Valleys' advantage. They are a team which does better when upsetting the other side with the ball.

It was Norths who did the upsetting yesterday with keen defence, which frequently was offside defence.

It paid off, however. Norths scored three tries in the first half, all from Valleys' handling errors.

The first try came when Valleys' young centre, Mick Retchless, was tackled heavily and lost the ball.

Bates' break

Norths' second rower, Johnny Bates, one of the outstanding players of the match, pounced on the ball, ran for 20 yards, and set up centre Henry Hegarty for a try.

Winger Fonda Metassa twice swooped on Valleys' dropped passes and sprinted through for tries.

Metassa's second try was hotly disputed by Valleys' players.

Metassa was heavily grounded by Graham Shields over the goalline and lost the ball, but referee Henry Albert ruled that he had forced the ball before losing it.

No weak link

There was not a weak link in Norths' team. Every man tackeld securely.

While Lloyd Weier and Johnny Bates were outstanding in Norths' forwards, Ian Massie, Bob Poulsen, Alan McLean, and Les Geeves gave them great support with hard work in the middle in attack and defence.

In Norths' backs you can mark down Jim Hannam and Bill Pearson as the best. They were constructive in attack, strong in defence.

Metassa was good. He scored his tries in his own inimitable style, and did a good share of tackling.

Valleys best

Valleys' most effective players were five-eighth Des Mannion, halfback Don Tyson winger Graham Shields and forwards Don Lind, Mel Hansen, and Alan Stimson.

Bill Clarke was also a great tryer with Reg Collins.

Winger Bob Gray had no chance in attack. Norths' cover defence was too good and Gray, when he did receive a pass, was always covered by at least three Norths' tacklers.

Valleys did not deserve to be beaten by so wide a margin. They tried too hard and were still battling at the end.

The attendance of 17,000 was below expectations. Receipts were £2236/8/.



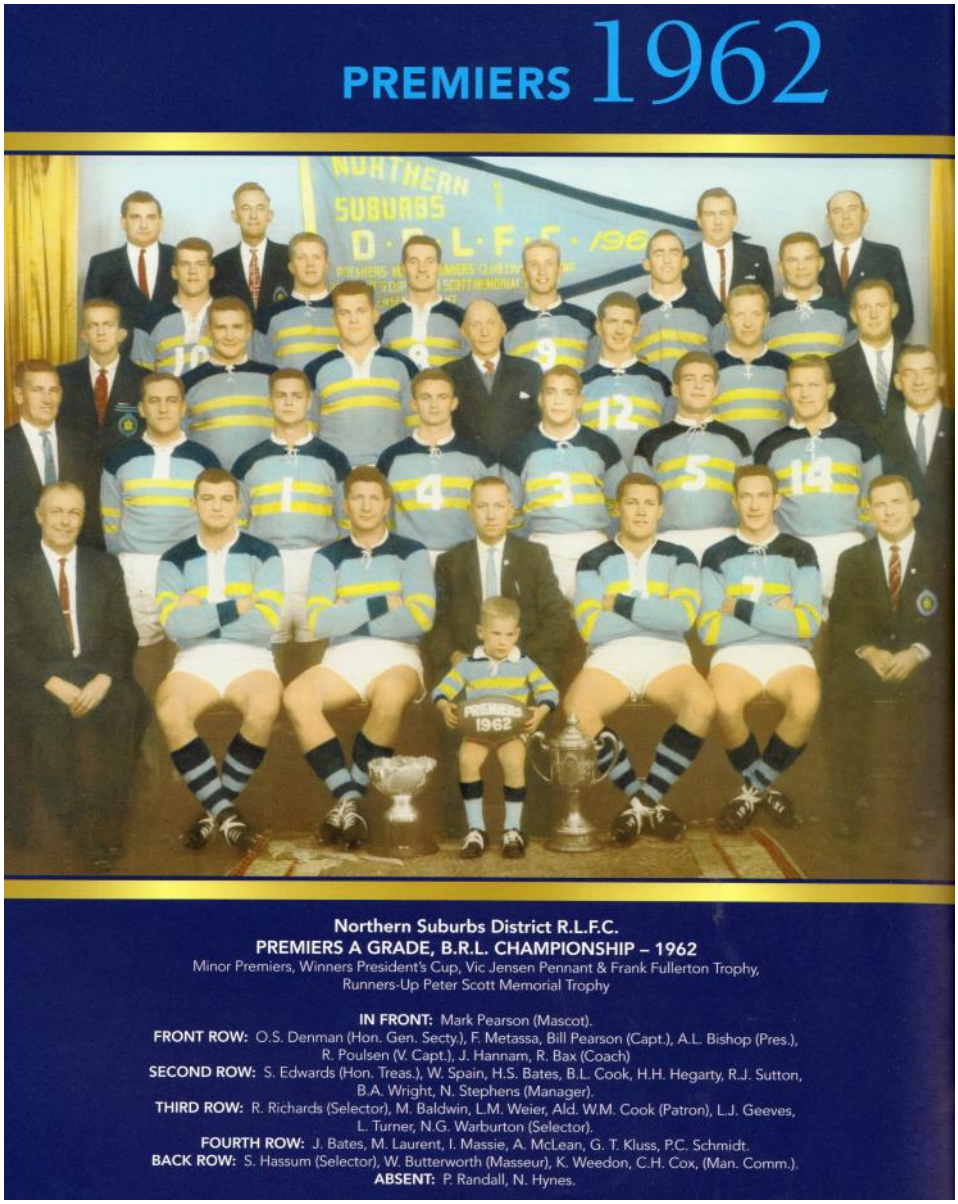
RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — 1st grade grand final: Norths 22 (Metassa 2, Hegarty, Weier tries; Hannam 5 goals) d. Valleys 0.

NORTHS' strong cover defending lock forward Ian Massie makes sure that Valleys' winger Bob Gray makes no further progress

1962

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 22 v VALLEYS 0



Northern Suburbs District R.L.F.C.
PREMIERS A GRADE, B.R.L. CHAMPIONSHIP – 1962
Minor Premiers, Winners President's Cup, Vic Jensen Pennant & Frank Fullerton Trophy,
Runners-Up Peter Scott Memorial Trophy

IN FRONT: Mark Pearson (Mascot).
FRONT ROW: O.S. Denman (Hon. Gen. Secty.), F. Metassa, Bill Pearson (Capt.), A.L. Bishop (Pres.), R. Poulsen (V. Capt.), J. Hannam, R. Bax (Coach)
SECOND ROW: S. Edwards (Hon. Treas.), W. Spain, H.S. Bates, B.L. Cook, H.H. Hegarty, R.J. Sutton, B.A. Wright, N. Stephens (Manager).
THIRD ROW: R. Richards (Selector), M. Baldwin, L.M. Weier, Ald. W.M. Cook (Patron), L.J. Geeves, L. Turner, N.G. Warburton (Selector).
FOURTH ROW: J. Bates, M. Laurent, I. Massie, A. McLean, G. T. Kluss, P.C. Schmidt.
BACK ROW: S. Hassum (Selector), W. Butterworth (Masseur), K. Weedon, C.H. Cox, (Man. Comm.).
ABSENT: P. Randall, N. Hynes.

RESULTS

1 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 21 (Weier 2, Massie, Sutton, Metassa tries; Hannam 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 6 (Veivers, Drake tries).
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, B.Cook, J.Sutton, W.Pearson (c), J.Hannam, I.Massie, A.McLean, J.Bates, L.Weier, L.Geeves, R.Poulsen. Coach: R.Bax.
Souths: F.Drake, S.McDonald, D.Smith, P.Pyers, D.Farrell, R.Dutton, I.Jones, K.Cranston, M.Veivers, K.Aitken, B.Wall, R.Webster, D.Keith. Coach: L.Ridgewell.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

2 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 13 (Retchless try; Pope 4 goals, field goal) d. Eastern Suburbs 9 (Davis try: Garvie 3 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), R.Gray, D.Ferguson, M.Retchless, G.Shields, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, M.Hansen, W.Clarke, R.Collins, A.Stimson, G.McClarty.
Easts: R.Oxenham, W.Carson, C.McCartney (c), K.Craven, R.Craven, R.Price, K.Garvie, B.Smith, M.Jobst, S.Davis, R.Howatson, B.Blowes, L.Wain. Coach: J.Atkin.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 11,500.***

SEPTEMBER 8 PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 15 (Lingard 2, Retchless tries; Pope 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 9 (Balkin try; McDonald 3 goals).
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), J.Lingard, R.Gray, D.Ferguson, M.Retchless, G.Shields, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, M.Hansen, W.Clarke, R.Collins, A.Stimson, N.Hookway.
Souths: F.Drake, S.McDonald, D.Smith, G.Balkin, D.Farrell, R.Dutton, I.Jones, K.Cranston, M.Veivers, K.Hockway , B.Wall, R.Webster, D.Keith. Coach: L.Ridgewell.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

15 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 22 (Metassa 2, Hegarty, Weier tries; Hannam 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 0.
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, B.Cook, J.Sutton, W.Pearson (c), J.Hannam, I.Massie, A.McLean, J.Bates, L.Weier, L.Geeves, R.Poulsen. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Pope (c/c), R.Gray, D.Ferguson, M.Retchless, G.Shields, D.Mannion, D.Tyson, D.Lind, M.Hansen, W.Clarke, R.Collins, A.Stimson, N.Hookway.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 17,000.***

1963

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	16	1	4	518	244	33
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	13	1	7	356	247	27
REDCLIFFE	12	1	8	255	267	25
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	0	9	345	318	24
WYNNUM MANLY	11	1	9	324	265	23
VALLEYS	10	2	9	318	275	22
EASTERN SUBURBS	3	2	16	230	479	8
BROTHERS	3	0	18	196	442	6

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Redcliffe 10 v Wests 5

REDCLIFFE TOO FAST FOR WESTS

By Jack Reardon

REDCLIFFE qualified for the Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final when they defeated Wests by 10-5 in an unspectacular semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The match opened on a brilliant note with Wests' backs sweeping up the field in a series of brilliant attacking movements which culminated in a fine try by fullback Kev. Lingard.

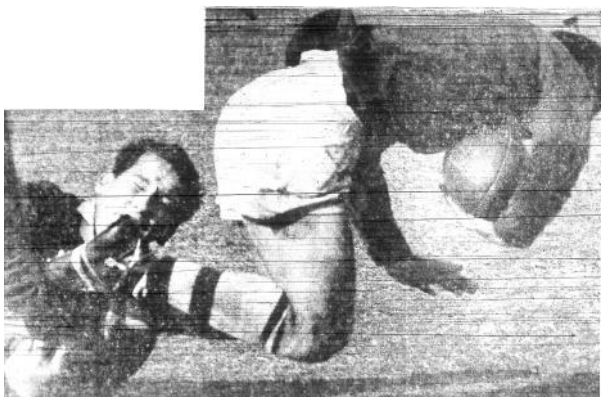
But for most of the game there were frequent stoppages.

Keen spotting defence prevented sustained attack and the match revolved around a forward battle, which Redcliffe won.

Redcliffe now meet Norths at Lang Park on Saturday for the right to play Souths in the Grand Final on September 21.

Redcliffe's president, Bill Hunter, tried to have the match moved to next Sunday, but the B.R.L. management committee ruled that it be played on Saturday.

Mr. Hunter said: "Some of our players and most of our supporters work all Saturday and special arrangements have always to be made by us for a Saturday match."



WESTS lock forward, Merv Robinson, had leather for lunch when he brought down Redcliffe prop forward, Rohan McNamara, with a clean ankle tackle during yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park. Redcliffe won a hard match by 10-5.

PACK TOO WEIGHTY

REDCLIFFE'S pack, led by former international Henry Holloway, had too much weight and drive for Wests.

But Wests' forwards played into their opponent's hands by trying to dominate the attack instead of clearing the ball quickly to their smart backline.

For the last 10 minutes Wests' forwards played as though they were in the lead and had to close up the game with a series of individual barging runs.

Wests' outstanding player, Kev. Lingard, was thrown heavily a minute from fulltime and was carried off the field. He was later admitted to hospital with concussion and detained for observation.

Smart move

Swerving runs by Les Connell, Fred Bowman and Col Weir put Wests in a scoring position in the first four minutes and when Lingard climed in between the centres he outstripped the defence to the corner flag, then ran around behind the goalposts.

Arch Brown converted the try to give Wests a 5-0 lead, but those were their only points.

Some clever switches by forwards Darcy Mitchell and Merv Robinson opened up gaps in Redcliffe's ruck defence for a while, but Holloway soon closed them up.

Two penalty goals by Holloway took the half-time score to 5-4, and on resumption Holloway, Rohan McNamara, Bob Lawson and Noel Cox drove upfield in a series of crashing bursts.

Redcliffe took the lead 7-5 from these bursts when McNamara sent winger Jim Houghton over in a corner.

Houghton's 2

Houghton clinched the match with his second try, which he scored from a sharp 20 yards burst through a narrow gap when forward George Gledhill gave him a well-judged pass.

John Treeby, with his knee heavily strapped, played fullback for Redcliffe while regular fullback, Danny Marney, played centre.

Wests kept a sharp watch on Redcliffe's fast centre Kevin Yow Yeh, and he was unable to use his elusiveness and speed in attack. However, Yow Yeh was very solid in defence.

Redcliffe hooker Bob Lawson won scrums from Bob Doyle 17-15, and penalties also went Redcliffe's way, 19-18.

First scorers: K. Lingard (1, Wests) and H. Holloway (13, Redcliffe).

FIRST GRADE: Redcliffe 10 (J. Houghton 2 tries; H. Holloway 2 goals) d. Wests 5 (K. Lingard try, A. Brown goal). Reserve Grade, semi-final: Easts 29 d. Redcliffe 18. Third Grade, semi-final: Valleys 13 d. Wests 10.

1963

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 23 v Norths 3

DRAKE HEADS SOUTHS' ROUT

Norths downed 23-3

By JACK REARDON

SOUTHS provided the upset of the Rugby League season when they outclassed Norths to win yesterday's No. 1 semi-final by 23-3 at Lang Park.

Norths, four times premiers in the last four years, were strong favourites to take out their fifth premiership in a row.

In a last-minute rearrangement of their team after centre Des Smith had withdrawn because of a leg injury, Souths moved fullback Frank Drake to centre and moved winger Stan McDonald to fullback. Both were successful.

Drake cut Norths' backline to pieces in the first half and his frequent sidestepping runs repeatedly put Souths on the attack.

In the second half Drake cleverly varied his play by using a short kick to overcome Norths' spotting defence.

McDonald was sound in general play and his accurate goal-kicking got Souths away to a quick lead.

Norths will now meet the winner of today's semi-final between Wests and Redcliffe for the right to meet Souths in the grand final.

Norths' coach, Bob Bax, said later: "I have never seen Souths play so well nor Norths make so many mistakes.

"But we will be much harder to beat next time if we get a second chance at Souths."

There was not a weak link in Souths team and an outstanding feature in their second half play was the keen, hard tackling by every man.

The decision to play Mick Veivers in the front row was another successful move by Souths.

Veivers took more part in the heavy stuff around the rucks, and it always required at least two men to stop his strong bursts.

Still he was frequently able to send the ball on to supports.

Norths had share of ball

Hooker Reg Webster gave Souths a 9-5 share of the ball in the first half and this contributed greatly to their halftime lead of 9-0.

Their backs made great use of possession and held the ball for long periods, thus putting the strain on Norths' defence.

Even in the second half when Norths' hooker, Les Geeves, reversed the ratio of possession from scrums 10-4 Souths still dominated the attack.

With Drake and Kel Cranston chopping through in the centres, winger Denis Farrell, showing great speed, on the wing, and halfback Ivan Jones, always elusive, Souths got more on top and added four tries.

Farrell scored two smart tries, his second from a 90-yard sprint after he had intercepted a pass near his own goal line.

Five - eighth Garth Budge was a great tackler and kept Norths' brilliant Bobby Cook subdued for most of the match.

Souths' backs were expected to trouble Norths, but the winners were equally on top in the forwards.

Lock Stan Gayton and second-rowers Ken Aitken and Bruce Bond were alert to the switches in attack made by Jones and Veivers and there was never any lack of backing up by Souths.

Norths appeared to be too complacent in the first half.

Most of their forwards tackled high and often missed their man.

Jim Hannam missed two early shots at goal and a third hit the upright.

There was a lack of thrust in Norths, and they seemed to tire under the continuous pressure.

When they tried to rally in the second half, handling errors crept into Norths' play, and, in something of the panic over Souths' big lead, they became disjointed.

They had scoring opportunities. Twice Bill Pearson ran strongly to the fullback but twice his passes went astray.

Cook brilliantly swerved his way for 50 yards along the blind side, but his pass to Fonda Metassa was also dropped.

Penalties favoured Souths 12-10.

First scorers: S. McDonald (5 Souths) and W. Pearson (4, Norths).

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK — 1st grade (semi-final): Souths 23 (Farrell 2, Drake, Gaylor, Cranston, tries; McDonald 4 goals) d Norths 3 (Pearson try).

1963

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 22 v Redcliffe 13

IT'S NORTHS CHANCE FOR FIFTH FINAL

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS qualified for their fifth successive Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final when they defeated Redcliffe by 22-13 at Lang Park yesterday.

The return of Bob Poulsen to the forwards, and a brilliant game by five-eighth Bobby Cook, were the important factors in Norths' win.

It was not a convincing victory, however, there were too many periods when Norths defence was ragged and when Redcliffe tenaciously fought their way back into the picture.

Norths will have to tighten up considerably in their defence to have a chance of matching Souths in next Saturday's grand final.

The presence of Poulsen made a remarkable difference to Norths' forwards.

There was more combination and some splendid short passing bursts in which Poulsen, Barry Stevens, Johnny Bates, and Lloyd Weier were most prominent.

Poulsen was the outstanding forward of the match.

Bobby Cook played his best game of the year.

His side-stepping runs produced Norths' two first-half tries.

For the first he sliced Redcliffe's defence and stepped around three tacklers before sending Johnny Bates over for a try.

Great dash

For the second try he beat two men inside five yards, then served big Lloyd Weier for the final burst.

Then in the second half Cook took a pass from Bill Pearson at his top and cut a clear path through Redcliffe with great acceleration to score.

An equally exciting player yesterday was Redcliffe centre, Kevin Yow Yeh.

The crowd roared in anticipation every time he handled the ball, and he capped a splendid game with a try between the posts after a bewildering run which left Norths gaping.

When Norths went away to a 12-3 lead after 25 minutes they had played right back to their top form and looked set for a big win.

Their only lapse during that time had been a weakly - defended blind side, which Redcliffe forward Rohan McNamara used to score a smart try.

Brilliant run

Redcliffe's tenacity paid off just before halftime when Gledhill and McNamara combined to send winger Jim Houghton away on a brilliant run to score.

A strong run by Col Weier and a great dash down the left wing by Noel Cox, deserved a try.

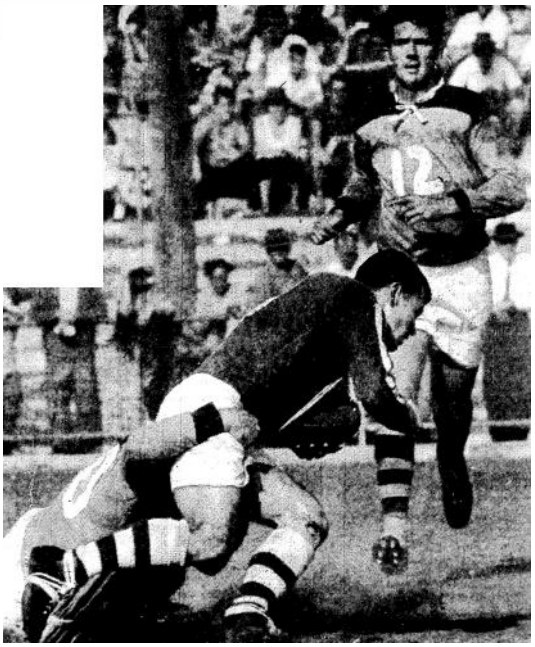
Instead it was Norths who scored after Poulsen had taken Norths into a scoring position with a break down the middle.

Both unfit

Henry Holloway and Grant Mould were obviously far from fit and played under difficulties with their leg injuries.

McNamara was Redcliffe's best forward in attack, while Cox was a tiger in defence.

Norths' hooker Les Geeves, won scrums by 14-11, which included a run of 8-nil in the second half.



RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — Prelim. finals. 1st grade: Norths 22 (Cook, Hannam, Bates, Weier tries; Hannam 5 goals) d Redcliffe 13 (Houghton, Yow Yeh, McNamara tries; Holloway 2 goals).

1963

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v SOUTHS 8

Norths' fine play won fifth title

BY JACK REARDON

NORTHS still reign as Brisbane's Rugby League champions. Yesterday they won their fifth successive premiership with an 18-8 win over Souths in an exciting grand final at Lang Park.

The match was the best grand final of Norths' five, the result not being secured until the last few minutes and the big crowd of about 18,000 was in continuous uproar.

Souths' coach, Les Ridgewell, said: "On the day Norths were the better side, I have no complaints. Souths tried every inch of the way and I am proud of them."

Norths' coach, Bob Bax, hoarse from shouting, said: "It was a great game. I thought we would win, but Souths' ability to come back often left me with some doubts."

Norths won because they made better use of possession and they proved the old adage that "a good big man will always beat a good little man."

Norths' pack outweighed Souths by about a stone and a half per man.



NORTHS fullback Henry Bates (with ball) is only briefly delayed by a one hand grab from a Souths man in yesterday's Rugby League grand final at Lang Park. Norths won their fifth premiership by 18-8.



Souths' forwards tackled like tigers but towards the end of the first half they showed signs of weakening against their bigger opponents.

In the end some of Souths' players did not have the strength left to tackle securely.

Ken Aitken lightweight second rower, played himself to a standstill and could barely get back on his feet.

Souths' hooker, Reg. Webster, won scrums by 16-15 over Les Geeves, but Souths' handling errors forfeited too much of that possession.

The ball rolled well for Norths. Frequently a dropped pass bounced right into the eager hands of a Norths' player just when Souths looked dangerous in attack.

But to Norths' credit they were in position and always ready to take advantage of every opportunity.

Norths did not have a weak link. Every man rose to the occasion to produce his best form of the year.

Lock Ian Massie was outstanding, with good cover defence and his very best attacking form.

Massie's two smart tries

Massie scored twice. He positioned himself intelligently to take an inside pass from Johnny Bates for his first try, and for his second he swerved and side-stepped right through Souths to score between the posts.

Bobby Cook, as always, was dangerous in attack, but yesterday his cover defence was superb.

Centre Henry Hegarty used his speed to better effect than he has done for several matches, while Bill Pearson provided that very-valuable stiffening in attack and defence which has been of such great benefit to Norths for the last three years.

Pearson's last match

Pearson said after the match it was his last game for Norths.

There were some great periods of attack by Norths' forwards, with Bob Poulsen, Lloyd Weier, and Barry Stevens making ground with short passing bursts.

With time running out, and Souths only trailing by five points, Norths' big pack took charge.

They held possession for four minutes without a break while working play from their own goal line right into Souths' quarters.

Then Massie clinched the match with his second try and the final siren sounded.

Souths had early opportunities to take a commanding lead.

Halfback Ivan Jones broke away from a scrum in brilliant fashion, ran to the fullback, but his pass to Denis Farrell, running unmarked, was too low and the chance was lost.

Frank Drake, always well marked throughout the game, made three early breaks which should have made at least one try.

Once he short kicked with good judgment, but the ball took a running bounce right into Norths' fullback, Harry Bates' hands.

Souths were well on top for the first 30 minutes. **There was plenty of zip in their passing and their switches of direction split Norths' defence.**

They should have had, at least, an early lead of 10-nil.

The first signs of Souths' defence cracking under the weight of Norths' assaults came just before halftime, and Norths, quickly sensing the position, went over for two tries to snatch a halftime lead of 8-5.

When Norths went to a 13-5 lead through Whitaker's try, Souths were still able to come back well.

Second rower Bruce Bond, who had scored Souths' first try, put them into scoring positions twice again in the second half.

McDonald was close

Souths got within striking distance when fullback Stan McDonald slid over for a disputed try near the corner flag.

There was a minor demonstration and some beer cans were thrown on to the field.

Some people thought that McDonald had rolled into touch before scoring.

Mick Veivers played another strong game for Souths and among his keen young pack Jim Murdock was most prominent.

Halfback Ivan Jones played brilliantly again and some of his cover defending tackles stopped tries by Norths.

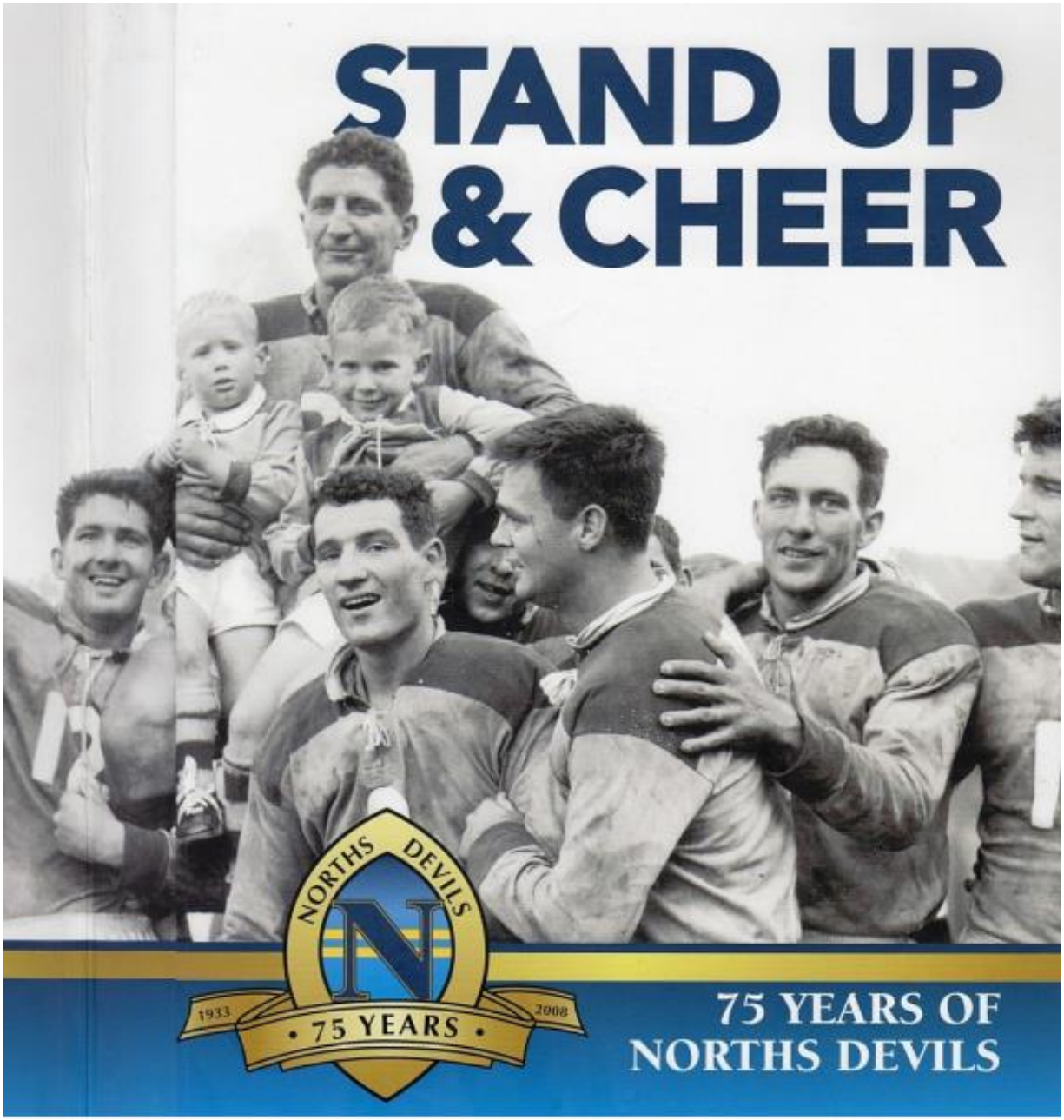
RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—A grade, grand final: Norths 18 (Massie 2, Poulsen, Whitaker tries; Hannam 2 goals) d. Souths 8 (McDonald, Bond tries; McDonald goal).

BOB Poulsen, Norths forward, manages to put the ball over the line near the corner for a try despite the long tackle from Souths Stan McDonald in the Rugby League final won by Norths, 18-8.

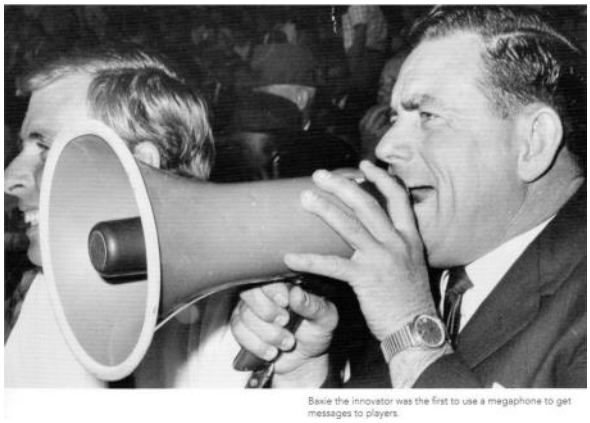
1963

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v SOUTHS 8



Above: Bill Pearson is held aloft after Norths won their 5th premiership in a row in 1963 against Souths. He is held aloft with his boys Craig and Mark. Team mates from left to right are Lee Geeves, Ian Massie, Harry Bates and Jimmy Hannam.

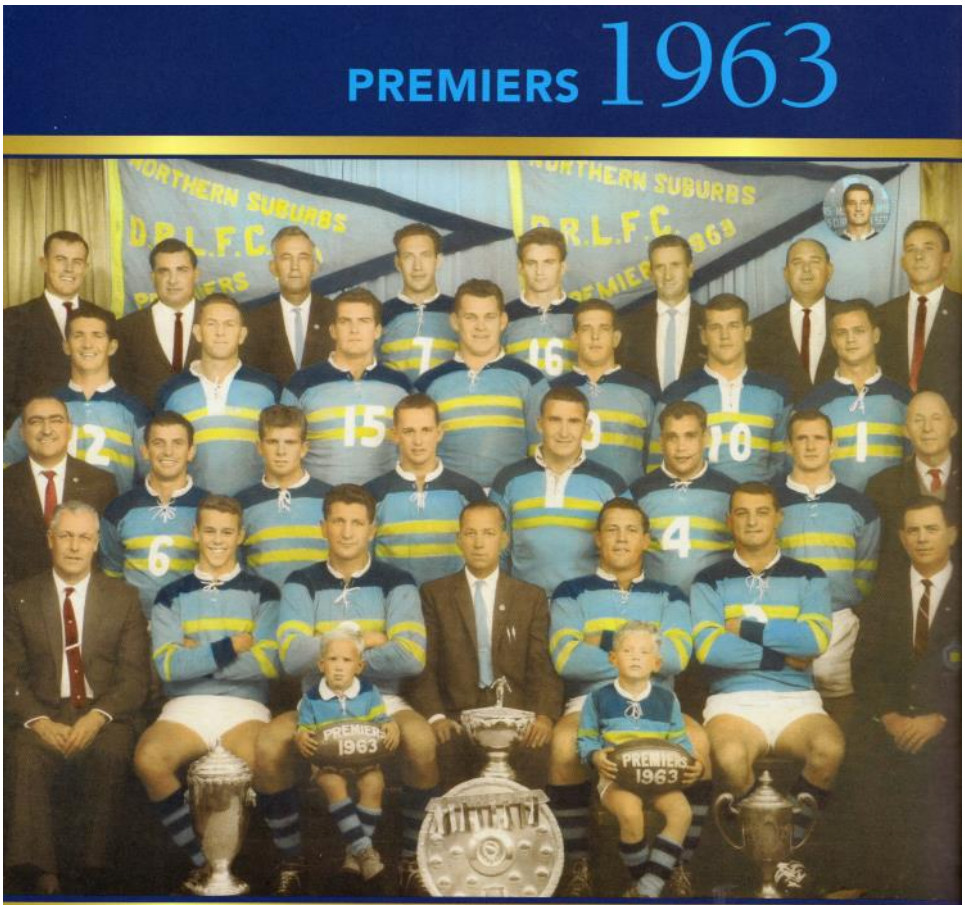




Baxie the innovator was the first to use a megaphone to get messages to players.

1963

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v SOUTHS 8



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club
Premiers A Grade – B.R.L. Championship – 1963
Minor Premiers, Winners President's Cup, B.R.L. Pennant, Frank Fullerton Trophy, Peter Scott Memorial Trophy, B.R.L. Borthwicks Club Championship

IN FRONT – Craig Pearson (Mascot), Mark Pearson (Mascot)
FRONT ROW – O.S. Denman (Hon. Gen. Secty.), H. Whitaker, W. Pearson (Capt.), A.L. Bishop (Pres.) R.A. Poulsen (V. Capt.), F. Metassa, R. D. Bax (Coach)
SECOND ROW – Alan Ward (Sen. V. Pres.), R. Cooke, R.B. Cattanach, G.J. Strathearn, R.W Parton, H.H. Hegarty, N. Buckley, Ald. W.M. Cook (Patron)
THIRD ROW – L.J. Geeves, R.A. Bell, D. Simpson, L.M. Weier, B.F. Stevens, J. Bates, H.S. Bates
BACK ROW – C.M. Bax (Manager), S.G. Hassum (Selector), W.H. Butterworth (Masseur), J.R. Hannam, B.L. Cook, D. Christison (Mang. Comm.), C.H. Cox (Mang. Com.), J.J. Nugent (Selector)
INSET – I. Massie **ABSENT** – S. Edwards (Hon. Treas.), M. Rees (Mang. Comm.), R. Richards (Selector), G. Warburton (Selector)

RESULTS

7 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Southern Suburbs 23 (Farrell 2, Drake, Gayler, Cranston tries; McDonald 4 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 3 (Pearson try).
Souths: S.McDonald, T.Gayler, D.Farrell, F.Drake, K.Cranston, G.Budge, I.Jones, S.Gayton, B.Bond, K.Aitken, J.Murdoch, R.Webster, M.Veivers. Coach: L.Ridgewell.
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, W.Pearson (c), H.Whitaker, R.Cook, J.Hannam, I.Massie, B.Stevens, J.Bates, L.Weier, L.Geeves, D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Don Lancashire.

8 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 10 (Houghton 2 tries; Holloway 2 goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Lingard try; Brown goal).
Redcliffe: J.Treeby, J.Houghton, D.Marney, K.Yow Yeh, K.Parmenter, P.Randall, T.Connolly, C.Weier, N.Cox, G.Gledhill, R.McNamara, R.Lawson, H.Holloway (c/c).
Wests: K.Lingard, A.Brown, L.Connell, C.Weir, R.Seery, M.Stafford, W.Chambers, M.Robinson, D.Bryant, F.Bowman, M.Kapper, R.Doyle, D.Mitchell.
Referee: Henry Albert.

14 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 22 (Cook, Hannam, J.Bates, Weier tries; Hannam 5 goals) d. Redcliffe 13 (Houghton, Yow Yeh, McNamara tries; Holloway 2 goals).
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, W.Pearson (c), H.Hegarty, H.Whitaker, R.Cook, J.Hannam, I.Massie, B.Stevens, J.Bates, L.Weier, L.Geeves, R.Poulsen. Coach: R.Bax.
Redcliffe: D.Marney, J.Houghton, G.Mould, K.Yow Yeh, K.Parmenter, P.Randall, T.Connolly, C.Weier, N.Cox, G.Gledhill, R.McNamara, R.Lawson, H.Holloway (c/c).
Referee: Don Lancashire.

21 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 18 (Massie 2, Whitaker, Poulsen tries; Hannam 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 8 (McDonald, Bond tries; McDonald goal).
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, W.Pearson (c), H.Hegarty, H.Whitaker, R.Cook, J.Hannam, I.Massie, B.Stevens, J.Bates, L.Weier, L.Geeves, R.Poulsen. Coach: R.Bax.
Souths: S.McDonald, T.Gaylor, F.Drake (c), K.Cranston, D.Farrell, G.Budge, I.Jones, S.Gayton, B.Bond, K.Aitken, J.Murdoch, R.Webster, M.Veivers. Coach: L.Ridgewell.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 18,000.***

1964

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	16	0	5	375	275	32
BROTHERS	15	1	5	432	304	31
NORTHERN SUBURBS	13	0	8	402	287	26
REDCLIFFE	11	2	8	358	290	24
WESTERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	341	346	22
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	14	338	423	14
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	0	16	227	441	10
WYNNUM MANLY	4	1	16	276	383	9

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 17 v Redcliffe 12

EVEN-MONEY HOPE, SAYS BAX

● Norths' League chance

By HARRY JEFFERIES

"We're now an even money chance to make it," Norths' Rugby League coach, Bobby Bax, declared today following his 13's exhilarating 5-point win yesterday when they knocked Redcliffe out of the premiership.

"I couldn't ask the boys to do anything more than yesterday—I hope they can keep on going," Bax said.

Norths will meet Valley at Lang Park on Saturday and the winner will meet Brothers in the grand-final on Saturday, September 12.

Brothers are 5/4 on to take the premiership.

Norths are 6/4 and Valley 3/1.

"I'll take as much of that 3/1 Valley as I can get," Brothers' coach Frank Melit said.

"It's flattering perhaps for Brothers to be so short in the betting but all I can say is that there must be a lot of easy punters around."

Bax agreed with Brothers' price.

Like Eskimo Prince, Brothers would have to be that price," Bax said.

Norm Pope, Valley coach, said, "I'm easy. We just want to be in front at the finish."

Hegarty key to success

Bax said they had no set plan yesterday.

"All we did," he said, "was to try to score tries, hold the ball and combat Redcliffe in the forwards.

"Henry Hegarty was the key to our success and when he ran on fit I knew we had an even money chance of getting up."

Hegarty and co-centre Ray Cattanach, because of leg injuries, were doubtful until yesterday morning.

They never faltered and Hegarty engineered Norths' paralysing 10-point lead in 12 minutes.

Melit said, "I'd like to find out Bax's treatment.

"It was something like a miracle the way they both went after all that news about their injuries during the week."

Brothers former Test prop, Brian Davies, will have an X-ray tonight for a suspected broken thumb.

Winger Bob Gray (pulled muscle) and Davies left the field against Valley.

Valley will name their 13 at training tomorrow night.

They should fit bustling utility back Mike Bailey somewhere along the backline.

He was fit but was not played on Saturday.

Young Mike Norris, who was at five-eighth, also must be retained following his enterprising running.

Valley will have to counter Norths pace in the backs if they are to go on to the grand final.

Bill Hunter, Redcliffe president, said his team considered Brothers the pick for the premiership.

"But Valley still won't be easy," he declared.

He said the bounce of the ball had beaten them yesterday

"When Hegarty left footed inside and Fonda Metassa tore through, the bounce of the ball could have gone anywhere.

"But for once it went straight into a player's hands and Metassa was over.

Redcliffe, under gallant leader, Henry Holloway and star forward Rowan McNamara battered Norths' defence in the final 15 minutes, but they had left their run too late.

Referee Don Lancashire will control Saturday's match.

LEAGUE SCORES

BRISBANE.—Second semi-finals: Norths 17 (F Metassa 2, H Hegarty tries, J Hannam 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 12 (R McNamara, R. Tomlinson tries, H. Holloway 3 goals).

1964

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 19 v Valleys 5

BROTHERS TOO FAST FOR VALLEY

Brothers 19 d. Valley 5. By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS played their way into the Brisbane Rugby League grand final with brilliant second half attack to beat Valleys 19-5 in the first semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

It was mainly a dour game with solid tackling by both sides, relieved by occasional bright attack.

Valleys scored the only try in the first half, and looked the winners at half-time when they led by 5-4.

Brothers now have two weeks in which to rest their bruises and injuries before they play the grand final.

Valleys, however, must play next Saturday in the preliminary final against the winner of today's second semi-final between Redcliffe and Norths.

Shaky start

Brothers lost Brian Davies and winger Bob Gray in the first half. They were replaced by Alan Allison and Denis Byrne.

Handicapped by lack of position in the first half, Brothers could not get their attack functioning at all.

They also looked very shaky for the first seven minutes of the second half when Valleys were pressing them on their own goal line.

Then Brothers scored a brilliant try to take the lead by 7-5 and from there they always looked clear winners.

This try of Brothers, which set them on the winning trail, was started by hooker Noel Thornton, who ran off the ruck half well inside his own 25 yard line.

Thornton sent centre Garnet Kerr through a gap. Kerr gave the ball to winger Denis Byrne, got it back again and found co-centre Dick Pickett positioning himself perfectly for the final pass.

Pickett went over in the corner.

Beat top hooker

VALLEYS hooker, Ray Dixon, surprisingly won the first half scrums over Noel Thornton by 9-4.

Thornton, however, squared the scrums for the match by winning 5-1 in the second half.

It was this first half possession by Valleys which hamstrung Brothers' attack.

At one stage Valleys held the ball with secure handling for a stretch of 18 minutes.

But as a tribute to Brothers strong defence Valleys was able to score only one try.

Great try

This was a good try, too. Des Mannion made the only breakthrough at the halfway mark; from a ruck Jeff Callaghan cut the defence and five-eighth Mike Norris chimed in.

Les Glover took his pass, then halfback Ross Threlfo moved in diagonally for the last pass and left Brothers' defence standing to score near the goal post.

Valleys had Brothers pinned down on their own goal line for two sustained periods in the second half.

Norris twice cut his way through with beautiful footwork and fullback Jim Lingard weaved his way to within a foot of a try.

Good defence

But Brothers defence was good.

Lightweights Ron Oxenham and Peter Hanna were outstanding in these periods with clean, low tackles.

Hanna stopped Lingard just short of a try and also blocked Callaghan for another possible try.

Brothers clinched the game when Gary Balkin went over in the corner following a cleverly designed move by the inside backs.

This try was converted to give Brothers a 12-5 lead.

Cavanagh's 5

Cavanagh added another penalty to make it 14-5, and also started the movement which brought Brothers third and final try, fittingly scored by Oxenham.

Cavanagh played strongly throughout the game and landed five good goals.

Centre Dick Pickett was another outstanding player for Brothers. He always was constructive in attack and solid in defence.

But Test forward and captain Peter Gallagher probably gave Brothers best value for the match.

Not popular

He was not always popular with the crowd, but he ran strongly, passed well, and put plenty of vigour into his tackling.

Valleys had scoring opportunities, but lacked the finish of Brothers' backs.

Ross Threlfo was their best player and Valleys certainly have a find in young Mike Norris.

Les Glover was always a great trier and was dangerous at times in attack.

Valleys might have erred in playing centre Dennis Ferguson with a "dicky" shoulder. He had a bad day with his handling.

First scorers: N. Cavanagh (8, Brothers) and R. Threlfo (7, Valleys).



Hooker, Noel Thornton paved way for victory

BY BOBBY BAX

BROTHERS finished like a train to beat Valley (19-5) in the League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

And they can thank hooker Noel Thornton for his second half six to one supply of the ball.

Valleys, who won first half scrums 9-4, were well in the picture when they led 5-2.

But they had no variety in attack and never looked like breaking through solid Brothers defence which was well geared for senseless barging.

HIS BEST MATCH

Captain, Peter Gallagher had his best game for Brothers this season.

Although he didn't win the popularity Oscar from the crowd, he did supply his team with the fire necessary to win a final.

There were no real stars in a Brothers team which has its weaknesses, but on current form they look absolute certainties to be at shorter odds than Todman for the grand final.

It was one of those games which never thrilled and was played in the true tough semi-final spirit.

Lock forward Noel Cavanagh besides playing a terrific game in attack and defence kicked five beautiful goals.

Centre importation, Dick Pickett, although no Gasnier, proved to be Brisbane's most consistent centre with strong defence and long elusive runs in attack.

Pickett has the ability to turn the play back inside very successfully.

Ron Oxenham, Brothers tiny five-eighth, was a tower of strength to his team. Oxenham was great in cover defence and for good measure tackled wide running forwards just for practice.

CLUB'S BEST BUY

In attack he is a will-of-the-wisp and always very safe. Oxenham would be the best buy ever made by Brothers' Club.

For the diehards I thought Valleys' captain, Des Mannion erred in the second half when he started standing and passing instead of running and passing.

Five-eighth Mick Norris has tons of ability and was always exciting in possession.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—Premiership semi-final, 'A Grade: Brothers 19 (Pickett, Balkin, Oxenham tries; Cavanagh 5 goals) d. Valleys 5 (Threlfo try; Mannion goal)

1964

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 9 v Valleys 7

Norths batter their way to the top again

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS Rugby League team set the stage for the greatest club climax for many years when they qualified for the Grand Final by beating Valleys 9-7 at Lang Park yesterday.

It is a match that has everything to make it the keenest wind-up since Norths started their successful run by beating Brothers in 1959.

It is the first time since 1959 that these traditional rivals have met in a grand final, and some officials forecast a crowd of 20,000 for Saturday.

There is keen personal rivalry between coaches Frank Melit (Brothers) and Bob Bax (Norths).

Bax was Brothers coach until 1960; then he was snapped up by Norths and has won four successive premierships.

Melit took over as Brothers coach and has been battling with a depleted team until this year.

Both teams have had to fight against heavy odds to reach the grand final this year.

Brothers' Supporters Club set about rebuilding their team this year and the team has made a neat record leap from last in 1963 to grand final in 1964.

If they beat Norths next Saturday it could be a record leap.

Norths, premiers from 1959 to 1963, were running fifth about the end of the second round this year.

When Brothers thrashed them 43-20, even Norths' staunchest supporters were resigned to the finish of their successful run.

But Norths, despite the loss from last year's team of such players as Lloyd Weier, Bob Paulsen, Barry Stevens, Ian Massie, Bill Pearson, Bobby Cook and Harry Bates, have dug up strong replacements whom Bax has moulded into a strong combination in the last six weeks.

At this stage Brothers are still favourites for premiership. But the team line-ups this coming week might alter the rating.

State second rower Johnny Bates is in doubt for Norths following a recurrence of an ankle injury yesterday.

Brothers have Brian Davies doubtful because of his broken thumb, and winger Bob Gray is receiving constant treatment for a groin injury.



MATCH-WINNER . . . North's' lock Elwyn Walters, heavily tackled, dived over the line to score the winning try in the Rugby League final at Lang Park yesterday. Norths beat Valleys 9-7 in a hard-fought game.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — Prelim. finals, 1st grade. Norths 9 (Walters try; Hannam 2; Kenning (goals) d. Valleys 7 (Bailey try; Mannion 2 goals).

2 KICKS DECIDED

TWO magnificent goals, one from halfway by Barry Kenning, the other from touch by Jim Hannam, gave Norths a 9-7 win over Valleys yesterday.

Kenning, 19-year-old Reserve grade fullback, went into Norths team yesterday when Brian Cook withdrew with a bruised heel, which had not responded to an injection.

Kenning did a particularly good job in defence, and was dangerous in attack on several occasions.

Hannam, a skilful scrum worker, was also one of Norths' best defenders.

Valleys captain Des Mannion, opened the scoring with a penalty goal in the first minute, and then converted Mike Bailey's try.

But Mannion missed four attempts at goal, including an easy one in front of the goal posts.

Hannam and Kenning landed a penalty goal each for Norths in the first half.

Hannam's conversion of Elwyn Walters' try in the second half was kicked from a spot 15 yards back from the goal line and three yards in from touch.

The changing trends of the game had the big crowd of about 13,000 in a continual uproar.

With two smart sets of backs opposed, there was a thrill every time the ball was cleared from scrum or ruck.

Valleys backs looked the more dangerous.

Young centre Mike Norris, whose partner Les Glover, wingers George James and Tony Philp, halfback Ross Threlfo, and fullback Jim Lindgard, always beat at least one tackler.

Norris looked the smartest back on the field with brilliant footwork.

He set up Valleys' only try with a spectacular side-stepping burst which opened up the way for a try by Bailey.

Norths' 18-year-old Malcolm Breen, at five-eighth, centres Henry Hegarty and Ray Cattanach, and wingers Howard Whittaker and Fonda Metassa seemed likely to break through at any time.

But for sheer value right through the match, Norths halfback Jim Hannam and prop Bob Bell were outstanding.

I have seldom seen a club forward get through as much tackling as Bell did yesterday.

Although North hooker, Les Geeves, was credited with a 9-8 win over Ray Dixon in scrums, Valleys had possession for at least 60 minutes of the 80 minutes play.

On my estimation, Valleys spent 65 minutes in Norths' territory.

Norths made things tough for themselves with about five dropped passes, on which Valleys bounced very smartly.

The fact that they held Valleys down to only one try under these circumstances was a great tribute to Norths' defence.

I think some of Valleys forwards cost them the game by blind barging.

Des Mannion did a good job of organising Valleys forwards.

But unless Mannion, Max White, or Ray Dixon were the forward ball carriers, Valleys backs did not get it.

Jim Lingard, moving up into the attack frequently from fullback, had Norths supporters in panic as he twisted, turned, propped and wriggled through tackles.

Centre Mike Norris had a similar effect on Norths whenever he had the ball.

Norths' main attacking hope Henry Hegarty did not shine in attack, obviously through lack of possession, but also because he did so much tackling.

Despite the tenseness of the game, it was one of the cleanest finals on record.

Penalties favoured Valleys by 10-8.

1964

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 13 v BROTHERS 4

BROTHERS ARE DEFEATED BY 13 TO FOUR

Norths take sixth League title in row

COACH CHAIRED OFF FIELD

DOUR DEFENCE BY TWO SIDES

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS Rugby League team made it six premierships in a row when they beat Brothers by 13-4 in a tough grand final before a crowd of 21,000 at Lang Park yesterday.

The win was a triumph for Norths' coach, Bob Bax, who has moulded Norths into a winning combination for the fifth successive season.

Bax and their captain, Jim Hannam, were carried shoulder-high from the field by jubilant Norths players after the match.

Hannam has been in every premiership team that Bax has coached for Norths. Yesterday he kicked five goals and splendidly held his team together under pressure.

It was a most unspectacular match, notable more for the dour defence by both teams rather than for open attack.

Norths scored the only try of the match in the 35th minute of the first half, and it was a "beauty."

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. grand finals. 1st gde.: Norths 13 (Metassa try, Hannam 5 goals) d Brothers 4 (Cavanagh 2 goals).



BROTHERS' international forward and captain Peter Gallagher goes down in a solid tackle by three Norths forwards in the tough Rugby League grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

WE KILLED THEM AGAIN

By BOBBY BAX, Queensland's most outstanding Rugby League coach

Yes, we killed them again! And I would like to quote the words of Winston Churchill: "This was their finest hour."

Who were our best players? We didn't have bad players. They were all good.

Yes, I'm skiting, but this Norths team has got something to skite about.

We played a fit Brothers' side, who scored eight tries against us the last time we met, but they failed to cross our line yesterday.

Due to the assistance of former Queensland hooker, Bill Norris, Les Geeves was able to win first-half scrums handsomely.

No mistake

It was in that period that Norths scored the try under the post which won the game.

Metassa had earlier "bombed" a try in a similar position when he dropped the ball over the line.

However, he made amends later and made no mistakes by putting the ball right between the sticks.

Captain half Jimmy Hannam played a "blinder." Hannam may not be the best captain in Australia, but he'll do me in any grand final which Norths play.

Bulimba Cup front rower Don Simpson really turned it on after a five-week lay-off. Simpson may not be a Duncan Hall, but isn't he a good club player?

Metassa starred for Norths.

He really turned on his best football and it rightly earned him a position in the Brisbane team to play North Queensland next Saturday.

All the experts tipped Norths to lose but with the greatest display of guts in years, they gave Brothers no chance.

If anything, Brothers went into this game over confident.

I don't think Brothers had a bad player either. The point was that Norths didn't let them settle down to play the type of football the public knows they can.

The results were most disappointing for Brothers because they deserved a better fate, this season.

Congratulations to referee Don Lancashire, who in my opinion, had the best game of all.

Good judges may not agree with me, but as usual Lancashire gave the public a game worth watching.

The ball came out smartly from a ruck and centre Henry Hegarty sliced through a gap in Brothers' defence.

He ran diagonally towards the corner, then turned the ball inside to winger Fonda Metassa

Nearly over

Metassa caught Brothers defence on the wrong foot and went over between the posts.

Metassa earlier had got across the goal line but lost the ball forward when tackled.

Brothers' five-eighth Ron Oxenham also narrowly missed a try in the second half when a desperate diving tackle by a Norths player just tipped his ankle and he slid to a stop two feet short of the goal line.

Brothers made too many errors to be in the race of winning yesterday.

Scrums finished even 12-all but I lost count of the number of times that Brothers dropped the ball.

There was hardly a mistake posible that Brothers did not make.

There was plenty of fire in the match

Brothers' captain, Peter Gallagher, was the first man cautioned by referee Don Lancashire, following a tackle by Gallagher of Norths' forward Don Simpson.

But five minutes previously Lancashire had missed two wild swings that Simpson made at Gallagher.

Brothers' centre, Garnett Kerr, was also cautioned by the referee.

LOCK STARS

Lock Elwyn Walters, who was a doubtful starter earlier in the week because of a badly bruised foot, was one of Norths' stars.

He got through an amazing amount of tackling.

When he moved to five-eighth during the second half he mowed down Brothers' inside backs like a scythe.

Walters moved to five-eighth when young Malcolm Breen injured his knee, and left the field for attention.

Breen returned after four minutes, but he was limping badly and played in the second row.

Simpson, playing his first game for six weeks, was another of Norths' best players.

He made ground with strong runs down the middle, and kept Brothers inside defenders very busy.

Centre Henry Hegarty was another strong defender for Norths.

It was not a game to suit his pacey attack, but he made the most of his opportunities.

Norths led by 9-2 at half-time. They had a major share of possession first half and played safely wth a minimum of dropped passes.

Brothers looked most dangerous in attack early in the second half when Gallagher, Alec Kolomeitz, and Ron Oxenham cut the line.

Brothers won more scrums but the old familiar pattern returned.

Brothers would have possession, but quickly lose it. Norths would grab the ball and hold it grimly for long periods.

Lost ball

In one short period of three minutes Brothers four times lost the ball through bad handling.

Gallagher tried hard, but could not rally his team in attack.

He made some great saving tackles out wide, but missed some in the rucks.

Brothers looked a badly disorganised side towards the end. There was some sad misunderstanding among their inside men.

Attendance of 21,000 and gate receipts of £3050 were records.



STAR Brothers centre Dick Pickett tries to break out of a solid tackle by Norths hooker Les Geeves during the B.R.L. grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

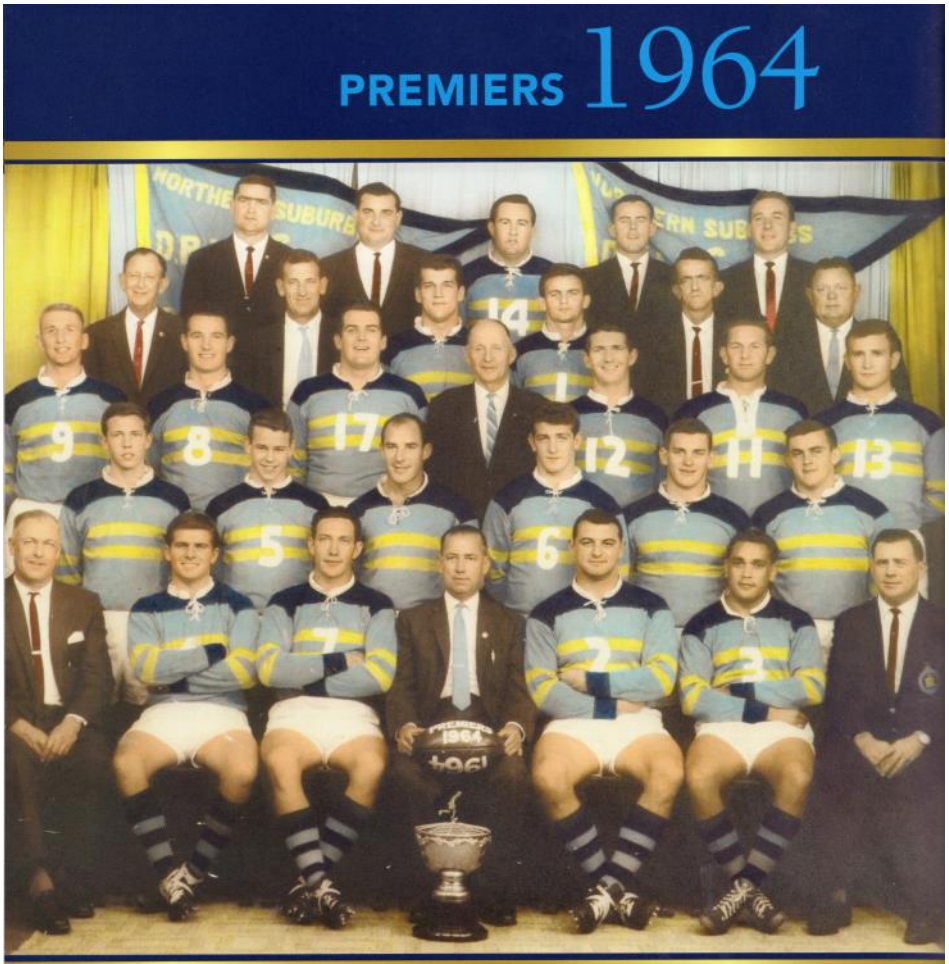
BOOTS FIVE GOALS



J. HANNAM

1964

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 13 v BROTHERS 4



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club First Grade, 1964
Premiers, B.R.L. Pennant, Frank Fullerton Trophy, Runners-up President's Cup

FRONT ROW: O.S. Denman (Hon. General Secretary), R.B. Cattanach, J.R. Hannam, (Captain), A.L. Bishop (President), F. Metassa, H.H. Hegarty, R.D. Bax (Coach)
SECOND ROW: D. Gordon, H. Whittaker, H. Roberts, M. Breen, E. Walters, P. Lobegeiger
THIRD ROW: A. McLean, I. Massie (V-Captain), D. Simpson, W. Cook (Patron), L.J. Greeves, R.A. Bell (V-Captain), M.J. Baldwin
FOURTH ROW: G. Warburton (Selector), S.P. Edwards (Treasurer), J. Bates, B.L. Cook, R. Richards (Selector), M. Rees, (Mang. Com.)
BACK ROW: J. Mulgrew (Mang. Com.), S. Hassum (Selector), K.G. Weedon, C.M. Bax (Manager), J.J. Nugent (Selector)
ABSENT: R. Parton, A. Ward (Senior V-President), D. Christison (Mang. Com.), N. Paxton (Mang. Com.), K. McRae (Mang. Com.), C. Cox (Mang. Com.), M. Beattie (Masseur), W. Butterworth (Masseur), W. Burrup (Masseur).

RESULTS

29 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 19 (Pickett, Balkin, Oxenham tries; Cavanagh 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Threlfo try; Mannion goal).
Brothers: R.Timms, R.Gray, G.Kerr, R.Pickett, G.Balkin, R.Oxenham, P.Hanna, N.Cavanagh, J.Lohman, A.Kolomeitz, B.Davies, N.Thornton, P.Gallagher (c). Reserves: K.Allison, D.Byrne. Coach: F.Melit.
Valleys: J.Lingard, G.James, L.Glover, D.Ferguson, A.Philp, M.Norris, R.Threlfo, D.Lind, J.Callaghan, B.Beiber, R.Collins, R.Dixon, D.Mannion. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Don Lancashire.

30 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 17 (Metassa 2, Hegarty tries; Hannam 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 12 (Tomlinson, McNamara tries; Holloway 3 goals).
Norths: Brian Cook, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, H.Whitaker, M.Breen, J.Hannam (c), E.Walters, A.McLean, J.Bates, R.Bell, L.Geeves, M.Baldwin. Coach: R.Bax.
Redcliffe: D.Marney, R.Tomlinson, A.Beetson, S.Northey, T.Harken, J.Treeby, T.Connolly, C.Weier, D.Webb, B.Teys, R.McNamara, D.Kinden, H.Holloway (c/c).
Referee: Henry Albert.

5 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 9 (Walters try: Hannam 2, Kenning goals) d. Fortitude Valley 7 (Bailey try; Mannion 2 goals).
Norths: B.Kenning, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, H.Whitaker, M.Breen, J.Hannam (c), E.Walters, A.McLean, J.Bates, R.Bell, L.Geeves, M.Baldwin. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: J.Lingard, G.James, L.Glover, M.Norris, A.Philp, M.Bailey, R.Threlfo, D.Lind, J.Callaghan, M.White, R.Collins, R.Dixon, D.Mannion. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Don Lancashire. Crowd: 13,000.

12 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 13 (Metassa try: Hannam 5 goals) d. Past Brothers 4 (Cavanagh 2 goals).
Norths: B.Cook, H.Whitaker, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, F.Metassa, M.Breen, J.Hannam (c), E.Walters, M.Baldwin, A.McLean, R.Bell, L.Geeves, D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Brothers: R.Timms, R.Gray, R.Pickett, G.Kerr, G.Balkin, R.Oxenham, P.Hanna, N.Cavanagh, J.Lohman, A.Kolomeitz, P.Gallagher (c), N.Thornton, K.Allison. Coach: F.Melit.
Referee: Don Lancashire.
Crowd: 21,000 (record).

1965

BRL: REDCLIFFE

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	15	0	6	321	223	30
REDCLIFFE	14	1	6	354	259	29
NORTHERN SUBURBS	14	0	7	374	211	28
BROTHERS	13	0	8	316	227	26
WYNNUM MANLY	8	0	13	300	358	16
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	0	13	263	400	16
EASTERN SUBURBS	6	1	14	212	333	13
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	16	266	360	10

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 22 v Norths 8

Norths whipped; run ended by Brothers

BY JACK REARDON

NORTHS' six-year grip on the Brisbane Rugby League premiership was broken yesterday when Brothers brilliantly beat them 22-8 in a semi-final at Lang Park.

BROTHERS now advance to the preliminary final, which will be played next Saturday against the loser of today's semi-finals between Valleys and Redcliffe.

Norths have won six consecutive premierships and were favoured by a big majority of League followers to beat Brothers yesterday. Their defeat, however, puts them out for this year.

Brothers attacked spectacularly to score four tries to two, and always looked winners after they took the lead with a brilliant try by centre Des Smith in the 28th minute.



METASSA . . . Norths only scorer.

EVEN AFTER 1964

BY BOBBY BAX

EXCEPT when Fonda Metassa scored the first try of the match, Brothers never really looked like losing to Norths yesterday in the League semi.

It was a credit to coach Brian Davies and a great day for captain Peter Gallagher, who led his team magnificently.

Gallagher was blamed unnecessarily by Brothers for losing the 1964 grand final to Norths, but gained sweet revenge yesterday with a real "captain's knock."

Norths have won many finals on the opposition's mistakes, but yesterday the tables were turned and it was a great Brothers pack which forced Norths into errors.

Alex Kolomeitz for Brothers was their outstanding forward. He showed that reputations are worth nothing unless you are prepared to live up to them.

He proved himself one of Brisbane's most consistent forwards, with a full 80-minute game.

As a matter of fact Brothers had no bad players Lohman played well, Connell was good, Cavanagh was great, and Abdy was deadly.

In the backs the most dangerous Brothers player was will'o'the wisp five-eighth Barry Dowling. He had Norths guessing every time he handled the ball.

Centre Des Smith had Norths mesmerised; full back Morrie Pinfold had them worried; and the blue streak Neil Porter had them groping.

My highest praise reserved for special occasions such as this must go to Brothers, "You Beauties."

For myself, I never like losing, but it had to happen sooner or later.

The only consoling fact is that it has happened, and I'm glad it's all over.

Norths' big winger Fonda Metassa opened the scoring with a well-timed intercept and a 50yd. run to cross for a try in the seventh minute.

But Norths did not score another point for the next 72 minutes; then Howard Whitaker cut through to cross just before the final siren.

Brothers played like a team ready to battle it out with anyone in the grand final.

Their forwards were again their main strength with international Peter Gallagher leading them grandly by example and with encouragement.

Johnny Lohman produced another outstanding game. He sliced Norths defence repeatedly, gave well-timed passes, and always was well up with movements.

But there was not a weak link in the Brothers' pack. Seasoned Alex Kolomeitz, young lock Wayne Abdy, Noel Cavanagh, and hooker Arthur Connell ran, tackled, and got across in cover defence for the full 80 minutes.

Kolomeitz, who took several years to gain regular first-grade selection, was probably Brothers' best forward.

Varied play

He was not only in every ruck, but he followed the ball closely all the way and was right on the spot to gather in the loose ball dropped by Norths.

Brothers' most enterprising back was five-eighth Barry Dowling, who was quick to back up when the forwards broke through, and he varied his play to keep Norths guessing.

Another bright Brothers' back was full-back Morrie Pinfold, who attacked whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Centre Des Smith was always troublesome to Norths and scored two splendid tries.

50 Yard dash

His first came from a 65yd. burst, in which he twisted and pivoted out of all tackles.

Winger Neil Porter showed great speed over 50 yards to score the try which really clinched the game early in the second half. Kolomeitz had cleverly sent Porter clear.

Brothers' great condition and keen backing up was well illustrated when Connell scored midway through the second half.

Sidestepping fullback Pinfold had cut through to the right wing, and when he turned back in there were eight Brothers players backing up in a line.

It was a disappointing performance by Norths.

Two of their best conditioned and keenest players, Elwyn Walters and Ray Cattanach, had probably their worst games of the year.

There is bound to be some criticism on the selection of Norths team particularly the omission of sturdy five-eighth Mal Breen.

But Donny Gordon, who played five-eighth, was in fact one of North's best players. He did an extra share of tackling.

There were some honest triers for Norths.

Les Geeves, Peter Hall, and Bob Poulsen never flagged in their efforts. Geeves showed some surprising speed in cover defence.



BROTHERS Rugby League forward Alex Kolomeitz was right in there yesterday to help in his team's great win over Norths at Lang Park. Here, Kolobeitz had a "ball-and-all" hold on Norths' five-eighth Don Gordon to stop a Norths movement.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Second Semi-finals, A Grade: Brothers 22 (B. Smith 2, Porter, Connell tries; Cavanagh 5 goals) d. Norths 8 (Metassa, Whitaker tries; Poulsen a goal).

1965

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 15 v Redcliffe 11

Valley fought back—beat Redcliffe

By Jack Reardon

VALLEYS Rugby League "Diehards" lived right up to their name yesterday when they came from behind to snatch a 15-11 win over Redcliffe in an exciting B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park.

Valleys thus qualified for the grand final to be played on September 11. Redcliffe will meet Saturday's winners, Brothers, in the preliminary final next Saturday.

With only four minutes to play, Valleys were behind 10-11.

Then forward Kevin Oliveira ran wide to the left wing, dummied to make the Redcliffe defence hold off, and turned a perfect pass back inside to centre Mick Retchless.

Retchless, who had been carried off the field with a knee injury only eight minutes previously, had returned to the game after ambulance attention.

He was at his top when he accepted Oliveira's pass and went over untouched to score.

Jim Paskins, who had not kicked with his customary accuracy, landed the conversion.

It was a great fightback by Valleys, who were down 3-4 at halftime, then trailed 5-11 after nine minutes of the second half.

Valleys deserved to win through the efforts of their hooker, Brian Blowes, who won all of the five effective second half scrums packed until the final siren.

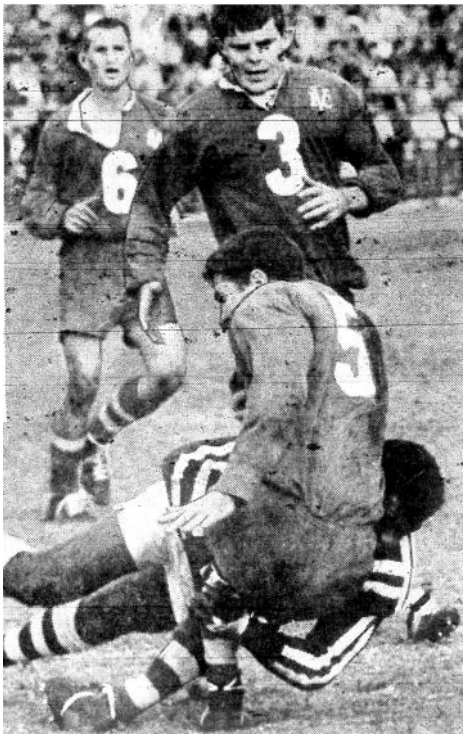
Redcliffe won their only second half scrum after the final siren.

Their five-eighth, John Treeby, in a last effort, kicked over Valleys fast moving defence.

Typical of the excitement of the whole match, the ball landed in the ideal position for winger Kevin Yow Yeh, who was running at his top and was clear of the Valley defence.

But the ball, instead of bouncing ahead, kicked sharply to the right and out of bounds to end the match.

Redcliffe put up a great show. They might have held the lead with more possession in the second half. As it was, their display of defence was splendid.



A FLYING low tackle by Redcliffe Rugby League winger Kevin Yow Yeh, made sure that Valleys top try scorer, winger Robin Gilbank, made no progress in yesterday's semi-final at Lang Park. Yow Yeh's defence and his close watch on Gilbank were features of the keen match which Valleys won by 15-11

Solid defence

VALLEYS held possession for one complete period of 18 minutes and could not get through against the big hearted Redcliffe tacklers.

It needed something extra for Valleys to score. Blowes provided it to cross for the try, which took them to 10-11, when he caught Redcliffe napping, ran from the dummy half position while Redcliffe defenders were spread wide to counter a backline movement.

Then came Oliveira's effort, which also had a touch of something extra about it.

I felt that Redcliffe winger Yow Yeh could have claimed Oliveira "ball and all" to cut off the movement.

But Yow Yeh was still right on the job with his opposite number Robin Gilbank, whom he had not allowed to move a yard during the match.

There were some wild swings, which missed, during the first five minutes when the "needling" was rife. But all players settled down under referee Henry Albert who had good control.

Redcliffe led

Stewart Northey, who landed four goals from seven attempts for the match, put Redcliffe away to a 4-0 lead after 12 minutes.

Winger George James scored a smart try for Valleys mid-way through the first half, but Jim Paskins missed the conversion, leaving Redcliffe with a halftime lead of 4-3.

But Paskins landed three precious second half goals.

Redcliffe, while in possession, always made ground. Their heavy forwards, Arthur Beetson, Henry Holloway, Rohan McNamara, and George Gledhill, given an equal amount of possession in the second half (scrums were 5-all first half), could, I think, have won the match.

This is despite the great tackling of the smaller Valley forwards, Don Lind, Max White, Oliveira, and Max Evans, and their halves, Ross Threlfo and Martin Scanlan.

The player with most penetration of all was Valley centre Denis Ferguson, whose strong elusive bursts looked likely to pull off the match.

Redcliffe fullback Rowan Gaylard also made some long gains which might have produced tries but for Valleys good cover defence.

Attendance yesterday was approximately 10,000, gate receipts £1377.

Taking in Saturday's figures of 11,500 and £1753, receipts for the semi-finals are £722 up on the corresponding matches of last year.

First scorers: S. Northey (3, Redcliffe) and G. James (2, Valleys).

Valleys 15 (G. James, B. Blowes, M. Retchless tries; J. Paskins 3 goals) d Redcliffe 11 (R. McNamara try; S. Northey 4 goals).

1965

BRL Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 12 v Brothers 5

Battling Redcliffe make first R.L. final

Redcliffe 12 d. Brothers 5. By JACK REARDON

REDCLIFFE qualified for their first Brisbane Rugby League A grade grand final with a gallant 12-5 win over Brothers at Lang Park yesterday.

Playing a man short for most of the second half, Redcliffe stormed over Brothers to be convincing winners in every department.

They now meet Valleys next Saturday for the 1965 premiership in what promises to be one of the keenest grand finals for years.

Redcliffe lost their big, fast forward Rowan McNamara with a badly gashed head in the first half. He was replaced by Col Raaen.

Then fullback Rowan Gaylard suffered a bad shoulder injury just two minutes after half-time and did not return to the field.

Veteran former Test forward Henry Holloway led Redcliffe cleverly.

Redcliffe first joined the B.R.L. competition in 1960.

The greatest surprise of the match was the result of the scrums.

Redcliffe's hooker Bob Lawson, rated the least likely to succeed in Brisbane, beat Brothers' hightly-rated Arthur Connell 9-6.

This had a good deal to do with the results. If Lawson can do as well against Brian Blowes next Saturday Redcliffe can beat Valleys.

Lawson profited from Holloway's vast scrum knowledge.

Holloway packed in the scrum in the second row, a shift which was successful in previous matches this year.

In a grim, bruising first half Brothers' attacking machine made hardly a dent in Redcliffe's magnificent defence.

There were occasional breaks by Peter Gallagher and Alex Kolomeitz, but they were quickly smothered by Redcliffe's covering tackles

Brothers also put up superb defence in the first half, and the only points in this session came from a penalty goal by Redcliffe' Stewart Northey.

STRONG DEFENCE

Each team had scoring opportunities foiled by fast-moving cover defence.

Wayne Abdy and Johnny Smith (Brothers), Col Weier and Trevor Harken (Redcliffe) were outstanding in this department.

Brothers' five-eighth, Barry Dowling forced an opening to give winger Neil Porter a clear run, which was halted 10 yards short of the goal line by Redcliffe's fullback Gaylard.

Gaylard made the best break-through of the match when he beat three Brothers' tacklers, and sent winger Kevin Yow Yeh flying clear, only to be stopped by Brothers' fullback, Morrie Pinfold.

Yow Yeh scored two spectacular tries for Redcliffe in the second half.

Flying tries

He had frequently moved into the mid-field attack from his right wing.

But he scored his tries in perfect winger's style, taking the pass at his top and flying in near the corner post.

Col Weier, always the perfect defender, played his best attacking game of the season.

But lots of credit for the win must go to hefty forwards George Gledhill and Arthur Beetson.

They repeatedly broke the tackles of the lighter Brothers forwards and backs, and maintained the pressure for the full 80 minutes.

Redcliffe's halves, Des Parkes and John Treeby also played right to the top of their form.

Parkes has emerged this season as a challenger to anyone for the Brisbane halfback spot.

Fullback Morrie Pinfold and centre Des Smith made the most of their attacking opportunities, and with more possession they might have been able to pull the game off for Brothers.

But Brothers scored their only points a try by Peter Gallagher and a conversion by Noel Cavanagh two minutes from the end of the match.

This was Cavanagh's only attempt at goal.

Penalties had favoured Redcliffe by 11-8, but only one of Brothers penalties was in goal kicking range, and Gallagher had to use an "up and under" at that stage.

Attendance yesterday was 16,000; receipts £2460. This was £700 higher than last year's corresponding match, and gives the B.R.L. £1400 more receipts already on the semi-finals and preliminary final of last year.

First scorers: Northey, (3, Redcliffe) and P. Gallagher (13, Brothers).



INTERNATIONAL Noel Cavanagh, Brothers Rugby League second-rower, was tackled by Redcliffe second-rower George Gledhill, as he tried to burst through in the B.R.L. preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—1st Grade Prelim. Final: Redcliffe 12 (Yow Yeh 2 tries; Northey 3 goals) d. Brothers 5 (Gallagher try; Cavanagh goal)

1965

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 15 v VALLEYS 2

Redcliffe outplayed Valleys; Masters in R.L. final

By JACK REARDON

REDCLIFFE, Brisbane's youngest Rugby League club, outplayed Valleys, the oldest club, to win the B.R.L. premiership grand final by a surprising 15-2 at Lang Park yesterday.

The win was a triumph for Redcliffe's veteran captain-coach, Henry Holloway, who brought his team to a wonderful pitch of fitness for the most important game in the club's history.

It was Redcliffe's first Grand-final. They entered Brisbane Rugby League club competition on full scale only in 1960.

Holloway cleverly led his team, using variety in attack, inspiring them with his own short bursts, and urging them on for the full 80 minutes.

The official attendance was 25,309. It was the best of the season, and a record for a club match. Receipts of £4126/11/- were also a club record.

Holloway capped his performance with a smart field goal, snapped from 30 yards out, to give his team the halftime lead of 9-2.

Spectacular winger Kevin Yow Yeh lifted the huge crowd to its feet every time he handled the ball.

Yoh Yeh crossed for two smart tries, the first when he followed a short kick by five-eighth John Treeby.

The second was from a typical winger's dash for the corner after half-back Des Parkes had opened up a gap.

It was a surprisingly easy victory for Redcliffe, who looked winners after the first 10 minutes.

Valleys' supporters waited in vain for their team to fight back.

In four previous meetings this year Valleys had won three times and were favourites to win this match.

But they were never in the race. They had some brief period when they stormed at Redcliffe's line, but could not make the final penetration to score.



SO NEAR, yet so far . . . Valleys lock Max White was within inches of the tryline when the ball was jolted from his hands by Redcliffe defenders (from left) Col Raaen, Neville Johnson, and Stewart Northey.



Didn't cross line

THE scores tell the story of Redcliffe's magnificent defence. Valleys' only point came from a penalty goal. They were unable to score a try.

Their big forwards, Arthur Beetson, George Gledhill and Col Raaen, pummelled Valleys defence and drove the lighter team back with crashing runs.

Beetson as always proved tremendously hard to bring down. Twice I saw Don Lind the best tackler in Brisbane, dive at Beetson with flying tackles and bounce off.

Three Redcliffe players who worked overtime in defence were lock Col Weier, five-eighth John Treeby and centre Trevor Harken.

And all three turned in top attacking games, Weier and Treeby their best of the season.

Smart half

Half back Des Parkes showed further improvement to finish on top of Valleys' halfback Ross Threlfo.

Young fullback Nev Johnson, playing his first A. grade game, came through with flying colours on the few occasions when he was put under pressure. His tackling and handling were very secure.

Holloway's scrum tactics paid off. He packed down second row for most of the first half, when his hooker Bob Lawson won scrums 7-4.

In the second half Holloway did not always pack second row, and Valleys hooker, Brian Blowes, got right on top to win scrums 5-1.

Valleys lapses

But with all that share from scrums, Valleys still did not have possession for as long as Redcliffe.

In the actual playing time Redcliffe had the ball for 15 minutes, Valleys for 12 minutes.

The difference can be accounted for by Valleys unusually high ratio of dropped passes.

They were never able to get into their attacking stride.

Centre Mick Retchless looked dangerous in attack until he was forced to leave the field with a knee injury in the first half.

He was replaced by Les Glover.

Ross Threlfo opened up the way for attacking bursts, but Valleys typical backing up was surprisingly absent.

Valleys, in fact, appeared sluggish from the outset, and Redcliffe's great defence could not be the only

fullback, was successful only once in five attempts.

I thought Valleys erred tactically in not using a short kick over Redcliffe's 'straight line' defence, which l eaves itself wide open to such tactics.

There was a lack of variety in Valleys' attack. Occasionally Kevin Oliveira and Des Mannion attempted to switch the direction of attack, but this is one thing which Redcliffe's "straight line" does nullify

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Grand Final. A Gde.: Redcliffe 15 (Yow Yeh 2, Harken tries; Northey 2 goals, Holloway field goal) d. Valleys 2 Paskins goal).

Full marks for Henry

By BOBBY BAX

REDCLIFFE made a one-act affair of the Grand-Final when they killed Valleys 15-2 in a game which never seemed to be in doubt.

The win was very popular in all official circles.

I might go so far as to say the Peninsula boys, who thoroughly deserved their win, got what I would call "a real good go."

I'm not interested in the final tally of scrums and penalties because most Grand Finals are won early.

I would like to point out, however, that Redcliffe won seven of the first nine scrums and were given eight of the first 12 penalties.

Full marks must be given to captain-coach Henry Holloway, who should be very proud of his team.

Henry, himself, is a general only, and the way the boys rallied is a credit to his leadership and coaching ability.

No praise is too high for the terrific teamwork of this mighty Redcliffe 13, because if I were sole selector of a Brisbane team at this moment, Arthur Beetson would be the only certainty to make the side.

Yes! I know Yow Yeh had a blinder, Harken another Gasnier, Ol Weier was a Raper at his best, and Henry Holloway looked like a traffic cop in Queen Street, but teamwork and coaching won this game for a great club side.

Redcliffe are an amazing team, and their defence is the most amazing part of their play.

When Valleys had the ball, Redcliffe had at least two or three passengers in defence, but superhuman efforts by Weier, Treeby, Parkes, Harken, and Northey saved the day.

I thought Treeby was the best player in the Redcliffe team. His display in attack and defence was faultless, and with his partner, Des Parkes, proved the perfect link.

For Valleys, captain Ross Threlfo stood alone.

My final word: Well done, Redcliffe! If ever a team played like one possessed, this Henry Holloway and Redcliffe team did just that

1965

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 15 v VALLEYS 2



Above: George Gledhill takes hold of Valleys' half Ross Threlfo in the 1965 grand final. Looking on are Redcliffe captain-coach Henry Holloway (left) and number 2 Kevin Yow Yeh.

Below: *The Big H* displays the Kirk's Cup after Redcliffe's 15-2 win in the '65 grand final. Teammates sharing the joy are (from left): Col Weier, Jim Houghton, Bob Lawson, Trevor Harken and Stuart Northey.

1965

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 15 v VALLEYS 2

REDCLIFFE RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB
B.R.L. Premiers — 1965



BACK ROW — B. Johnson (Selector), K. Welsh, N. Grant (Manager), A. Beetson, N. Gscheidle (Selector), R. Gaylard, M. McGinley (Treasurer), G. Gledhill, C. Eason (Manager).
SECOND ROW — R. McNamara, C. Raaen, D. McLennan (Secretary), H. Holloway (Captain), A. Charlish (President), K. Yow Yeh, J. Houghton.
FRONT ROW — S. Northey, D. Parkes, J. Treeby, R. Lawson, C. Weir.
INSET — N. Johnson, T. Harken
ABSENT — A. Day

RESULTS

28 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 22 (Smith 2, Porter, Connell tries; Cavanagh 5 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 8 (Metassa, Whitaker tries; Poulsen goal).
Brothers: M.Pinfold, N.Porter, D.Smith, K.Craven, P.Mahony, B.Dowling, W.Abdy, J.Lohman, N.Cavanagh, A.Kolomeitz, A.Connell, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Norths: H.Bates, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, H.Whitaker, D.Gordon, J.Hannam (c), J.Bates, M.Baldwin, L.Geeves, R.Poulsen, E.Walters, D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 11,500.***

29 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 15 (James, Blowes, Retchless tries; Paskins 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 11 (McNamara try; Northey 4 goals).
Valleys: J.Paskins, G.James, M.Retchless, D.Ferguson, R.Gilbank, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo (c), M.White, D.Lind, D.Mannion, K.Oliveira, B.Blowes, M.Evans. Coach: N.Pope.
Redcliffe: R.Gaylard, K.Yow Yeh, S.Northey, T.Harken, J.Houghton, J.Treeby, D.Parkes, C.Weier, A.Beetson, G.Gledhill, R.Lawson, H.Holloway (c/c).
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 10,000.***

4 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 12 (Yow Yeh 2 tries; Northey 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 5 (Gallagher try, Cavanagh goal).
Redcliffe: R.Gaylard, K.Yow Yeh, S.Northey, T.Harken, J.Houghton, J.Treeby, D.Parkes, C.Weier, A.Beetson, G.Gledhill, R.Lawson, H.Holloway (c/c). Reserve: C.Raaen.
Past Brothers: M.Pinfold, N.Porter, D.Smith, P.Mahony, J.Gribble, B.Dowling, J.Smith, W.Abdy, J.Lohman, N.Cavanagh, A.Kolomeitz, A.Connell, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 16,000.***

11 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 15 (Yow Yeh 2, Harken tries; Northey 2 goals; Holloway field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (Paskins goal).
Redcliffe: N.Johnson, K.Yow Yeh, S.Northey, T.Harken, J.Houghton, J.Treeby, D.Parkes, C.Weier, G.Gledhill, A.Beetson, C.Raaen, B.Lawson, H.Holloway (c/c).
Valleys: J.Paskins, G.James, M.Retchless, D.Ferguson, R.Gilbank, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo (c), M.White, D.Lind, D.Mannion, K.Oliveira, B.Blowes, M.Evans. Reserve: L.Glover. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Henry Albert. Crowd 25,309 (record).

1966

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	15	1	5	408	214	31
BROTHERS	14	1	6	379	303	29
VALLEYS	12	2	7	298	227	26
REDCLIFFE	11	1	9	331	261	23
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	10	0	11	331	325	20
EASTERN SUBURBS	10	0	11	348	245	20
WESTERN SUBURBS	7	1	13	232	325	15
WYNNUM MANLY	2	0	19	185	612	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 18 v Redcliffe 13

Valley's 5 in extra time

By Lawrie Kavanagh

VALLEYS made the Brisbane Rugby League Preliminary Final when they defeated 1965 premiers Redcliffe 18-13 after extra time at Lang Park yesterday.

Although they scored only one try to Valleys' four, Redcliffe made a dramatic bid for the Preliminary Final 10 seconds from full time when five-eighth Stewart Northey kicked an easy penalty goal to level the fulltime score 13-all.

The goal forced 20 minutes extra time and Valleys made no bones about their superiority during this enforced decider.

Of the 20 minutes, Valleys held the ball for 18 minutes in which they scored a converted try.

Valleys will now meet Brothers in the Preliminary Final next Saturday, with the winners to meet Norths in the Grand Final on Saturday week.

Valleys will need to tighten their game to have a show against Brothers.

Valleys' coach, Norm Pope, said yesterday: "Our boys became complacent after their early lead against Redcliffe and allowed Redcliffe to get back into the match.

"We should not have needed extra time to win."

Valleys always looked the better team against a depleted Redcliffe side which sadly missed the heavy rucking of giant forward George Gledhill who seriously injured his left knee a week ago.

As if that was not enough, they lost both props, captain-coach Henry Holloway and Col Raaen at half time.

Holloway apparently should not have taken the field yesterday as his recent shoulder injury prevented him from giving full value.

Silly passing

Valleys lost several scoring opportunities early yesterday through silly passes and lack of support.

Redcliffe did not look a winning until eight minutes from full time when a brilliant swerving run by centre Peter Leis penetrated Valleys' defence for the first time in the match.

From the following ruck, Redcliffe winger Norm Emery scored his team's only try and started an inspired but ill-fated rally.

When they realised the match was in jeopardy, Valleys played tight, faultless football, with five-eight Marty Scanlan, centre Mick Retchless, and lock Tony Perkins the pick.

In the heavy going, it was all Brian Blowes, Leon McGuire, and Des Mannion.

First scorers: M. Retchless (4, Valleys), S. Northey (6 Redcliffe).

Scores:—Valleys 18 (M. Retchless 2, M. Scanlan, A. Perkins, tries; J. Paskins 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 13 (N. Emery, try; S.

Reserve grade semi-finals: Wests 13 d. Valleys 8.

C grade semi-final: Valleys d. Wests 3.

1966

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 14 v Brothers 10

Norths in Grand Final ...Up by 14–10

THE mighty Norths qualified for their seventh grand final in eight years when they downed Brothers 14-10 yesterday in the Brisbane Rugby League No. 1 semi-final at Lang Park.

Norths' win was more convincing than the scores suggest. They scored the only tries of the match and their powerful defence frustrated Brothers for 80 minutes.

After a ragged start to the season, coach Bob Bax brought Norths to their peak in condition and team understanding at the right time.

Norths, who won six successive premierships from 1959 to 1964, must now be strong favourites to make it seven in eight seasons.

Norths were strong all round in defence, but much credit for their win must go to their forwards, because they held Brothers in this department and also got across in cover defence to block Brothers' backs.

HANDLING

Former State lock Bob Duncan was outstanding in cover defence. He also scored a smart try.

He was closely followed by lock Johnny Bates.

Skipper Les Geeves organised his forwards very well in the middle where Ron Bell, Don Simpson and Alan McLean frequently presented an impenetrable wall to Brothers.

Brothers, as they have done so frequently in recent years, helped bring about their own defeat through handling errors.

Very early in the first half, Dennis Manteit broke through, served Johnny Lehman and with the goal posts wide open, centre Barry Dowling failed to hold a high pass, five yards from the line.

Half back Johnny Smith, Dowling and lock Wayne Abdy set up another opening just before half time, but Abdy's pass inside was intercepted by half-back Johnny Brown.

Again, early in the second half, Johnny Gleeson made a superb 50-yard swerving run, only to see his pass intercepted.

But the fighting Irish live to fight again. They will play the winner of today's second semi-final between Valleys and Redcliffe in next Saturday's preliminary final.

This could be to their benefit. Some Brothers players were obviously short of match practice yesterday.

By JACK REARDON

This extra match before the grand final, providing they can win it, should bring players like Gallagher and Abdy to a higher peak.

Brothers unluckily lost Abdy at half time yesterday, through a leg injury. He was replaced by Michael McAuliffe.

Some Brothers' players appeared to lose their zest for the hard game just before half-time. In the early stages of the second half, they looked even worse.

Brothers actually did not spark up until Noel Cavanagh levelled the scores at 10-all after 26 minutes of the second half. But Norths never relaxed their tremendous tackling.

Cavanagh, who was Brothers' best forward, scored all of their points with five penalty goals from seven attempts.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—1st grade semi-final: Norths 14 (Duncan, Lobegeiger tries; Lobegeiger 4 goals) d. Brothers 10 (Cavanagh 5 goals).

NORTHS' second rower Bob Duncan is ready to ground the ball and register his team's first try despite John Bourke's tackle during yesterday's Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park. Norths, by their 14-10 win, advance to the Grand Final. Brothers must beat the winner of the Valleys - Redcliffe match today to ensure their final spot.



TOP POINTS scorer for Norths yesterday — fullback Peter Lobegeiger — strides past Brothers' defender Ken Craven to post three of his 11 points in yesterday's semi-final at Lang Park. Lobegeiger's other eight points came from four goals.



1966

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 7 v Valleys 6

Brothers made it home by a point

BY JACK REARDON

BROTHERS held on grimly for the last five minutes to beat Valleys by one point in the B.R.L. preliminary Rugby League final at Lang Park yesterday.

The Fighting Irish won 7-6 and will meet Norths next Saturday in what promises to be the best Grand Final for years.

Brothers, obviously tired from the gruelling match, called on their last reserves of defence to withstand the Diehards' determined assault which went close to changing the result of the game.

Valley forward Des Mannion, an outstanding player, kept Valleys at top pressure in that pulsating last period as the large crowd rose to its feet.

Mannion, John Crawford, Leon McGuire, and Brian Blowes, in turn were nearly through for winning points.

Five yards short

With only eight seconds to go, winger Mike Norris played an elusive burst along the touchline and was pulled down only five yards short.

Brothers have not risen to such heights in defence for years.

Noel Cavanagh, who had just about played himself into the ground, repeatedly put down the most dangerous Valley players.

Halves John Gleeson and John Smith always got back in cover defence to help block every Valley assault.

It had been an exciting game right through, with the difference in scoring never more than two points.

But the final burst by Valleys and the big hearted defence by Brothers made it a great game.

Luck was not with Valleys. They scored two tries to Brothers' one, but their goal-kicker, Jim Paskins was off target and missed his four attempts.

There was not much between the teams. Valleys appeared to have the better of the first half in which they scored the only try.

But Brothers led by 4-3 at halftime from two penalty goals by Cavanagh.

The win was a great fight back for Brothers who were hard hit by injuries to top players Peter Gallagher, Wayne Abdy, and John Lohman.

But Alex Kolomeitz, Danny McGuiness, and Arthur Connell were worthy replacements.

Kolomeitz made frequent bursts down the blind side of the rucks in the first half He also tackled well, but was injured and replaced by Morrie McAuliffe at halftime.

Three stars

Cavanagh, I thought, was Brothers' hardest worker for the 80 minutes.

Denis Manteit played his hardest game of the season. Despite an ankle injury for which he received ambulance attention, he finished the match defending strongly with the rest of the side. He also penetrated down the middle of the field frequently.

Centre Des Smith was another who played his soundest game of the season. I cannot recall one error by him.

Smith also was brilliant in scoring Brothers' only try.

It followed a magnificent burst by Johnny Gleeson, who beat at least seven tacklers, and put Brothers right on the attack inside Valleys' 25.

The try came after a sustained assault during which Manteit, Cavanagh, Barry Dowling, and John Smith had gone close to scoring.

Finally, Gleeson ran sharply from a ruck, served Des Smith, who passed to Dowling and then doubled inside to take a slick pass and go over under a swarm of Valley defenders.

This was a game which produced good attack by both teams, and, as the scores indicate, strong defence.

Best try

Valleys' first try scored by Mick Retchless was the best of the match.

The Diehards had worked play into Brothers' half and quick service by halfback, Ross Threlfo sent them on the attack.

Mannion, standing wide of the ruck, took Threlfo's pass and sent Retchless clear. Retchless drew the Brothers' winger, gave Norris an open burst then Retchless, backing up, took an inside pass from Norris and crashed over for the try.

Valleys had held possession for long periods in the first half and soon after halftime they attacked again

Brothers held on strongly against the hammering at their goalline until finally Mannion forced a gap through which he sent Tony Perkins for their second try.

Paskins missed the attempt at conversion but the Diehards had gained a 6-4 lead and appeared to be on top.

Attendance was 10,893. Gate receipts were $332.





THREE points went on the board for Valleys when lock Tony Perkins' (8) scored this try against Brothers in the Rugby League preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday. Brothers players are (l. to r.): Maurice McAuliffe (on ground) and John Smith (diving). In the background are Mike Norris and Mick Retchless (Valleys), and touch judge Pat McGrory.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. preliminary finals, A Gde. — Brothers 7 (D. Smith try, Cavanagh 2 goals) d. Valleys 6 (Retchless, Perkins, tries);

1966

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 9 v BROTHERS 6

NORTHS 9—BROTHERS 6: AND THAT'S IT FOR 1966

Wild League final as Norths win

By JACK REARDON

TWO players were sent off the field and a spectator attacked the referee in a sensational Brisbane Rugby League grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

Norths, favourites to win, took out their seventh premiership in eight years by defeating Brothers 9-6 in a gruelling, hard tackling game.

The win was a triumph for Bob Bax, who has coached Norths to six of their premiership wins.

This was Norths' narrowest win. Only one try was scored, when Norths' centre Ray Cattanach flashed over near the posts four minutes after the start of the game.

The sensational sending off happened in the 30th minute. Brothers' five-eighth Johnny Gleeson was flattened by a vicious head tackle after he had kicked the ball.



MOULD . . . in hospital after the game.

Immediately Norths' five - eighth, Grant Mould, was knocked to the ground.

Referee Henry Albert sent Brothers' forward Dennis Manteit off, and also indicated that Mould was included.

Mould, however, at that stage, had no interest. He was unconscious, was placed in an ambulance, and taken to hospital.

Pushed ref.

A spectator vaulted the fence near the northern terraces, ran across, and pushed Albert.

Brothers' players Arthur Connell and Morrie Pinfold grabbed the spectator and rushed him to the sideline, and sent him sprawling on his face in front of the grandstand.

Two policemen then took over.

There was little between the teams for the full 80 minutes.

Brothers looked smarter in attack in the second half when they got away from orthodoxy and varied their tactics.

I thought that they must eventually crack Norths' defence in that period but they just could not beat the final tackle, or they ran out of men in support.

During this period winger Nell Porter, five-eighth Johnny Gleeson, forwards Arthur Connell and Peter Gallagher each got within a yard or two of a try, only to be floored by a Norths defender.

Henry Hegarty and Les Geeves were outstanding in a sound strong North team.

Hegarty did not make one mistake in any department and his clever positional running often had Brothers defence puzzled.

Geeves, Norths' captain got through a tremendous amount of tackling and organised his forwards splendidly.

Hegarty won the Owen Weller $20 bonus for the outstanding player of the match.

Barry Dowling played his best game of the season for Brothers.

He split Norths defence four times in the first half, and twice in the first five minutes of the second half.



MORRIE PINFOLD (left) and Artie Connell escorted an over enthusiastic spectator off Lang Park yesterday after he had rushed on the ground to have a "few words" with referee Henry Albert.



Norths' defence tight

Norths defence always was too strong, and every threat to their goal line saw the entire team literally pouring back to defend their goal line.

Heavy showers made conditions slippery underfoot, but both teams handled the wet ball well.

Fullback Peter Lobegeiger was another star for Norths. He engineered Cattenach's try with a great burst through and he showed surprising speed in later runs.

This was not a game for scouters, and no one in their side shirked the hard tackles given or taken.

The forward clash was tough but exciting, particularly in the second half, when Brothers pack, led by Peter Gallagher, switched their attention to the middle of the rucks and did penetrate.

Gallagher Noel Cavanagh Johnny Lohman, and Connell made ground frequently but just as frequently Geeves Don Simpson Alan McLean, and Peter Hall halted Brothers' progress.

Field goal

Hall came into Norths team when Bob Duncan was forced to withdraw because of an eye injury suffered at work.

Hall was a good replacement. He was a great ball distributor, backed up well, and did his share in the heavy defence.

Halfback Johnny Brown was sound and orthodox and contributed a valuable two points from a clever field goal.

Brothers fullback, Morrie Pinfold, playing his first game for many weeks, was close to top form.

He was at his best in defence when Norths hammered at Brothers' goal line late in the match and he has lost none of his brilliant penetration.

The heavy showers which started in the suburbs around midday cut the attendance to 22,000.

Brothers hooker, John Bourke, won scrums 12-9 over L. Geeves.

Referee Albert lashed Norths with 10 penalties in the first 25 minutes, mainly for offside in the rucks.

Penalties for the match favoured Brothers 20-12.

First scorers: Cattanach (4, Norths) and Cavanagh (8, Brothers).

Redcliffe proved too strong for the smart attacking but lighter Easts side in the Reserve Grade grand Final. Redcliffe led by 3-2 at half-time and won the match 12-2.

Angie Day kicked two magnificent long-distance goals.

In the Third Grade grand final Norths champion team, who had scored over 800 points this season, took 57 minutes to take the lead over Valleys. Norths finally won by 11-5.

RUGBY LEAGUE

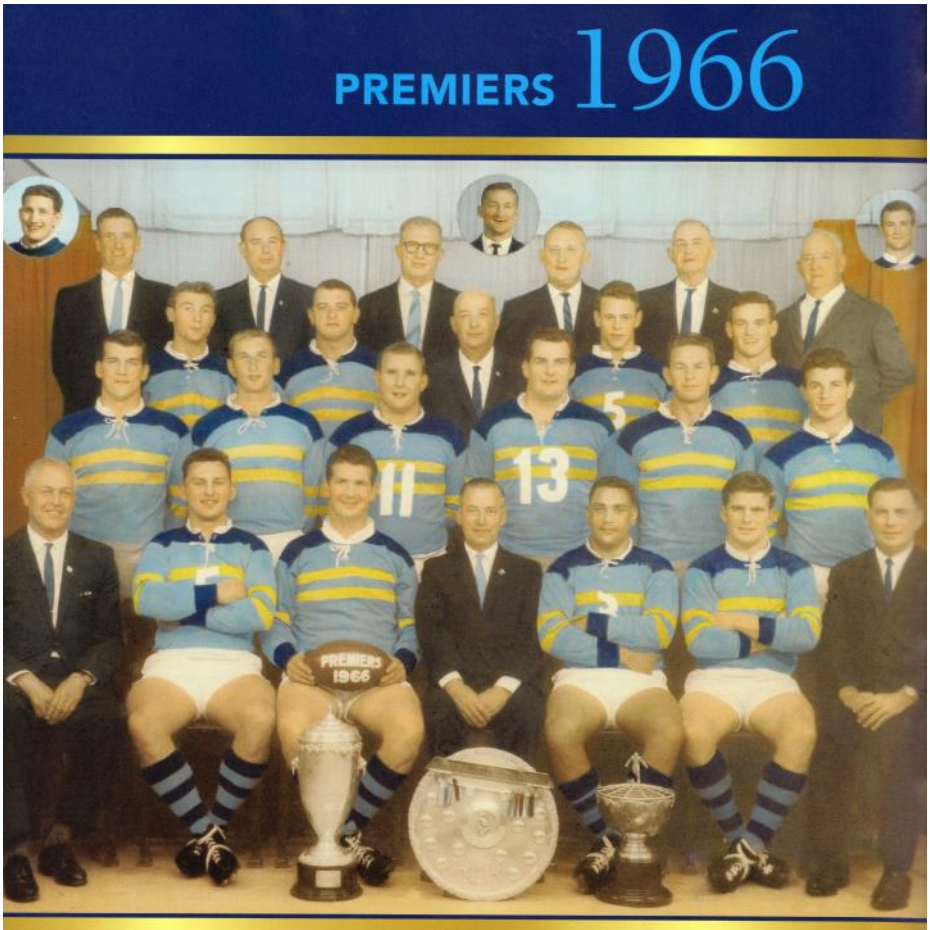
AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. Grand Final, 1st Grade: Norths 9 (Cattanach try; Lobegeiger 2 goals; Brown field goal) d. Brothers 6 (Cavanagh 2, Dowling goals).



Norths' skipper Les Geeves gets ready to drink from the Kirk's Cup after the 1966 grand final. Joining him (from left): Henry Hegarty, Peter Lobegeiger, Ray Cattanach and Ron Bell. It was the club's seventh premiership in eight seasons.

1966

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 9 v BROTHERS 6



Northern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club
Premiers, Minor Premiers – Winners Peter Scott Memorial Trophy, Thomas Borthwicks Trophy, Craven A Tropy 'A' GRADE – 1966

FRONT ROW – O.S. Denman (Hon. Gen. Secty.), L.P. Lobegeiger, L.J. Greeves (Capt.), A.L. Bishop (Pres.), H.H. Hegarty (V.Capt.), R.B. Cattanach, R.D. Bax (Coach)
SECOND ROW – R.J. Bates, A.R. McLean, P.D. Hall, D. Simpson, R.A. Bell, P.T. Mahoney
THIRD ROW – H. Rolph, F. Metassa, A.E. Roper (Sen. V. Pres.), H.D. Whitaker, D.R. Adams
BACK ROW – D. Cristison (Man Comm.), C.H. Cox (Man. Comm.), P. Lobergeier (Sel), K.F. Bertwistle (Sel), W. Burrup (Masseur), P.K. (Paddy) Foran (Masseur)
INSETS – G. Mould, J. Brown, R. Duncan, L. Little, M.J. Baldwin
ABSENT: P. Kelso, Hon. J. Knox, M.L.A. (Patron), S.P. Edwards (Hon. Treas.), A. Ward (B.R.L. Del.), M. Rees (Man. Comm.), H. Kirby, R. Poulsen (Sel.), S. Hassum (Sel.)

RESULTS

27 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 14 (Duncan, Lobegeiger tries; Lobegeiger 4 goals) d. Past Brothers 10 (Cavanagh 5 goals).
Norths: P.Lobegeiger, D.Adams, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, H.Whitaker, G.Mould, J.Brown, J.Bates, A.McLean, R.Duncan, R.Bell, L.Geeves (c), D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Brothers: K.Craven, N.Porter, D.Smith, B.Dowling, B.Milburn, J.Gleeson, J.Smith, W.Abdy, D.Manteit, N.Cavanagh, J.Lohman, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 12,000.***

28 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Valleys 18 (Retchless 2, Scanlan, Perkins tries; Paskins 3 goals) d Redcliffe 13 (Emery try; Northey 5 goals).
*Valleys: E.Stock, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless, J.Paskins, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, T.Perkins, D.Mannion, J.Crawford, L.McGuire, B.Blowes (c), M.Evans. Coach: N.Pope.
Redcliffe: R.Gaylard, N.Emery, J.Treeby, P.Leis, R.Curtin, S.Northey, T.Connolly, C.Weier, B.Bleakley, J.McKenzie, C.Raaen, B.Bacon, H.Holloway (c/c).
Referee: Henry Albert.

3 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 7 (Smith try; Cavanagh 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 6 (Retchless, Perkins tries).
*Brothers: K.Craven, N.Porter, D.Smith, B.Dowling, B.Milburn, J.Gleeson, J.Smith, N.Cavanagh, D.Manteit, D.McGuiness, J.Lohman, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Valleys: E.Stock, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless, J. Paskins, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, A.Perkins, D.Mannion, J.Crawford, L.McGuire, B.Blowes (c), M.Evans. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Ron Harbottle. ***Crowd: 10,893.***

10 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 9 (Cattanach try; Lobegeiger 2 goals; Brown field goal) d. Past Brothers 6 (Cavanagh 2, Dowling goals).
*Norths: P.Lobegeiger, H.Whitaker, H.Hegarty, R.Cattanach, D.Adams, G.Mould, J.Brown, J.Bates, P.Hall, A.McLean, R.Bell, L.Geeves (c), D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Brothers: M.Pinfold, N.Porter, D.Smith, B.Dowling, B.Milburn, J.Gleeson, J.Smith, N.Cavanagh, D.Manteit, A.Connell, J.Lohman, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 21,499.***

****All teams as selected.***

1967

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	15	2	4	337	230	32
NORTHERN SUBURBS	15	1	5	328	215	31
BROTHERS	14	0	7	413	251	28
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	1	9	313	241	23
WESTERN SUBURBS	9	3	9	289	331	21
REDCLIFFE	6	1	14	275	349	13
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	5	1	15	265	425	11
WYNNUM MANLY	4	1	16	233	411	9

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 24 v Easts 7

Brothers down Easts, title hopes boosted

By Jack Reardon

BROTHERS romped into the Rugby League preliminary final when they beat Easts by 24-7 before a record semi-final crowd of 17,500 at Lang Park yesterday.

Brothers will meet Valleys at Lang Park next Saturday for the right to play the premiers, Norths, in the grand final a week later.

Judged on yesterday's first half, Brothers would also romp through either Valleys or Norths, who produced a dull first semi-final on Saturday.

Brothers were spearheaded by their internationals, Johnny Gleeson, Peter Gallagher Denis Mantelt and Noel Cavanagh.

They produced brilliant attacking football, and although beaten for possession from scrums, held Easts out for 64 minutes with staunch defence.

But they will need similar defence for 80 minutes on Saturday against Valleys and against Norths if they win through to the grand final.

Easts, although well beaten, also produced some great football in attack and might have stayed well in the game had the bounce of the ball favoured them.

A perfectly placed kick to the wing by Geoff Connell in the first half bounced wrongly for winger John Doyle, who had the line open.

Another kick by halfback Ken Haimes bounced right instead of left for a fast moving backline at a crucial stage.

Either, or both, kicks could have produced five points each for Easts.

But that was Easts' only complaint. Coach Syd Clarke said: "We had enough possession from scrums to win, but there was no doubt about Brothers being the better side on the day."

Easts indeed won scrums 12-6 in the first half and shared them 12-all in the second half. Penalties also favoured Easts by 14-8.



IT TOOK TWO to bring him down. Brothers and Australian brilliant Rugby League five-eighth Johnny Gleeson was tackled around the ankles by Easts forward Laurie Gardiner and at the same time was faced by Easts' halfback Ken Haimes in yesterday's second semi-final at Lang Park. Well up with the play was referee Henry Albert, behind him was Brothers' forward John Lohman and also in the picture are Brothers' forward Reg Cannon, Easts' foward Merv Verrenkamp while in the background at the right is Brothers' centre Graham Cronk.

Gleeson was great

THE GREAT skill of Johnny Gleeson and accurate goalkicking by Noel Cavanagh put Brothers ahead 14-2 after 25 minutes of the first half.

Cavanagh, apart from his goal kicking, played his best game of the season. He opened the scoring with a 53 yards penalty goal.

Gleeson, with that superb timing of a pass which few players have, served the fast running centre Graham Cronk with a perfect inside pass for the first try.

It was Gleeson again who made the most of an opportunity provided by forward Reg Cannon, to dazzle Easts' defence and send winger Brian Milburn over for the second try.

This try followed two mistakes. One was by Brothers fullback Barry Kenning, when he failed to find touch with a penalty kick which allowed Easts to open up an attack and the second was when Easts dropped the ball and allowed Cannon to pounce on it and serve the ball to Gleeson.

Scored 4 tries

Brothers scored four tries. The best individual effort among them came from captain Peter Gallagher, who broke through Easts' defence at halfway, ran 30 yards, looked for support which was not there, then went ahead on his own to outpace Easts' cover defence to the corner.

Centre Barry Dowling cleverly set up Brothers' fourth try when he dummied to pass back inside, then went on his own and got a neatly timed pass to winger Milburn for another try in the corner.

Easts' points came from a field goal by their best player of the match, halfback Ken Haimes, and from a try by forward Danny Ryan, who barged over from a ruck.

Gary Glover landed the conversion.

Easts' Test second rower Geoff Connell courageously played through the match with a bruised shoulder and was among their best players.

His splendid passing to the backs was not affected but produced little result against the determined and faster Brothers' defence.

I thought the man of the match was Brothers' lock Noel Cavanagh, who was prominent in attack as well as producing his regulad non-stop defence and accurate goalkicking.

Cavanagh landed some splendid goals among his six from eight attempts.

There were also good performances from fullback Barry Kenning, centres Cronk and Dowling, prop John Lohman and Eric Gelling.

Easts put up their most spirited efforts in the first 10 minutes of each half. They were very close to scoring at least twice in both of those periods.

TRIES BOMBED

I thought Easts' selectors erred in placing Peter Williamson at fullback in the absence of Nev Clarke.

Williamson would have played competently at centre, while the more experienced Glover would have handled the pressure at fullback much better.

Clarke, after a rush trip back from Mitchell, was brought on for the second half.

Brothers "bombed" their usual quota of tries. They always seem to lapse into errors of some kind during a period of every match.

But I thought referee Henry Albert was wrong in ruling no try for Gallagher when the big prop studiously held the ball clear of the turf in a tackle and reached out to ground it over the line.

Albert signalled a "double movement" in his ruling. But Gallagher, in my opinion, had done everything correctly to avoid this ruling.

1967

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 15 v Valleys 12

NORTHS DOWNED VALLEY 15—12

Only one try scored: Big day for kickers

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS Rugby League team qualified for their eighth grand final in nine years by defeating Valleys 15-12 in a dour semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Valleys, however, lived to fight again. They will play the winner of today's match between Easts and Brothers in next Saturday's preliminary final.

Tough, unflinching defence and goal kicking, featured yesterday's match — Norths fullback Peter Lobegeiger and Valleys skipper Des Mannion each landed five goals and a field goal.

Lobegeiger was in the better form. He missed only one attempt from a place kick and his field goal was a beauty from 50 yards out.

Mannion missed four attempts from place kicks, but his field goal was also from a long range of about 45yd.

Henry Hegarty, as usual, rose to the occasion for Norths.

Hegarty can be dropped for any number of A grade matches during a year, but you can bet the family silver that coach Bob Bax will have him in the team for the semi-finals.

It was Hegarty's skill which produced the only try of the match.

He switched direction about 40yd. out from Valleys' goal line, cut back diagonally towards the left wing, and short-kicked.

He then beat Valleys' fullback to the bounce, and sent the big Greek, Fonda Metassa, over for a try.

Hegarty played soundly all day and, like all other players on the field, was a very determined tackler.

Apart from the try engineered by Hegarty and scored by Metassa and the goal-kicking, there was little else that was spectacular in this hard fought semi-final.

Norths took an early lead of 2-nil from a Lobegeiger penalty and by half time they led by 11-4.

For a long time there was nothing to bring the crowd of about 13,000 to its feet, except a couple of fights in the outer and one in the grandstand.

That was until Mannion found the target with a field goal and two penalties.

Then the excitement set in with the score at 13-10 and Valleys storming Norths' goal-line.

Indeed for about 18 minutes of the second half Norths could not break out of their own territory.

Lucky

Valleys were lucky, however to escape a penalty try being awarded against them.

It happened when their five-eighth Martin Scanlan, in desperation, tackled Metassa without the ball right on Valleys goal-line.

Hegarty had swooped on a dropped pass by a Valley back had run 40 yards and centre kicked.

Metassa, with full steam up, was narrowly winning the race for the ball which had rolled over Valleys goalline when Scanlan tackled him.

Referee Don Lancashire awarded Norths a penalty kick.

Missed

Lobegeiger then missed his only attempt at goal.

The presence of two other Valley players in the immediate area obviously prevented the awarding of a penalty try to Norths.

Apart from Hegarty's several bursts, both sides failed to penetrate in attack.

This could be put down to the disciplined defence in which every man marked his opponent well.

Cover defence also frustrated much of the attack and neither side was able to produce enough variety to overcome this defence.

Looking for individual stars, outside of Hegarty, Lobegeiger, and Mannion, I would nominate Valleys' halves Scanlan, and Ross Threlfo, and Norths forwards Don Simpson, and Les Geeves.

There were occasional bursts of combined attack by Norths' forwards, and the Valley team, which made ground.

Won scrums

Individually however, there was little between them in any department.

Collectively, Norths won scrums 17-11, and this had a big bearing on their half-time lead.

The defence pattern of both teams will make it very difficult for the more open attacking side, Easts or Brothers, to win the final or grand final.

Norths were caned by penalties 14-6, most of which were for scrum breaches.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. No. 1 Semi-Finals: 1st gde.: Norths 15 (Metassa try; Lobegeiger 5 goals and field goal) d. Valleys 12 (Mannion 5 goals and field goal).

1967

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 12 v Valleys 8

BROTHERS TAKE LEAGUE FINAL FROM VALLEY 12-8

Kenning's field goal clinched big game

By JACK REARDON

FULL-BACK Barry Kenning clinched a hard-hitting Rugby League preliminary final for Brothers yesterday with a 50 yard field goal five minutes from fulltime.

Brothers beat Valleys by 12-8 after the "Die-hards" had led by 6-4 at halftime.

Brothers now meet Norths in yet another grand final at Lang Park next Saturday.

With a gusty westerly wind at their backs in the second half, Brothers scored the only tries of the game—one each by Dennis Manteit and Barry Dowling.

Brothers were leading 10-8, but had not subdued Valleys when Kenning landed his field goal.

The wind, which the Weather Bureau recorded as reaching 42 knots in gusts, interfered with accurate goal kicking.

Des Mannion, who scored all of Valleys points with two penalty goals and two field goals, had missed five other attempts.

Noel Cavanagh landed two goals for Brothers from five attempts.

Valleys played a man short for the last 19 minutes.

This followed an injury to their hooker, Brian Austin, who was taken to hospital.

There was a sensational few minutes as Austin lay unconcious in the middle of the field.

Brothers were attacking strongly in Valleys quarter.

The ball was passed at least eight times between Brothers players before Dowling, received it for the third time, spotted a gap, and flew over for a try.

Meanwhile Mannion and Frank Drake were also down and required ambulance attention.

At the same time a spectator on the outer terraces collapsed.

He was lifted over the fence and carried to the ambulance which had gone on to the field to pick up Austin.

As expected, Brothers won this match with tries. They had the better penetration.

But there was little wrong with their defence which held out many attacking sorties by Valleys and kept their goal line intact.

Brothers tackling, in fact, enabled them to contain Valleys to the halftime lead of 6-4, when Valleys had the advantage of the strong wind at their backs.

APPLIED PRESSURE

Valleys using this wind to some advantage in the first half put plenty of pressure on Brothers.

Well judged kicks by Mannion and Mick Retchless frequently found touch deep to put Brothers on the defence in their own quarter.

Brothers, of course, used similar tactics in the second half.

Bad handling

If one was to look for weaknesses they could only be nominated as the lack of penetration by Valleys and some bad handling by Brothers.

Valleys wingers Kev Martin, Mike Norris and their lock Ron Gurnett did beat tackles.

Gurnett was Valleys most penetrative player.

But Brothers defence in the middle and in cover always chopped off the threatening Valleys' movements.

Brothers fullback Kenning had one of his best games.

His clean handling solid tackling and ability to always beat one or two Valleys men must have been of great comfort to his team.

The quick thinking Dowling was another Brothers star in attack, but he was not so secure in defence.

However, I thought most damage to Valleys came from Brothers' forwards, Dennis Manteit, Peter Gallagher, Cavanagh and Adrian Baggio.

Their crashing runs and combination in attack often shattered Valleys defence for long gains.

Valleys made sure that star five-eight Johnny Gleeson was well covered.

Gleeson seldom had less than three tacklers coming at him. He was dazed early in the game.

I thought he summed up the position very well. He seemed content to draw those three tacklers and send the ball on to less covered Brothers' players.

Brothers had major possession of the ball for the entire match and it is a tribute to Valleys' defence that Brothers scored only two tries.

Scrums went to Brothers hooker, Johnny Bourke, 10-6 in the first half.

Bourke was also leading his opponent, Brian Austin, in the second half before Austin was injured and Don Lind took over.

Scrums for the match went to Brothers by 26-12. Penalties favoured Valleys 8-3.

First scorers, Mannion (13, Valleys) and Cavanagh (8, Brothers). First try scorers: (10, Brothers) and (12, Valleys).

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Prelim Finals: 1st Gde.: Brothers 12 (Manteit, Dowling tries; Cavanagh 2 goals, Kenning field goal) d. Valleys 8 (Mannion 2 goals and 2 field goals).



VALLEYS captain Des Mannion bolts over a grounded Brothers' player in the Rugby League preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday. Brothers won the action-packed thriller 12-8, and go to the grand final.

HE'S OVER! A crashing try for big Brothers forward Denis Manteit as he lunges across the line, almost held by a Valleys player. Manteit was one of the outstanding players in the Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.



1967

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 6 v BROTHERS 2

BROTHERS WIN LEAGUE FINAL BY 6—2

Norths staged fighting rally

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS won their first Brisbane League Premiership for nine years when they beat Norths 6-2 in a gripping match at Lang Park yesterday.

But it was close; in fact, it was one of the hardest and closest grand finals in history.

Not a try was scored. Noel Cavanagh landed three penalty goals from six attempts for Brothers and Peter Lobegeiger one from three attempts for Norths. The score at half-time was 2-all.

In a spine-tingling finish, Norths went within inches of scoring a try after the final siren in a position from which Lobegeiger would have converted easily.

Referee Don Lancashire had awarded Norths a scrum penalty on the 25yd. line in Brothers' territory a few seconds before the siren.



BROTHERS aggressive second - rower Dennis Manteit had the try line in his eyes, but a Norths defender on his tail.

Lobegeiger, with a perfectly judged "up and under" kick, put the ball in the right spot.

Players of both teams jumped for the ball, which was knocked loose.

Dennis Manteit, Brothers' player of the day, was on the spot to claim the ball a split second before Norths' centre Gavan Shepherd.

Keen defence

It was a game that lacked spectacular attack only because of the keen defence by both teams.

There were occasional dangerous breaks by halfback Johnny Brown, five-eighth Barry Gills, centre Henry Hegarty, and winger David Adams, of Norths.

Barry Dowling, the most alert and quickest thinking player on the field, Brian Milburn, Johnny Gleeson and Manteit, of Brothers, were also dangerous with the ball.

But always the defence got back to cut off the threats.

Brothers took the field without their experienced forward Johnny Lohman. He was replaced very capably by Adrian Baggio.

Norths lost their strong running big winger Fonda Metassa after 18 minutes of the first half with a knee injury.

David Adams replaced him and worried Brothers in the second half.

Norths looked the more dangerous attacking team in the second session, when they enjoyed more possession from scrums.

Brothers had won first half scrums 10-4, but Norths turned the tables in the second half to win them 11-7

Real tackling

I had thought Brothers would be able to turn on their spectacular attack in the second half and win well.

But it was Norths who produced the more dangerous attack, and they repeatedly put Brothers under strong pressure in their own quarter.

Only great tackling by Manteit, Cavanagh, Peter Gallagher, Reg Cannon in the forwards, Eric Gelling, Gleeson, and Pat Maguire in the backs held Norths out.

Manteit was awarded a trophy for the best defending player on the field. With this I thoroughly agreed.

Manteit was, like Gleeson, very closely watched by Norths defenders but to my mind it was the best game I have ever seen him play in defence.

It appeared to be a clean game with few obvious cautions issued by referee Lancashire

Gills' task

But the tackling was hard and tough and frequently the tackled players got up very slowly.

One of the best jobs in defence was done by Norths five-eighth Barry Gills, who had the big task of marking Gleeson.

Gills never let up. When Gleeson did "swivvel-hip" around him a few times Gills always turned and chased Gleeson and got him.

There was one occasion in the second half when Gleeson had beaten all but the fullback and it looked like five points to Brothers.

But Gills came "from the clouds" and with a diving tackle dropped Gleeson short of the fullback.

In such a close, even game there was little between the players.

Selected judges awarded the Trades and Labour Council Youth Week Trophy to Barry Dowling, of Brothers, and Gavan Shepherd, of Norths.

They were good selections. Dowling has had a most consistent season and yesterday he played right up to standard.

Has promise

Shepherd, with limited first grade experience, looks a most promising centre.

Brothers young recruit from Rugby Union, Graham Cronk, has developed in his brief first grade career and he was well up with other centres in the game yesterday

It was a great forward battle and none shirked the hard work in the middle.

Norths Don Simpson and Brothers skipper Peter Gallagher (the big men) cancelled each other out for most of the game with Gallagher the better in attack.

Cavanagh was another who came right up to his but form for Brothers, but so was Norths' lock Bob Duncan.

You can go through them all — Baggio, Cannon, Bourke, Geeves, McLean (the most tackling player of all), Hall, young Harrison — they all gave everything they had.

This of course, is how it should be in a grand final.

If you can appreciate the wholehearted effort by players then this was a great grand final, even if it was not spectacular.

It was played before a record club crowd of more than 30,000.

Spectators were arriving at the ground one hour before the start of the C grade match at mid-day, and long queues formed for more than 100 yards at most turnstiles

The C grade grand final was a lively pipe-opener for the big crowd, whose sympathies appeared to be with University

The students took the lead over Norths in the second half with a great try by John McLean, but Norths consistency gave them a win by 14-10 after they had led 7-4 at half-time

This gave Norths their second premiership of the season; their D grade having won the grand final previously.

Norths made it three premierships when their Reserve Grade proved too strong for Redcliffe in another crowd pleaser Norths won by 14-9



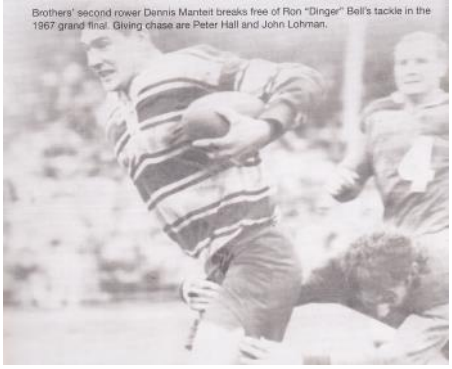
NOEL CAVANAGH . . . he booted all of Brothers' points.



BROTHERS Rugby League Test five-eighth Johnny Gleeson hits the grass minus a tooth (and with three more damaged), after he had attempted to tackle Norths forward Peter Hall (standing) Gleeson left the field for two minutes for ambulance attention, but later returned to play a leading part in Brothers' 6-2 win

RUGBY LEAGUE

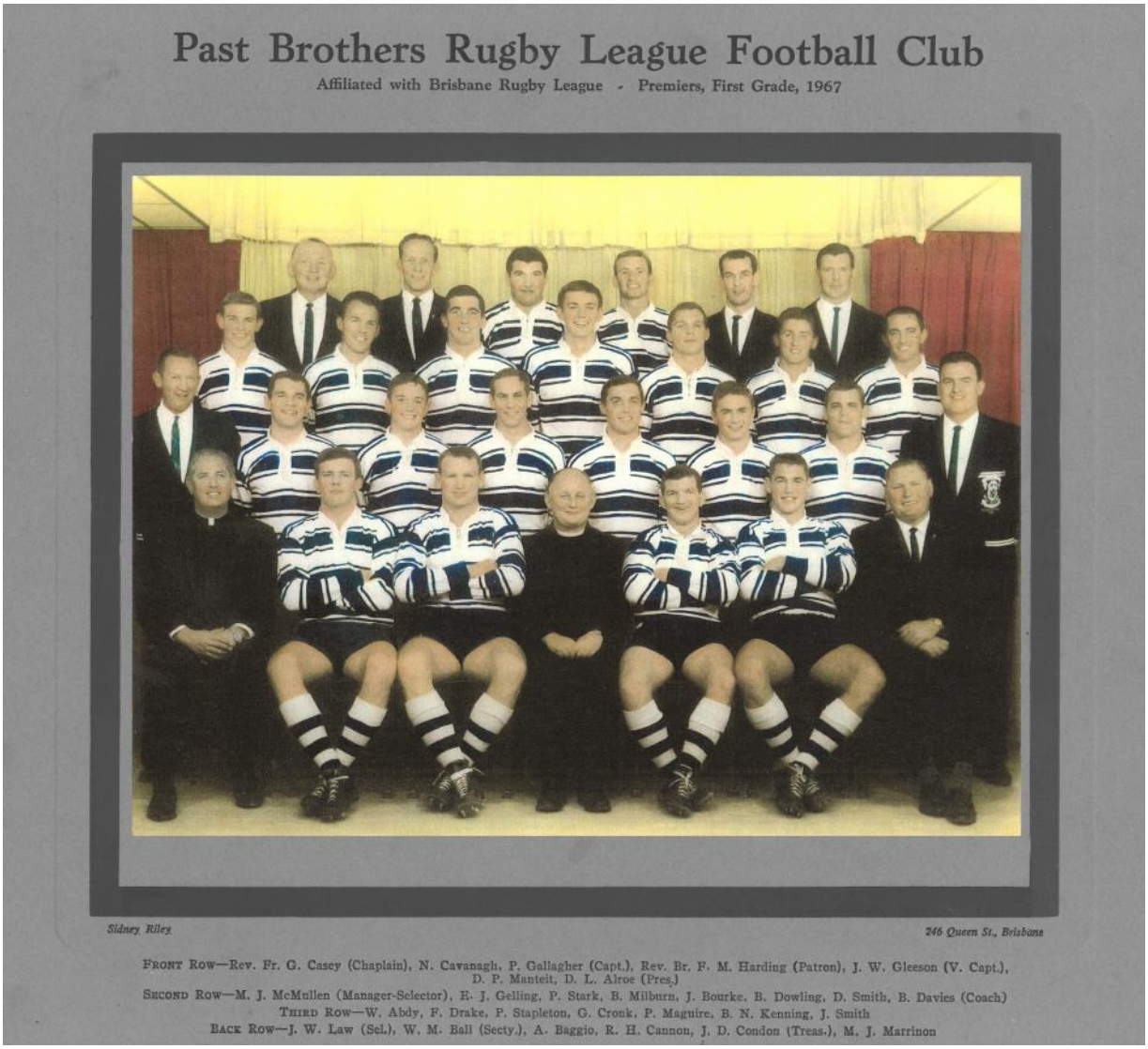
AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. p'ship, grand finals: Brothers 6 (Cavanagh 3 goals) d. Norths 2 (Lobegeiger goal).



Brothers' second rower Dennis Manteit breaks free of Ron "Dinger" Bell's tackle in the 1967 grand final. Giving chase are Peter Hall and John Lohman.

1967

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 9 v BROTHERS 6



RESULTS

26 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Northern Suburbs 15 (Metassa try; Lobegeiger 5 goals, field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 12 (Mannion 5 goals, field goal).
*Norths: P.Lobegeiger, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, T.Bishop, D.Adams, B.Gills, J.Brown, D.Elms, G.Harrison, A.McLean, P.Hall, L.Geeves (c), D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: E.Stock, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless, K.Martin, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, L.Murphy, D.Lind, L.McGuire, B.Austin, D.Mannion (c). Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 11,858.***

27 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 24 (Milburn 2, Cronk, Gallagher tries; Cavanagh 6 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 7 (Ryan try; Glover goal, Haimes field goal).
*Brothers: B.Kenning, B.Milburn, G.Cronk, B.Dowling, P.Maguire, J.Gleeson, E.Gelling, N.Cavanagh, R.Cannon, D.Manteit, J.Lohman, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Easts: M.Henderson, J.Doyle, D.Firth, G.Glover, J.Kellett, D.Wakerley, K.Haimes, S.Clarke (c/c), L.Gardiner, G.Connell, D.Ryan, R.Webster, M.Verrenkamp.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 17,500.***

2 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 12 (Manteit, Dowling tries; Cavanagh 2 goals, Kenning field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 8 (Mannion 2 goals, 2 field goals).
*Brothers: B.Kenning, B.Milburn, G.Cronk, B.Dowling, F.Drake, J.Gleeson, E.Gelling, N.Cavanagh, J.Lohman, D.Manteit, A.Baggio, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Coach: B.Davies.
Valleys: E.Stock, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless, K.Martin, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, L.Murphy, D.Lind, L.McGuire, B.Austin, D.Mannion (c). Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Ron Harbottle. ***Crowd: 15,182.***

9 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 6 (Cavanagh 3 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 2 (Lobegeiger goal).
*Brothers: B.Kenning, B.Milburn, G.Cronk, B.Dowling, P.McGuire, J.Gleeson, E.Gelling, N.Cavanagh, R.Cannon, D.Manteit, J.Lohman, J.Bourke, P.Gallagher (c). Reserve: A.Baggio. Coach: B.Davies.
Norths: P.Lobegeiger, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty, G.Shepherd, H.Whitaker, B.Gills, J. Brown, B.Duncan, A.McLean, G.Harrison, P.Hall, L.Geeves (c), D.Simpson, Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Don Lancashire.
Crowd: 31,470 (record).

****All teams as selected.***

1968

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BROTHERS	16	0	5	381	233	32
EASTERN SUBURBS	15	0	6	363	244	30
VALLEYS	14	1	6	355	263	29
NORTHERN SUBURBS	11	1	9	365	295	23
REDCLIFFE	11	0	10	357	312	22
WYNNUM MANLY	8	1	12	310	346	17
WESTERN SUBURBS	5	0	16	265	390	10
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	2	1	18	178	491	5

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 18 v Norths 15

Valleys oust Norths in thriller of season

By Jack Reardon

VALLEYS Rugby League team lived right up to their name yesterday when they snatched an 18-15 win over Norths in the last minute of the B.R.L.'s second semi-final at Lang Park.

The "Diehards", or should we call them "Gladiators", scored the winning try less than two minutes from the end.

With the score at 15-all, it looked certain that there would be an extra 20 minutes play to decide the result, and the team to meet Easts next Saturday in the preliminary final.

Then a short kick by Valleys was gathered in by Norths' winger Brian Colles, who lost the ball in a tackle.

The ball was claimed by Valleys five-eighth Martin Scanlan, who juggled it got it out to centre Wally Puszkey who avoided the touchline, juggled the ball and got it in to forward Arthur Miers.

Miers ran strongly and put a short pass to hooker Bobby Wilson, who shot over for the winning try.

This was the most thrilling game that I have seen this season. It had everything that a fullblooded Rugby League final can give.

If it had been staged for the Prime Minister Mr. Gorton's benefit, it could not have been better done.

One object

Both teams had only one object, to win and to make next Saturday's preliminary final against Easts.

Whichever side lost had to be unlucky. Valleys looked the better side in the first half, while Norths were making too many handling errors. Valleys led by 11-5 at halftime.

But two slashing tries by veteran winger Fonda Metassa (brought on as a replacement just before halftime), put Norths in front 13-11 about midway through the second half.

Metassa's tries were two of the best winger's tries seen at Lang Park this season.

For the first he beat three tacklers and for the second he beat two.

Norths, in fact, had scored three tries to one until that vital last movement by Valleys.

Norths' goalkicker Jim Hannam missed some normally easy goals for him and Des Mannion, for Valleys, also missed two vital shots which could have given Valleys a lead in the second half.

But Ron Gurnett, Valley's star of the game, landed two smart field goals, and Johnny Brown, Norths' halfback and one one of their best, also snapped a field goal to level the scores 15-all in the second half.

Coming stars

GURNETT led a batch of young players from either side who promise to be stars next year.

From Valleys there were Arthur Miers, Wally Puszkey, Bobby Wilson, Darryl Abraham; and from Norths Merv Cook, Gavin Shepherd, Barry McTaggart.

But among the seasoned players Valleys' halfback Ross Threlfo, centre Mick Retchless, and Norths' Henry Hegarty, at centre and five-eighth, and winger Fonda Metassa were very prominent.

Top forwards

Norths big pack was expected to get on top of their lighter opponents and they almost brought it off.

Peter Hall, Peter Stapleton and Don Simpson were strong in the close forward play.

Norths' hooker, Bill Wilson, won scrums handsomely in the second half but he was well below his Valleys opponent and namesake, Bob Wilson, as a forward.

First scorers: R. Gurnett (8, Valleys) and J. Hannam (1, Norths).

In the early games Easts reserve grade beat Redcliffe 16-8 to make the preliminary final, and Wynnum-Manly also won a place in the Third grade preliminary final by beating Easts 19-13.

First grade: Valleys 18 (M. Retchless, R. Wilson tries; D. Mannion 3 goals, R. Gurnett 2 field goals) d. Norths 15 (F. Metassa 2, M. Cook tries; J. Hannam 2 goals, J. Brown field goal).

ROSS HAD HIM COVERED

NORTHS' Rugby League forward Peter Stapleton (No. 9) looked set to carry on an attacking movement in the semi-final at Lang Park against Valleys yesterday. Ross Threlfo (No. 6) the best tackler of the match, stopped the run soon afterwards. In the background were Arthur Miers (No. 13 Valleys), Johnny Brown (No. 7, Norths) and Wally Puszkey (No. 3 Valleys). Valleys won by 18-15.



1968

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 19 v Easts 13

BROTHERS 19—13

Easts failed with last-ditch bid

By JACK REARDON

BROTHERS team staged a memorable last ditch stand to beat Easts by 19-13 in a thrilling Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Brothers, two men short for most of the second half, battled grimly to hold out Easts.

What is left of them after yesterday's bruising match now go straight into the Grand Final on September 14.

The two weeks is most welcome for Brothers. It could be just enough time for Kangaroo forward Dennis Manteit and hooker Johnny Bourke to recover from their injuries.

Easts, however, have only one week in which to get their star forward Geoff Connell fit for next Saturday's preliminary final against the winner of today's semi-final between Norths and Valleys.

Manteit was carried from the field with a broken nose nine minutes after the start of the second half. He was taken to hospital.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — BRL 1st semi-finals. A gde: Brothers 19 (John Gleason, Dowling, Maguire, tries; Harman 5 goals) d. East 13 (Denman 2, Pyne tries; Lobegeiger 2 goals).



BROTHERS' winger Pat Maguire appeared to get a boot in the head as East centre Terry Creedy goes in for a late tackle. In support are Easts forward Barry Robinson (left) and winger Sid Pyne.

Before he was injured Manteit had set up a great try for winger Pat Maguire, and Brothers were then leading Easts by 14-8.

Bourke left the field with a dislocated shoulder after 17 minutes of the second half, at which stage Brothers were leading by 19-11.

Brothers, with 11 men, thus held a full strength Easts' team out for 23 minutes.

Easts' only points during that period came from a penalty goal by Peter Lobegeiger.

Lobegeiger, who had kicked 105 goals for the season, had his worst day with the boot.

He landed only two goals from six attempts, and two of his misses were from practically in front of the posts about 25 yards out.

Brothers' goalkicker, Nev Harman, had a perfect score, kicking five out of five including one beauty from the touchline.

Not one

Strangely there was not one field goal landed from approximately eight attempts by Lobergeiger Harman and Brothers fullback, Barry Kenning.

Brothers' 11 in the second half rose to great heights in defence. They repeatedly blocked Easts' scoring attempts.

Sometimes there was only a yard or so in it and Easts' brilliant winger, Jeff Denman, who scored two tries, was a constant worry to Brothers.

Denman crossed the line early in the first half, but was recalled for a forward pass by forward Des Morris.

Brilliance

For sheer brilliance, however, the prize went to Kangaroo five-eighth Johnny Gleeson, playing centre for Brothers.

Shortly before halftime Gleeson took a pass from Eric Gelling about 35 yards out, then swerved and swivelled his way around four front-on defenders, including fullback Lobegeiger, and scored near the posts.

Gleeson, after a shaky start, showed more penetration than any other player on the field and he repeatedly swerved his way through Easts backs.

Two of his bewildering bursts relieved pressure on Brothers' line at vital stages of the second half.

Gelling, Johnny Smith, Wayne Abdy, Reg Cannon and John Lohman were very prominent in try-stopping tackles. In the second half,

Abdy had one of his best games and Joe Gleeson also did his share in defence.

Easts did not employ the right tactics to meet a short handed team.

Their forwards did penetrate up the middle but when quick movement of the ball to the backs was needed too many forwards were still trying to plunge through the rucks and were being tackled in possession.

There was early fire in the game with Manteit and Danny Ryan each receiving quick cautions.

But generally referee Pat McGrory seemed to have good control.

Easts were first to score when Lobegeiger landed a penalty after two minutes.

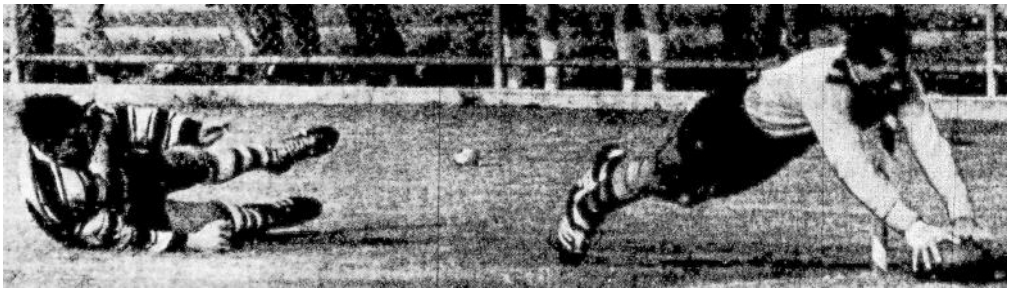
But by 30 minutes Harman had taken the lead 4-2 for Brothers with two penalties.

Then came Gleeson's brilliant try, converted by Harman, for a 9-2 lead.

Denman made it 9-5 by halftime with a diving effort to score on the corner flag.

There had not been much between the teams in the first half but Easts had lost Connell. He was replaced at halftime by young Barry Robinson.

EASTS flier Jeff Denman goes in for the first of his two tries — this was a real winger's effort as he broke the corner post in diving over — in the Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Easts, however, lost 13-19.



1968

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 12 v Valleys 9

EASTS' LATE TRY TO MAKE GRAND FINAL

By JACK REARDON

EASTS Rugby League team came from behind with a brilliant try to beat Valleys 12-9 in a gripping preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday.

Easts will now meet Brothers in what promises to be a great grand final next Saturday.

East halfback Allan Elliott engineered the attack and handled twice in the movement which saw winger Syd Pyne score between the post eight minutes from the end.

Peter Lobegeiger converted the try to give Easts their winning lead of 12-9, after they had been trailing 7-9.

This was a greatly improved performance by Easts. They moved the ball far better than they had against Brothers a week ago.

Both wingers were given plenty of opportunities.

Jeff Denman, in fact, was fed far too much at one stage but he scored his usual spectacular try.

He took a pass from forward Des Morris 30 yards out, shot through an incredibly narrow gap, and flew over in the corner.

Great runs

Valley's one try was also a great effort. It came from a long fast burst by lock Ron Gurnett for 40 yards down the left wing and a perfectly timed pass inside to winger Doug Kelly, who raced away for another 40 yards to score.

Valleys went down fighting. They were on the attack in the brief time left after the final siren, but Easts got back to block them.

Valleys were strangely sluggish in some periods of the second half. Gurnett, who was easily their best player, Ross Threlfo and Bob Wilson were still lively and full of running.

But generally apart from several bursts by Gurnett, Valleys seemed unable to get their attack functioning.

There was little between the teams in the first half although Easts had looked more dangerous in attack.

Led on goals

There were no tries in the first half and at half-time Easts led by 4-2.

It seemed that the side favoured most by the bounce of the ball would win.

But Easts on resumption looked even more dangerous in attack and Valleys were not moving up in their customary tigerish defence.

Valleys, in fact, failed to take advantage of pressure put on Easts' fullback, Lobegeiger, by high punts from Mannion and Gurnett.

Easts' winger Pyne finished only about two feet short of the goal-line following a neat flick pass by centre Dale Firth early in the second half.

Then Mannion levelled the scores at 4-all with a penalty goal.

But Easts consistently came back into the attack and they must have spent at least 25 minutes of the second half in Valley's territory.

Three isolated bursts by Gurnett, Allan Scanlan and Mike Norris relieved the pressure on Valleys, and when Gurnett set up for his try, which gave them a 9-4 lead, Valleys needed to set up a defence wall to win.

But with Easts winning more possession from scrums and smart backs like Denman, Pyne and Elliott always on the job, Valleys were unable to hold them out.

The improvement in Easts' general play and their spirited return to the attack after every reverse are a tribute to their captain-coach, Les Geeves.

Geeves, I thought, played his best game of the season.

So did Danny Ryan and Des Morris and lock Boris Crassini rounded off a good game by unloading the ball perfectly for the try by Pyne.

Centres Dale Firth and Terry Creedy also worked well with the ball and in defence, and five-eighth David Wakerley got through a lot of good low tackling.

"Look out"

But Easts players who did best, in my opinion, were halfback Alan Elliott and second rower Geoff Connell.

Much of Easts attack stemmed from their early initiative.

Easts have grown from cubs to full-sized grand final tigers in two games and it is "look out Brothers" in next Saturday's grand final.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Prelim Finals: Easts 12 (Denman, Pyne tries; Lobegeiger 3 goals) d Valleys 9 (Kelly try; Mannion 3 goals).

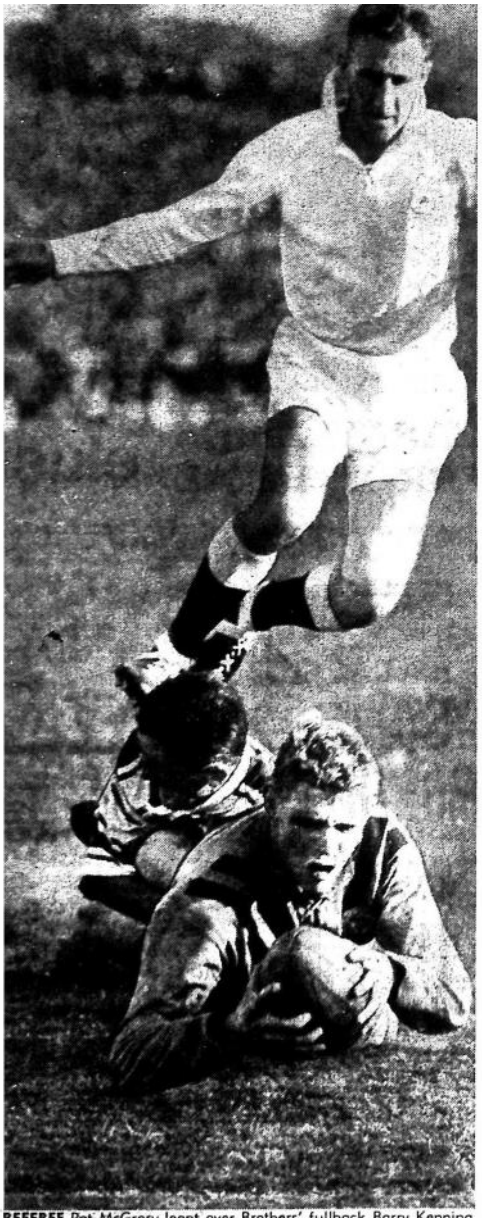
VALLEYS prop Des Mannion and Easts lock forward Boris Crassini got into holts in yesterday's exciting Rugby League preliminary final at Lang Park. At right Easts' forward Geoff Connell raced over to break it up. At left Easts' winger Sid Pyne struggled to his feet after a tackle. Easts won 12-9 to make the Grand Final against Brothers.



1968

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 21 v EASTS 4

BROTHERS TAKE GRAND FINAL 21-4



REFEREE Pat McGrory leapt over Brothers' fullback Barry Kenning as he tackled Easts forward Des Morris close to the line in yesterday's Rugby League grand final at Lang Park.



EASTS' fullback Peter Lobegeiger slammed into Brothers' five-eight Eric Gelling too late as Gelling scored in the corner in yesterday's Rugby League grand final at Lang Park. At right, the movement caused two other players, Brothers' winger Nev Harman and Easts' halfback Alan Elliot to go for a tumble.

ABDY STARS IN RUNAWAY

By JACK REARDON

CLASSY Brothers handed out one of the biggest Grand Final lacings in B.R.L. history when they beat Easts by 21-4 at Lang Park yesterday.

Headed by their flying lock Wayne Abdy, Brothers scored five tries and kept their own goalline intact. Abdy played one of his greatest games. He repeatedly sliced Easts' defence, crossed for two tries, and was great in cover defence.

But any Sydney scouts who watched the game would be queueing up to Denis Manteit's signature on a contract.

The big international forward also turned on his best football to help Brothers crush Easts.

With Abdy and Manteit breaking the line, and Reg Cannon finding the gaps up the middle, Brothers combined in devastating attack.

Easts had no answer. They lacked a penetrating inside back and were unable to set up their fast winger Jeff Denman as they had done against Valleys last week.

Brothers, in fact, had the game in hand from the first 13 minutes when Abdy scored his tries.

Easts had scoring opportunities. They also had plenty of possession from scrums, but some bad handling and lack of ability to make the man over cost them tries.

Denman frequently came in from his wing position to try to find gaps but always Brothers' defence was able to block him.

Geoff Connell started attacking movements which filtered out; Boris Crassini forced openings with his fend and strong running but there was a lack of players in support.

Anyway he has still not learned to move the ball on.

Outclassed

Easts, in fact, were outclassed. Brothers had the complete answer for anything Easts attempted.

Brothers inside backs, John Smith, Eric Gelling, Johnny Gleeson and Barry Dowling, were too experienced and always cut off supports from Easts' ball carriers.

Halfback Smith, with a clever blind-side burst from a scrum, gave Brothers their third try in the first half.

This followed Abdy's two tries and gave Brothers a halftime lead of 11-4.

Abdy had scored his first try in the fourth minute of the game.

It came from a tap kick following a penalty and two quick long passes saw Abdy shoot through a gap and run 30 yards to score.

Smart move

His second try also came from a similar tap kick but his time Manteit made the break.

Smith, Abdy, Dowling, Gelling and Pat Maguire handled in bewildering fashion before Abdy chimed in again to score.

Meanwhile Peter Lobegeiger had landed two penalty goals for Easts.

Brothers' goalkicker Nev Harman, however, was in his worst kicking form. He missed his first four attempts then landed one from the most difficult angle.

Easts opened up the second half with some determined attack and looked dangerous for a brief period.

Then a long clearing kick by fullback Barry Kenning found touch right inside Easts' quarter.

From here a quick exchange of passes between Gelling and Manteit put Gelling over for a try in the corner.

Harman missed the attempt at conversion, but a few minutes later he landed a penalty to give Brothers a 16-4 lead.

60 yard run

Brothers fifth and final try came in the 23rd minute from a burst up the middle by Cannon, carried on by Manteit, and finished off by Maguire in the corner after a 60-yard sprint.

Meanwhile Easts had some brief periods of dangerous attack and forward Des Morris was stopped only a foot from a try by Kenning's great tackle.

Denman was beating tacklers but there were too many Brothers defenders positioning themselves for him to make the final break.

In the final 10 minutes Easts were awarded a spate of penalties but skipper Les Geeves refused to kick for goal and had Lobegeiger put the ball into touch.

Geeves' decisions were correct because Easts needed tries not penalty goals to bridge the gap.

Obviously this gap would have been smaller had Lobegeiger taken these kicks for goal. They were in easy positions.

Ryan off

Both teams finished a man short. Easts' prop, Danny Ryan, was sent off the field after 14 minutes of the second half for a blatant late tackle, which left Abdy lying unconscious.

Ryan had been cautioned a few minutes earlier by referee Pat McGrory.

At the time Brothers were leading 16-4.

Brothers' hooker Johnny Bourke left the field seven minutes from fulltime after dislocating his shoulder for the second time in two weeks.

Bourke, John Lonman and Joe Gleeson were tremendous in defence for Brothers.

When Bourke left the field Easts hooker Reg Webster was leading in scrums 14-13 and finished the match 16-13.

Penalties also favoured Easts by 10.

RUGBY LEAGUE

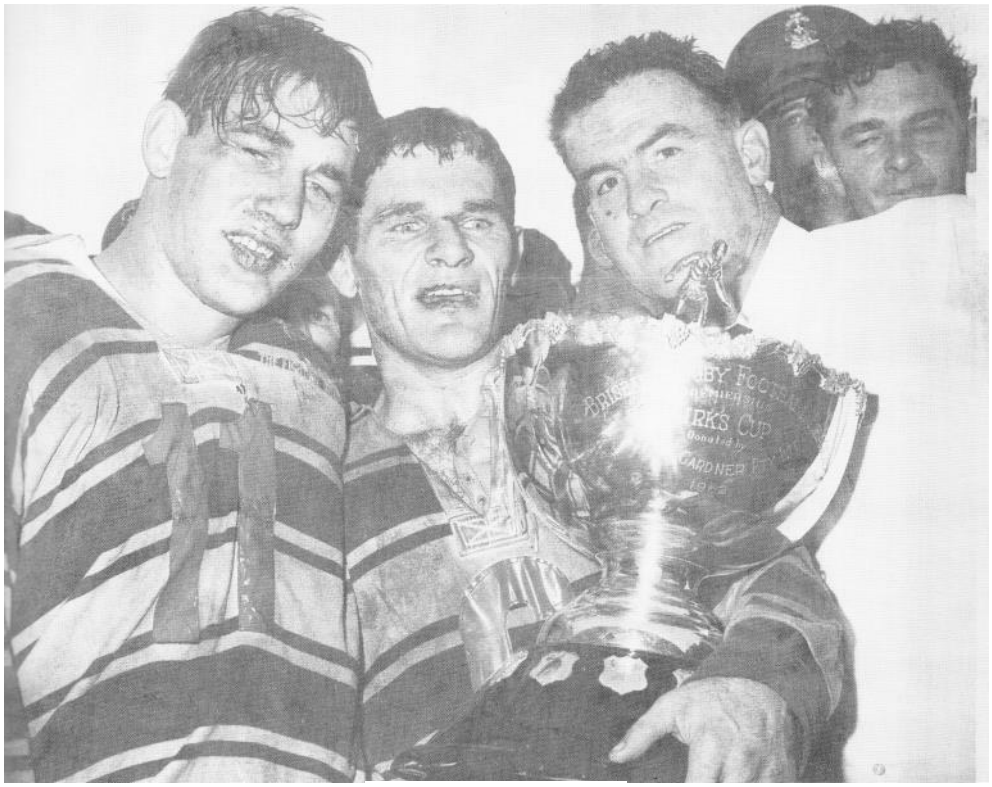
AT LANG PARK.—B.R.L. Grand Finals. A gde: Brothers 21 (Abdy 2, Smith, Gellin, Maguire tries; Harman 3 goals) d. Easts 4 (Lobegeiger 2 goals).

1968

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 21 v EASTS 4



THERE were several scuffles, like this one, in yesterday's thrilling Rugby League grand final between Brothers and Easts at Lang Park. Referee Pat McGrory blasted on his whistle while Easts players Reg Webster (in front of him) and Geoff Connell (right) raced in to help team-mates outnumbered by the opposition. Brothers won the match 21-4.



Top: A hard day at the office. A bloodied Dennis Manteit and captain Eric Gelling can still raise a smile as they join coach Brian Davies after the 1968 grand final. Brothers had just defeated Easts 21-4 to score back-to-back premierships.

1968

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 21 v EASTS 4



Past Brothers Rugby League Football Club BRL Premiers 1968

BACK ROW: M.Moore (selector), G.Henderson (secretary), M.McMullen (manager), K.Horrigan (selector).

THIRD ROW: L.Reeves (selector), W.Williamson, G.Cronk, T.Gleeson, N.Harman, B.Kenning, J.W.Law (selector).

SECOND ROW: J. Bourke, J.Smith, B.Henselien, B.Davies (coach), P.Maguire, R.H.Cannon, B.Dowling.

FRONT ROW: Rev.Fr.Casey (chaplain), W.Abdy, E.Gelling (capt.), His Lordship Bishop H.Kennedy (patron), D.P.Manteit (vice captain), J.Lohman, D.L.Alroe (pres.)

INSETS: John Gleeson, Joe Gleeson, B.Milburn.

RESULTS

31 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 19 (John Gleeson, Dowling, Maguire tries; Harman 5 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 13 (Denman 2, Pyne tries; Lobegeiger 2 goals

Brothers: B.Kenning, N.Harman, Johnny Gleeson, B.Dowling, P.Maguire, E.Gelling (c), J.Smith, W.Abdy, R.Cannon, Joe Gleeson, D.Manteit, J.Bourke, J.Lohman. Coach: B.Davies.

Easts: P.Lobegeiger, S.Pyne, D.Firth, T.Creedy, J.Denman, D.Wakerley, A.Elliott, B.Crassini, D.Morris, G.Connell, L.Geeves (c/c), R.Webster, D.Ryan. Reserve: B.Robinson.

Referee: Pat McGrory.

SEPTEMBER 1 MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 18 (Retchless, Wilson tries; Mannion 4 goals, Gurnett 2 field goals) d. Northern Suburbs 15 (Metassa 2, Cook tries; Hannam 2 goals, Brown field goal).

Valleys: N.Clarke, D.Kelly, W.Puszkey, M.Retchless, D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, L.Murphy, D.Mannion (c), L.McGuire, R.Wilson, A.Miers. Coach: H.Holloway.

Norths: J.Hannam, F.Metassa, H.Hegarty (c), G.Shepherd, M.Cook, B.Adams, J.Brown, I.Massie, P.Stapleton, B.McTaggart, P.Hall, W.Wilson, D.Simpson. B.Colless, Coach: R.Bax.

Referee: Bob Ward. ***Crowd: 18,000.***

7 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Eastern Suburbs 12 (Denman, Pyne tries; Lobegeiger 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 9 (Kelly try; Mannion 3 goals).

Easts: P.Lobegeiger, S.Pyne, D.Firth, T.Creedy, J.Denman, D.Wakerley, A.Elliott, B.Crassini, D.Morris, G.Connell, L.Geeves (c/c), R.Webster, D.Ryan.

Valleys: M.Norris, D.Kelly, M.Retchless, A.Scanlan, K.Martin, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, L.Murphy, D.Mannion (c), L.McGuire, B.Wilson, A.Miers. Coach: H.Holloway.

Referee: Pat McGrory.

14 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 21 (Abdy 2, Smith, Gelling, Maguire tries; Harman 3 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 4 (Lobegeiger 2 goals).

Brothers: B.Kenning, N.Harman, Johnny Gleeson, B.Dowling, P.Maguire, E.Gelling (c), J.Smith, W.Abdy, R.Cannon, Joe Gleeson, D.Manteit, J.Bourke, J.Lohman.

Easts: P.Lobegeiger, J.Denman, D.Firth, T.Creedy, S.Pyne, D.Wakerley, A.Elliott, B.Crassini, D.Morris, G.Connell, L.Geeves (c/c), R.Webster, D.Ryan.

Referee: Pat McGrory.

Crowd: 36,188. (record)

Rothmans Medal: Wayne Head (Wests).

1969

BRL: NORTHS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	PTs
NORTHERN SUBURBS	16	0	5	335	205	32
VALLEYS	13	1	7	343	271	27
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	1	8	343	278	25
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	2	8	319	268	24
BROTHERS	11	1	9	388	290	23
WYNNUM MANLY	8	1	12	287	364	17
REDCLIFFE	6	1	14	272	354	13
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	4	1	16	214	471	9

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 23 v Easts 13

Wests again threat after win over Easts

By Jack Reardon

WESTS loomed up again yesterday as strong contenders for the Brisbane Rugby League premiership when they produced some brilliant football to beat Easts by 23-13 at Lang Park.

This match was the second B.R.L. semi-final and the result puts Wests into the preliminary final against Valleys on Saturday.

Wests' international second rower Ian Robson played his best game of the season.

He cover defended strongly on both sides of the field and broke through Easts' defence with his long striding, fending bursts.

But I hesitate to name Robson as Wests' best player, because there were some great games from halfback Des Lea, centre Rob Thompson and five-eighth Gary Manson.

And one could not overlook lock Terry Haggett or hooker Arty Connell, winger Max Allen, or young centre Wayne Stewart, who landed five goals and was sound in other departments.

Richard Twist used his speed and anticipation to shine in attack, despite a hindering doubt about his injury, a six stitches gash in his lower lip from last Sunday.

It was a fiery game. There were two punch-ups in the first two minutes. The earlier one involved about 14 players from both sides.

As usual, no one needed ambulance attention from either scuffle.

It was different later when Wests' hooker Arty Connell, Easts lock Des Morris, and Wests giant prop Ray McCarron were flattened by illegal and head-high tackles.

But the only players who left the field with injuries were Easts' halfback Allan Elliott (knee), centre Johnny Kellett (arm), and winger Greg Lawson (leg).

Terry Creedy, Johnny Eales and Max Bennett replaced the injured Easts' players.

Early lead

WESTS looked the better side very early in the match when they led by 4-0 from two penalties by young centre Wayne Stewart.

Then they hit 9-0 when Haggett cut in for a try after good work by Manson and Thompson.

Twist, taking a short pass from huge prop McCarron, set up another try for Wests in the first half when he spun in a tackle to serve Thompson.

Wests led by 14-4 at halftime and had the game sewn right up when Robson made it 16-4 with a snapped field goal from the dummy-half position early in the second half.

Smart try

Easts' fullback Peter Lobegeiger landed two more penalties to keep his team in the game in the second half.

But when strong winger Max Allen scooped up a dropped pass by Easts and swerved through for a 50 yards run, Wests hit an unbeatable lead of 21-6 as Lea weaved over for the try.

Easts put some lift into the match with some late but lively attack which produced a try by winger Jeff Denman.

But, Wests were always on top and ran out clear winners.

For Easts, Lobegeiger, Morris and five-eighth Allan Currie were the best of the real triers in the team.

But there was an appalling lack of cover defence from scrums by Easts' second rowers, who might have cut off much of Wests' attack.

Both sides suffered at times with bad handling. Wests cannot afford to drop passes against Valleys next Saturday.

In the early games Wests qualified for the third grade preliminary final when they beat Wynnum-Manly 13-6, but Redcliffe's Reserve grade team qualified for the preliminary final by beating Wests 19-10.

First scorers: W. Stewart (4, Wests) and P. Lobegeiger (1, Easts).

Wests 23 (T. Haggett, R. Thompson, D. Lea tries; W. Stewart 5 goals, I. Robson, R. Thompson field goals) d. Easts 13 (J. Denman try, P. Lobegeiger 5 goals). Reserve grade: Redcliffe 19 d. Wests 10. Third grade: Wests 13 d. Wynnum-Manly 6.



TERRY HAGGETT, staunch Wests Rugby League lock, tried to set up teammate and centre Wayne Stewart for an inside move during the BRL second semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Covering Haggett was Easts' forward Ron Lewis, and also on the job in cover was another Easts' forward, Noel Croft.

1969

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 16 v Valleys 14

Norths pressed to hold out Valleys; vital kick missed

BY JACK REARDON

NORTHS go straight to the Brisbane Rugby League final with a fortnight's break, and Valleys will line up again next Saturday.

That is the position after yesterday's first semi-final, which Norths won by 16-14 at Lang Park.

The question now is whether Norths are better off having the break, or whether Valleys will benefit from the extra match to tone up their condition again.

There is not a great deal between these two teams and it could work out that the side which can finish on in the last 10 minutes of the Grand Final will be premiers.

Norths coach, Bob Bax, must be unrelenting in his team training for the next two weeks.

It was Valleys who showed the finishing power yesterday when they came with a rush to score 8pts. in the last six minutes.

Norm Clarke, Valley's fullback, has my sympathy. What an unenviable position he was in.

The full-time siren had sounded, the score was 16-14 to Norths, and

HAD KICKED FOUR GOALS

Clarke had to kick the goal to level the scores.

Clarke had landed four goals earlier in the match, and this fifth attempt was from a reasonably easy position.

Had he landed it, extra play of 10 minutes each way would have been necessary.

Perhaps the lapse of time between redheaded Johnny Payne's try and Clarke's lining up of the kick told on Clarke's nerves.

There appeared to be some argument at the time and referee Henry Albert called out a couple of players for lectures.

It must have been nearly half a minute after the try was awarded that Clarke was able to prepare for the kick.

Norths, thanks to the abilities of second-rower Ian Massie, had the match sewn up with a lead of 16-6 and only six minutes to go.

Massie had a great game. Even before he scored his two tries, his covering in defence and his ability to slip a tackle close in around the ruck, get a short pass away to Peter Hall and other forwards, had the stamp of class football.

Massie scored his tries from only about three yards each time, and each was from a quick play-the-ball.

Massie was alert to Valleys' tardy defence in each case.

Valleys were the better side in the first half. I thought that the way they were sending the ball on quickly with the receiver running on to the pass, would eventually wear down Norths' defence.

Valley's skipper, centre Mick Retchless, had a particularly strong first half game in which he was beating his opposite number, setting up an overlap for men outside him, and generally dictating backline play.

It was only the strength of norths' defence, which has been outstanding during this season, that kept Valleys from scoring tries.

VALUABLE TWO POINTS

The first half, in fact, was try - less. Norths led at the break by 6-4.

Fullback Barry Spring and halfback Johnny Brown had landed field goals and John Gordon had kicked a penalty goal.

Spring, who subsequently missed several more attempts at field goals, overcame harassing tactics by Valleys quick-moving forwards to land his field goal.

He had to run to his right and hook the ball back to his left to get those valuable first two points.

Brown's field goal was a quick, close effort which lifted high from about 15 yards out.

On the general run of play in the first half Valleys had a double advantage.

MORE ALERT IN ATTACK

They looked quicker, more alert in attack, and their forwards Leon McGuire, Bob Wilson, Mark Kapper and John Payne successfully blocked attempts by Norths heavier forwards to break through "down the middle."

With fullback Clarke occasionally providing the extra man in attack, and Retchless and Alan Scanlan providing plenty of top pace thrust, it looked like a Valleys victory.

Norths' coach, Bob Bax, must have organised something different for the second half because from the start of play in the second session, Norths really started to penetrate.

Maybe it was the closer backing up of Massie by hefty prop forwards Hall and Don Sampson.

But in any case Norths were breaking through "up the middle" in the second half.

Hall was next to Massie in Norths' team in the production of thrust in the second half attack, but it was Brown, halfback and captain, who repeatedly put Norths into attacking positions.

Sometimes with beautifully judged kicks for touch, other times with alert switches of direction of the attack.

Norths continued with their season's strong defence until that last burst by Valleys.

I don't know who allowed Scanlan to break through. I only know that it was a pretty weak effort, with the match in such a vital position.

And it was Scanlan who put Payne away for that last second try.

Bax undoubtedly knows the culprit. I hope he gives him a very hot roast this week.

Payne was lively, and at times brilliant in patches, for Valleys.

This fellow kept going quickly. He has a splendid pair of hands and following his enforced spell through injury he came up with a pretty good effort yesterday.

COULD BE DANGER

Payne will be a threat to the opposition, whoever it is, in the preliminary final, because I think this game could have toned him up.

Norths quick back-rowers, Jim Adams and Jim Hicks, were again tremendous in defence.

Hicks has surprised a lot of people in recent games with his ability to pull out of tackles.

If he can learn to set himself for a better pass to outside support he is going to be a very valuable forward.

Valleys suffered from lack of possession for most of the second half.

At one stage Norths hooker, Bob Fowler, was ahead for the second half session by seven scrums to two.

WON SCRUMS BY 15-13

Valleys Bob Wilson brought it closer in the last 10 minutes by winning more possession but for the match Norths won the scrums 15-13.

As frequently happens, one side took a lacing in penalties in the second half.

It was Norths on this occasion, when referee Henry Albert laced them 6-1.

The penalties for the match finished at 13-11 in Valleys favour.

Albert had asserted his control very early in the match. In the first six minutes he "pinched" players for offside in rucks and scrum breaches six times. I thought he had a pretty good game.

First scorers: Spring (1, Norths) and Clarke (1, Valleys).

Norths qualified for the grand final in all three grades. Their reserve grade beat Valleys 19-10, and their third grade, also playing against Valleys, won by 12-5.

AT LANG PARK, — B.R.L. 1st. SEMI-FINALS. — A GDE: Norths 16 (Massie 2 tries; Gordon 3 goals; Brown, Spring field goals) d. Valleys 14 (Payne, M. Scanlan tries; Clarke 4 goals).

WIDE SCOPE picture of action in the Norths-Valleys Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Valley forward Leon McGuire (11) has the ball. He is supported by Valley lock Jeff Gill (8), with Alan Scanlan (3) in the background, and John Payne (9), at the far left. But there are plenty of Norths defenders on the job with Glen Harrison (3) ready to cut off McGuire's pass. At the right are Valley halfback Ross Threlfo (7) and Valley fullback Norm Clarke (1), with referee Henry Albert.



1969

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 17 v Wests 14

"DIEHARDS" TITLE AS BATTLERS WELL EARNED

By JACK REARDON

RUGBY LEAGUE fans know now why Valleys team is known as the "diehards."

Especially the crowd of about 20,000 who saw them fight back to beat Wests by 17-14 in yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park.

For the third time in recent weeks Valleys got up off the floor to produce their legendary comeback.

Yesterday they were down 5-14 about midway through the second half; last week they scored eight points in the last six minutes to get within two points of Norths.

Three weeks ago Valleys were down 5-19 to Wynnum-Manly and still fought back to win.

They never give up and this is what won them yesterday's game which provided one of the most thrilling finishes one could wish to see.

With two minutes to go Wests won a scrum near halfway and with desperation they hammered at Valleys line, while the crowd roared in a frenzy of excitement.

In quick succession Robson, Lea and Connell missed tries by a yard.

Even after the final siren, while the game was still alive, Wests continued their attack and winger Max Allen actually dived over the goalline in a final skirmish, only to lose the ball on the way.

Wests can justifiably claim that they were unlucky to lose.

They finished the match with practically 12 men, the 13th being injured Richard Twist, who hobbled around the field for about the last half hour.

Great defend

Twist had an ankle injury. He came out for the second half with both ankles heavily strapped, lasted about five minutes, then left the field for another 10 minutes for first aid attention.

When he returned Twist was limping badly and I think his injury cost Wests the game.

Twist had made some magnificent attacking bursts in the first half, repeatedly putting Wests into scoring positions.

He was undoubtedly their most thrustful player.

Nevertheless, you cannot take away from Valleys their great defence, which time after time cut off Wests' attacking bursts with last - ditch cover defence.

After all the score at halftime was only 7-5 in Wests' favour, each team having scored one try.

Wests had looked the better team in the first half when favoured with nearly a 2-1 share of possession of scrums.

Using the plunging ahead thrusts of 18st. Ray McCarron as a spearhead, they forced gaps in Valleys' first line of defence.

Big thrusts

With Twist and Ian Robson running off McCarron, and Rob Thompson creating openings in the backs, Wests looked capable of running up a big score to enter next Saturday's Grand Final.

But just when a Wests movement looked like a lay - down try, Valleys players would come from the clouds to block it.

There is a term used in football for stout hearted players. It is "gutsmen."

Well, Valleys have 13 "gutsmen," who never knew when they are beaten and this makes them a real danger to Norths when they meet in next Saturday's grand final.

But they were not only strong in defence. Their first try was a gem of teamwork, starting from the base of a scrum at halfway.

Halfback Ross Trelfo whipped the ball straight out to five-eighth Martin Scanlan and then backed up inside him.

Scanlan aimed for the centres but turned back inside and sent a pass to Threlfo, who sped away towards the fullback, then passed to Mick Retchless.

Retchless stood in a tackle and managed to get a pass away to lock Jeff Gill for the try

I thought Wilson was Valleys best player of the day. Fast and alert in attack, getting across in cover defence, and generally being in the play for 80 minutes.

Wilson also levelled scrums for the match at 16-all, with Brisbane's ace hooker, Arty Connell, after being well down in the first half.

Valleys centre Allan Scanlan and winger Darryl Abranam also earned mention for their soundness, and Scanlan, particularly, for some surprising speed in cover defence.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. preliminary finals. — A gde.: Valleys 17 (Gill 2, Retchless tries; Clarke 3 goals. Retchless tries: Clarke 3 14 (Stewart, McCarron tries; Stewart 4 goals).



WESTS prop forward John McDonald smothers a Valley player with a hefty tackle during yesterday's Rugby League Preliminary Final at Lang Park. Backing up the play are Valley hooker Bob Wilson (No. 12) and Wests second rower Richard Twist (No. 10).

Great try

Twist, in the first half, Lea for the match, followed by Robson, Thompson, and Wayne Stewart, were the best for Wests.

Stewart scored a great try.

He took a pass from Robson, who had beaten two tacklers, ran to the fullback and shaped to pass to his winger, Brian Cook.

But Cook was well covered by Valleys defence and Stewart summed the position up like a top class centre, made his pass a successful dummy, and ran on for 30 yards to score alongside the goalposts.

Having mentioned most of Valleys players it would be unfair not to say that Mark Kapper, Leon McGuire, Arthur Miers and John Payne were well up with the rest of their team.



EVERYONE likes to see a fight, and there were plenty of candidates for this brief punch-up during the Rugby League Preliminary Final at Lang Park yesterday between Wests and Valleys. No one was hurt . . . the fight was short . . . and play went on before a packed crowd who witnessed a thrilling finish, with Valleys winning by 17-14.

1969

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 14 v VALLEYS 2

NORTHS BEAT VALLEY BY 14 TO 2

Forwards kept Norths on top in dour game

By JACK REARDON

NORTHS, headed by a great pack of forwards, completely overran Valleys 14-2 in the Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday.

There have been better Grand Finals but this was one of the dour ones, with Norths on top most of the way and making sure they remained there.

ABOUT 35,000 people at Lang Park waited in vain for the famous Valleys "Diehards" finish but it didn't eventuate.

Norths scored two tries in the first half and led by 8-0 at half-time.

They added two penalty goals by John Gordon and a field goal by Barry Spring in the second half.

Two great club forwards, Peter Hall and Ian Massie, played the biggest part in Norths' convincing win.

I thought that Hall played the best game of his career, penetrating and constructive in attack and always strong in defence.

It was Hall who set up the only real attacking try of the match.

He broke through Valleys' defence about 40 yards out, dragged in three tacklers, then got away an awkward high pass to the plunging Fonda Metassa, who crashed over in the corner.

Massie was not quite so spectacular, but he was always on the job and I lost count of the number of vital tackles he made to stop the danger man of Valleys' attack.

Massie scored Norths' first try when he followed up an unsuccessful attempt by Spring at a field goal, gathered in a dropped ball by Valley fullback Norm Clarke and went over near the posts.

This made a total of five tries by Massie in five games against Valleys this year.

It was in the forwards that Norths won this game, with Valleys' tactics back - firing on them.

Valleys tactics obviously were to make Norths big forwards run much further in defence to tire them; so the Valley forwards fanned wide.

Frequently we saw Leon McGuire, John Payne, Arthur Miers and Jeff Gill standing out among their own centres in attack.

Tactically this might sound a good idea — it could make Norths heavy forwards run further in defence.

But not all of Norths forwards are big and slow. Jim Adams, Jim Hicks and then Bill Williamson, and lighter and faster Ian Massie, although a 15 stoner, is also very mobile.

Sure Norths forwards did run further but they were in condition and they kept on running for the entire game.

All that these Valleys tactic achieved for the main part was to hamper and confuse their own back line, who, when left uncluttered by forwards, did look dangerous in attack.

The game lacked those exciting backline movements which both teams had produced frequently in earlier games this season.

Fonda Metassa, playing his last game, did bring the crowd to its feet occasionally.

Clever halfback Johnny Brown provided occasional excitement with his side - stepping, penetrating bursts.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Premiership Grand Finals A Grade: Norths 14 (Massie, Metassa tries; Gordon 3 goals, Spring field goal) d. Valleys 2 (Clarke goal).



VICTORY trophy held high by Norths Rugby League captain Johnny Brown after his team overran Valleys 14-2 to win the Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday.

Tight defence

But, generally the defence by both teams was cautious and secure and frustrated most backline attacks.

Red-headed John Payne looked to be the only Valley player likely to inspire his team to one of those well known late finishes.

Payne hits top speed very quickly, always makes ground, and with an ounce of luck he might have lifted Valleys to within reach of a late win yesterday.

There was an unusual number of injuries in this game.

The frequent stoppages for ambulance attention to injured players cut deeply into the continuity of play.

Norths second rower Jim Hicks was down three times in the first half hour.

The fourth time he went down he left the field and was replaced by Bill Williamson.

Valleys winger Darryl Abrahams came down hard on a shoulder and also left the field.

He was replaced by Wally Puzukey, who, in turn, was replaced by Ron Gurnett at halftime.



AERIAL gymnastics as North's Ian Massie does the "splits" after overbalancing Valley player Darryl Abraham in the Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday. Others in picture (from left) are North's captain Johnny Brown, Valley players Marty Scanlan (6) and fullback Norm Clarke.



DESPERATE tackle fails as Norths' Peter Hall (on ground) can't bring down Valleys' Leon Maguire in the Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday. Others in picture (from left) are Ray Cattanach (6), Johnny Brown, Ian Massie, Glen Harrison, referee Don Lancashire, Bob Fowler, Bob Wilson, Arthur Miers, Ross Threlfo and Jeff Gill.

1969

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 14 v VALLEYS 2

Below: The "Golden Greek" Fonda Metassa brings the crowd alive as he scores in the 1969 Grand Final for Norths with Valleys fullback Norm Clarke unable to prevent the try.



1969

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 14 v VALLEYS 2



Northern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club
Premiers, Minor Premiers, B.R.L. Club Champions – 'A' Grade, 1969

FRONT ROW – O.S. Denman (Hon. Gen. Secty.), R.B. Cattanach, J. Brown (Capt.), R. Bax (Pres./Coach), I.C. Massie, F. Metassa, Ald. J.J. Carey (Sen. V. Pres.)
SECOND ROW – A.L. Bishop (Del. B.R.L.), R.J. Fowler, J.W. Hicks, N.T. Porter, B. Spring, J.W. Adams, D.R. Adams, C.M. Bax (Manager)
THIRD ROW – P.K. (Paddy) Foran (Masseur), P.E. Morgan, W. Williamson, M. O'Connor (Treas.), D. Simpson, P. Hall, D. Christison (Man. Comm.)
FOURTH ROW – P. Lobegeier (Sel.), G. Lacey, G. Whyte, G. Harrison, C. Smith, J. Hannam (Man. Com. & Sel.)
AT BACK – K.J. Brasch (Trainer)

RESULTS

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 16 (Massie 2 tries; Gordon 3 goals, Brown, Spring field goals) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (Payne, Scanlan tries; Clarke 4 goals).
Norths: B.Spring, F.Metassa, G.Harrison, J.Gordon, D.Adams, R.Cattanach, J.Brown (c), J.Adams, J.Hicks, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Fowler, D.Simpson. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, R.Gurnett, A.Miers, L.McGuire, B.Wilson, M.Kapper. Reserve: J.Payne. Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Henry Albert.

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 23 (Haggett, Thompson, Lea tries; Stewart 5 goals, Robson, Thompson field goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 13 (Denman try; Lobegeiger 5 goals).
Wests: K.Craven, M.Allen, R.Thompson, W.Stewart, B.Cook, G.Manson (c), D.Lea, T.Haggett, I.Robson, R.Twist, J.McDonald, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: K.Lingard.
Easts: P.Lobegeiger, G.Lawson, J.Kellett, D.Wakerley, J.Denman, A.Currie, A.Elliott, D.Morris, N.Croft, G.Connell, L.Geeves (c/c), K.Murphy, R.Lewis.
Referee: Don Lancashire.

6 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 17 (Gill 2, Retchless tries; Clarke 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 14 (Stewart, McCarron tries; Stewart 4 goals).
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, M.Retchless (c), A.Scanlan, D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Payne, A.Miers, M.Kapper, B.Wilson, L.McGuire. J.Payne. Coach: H.Holloway.
Western Suburbs: K.Craven, M.Allen, W.Stewart, R.Thompson, B.Cook, G.Manson (c), D.Lea, T.Haggett, R.Twist, I.Robson, J.McDonald, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: K.Lingard.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

13 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 14 (Metassa, Massie tries; Gordon 3 goals, Spring field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 2 (Clarke goal).
Norths: B.Spring, F.Metassa, G.Harrison, J.Gordon, D.Adams, R.Cattanach, J.Brown (c), J.Adams, J.Hicks, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Fowler, D.Simpson. Reserve: W.Williamson. Coach: R.Bax.
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, A.Scanlan, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Payne, A.Miers, L.McGuire, B.Wilson, M.Kapper. Coach: H.Holloway.
Referee: Don Lancashire. ***Crowd: 34,752.***

Rothmans Medal: John Brown (Norths).

1970

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BROTHERS	16	0	5	404	265	32
NORTHERN SUBURBS	14	2	5	418	233	30
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	13	0	8	401	337	26
VALLEYS	12	1	8	378	299	25
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	0	9	358	278	24
EASTERN SUBURBS	7	0	14	304	295	14
REDCLIFFE	5	1	15	251	402	11
WYNNUM MANLY	3	0	18	257	562	6

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 41 v Souths 9

VALLEY BOLT HOME 41-9 OVER SOUTHS

BY JACK REARDON

VALLEYS, the team that scraped in by the grace of "wooden-spooners" Wynnum Manly, bolted away to beat Souths by 41-9 in the Brisbane Rugby League 2nd semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Valleys thus qualify for the preliminary final next Sunday, in which they will meet the loser of today's first semi-final between Brothers and Norths.

Souths are finished for the season but they can take comfort from the fact they reached the semi-finals in 1970 after running last in 1969. It was a great effort.

Devastating defence and precision passing were the main features of a great display of centre threequarter play by Retchless, who has again announced his intention of retiring after this season.

If there were any individual prizes to be given for this match the main one would have to go to fullback, Norm Clarke, who landed nine goals from 11 attempts.

Nearly half of Clarke's goals were from long and difficult angles.

Clarke also was very prominent in supplying the extra man in Valleys attack.

You could not pick out a weak player in Henry Holloway's team yesterday and, on that form, they must be regarded as probable grand finalists no matter which team they have to beat in the preliminary final.

Holloway certainly has Valleys tuned up for semi-final football.

Many people thought that Valleys would beat Souths, but no one expected them to win by such a big margin.

It was Valleys best effort of the year and it certainly was the best game that their skipper, Mick Retchless, has turned in for a long time.

No team this year has backed up so well in attack and defence as Valleys did yesterday.

One of the best of them was that try-scoring hooker Hughie O'Doherty, who crossed for another two yesterday.

Souths hard tackling pack was expected to get on top of Valleys. They had done so in previous matches between these two teams.

HARD TACKLING

Merv Alloway, Alan Rowan, Greg Velvers and Mick Kowal certainly got through plenty of tackling in the first half and some of them in the early part of the second half.

Jim Murphy attacked well, brilliantly scoring Souths only try.

Volavola and Nabuta tried to break through up the middle in the second half with some success.

But never at any stage did Souths look like getting on top in the forwards and there was too much among the backs for them to gain any advantage in that department.

Valleys played it wide and fast in the rucks. They moved the ball on beautifully, with forwards Tony Perkins, John Crilly, Arthur Miers, Jeff Gill and O'Doherty getting into the attacking movements.

Souths were in the game until about midway through the second half.

In fact they had an early lead of 7-nil from Murphy's try, in which he fended off three tacklers and from two goals from Tony Scott.

Valleys came into the points picture with a great try in which Clarke, Perkins and Retchless opened up the way for brilliant young centre Ray Smith to score.

Then, with Clarke regularly landing goals and everyone playing for the team, Valleys went to the front.

They led by 13-7 at halftime and scored 28 points to the last 25 minutes of the match

Souths could manage only a penalty goal in the second half and they cracked rather badly in the last 20 minutes.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK: — Q.R.L. Metropolitan Area, Valleys 41 (O'Doherty 2, Miers, Stadden, Retchless, Smith, Morris tries; Clarke 9 goals; Smith field goal) d. Souths 9 (Murphy try; Scott 3 goals).

Make no mistake, Valleys are really in the premiership picture. Coach Holloway forecast this even before his team had the tremendous luck to make the semi-finals.

After yesterday's display Holloway and rival coaches Bob Bax and Eric Melling had better start thinking seriously about Valleys.

First scorers: T. Scott (1, Souths); Smith (3, Valleys).

In Reserve grade semi-final Easts scored all of their points in the second half to beat Valleys by 17-14 in an exciting curtain raiser.

For Easts halfback Terry Creedy scored two tries and Bruce Hatcher landed four goals.

The C Grade semi-final went to Redcliffe, who defeated Easts by 11-7.

1970

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths 12 v Brothers 4

Norths go into Grand Final; scrappy 12-4 win

By Jack Reardon

THE BETTING odds for Valleys as 1970 B.R.L. premiers must have shortened considerably yesterday following an uninspiring first semi-final between Norths and Brothers at Lang Park.

Norths won by 12-4 and now go direct to the Grand Final on Saturday week.



NORTHS lock Ron Streek manages to scoop up this pass from a team mate tackled by Brothers' Peter Reilly (left) and front rower Steve Lean (No. 11) during the No. 1 semi-final at Lang Park yesterday while Norths hooker Bob Wilson looks on. Norths reached the Grand Final by downing Brothers 12-4.

Brothers will meet Valleys in the preliminary final next Sunday for the right to play Norths in the Grand Final.

On the form shown so far in the two semi-finals, Valleys should eat Brothers on Sunday, then find Norths tougher but still digestible a week later.

I cannot recall watching a scrappier semi-final than Norths and Brothers turned on yesterday, particularly in the second half.

The further the game progressed, the more it deteriorated and many of the crowd of about 25,000 began leaving Lang Park 10 minutes from the end.

Both teams by this time had plumbed the depths of bad handling, unimaginative attack, and just sheer poor football.

I do not expect either team to play as badly again.

Exceptions

There were some individual exceptions to severe criticism.

Norths' fullback, Peter Lobegeiger, had a good game, so did Peter Hall, Ian Massie and at times Peter Stapleton.

In the backs, centre Glen Harrison made some splendid openings, which were not exploited.

Reg Cannon, Barry Dowling and Johnny Smith, sometimes Graham Lena and Wayne Abdy, were Brothers' best.

The game opened vigorously and Brothers had to defend desperately in their own territory for the long early period.

Strong running

THE strong running Glen Harrison troubled Brothers' backs. He beat Lena twice and more skilful supporting from his own team should have brought tries from those breaks.

Dowling, Cannon, and Johnny Smith, in return, also had Norths scurrying back in defence.

A break by Cannon down the middle saw Brothers' winger Clem Hovi range alongside the fullback to juggle Cannon's pass and cross for a try.

But referee Ron Mison ruled Cannon's pass forward and recalled Hovi.

Norths' winger Eric Lilley was the most elusive back on the field and it was one of his sizzling bursts which put his team into position for Bob Wilson to score their first try.

Nearly over

Wilson was close to another try soon afterwards but he lost the ball over the goalline.

Norths, with their converted try and a penalty goal, led at halftime by 7-4, Brothers' points coming from two penalty goals by fullback Nev Harman.

Brothers looked a much smarter team on resumption and centre Lena was stopped only one yard short of scoring after a great run.

Harrison scored Norths' second try when he raced in close to snatch the ball from Kleinhan's hands as the big forward stood in Brothers' tackles.

There did not seem to be any outstanding strategy used by either team and if any particular tactics had been decided upon, the players must have forgotten them.

Deep kicking by Lobegeiger in the first half was very effective in containing Brothers well within their own territory.

But when Brothers tried similar tactics they invariably put the ball directly into Lobegeiger's hands, or to one of Norths' wingers.

Reilly hurt

Brothers played the last 17 minutes of the game a man short after forward Peter Reilly had left the field with a knee injury.

I don't think that Brothers can select a better team. Their reserve graders are all young, with very little experience.

Norths 12 (R. Wilson, G. Harrison tries; P. Lobegeiger 3 goals) d. Brothers 4 (N. Harman 2 goals)

1970

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 15 v Brothers 7

Valleys got into final in last 10 minutes

By Jack Reardon

The Valley Rugby League Diehards, the team who reached the semi-finals on a soccer boot and a lot of prayers, qualified yesterday to play Norths in the Grand Final at Lang Park next Saturday.

Valleys beat Brothers at Lang Park yesterday by 15-7 in the preliminary final — a match which had the big crowd frequently on its feet until 10 minutes from the end.

As forecast it was a cliff hanger until the last 10 minutes, with Brothers leading 7-5 at halftime, Valleys going to 9-7, then Mick Retchless diving over to clinch the win 10 minutes from the end and making it 12-7.

Winger Mike Norris weaved through Brother's defence three minutes from the end to make it 15-7.

Man short

Brothers played a man short for 25 minutes of the second half through injury to prop forward Steve Lean.

Valleys' win was only clear cut in the closing stages. Until 12 minutes from the end the score was still 9-7 to Valleys with Brothers still capable of bringing off one of their brilliant tries.

But it was Valleys who brought off the clinching tries, by Retchless and Norris.

Apart from the loss of Lean in the second half, Brothers also lost their top forward Reg Cannon at halftime. Cannon had a knee injury and was replaced by 19-year-old Greg Thomas.

Valleys, despite their win, did not shorten their price for premiership. Their hooker Hughie O'Doherty won scrums about two to one but Valleys scored only one try in 70 minutes.

This was a tribute to Brothers' defence. With the possession against them, Brothers had to tackle hard and often and they did this well.

Top tacklers

In a side which is forced to tackle for most of the game it's difficult to single out individuals. But you can put down Reg Cannon, John Lewis, David Wright and Johnny Smith as top men in this department for Brothers.

But the whole team put up some great defence as Valleys stormed at their line for most of the match.

The handling by both sides had its lapses and none was worse than the fumble by Brothers' Wayne Abdy, which allowed Ross Threlfo to score for Valleys in the first two minutes.

In the second half Valleys forward "Moose" McGuire failed to hold a pass with the line wide open for five points.

Centre duel

There was a vigorous duel between the opposing centres, with the experienced Retchless coming out well on top in the four.

But there was also some clever play from Brothers' centre Graham Lena and some strong tackling from Graham Cronk which held Valleys' Ray Smith in check.

But Smith landed two great field goals which lifted Valleys just when they needed points.

FIRST SCORERS: R. Threlfo (7 Valleys) and N. Harman (1 Brothers).

Valleys 15 (R. Trelfo, M. Retchless, M. Norris, tries; N. Clarke, goal; R. Smith, 2 field goals) d Brothers 7 (S. Lean, try; N. Harman 2 goals).

Reserve Grade: Easts 17 d. Brothers 12. Third Grade: Redcliffe 15 d. Brothers 9.



VALLEYS' captain Mick Retchless slides over for the try which just about sewed up the match against Brothers in the Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday. Brothers' replacement forward Greg Thomas arrived too late at the vital spot. Valleys went to 12-7 on this try and finally won by 15-7.

1970

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v NORTHS 11

VALLEYS 13-11 IN CLIFFHANGER

League Grand Final was one of the closest yet

Clarke gets goal in extra time

By JACK REARDON

FULLBACK Norm Clarke kicked the rags-to-riches Valley team to Brisbane Rugby League premiership honors with an angle goal from 30 yds. out – only 4 yds. in from touch – during extra time at Lang Park yesterday.

In a sedson remarkable for its upsets the Diehards provided the greatest when they beat favourites Norths 13-11 in a fiery nerve-tingling Grand Final.



FULLSTOP and retreat for Norths captain and halfback Johnny Brown (with the ball), as he is driven back by Valleys' winger Mike Norris in yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park.



"WHOA there" . . . Valleys halfback Ross Threlfo lays back on his grip of Norths' prop Peter Hall's jersey. Taking Hall from behind is Valley forward Leon McGuire and on hand to make sure of the tackle is Valley second rower Tony Perkins.

It is the first occasion extra time has been necessary to decide a B.R.L. Grand Final since 1935, when Vince Hogan kicked a winning goal in the last minute of extra time to give Brothers an 11-9 win over Valleys.

It is Valleys first premiership since 1957 and they have earned it. They thrashed Souths in their semi-final, got up to beat Brothers in the preliminary final then beat Norths yesterday.

The score was 8-8 at the end of the scheduled 80 minutes play. All the points had come from penalty goals and field goals.

Each team scored a try in the first 10 minutes of extra time. Norths' fullback Peter Lobegeiger, however, missed the difficult-angled kick to convert his team's try, while Clarke landed the conversion for Valleys.

It was close all the way with Valleys going to a 4-0 lead early in the match.

Norths drew level at 4-all, but Mick Retchless snapped a field goal just before halftime to give the Diehards a 6-4 lead at the break.

Lobegeiger again levelled the score at 6-all early in the second half, then Valley centre Ray Smith put his team ahead 8-6 with a field goal. Loby came back again with his field goal to make it 8-8 with 15 minutes play remaining.

You cannot get a closer grand final than that, and I have not enjoyed a grand final more than yesterday.

It was not great flowing attack, with passing movements going from end to end of the field.

TRUE LEAGUE

But it was true Rugby League, with plenty of sting in the tackles, a few punches in heated moments, a minimum of handling errors and with enough exciting attack to keep the big crowd cheering.

I thought the win was a great triumph for Valley captain, Mick Retchless.

Mick's centre play since the Diehards scraped into the semi-finals has been the best we have seen from any centre in Queensland since John McDonald moved to Sydney.

This grand final could have gone either way. In fact, a very close decision by a touch judge during extra time took a winning try from Norths.

With only three minutes to go in the extra time, Norths half back Johnny Brown put centre John Gordon away, and only a desperate diving tackle by Retchless forced the decision by the touch judge.

INTO TOUCH

Gordon dived and actually touched down as Retchless tackled, and the touch judge ruled that Gordon's foot had gone into touch before he forced the ball.

Norths lost their powerful line - breaking centre Glen Harrison after only about 10 minutes play.

Harrison had figured in a punch-up with opponent Ray Smith and then in a subsequent tackle by an opposing forward he suffered rib injuries and had to leave the field. He was replaced by John Gordon.

But always the young Valley pack of John McCabe, Arthur Miers, Tony Perkins, John Crilly then "Moose" McGuire came back strongly to level it out again.

Fullbacks Norm Clarke (Valleys) and Peter Lobegeiger (Norths) both attacked well. There was nothing wrong with their defence either.

Going back to the forwards, there was some outstanding cover defence by Ron Streek, Jim Adams and Kleinhans of Norths, Tony Perkins, Jeff Gill and Miers for Valleys.

TRIED HARD

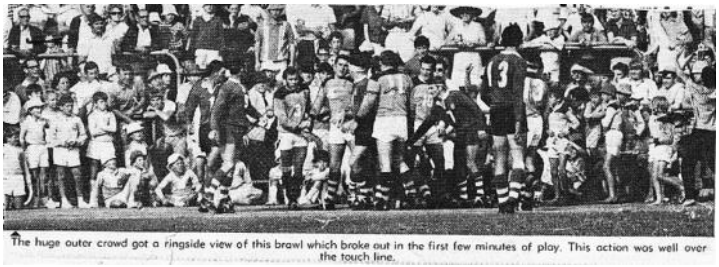
But there was no more consistent tackler than Norths second rower Ian Massie who did a tremendous job around the rucks and in cover.

The hooking duel between Bob Wilson (Norths) and Hugh O'Doherty (Valleys) finished 22-21 in Wilson's favour.

I think the only really dominating player who stood above his opponents was Valleys' captain Mick Retchless.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AT LANG PARK — BRL Grand finals, 1st Gde.: VALLEYS 13 (Gill, try; Clarke 2 goals; Smith 2, Retchless field goals) d. NORTHS 11 (J. Adams try; Lobegeiger 3 goals, field goal).



The huge outer crowd got a ringside view of this brawl which broke out in the first few minutes of play. This action was well over the touch line.



John McCabe was a tremendously talented big man who made his first grade debut for Valleys in 1970. Here he trades blows with Norths' forwards Peter Stapleton and former Diehard hooker Bob Wilson in the thrilling 1970 grand final. Looking on from left are: Peter Hall, Johnny Brown and Ross Threlfo.

1970

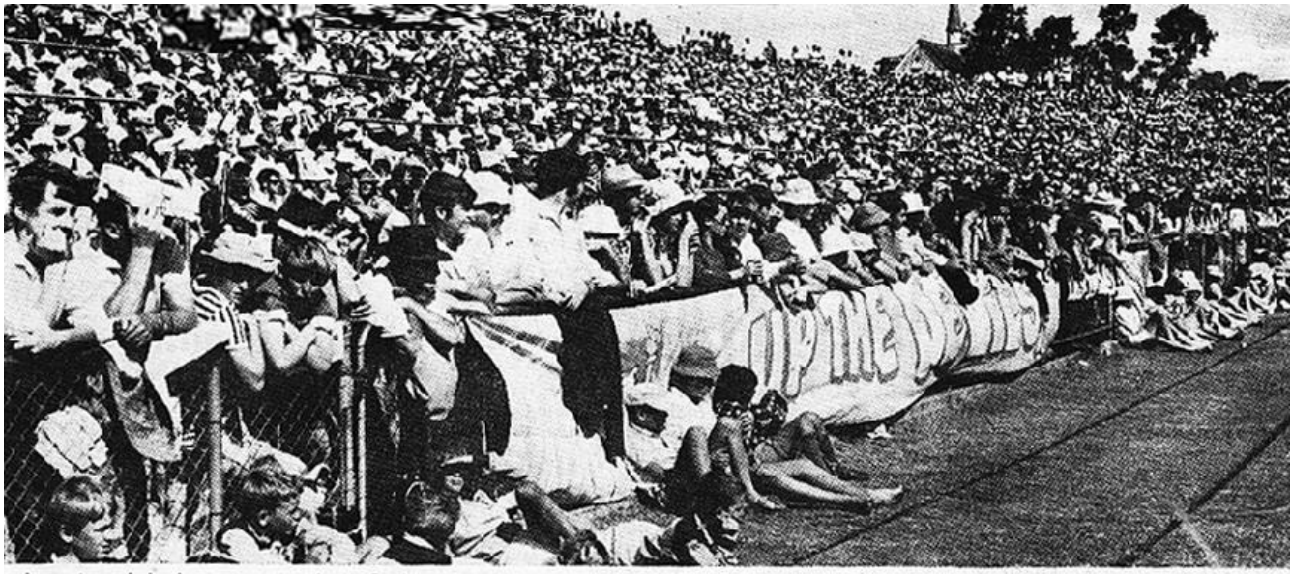
BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v NORTHS 11



A great moment for Valleys. The triumphant moment, as Valleys skipper and centre, Mick Ratchless, holds up the Cup for the 1970 Brisbane Rugby League premiership.



A massive crown at Lang Park watched Valleys take out a nail biting 13-11 Grand Final win over Norths ending the golden years in 1970. Norths Peter Kleinhans and Bob Richards take on Valleys Norm Clarke and Tony Perkins in a thrilling encounter.



A section of the huge crowd at Lang Park, estimated at about 35,000, who saw today's Rugby League Grand Final clash between Valleys and Norths. This area on the hill carried mainly Norths supporters.

1970

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 13 v NORTHS 11



VALLEYS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB B.R.L. Premiers – 1970

FRONT ROW – H. Holloway (Coach), T. Perkins, M. Retchless (Capt.), F. Neumann (Pres.), J. Crilly (V. Capt.), M. Scanlan, D. Stanfield (Hon. Treas.)

SECOND ROW – G. Dziewicki (Manager), R. Threlfo, F. Clancy, D. Abraham, J. Gill, L. Dellit (Asst. Secty.)

THIRD ROW – M. Brown (Hon. Secty.), N. Clarke, L. McGuire, J. McCabe, A. Miers, R. Smith, M. Norris, N. Henderson (Snr. V. Pres.)

INSET – H. O'Doherty

RESULTS

29 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 41 (O'Doherty 2, Miers, Scanlan, Retchless, Smith, Norris tries; Clarke 9 goals, Smith field goal) d. Southern Suburbs 9 (Murphy try; Scott 3 goals).

*Valleys: N.Clarke, D.Abraham, M.Retchless (c), R.Smith, M.Norris, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Crilly, A.Perkins, A.Miers, H.O'Doherty, J.McCabe. Reserve: L.McGuire. Coach: H.Holloway.

Souths: A.Scott (c), P.Mavin, J.Grant, A.Gutugutuwai, A.Batibasaga, G.Atherton, P.Williamson, M.Kowal, J.Murphy, G.Veivers, M.Alloway, I.Vola Vola, A.Rowan. Coach: R.White.

Referee: Henry Albert.

30 AUGUST MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Northern Suburbs 12 (Wilson, Harrison tries; Lobegeiger 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 4 (Harman 2 goals).

Norths: P.Lobegeiger, E.Lilley, R.Peut, G.Harrison, R.Richards, B.Adams, J.Brown (c), R.Streek, P.Kleinhans, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Wilson, P.Stapleton. Coach: R.Bax.

Brothers: N.Harman, D.Smith, G.Cronk, G.Lena, C.Hovi, B.Dowling, J.Smith (c), W.Abdy, R.Cannon, J.Lewis, S. Lean, L.Kinsey, P.Reilly. Coach: E.Gelling.

Referee: Ron Mison. ***Crowd: 25,000.***

6 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 15 (Threlfo, Retchless, Norris tries; Clarke goal, Smith 2 field goals) d. Past Brothers 7 (Lean try; Harmon 2 goals).

Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, R.Smith, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Crilly, A.Perkins, A.Miers, H.O'Doherty, J.McCabe. Coach: H. Holloway.

Past Brothers: N.Harman, D.Smith, G.Cronk, G.Lena, C.Hovi, B.Dowling, J.Smith (c), W.Abdy, R.Cannon, D. Wright, S.Lean, L.Kinsey, J.Lewis. Coach: E.Gelling.

Referee: Bob Ward. ***Crowd: 17,392.***

12 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valleys 13 (Gill try; Clarke 2 goals; Smith 2, Retchless field goals) d. Northern Suburbs 11 (Adams try; Lobegeiger 3 goals, field goal).

Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, R.Smith, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, L.McGuire, A.Perkins, A.Miers, H.O'Doherty, J.McCabe. Coach: H.Holloway.

Norths: P.Lobegeiger, E.Lilley, R.Peut, G.Harrison, R.Richards, B.Adams, J.Brown (c), R.Streek, P.Kleinhans, I.Massie, P.Hall, R.Wilson, P.Stapleton. Reserve: J.Adams, J.Gordon. Coach: R.Bax.

Referee: Bob Ward. ***Crowd: 30,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Graeme Atherton (Souths).

1971

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	15	2	4	412	256	32
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	14	0	7	434	299	28
EASTERN SUBURBS	13	1	7	382	298	27
NORTHERN SUBURBS	12	1	8	316	309	25
WESTERN SUBURBS	9	1	11	378	305	19
BROTHERS	8	2	11	319	310	18
REDCLIFFE	5	2	14	284	404	12
WYNNUM MANLY	3	1	17	263	537	7

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Easts 21 v Norths 11

Easts at best to beat Norths

By Jack Reardon

EASTS' Rugby League team drew blood for the first time in four games when they downed Norths by 21-11 in the B.R.L. semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

This was Easts' best performance of the season, taking in torrid tackling, and their ability to fight back under tough pressure from Norths.

Easts now go into the preliminary final on September 12 against the loser of next Sunday's semi-final between Valleys and Souths.

Norths played a man short for 45 minutes. Their centre Athol Gear was sent off the field five minutes before half-time by referee Henry Albert for a late tackle of Easts centre John Eales.

At that stage Easts were leading by 6-3. Penalty goals by Howard Fullarton (Easts) and Len Stacker (Norths) made it 8-5 to Easts at halftime. Each side had scored one try.

Whether Norths could have won with a full team will be a big discussion point — never to be decided.

But, in my opinion, Norths had got on top of Easts by about the 25th minute of the first half, although they were still trailing 3-6.

Norths' players and supporters claimed a fair try by Ray Cattanach at a crucial stage in the first half but it was disallowed.

Cattanach had short kicked, regathered the ball, passed it and then doubled around Brian Adams to take the last pass and go over right on the corner flag in a bunch of Easts' tacklers.

Touch judge Col Hawthorn raised his flag for "out of touch" but Norths claimed that referee Albert had already awarded the try.

Much credit for Easts' best performance of the season must go to coach Ted Verrenkamp, whose problems were huge following three successive defeats leading up to the semi-final.

"The players must have hated me all last week for not releasing the actual 13. Also for the way I berated them," Verrenkamp said.

"But it worked out well, they came up full of fire and determination. Look at the points on the board."

Four tries

Easts scored four tries to Norths one. Fullback Howard Fullarton kicked four goals and snapped a field goal.

Norths' goalkicker, Len Stacker, kept his team in range with a series of four penalty goals, but he had missed his first three attempts.

When the score was 16-11 to Easts, only eight minutes from fulltime, Easts' centre Johnny Eales clinched the game with a brilliant burst over 45 yards to score.

Easts' hooker, John Lang, was a magnificent tackler, so was Norths' Rod Tolhurst.

Easts lock, Jeff Fyfe, had an outstanding game. He played major parts in two of Easts' tries and was a tremendous cover defender.

Peter Hall, Peter Stapleton (until injured), and Ron Streek were strong for Norths, but so were Des Morris, Ron Lewis, and Paul Khan for Easts.

Easts have come back into calculations now for the grand final on this win.

First scorers: Easts 1; Norths 2.

Redcliffe stars

Forwards Les Thomas and Jim Tronc led Redcliffe to a 16-6 win over Valleys in the Reserve Grade semi-final, backed up by some unorthodox fullback play from Jim Cherry.

Valleys prop Les Murphy dominated the C grade semi-final when he kicked three field goals and frequently found touch with good line kicking for an 8-6 win over Wynnum-Manly.

EASTS 21 (G. Kraus, J. Eales, M. Georgiou, J. Fyfe tries; H. Fullarton 4 goals and field goal) d. NORTHS 11 (E. Lilley try; L. Stacker 4 goals).



NORTHS' Rugby League centre, Athol Gear, about to pass to a support, was tackled by Easts' centre John Eales during yesterday's semi-final at Lang Park. Gear later was sent off the field for a late tackle of Eales.

1971

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 12 v Souths 8

Valleys sit back for Grand Final

By Jack Reardon

THE Valley Rugby League Diehards played their way into yet another Brisbane Grand Final yesterday when they beat Souths by 12-8 in a tough but unspectacular major semi-final at Lang Park.

Valleys can now sit back for two weeks while Souths and Easts play off in the Preliminary final next Sunday to see who tackles Valleys on September 19.

Souths, however, have troubles. They lost two key forwards —Greg Veivers (ankle) and Isoa Volavola (knee) — with injuries by the 45th minute of yesterday's game.

A try by stocky Valley hooker Hugh O'Doherty in the 30th minute of the first half turned the tide of the game, in my opinion.

O'Doherty scuttled away from the dummy-half position, about 45 yards out, found a big gap in Souths' defence, ran to fullback Tony Scott, beat him and then scored between the posts.

Were on top

Valleys' fullback Norm Clarke, who had landed a penalty goal previously, converted the try to give Valleys a 7-3 lead at half-time.

Up to O'Doherty's try, I thought that Souths had managed to get on top. They were tackling strongly and even against the blustery southerly wind, had pinned Valleys back in their own half for much of the play.

Volavola had burrowed through for the first try following a tap penalty after 11 minutes play.

Souths' forwards had successfully blocked the crashing runs by Valleys' big men, Russell Hughes, John McCabe and "Moose" McGuire.

Centre John Grant had made one long strong run after getting outside of his opponent Mick Retchless, and Souths' halves, Doug Stapleton and Graeme Atherton, had produced some clever play to threaten Valleys' defence.

Veivers goes

But five minutes after O'Doherty scored, Veivers limped off the field with an ankle injury and was replaced by "Moo" Nabuta.

Five minutes after half-time, Volavola was assisted off the field with an obviously serious knee injury and was replaced by Kerry Jones who already had played an 80-minute match in reserve grade.

McCabe put Valleys to a 10-3 lead from a shrewd move on the blind side of a ruck. Hughes took the pass at his top from the dummy half, drew in three defenders but quickly and expertly sent a pass to McCabe who crashed into a bunch of Souths' cover defenders and managed to ground the ball for a try.

John Grant lifted the crowd of more than 20,000 to their feet in the last 10 seconds of the match when he raced about 50 yards and put a long pass out to winger John Moore who was tackled into touch 10 yards short of a try.

The match fell away in the second half after a gripping first period which featured quick ball movement and strong tackling. Handling errors crept into the game in the second half.

Valley halfback Ross Threlfo won the player of the match award. He deserved it but must have been closely pushed by O'Doherty, and Martin Scanlan.

It was a hard close contest and Souths would be worthy grand final opponents for Valleys, with a chance of winning it.

While Volavola and Veivers were on the field, I thought that Souths always had an even chance of winning yesterday. With Jim Murphy, Mick Kewal, Wayne Linsell and Amen Gutugutuwai tackling with power, Souths had matched Valleys in the full-blooded forward clash.

Hooker hero

Souths' reserve grade won a tough semi-final against Norths by 11-9. Souths hero was hooker Peter Marr who played most of the game with a badly gashed chin and also scored a try.

Norths C grade team retained its undefeated record for the season with a 14-0 win over Easts in the C grade semi-final.

In the Combined Catholic Colleges' match New South Wales gave a polished display to beat Queensland by 20-0.

First scorers in the main match were Souths No. 10, Valleys No. 1.

Scores: VALLEYS 12 (H. O'Doherty, J. McCabe, tries; N. Clarke 3 goals) d. SOUTHS 8 (I. Volavola, T. Scott, tries; T. Scott a goal).

RESERVE GRADE: Souths 11 (P. Marr, try; G. O'Brien 3, J. Graham goals) d. Norths 9 (K. Berrigan, try and 3 goals).

C. GRADE: Norths 14 d. Easts 0.

1971

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 19 v Souths 11

Souths lost on own mistakes

By Jack Reardon

SOUTHS Rugby League team contributed to their own defeat by Easts in yesterday's Preliminary Final at Lang Park by forgetting their "homework".

Easts, after trailing by 3-9 at halftime, stormed through for four second half tries to win by 19-11.

It was one of the top three games of the year and had the crowd of about 24,000 chanting club slogans as the scores were levelled at 9-all and 11-all for long periods.

It was 11-all with 17 minutes to go and with only nine minutes to go Easts' stars, Jeff Fyfe and Des Morris, built up a movement which put winger Jeff Kaus over for a try.

But the result was not clinched until three minutes from the end when Fyfe weaved his way through for a try which Paul Khan converted.

Easts will now meet Valleys in the Grand Final at Lang Park next Sunday.

The other top rated games of this year were Easts-Valleys first round and Wests-South second round fixtures.

Souths, despite repeated regular instructions by coach Ray White for "first man up to a ruck goes to the blind side," frequently allowed Easts to exploit a weakness there.

Saw weakness

Smart forward-hooker John Lang picked this weakness and swept up along the touchline at least five times, one of which just failed to bring a try to winger Kaus.

Souths also made it easy for Easts' tacklers, by too much running across field instead of more straight ahead running.

Easts won yesterday despite the loss of their solid fullback and goalkicker Howard Fullerton, midway through the first half with an ankle injury.

Fullerton had opened the scoring with a one point field goal after two minutes.

In a match which might have been won by goalkicking, stand-in goalkicker for Easts, Paul Khan, landed only three from seven attempts.

Replacement fullback Roger Kuhn, with his brilliant footwork and speed, was responsible for levelling the scores at 9-all when he shot through near a scrum, raced to the fullback and put Fyfe clear away for a try.

But Easts man of this match was second rower Morris. It was his best game of the season and probably the best by any second rower in Brisbane this year.

Morris built up attack with strong running and accurate passing.

Then there was the mugging "Darky" Lewis, plunging into Souths defenders for the first tackle, always making ground and getting a pass away or covering up to hold ground.

It was a great game, played at an amazingly fast pace for the 80 minutes.

No one shirked tackles, no one gave in against tough front-on tackles, and the result was still in doubt until the last few minutes.

There were plenty of Souths' players, like John Grant, Graeme Atherton, Doug Stapleton, Mike Kowal, Jim Murphy, Isoa Volavola, and Wayne Linsell, who did not deserve to be on a losing side.

But Easts played it straight ahead, with a great second half burst which took them from 3-9 to 19-11. They scored four tries to one.

EASTS 19 (J. Fyfe 2, J. Land, J. Kaus tries; P. Khan 3 goals, H. Fullarton field goal) d. SOUTHS 11 (K. McCasker try; T. Scott 3 goals).

1971

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v EASTS 10

1971 GRAND FINAL Souvenir

Valleys 18
Easts 10

And now Mick can retire

By HARRY JEFFERIES

Thank Heavens we won . . . Now I can retire in peace . . .

Famous last words as one of Brisbane's all-time Rugby League giants Mick Retchless, 29, informally announced his retirement at Lang Park yesterday after having led the Valley Diehards to their second successive victory in one of their finest 80 minutes.

He paid tribute to his rivals' fighting ability and to his own team and coach, Henry Holloway.

The game will miss this dashing, popular personality.

Valleys finished too strongly to beat the gallant Easts Tigers 18 - 10 after the teams had been locked together 10 - all at half - time.

Had this 50th. (Golden Jubilee) Grand Final been over 60 minutes, the Tigers might have won.

Penalties favored Valleys but they had to overcome a scrum deficit which they did by forcing Easts into handling errors.

In fact, what Easts did, Valleys did a little bit better.

Certainly the sturdy 14½ - stone Diehard skipper and centre has left Rugby League in a burst of glory.

Continually spotted and twice off the field because of head injuries, Retchless came back to score the winning try and rubbed it in by landing a field goal to tie up the grand final and prevent Easts from winning a premiership for the first time since 1950.

CROWD ROARING

It was an electrifying start with Easts going over in the first two minutes. That had the crowd of about 40,000 roaring on.

There was little in the first half — bruising defence and flashes of brilliance.

Easts won scrum after scrum but lacked variety and penetration from around the scrum.

It mainly followed the same pattern with half - back Mick Georgiou going the blind and on to lock Jeff Fyfe (another great game in defence) who quickly was downed.

Further tactics misfired when Easts full - back Howard Fullarton's deep kicks went astray, going straight to rival Norm Clarke who repeatedly put his side on the attack.

Valleys now have played in 23 of the 50 B.R.L. grand finals, winning 11.

The outer gates were closed before the start of the main match when police consulted with League officials and they considered the ground had reached saturation point.

This cost the League about another 2000.

The crowd figure cannot be released until a 'guess the crowd' competition is finalised.

The gate should be in the vicinity of $35,000 with 22½ percent going to Valleys and 11¼ percent to Easts.

Valley players were on at least a $100 winning incentive.

Referee Ron Harbottle did an excellent job.

Easts won scrums 20-10.

Norths won the C grade, 21-6 and the reserve grade, 27-2.

VITAL MOMENTS

This is how we saw the vital moments of the grand final:

Hooker John Lang goes the blind and winger Jeff Denman sensationally is over for Easts and after two minutes. They lead 5-nil.

Winger Daryl Abraham retaliates when he outpaces slow cover defence to score in corner for Valleys — Clarke misses. Easts 5-3, after five minutes.

Clarke lands penalty — 5-all, 10 minutes.

Valleys other winger, Mike Norris in for a try and Clarke again misses — Valleys 8-5, 13 minutes.

Easts centre Alan Currie is sent racing over and when Howard Fullarton converts. The Tigers lead 10-8, after 21 minutes.

Right in front Clarke lands a penalty, 10-all after 35 minutes, and that's what it was at half - time.

Clarke misses two fairly easy penalties within two minutes.

Then Fullarton misses from 45 yards out.

Valleys come back and Retchless is in beside the posts. Clarke converts. Valleys 15-10 after 59 minutes.

Front - rowers Paul Khan (Easts) and Russell Hughes (Valleys) had a private punch - up but the game goes on.

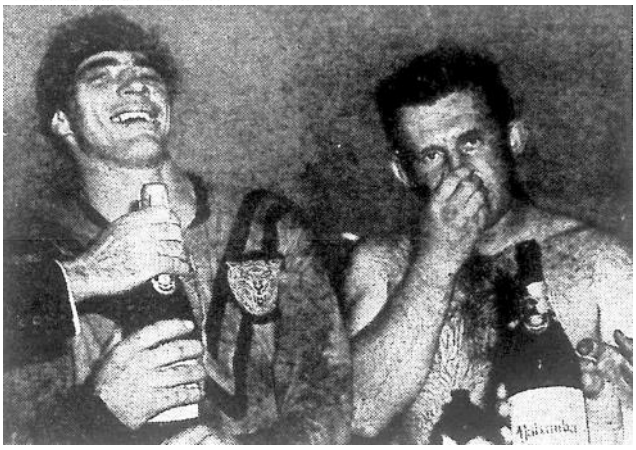
With seven minutes to go, Retchless tied it up with a simple field goal. Valleys 16-10.

Clarke three minutes later lands penalty to make final score Valleys 18, Easts 10.



The Grand Final was over. Valleys had defeated Easts, 18-10, in a rugged, exciting match before a crowd of about 40,000, to take their second successive premiership . . . and Valleys forwards, John Crilly, (left) and Leon (Moose) McGuire, carried their skipper, Mick Retchless from the field while a gladiator waved his sword in triumph.

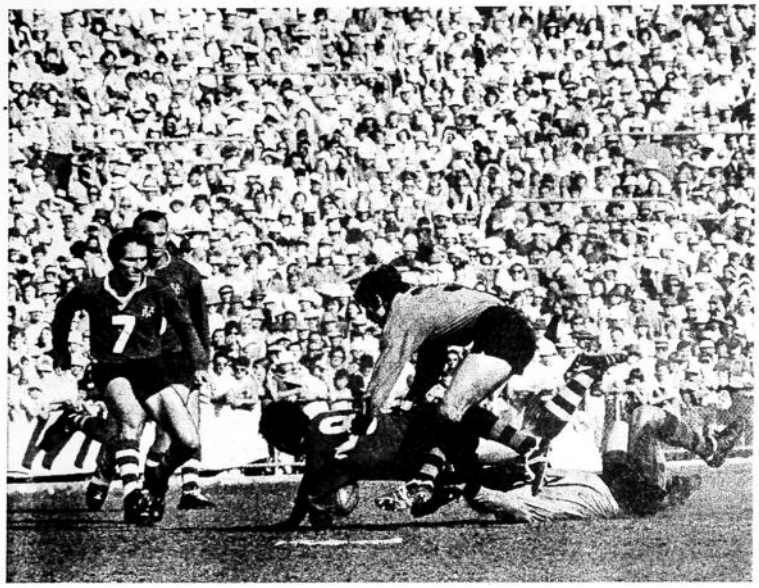
The vigors of the match forgotten, McGuire, (right) went into Easts dressing room to share champagne with their captain, Des Morris.



1971

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v EASTS 10

THE DIEHARDS DAY...



Valleys lock, Jeff Gill, goes down to a splendid diving tackle by an Easts defender while centre, John Eales, goes over the top. On the left are Valleys great halves, Ross Threlfo (No. 7) and Marty Scanlan.



Easts rugged prop, Ron (Darkie) Lewis, well held from behind by hallback Ross Threlfo while prop Russell Hughes comes in to assist his team mate. On hand too, are Valleys dashing young forward, John McCabe (No. 9) and Marty Scanlan.

★

Dust flies as Easts hallback Howard Fullerton tackles Valleys lock, Jeff Gill. Winger Jeff Denman made sure that Gill did not get away. Right up with the action was Easts five-eighth, Bob Fearse.



Eighteen minutes to go and it was 10-all. Then Valleys centre and skipper Mick Retchless weaved his way through the Easts defence to score under the posts, and when Norm Clarke converted, Valleys led 15-10. Soon after Retchless snapped a field goal and Valleys had their second successive premiership virtually won. As he scored Retchless dragged Easts front rower, Ron (Darkie) Lewis, (left) and Paul Khan (centre) and Easts second rower and skipper Des Morris, with him.



and after the battle ...



Valleys had won the Grand Final and Easts coach Ted Verrenkamp (right) was quick to congratulate Valleys coach, Henry Holloway.



Man of the match Mick Retchless caught the Easts' defence napping and crashed over for the match-winning play in the 1971 grand final. Arriving too late are, from left: Ron Lewis, Paul Khan and Tiger captain Des Morris.

★

VALLEYS

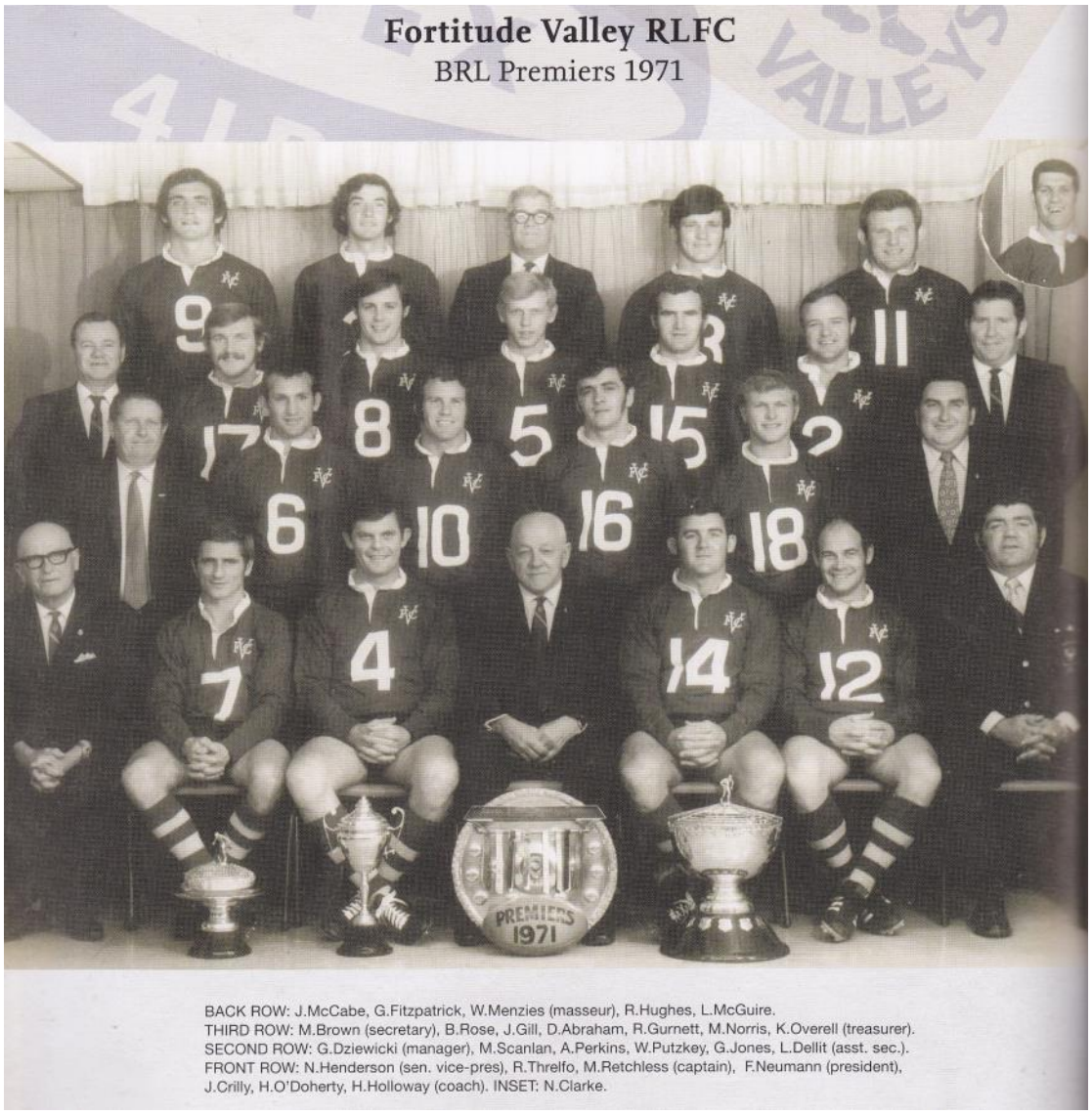
BACK ROW (left to right): Greg Jones, Hugh O'Doherty, Dave Robertson, Barry Rose, Russell Hughes, John McCabe, Jeff Gill, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Ron Gurnett, Frank Clancy, Henry Holloway (coach).

FRONT ROW: Darryl Abraham, Ross Threlfo, Norm Clark, Mick Retchless (capt.), Tony Perkins, Leon McGuire, John Crilly, Marty Scanlan.



1971

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v EASTS 10



BACK ROW: J.McCabe, G.Fitzpatrick, W.Menzies (masseur), R.Hughes, L.McGuire.
THIRD ROW: M.Brown (secretary), B.Rose, J.Gill, D.Abraham, R.Gurnett, M.Norris, K.Overell (treasurer).
SECOND ROW: G.Dziewicki (manager), M.Scanlan, A.Perkins, W.Putzkey, G.Jones, L.Dellit (asst. sec.).
FRONT ROW: N.Henderson (sen. vice-pres), R.Threlfo, M.Retchless (captain), F.Neumann (president), J.Crilly, H.O'Doherty, H.Holloway (coach). INSET: N.Clarke.

RESULTS

29 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 21 (Kaus, Eales, Georgiou, Fyfe tries; Fullarton 4 goals, field goal) d. Northern Suburbs 11 (Lilley try; Stacker 4 goals).
Easts: H.Fullarton, J.Kaus, J.Eales, A.Currie, J.Denman, B.Pearse, M.Georgiou, J.Fyfe, B.Crassini, D.Morris (c), P.Khan, J.Lang, R.Lewis. Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Norths: B.Spring, E.Lilley, A.Gear, B.Adams, L.Stacker, R.Cattanach, J.Brown (c), P.Videroni, R.Streek, R.Tolhurst, P.Hall, N.Geiger, P.Stapleton. Coach: I.Massie.
Referee: Henry Albert.

5 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 12 (O'Doherty, McCabe tries; Clarke 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 8 (Vola Vola, Scott tries; Scott goal).
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, G.Fitzpatrick, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, T.Perkins, L.McGuire, R.Hughes. H.O'Doherty, J.McCabe. Coach: H.Holloway.
Souths: A.Scott (c), P.Moore, J.Grant, R.Dyson, K.McCasker, G.Atherton, D.Stapleton, M.Kowal, M.Nabutu, I.Vola Vola, J.Murphy, W.Linsell, G.Veivers. Coach: R.White.
Referee: Ron Mison. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

12 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 19 (Fyfe 2, Lang, Kaus tries; Khan 3 goals, Fullarton field goal) d. Southern Suburbs 11 (McCasker try; Scott 4 goals).
Easts: H.Fullarton, J.Kaus, J.Eales, A.Currie, J.Denman, B.Pearse, M.Georgiou, J.Fyfe, B.Crassini, D.Morris (c), P.Khan, J.Lang, R.Lewis. Coach E.Verrenkamp.
Souths: A.Scott (c), K.McCasker, R.Dyson, J.Grant, P.Moore, G.Atherton, D.Stapleton, M.Kowal, A.Gutugutuwai, G.Veivers, J.Murphy, W.Linsell, I.Vola Vola. Coach: R.White.
Referee: Ron Harbottle. ***Crowd: 24,000.***

19 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 18 (Abraham, Norris, Retchless tries; Clarke 4 goals, Retchless field goal) d. Eastern Suburbs 10 (Denman, Currie tries; Fullarton 2 goals).
Valleys: N.Clarke, M.Norris, G.Fitzpatrick, M.Retchless (c), D.Abraham, M.Scanlan, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.McCabe, A.Perkins, L.McGuire, H.O'Doherty, R.Hughes. Reserve: J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway.
Easts: H.Fullarton, J.Kaus, J.Eales, A.Currie, J.Denman, B.Pearse, M.Georgiou, J.Fyfe, B.Crassini, D.Morris (c), P.Khan, J.Lang, R.Lewis. Coach E.Verrenkamp.
Referee: Ron Harbottle.
Crowd: 37,957 (record).

Rothmans Medal: Len Brunner (Wynnum-Manly).

1972

BRL: EASTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	17	0	4	497	271	34
EASTERN SUBURBS	12	1	8	382	330	25
VALLEYS	12	0	9	301	268	24
BROTHERS	11	1	9	356	292	23
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	391	350	22
NORTHERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	348	306	22
REDCLIFFE	7	0	14	275	375	14
WYNNUM MANLY	2	0	18	186	544	4

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 12 v Brothers 6

BROTHERS OUT 12-6 TO VALLEY

By Jack Reardon

The Valley Rugby League Diehards bullocked their way into the BRL preliminary final with a 12-6 win over Brothers in yesterday's semi-final at Lang Park.

And the supporters of Wests and Easts who were at Lang Park must have gone home pretty happy because neither of yesterday's teams looked like prospective grand finalists.



THE DIEHARD defence was at its best yesterday when Valleys downed Brothers in the Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park, and feeling the brunt of a double tackle by Big John McCabe and captain Ross Threlfo was Brothers' captain Col Weiss. Valleys won 12-6.

BRL PREMIERSHIP SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
VALLEYS 12 (D. Abraham, P. Gayler tries; J. Crilly 3 goals) d. **BROTHERS** 6 (J. O'Connor, G. Thomas tries).

Except in defence, of course, and this is what brought about a lacklustre match before a crowd which paid a record BRL semi-final gate of more than $7000.

Brothers in straight forward defence, where severe tackling counted, had their best game of the season. They just got carried on two occasions and allowed Valleys to score two tries.

Brothers produced the only real sparkle in the match with some too rare attacking brilliance in which centre Graham Cronk, Jim O'Connor, winger Max Anderson and lock Col Weiss were most prominent.

Brothers, in fact, had the edge in the second half when they scored two tries to one penalty goal by Valleys.

But that secure Valley defence, with every player making sure of his man, otherwise contained Brothers effectively.

"Cripples"

I thought the two little "grim men" Ross Threlfo and Hugh O'Doherty were outstanding for Valleys, with O'Doherty a constant menace to Brothers with his burrowing through the rucks to make valuable yardage.

There previously were unreleased stories behind both teams.

Brothers' international hooker Brian Fitzsimmons developed measles last Friday and had to withdraw. He was replaced by Doug Haigh who did a splendid job by tieing ball possession 13-all with Valleys' Hugh O'Doherty.

Valley players Russell Hughes (ankle injury) and Barry Roe (Virus infection) did not train until Saturday morning last week and John McCabe ricked his back at Thursday night's training.

Valley coach Henry Holloway said: "I just prayed that we could get through this match with our cripples, then have a fortnight's rest for them to heal up before the preliminary final."

Valleys won the match and the fortnight's rest and will now play the loser of next Sunday's main semi - final, Wests versus Easts, in the preliminary final on September 10.

Crilly kicks

Valleys' prop forward and vice - captan John Crilly took over their goalkicking from Barry Rose to land three from six attempts.

And this was the department that won for Valleys because Brothers' goalkicker Ian Dauth had his worst match of the season, missing all of his four attempts, including one alongside the goalposts.

Brothers were very careless to allow Valleys' winger Daryl Abraham to score the first try. Abraham was tackled short of the goal line, played the ball forward when unmarked, tapped it again and dived on it for the try — untouched.

Valleys led by 10-0 at halftime after Brothers lapsed again in positional defence to allow Valleys' winger Paul Gayler to score in the corner after a quick series of passes which found Brothers' defence a man short.

Good tries

Brothers scored their two tries in the second half. Five eighth Stan Damro pivoted out of two tackles, lost the ball in a third, for Col Weiss to scoop it one handed to the racing Jim O'Connor for the first try.

Fast second - rower Greg Thomas scored the second after a superb 50 yards run in which he beat off three tackles to cross wide out.

1972

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 27 v Wests 14

EASTS 27–14

Wests face another battle to the final

By Jack Reardon

EAST'S Rugby League team played like confident grand final winners when they beat favourites Wests by 27-18 in the major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Before a record Brisbane semi-final crowd of around 25,000, Easts looked like winners for 70 of the 80 minutes play.

Easts now go straight to the grand final which will be played at Lang Park on Sunday, September 17.

Wests, who finished nine points ahead of Easts in the points table, now must battle it out with Valleys in next Sunday's preliminary final to decide who will meet Easts in the grand final.

Easts' convincing win was a triumph for their coach Ted Verrenkamp who came up with a superbly conditioned team, splendidly drilled for the match, and always confident of maintaining their opponents.

WON IN FORWARDS

They were so confident, in fact, that they took on and beat Wests in their strength, the forwards, and this I think is mainly where they won the match.

Except for that one well-timed penetrating burst by Ray McCarron which produced Wests' first try after 11 minutes play by centre Eric Robinson, Wests' forward attempts to penetrate "up the middle" were successfully blocked by Easts.

Kev Stephens, Johnny Lang, Des Morris, Boris Crassini and Jeff Fyfe put up non-stop defence to hold out Wests' forwards.

In fact, it was crashing runs by Stephens, Morris and Crassini, supported by elusive and fast John Lang and Fyfe who made most ground.

Morris was great, so was Fyfe, and this was Stephens' best game for Easts.

Easts backs also defended strongly. Bob Pearse at five-eighth, John Atkin, and John Eales in the centres, and wingers Jeff Denman and Alan Currie moved up quickly and cut off Wests' attack.

FULLARTON'S 7

Wingers Denman and Currie moved in with great timing to down Wests' centres Thompson and Robinson at danger points.

Back of them all was long-range kicker Howard Fullarton who landed seven goals from 10 attempts and gained many yards of territory with his kicks into touch from penalties.

In comparison, Wests' goalkicker Wayne Stewart kicked three goals from five attempts and that is another part of the story.

Penalty kicks were equal at 13-all. But Easts spent at least 70 of the 80 minutes' play inside Wests' territory and this put Fullarton, in good form, within goalkicking range.

Wests scored the first try, that good one by Robinson off McCarron. But Easts led by 9-5 at halftime from a field goal by Lee Hutchinson and four penalties by Fullarton.

Easts got right on top early in the second half when Jeff Denman scored a great try, other winger Alan Currie also scored after having one disallowed and Denman intercepted to race 80 yards to score again.

SMART AT SCRUM

Leading 22-5, Easts were set for a runaway win until some smart play behind the scrum by Greg Oliphant and Nev McDonald put Robson over for a try.

Then Johnny Lang completed some sharp attack by Des Morris and Bob Pearse to score and Easts led by 27-10.

Arty Connell dummied his way through to score for Wests and Wayne Stewart, following a very neat centre's piece of work by Rob Thompson, scored a great try, beating three tacklers in a confined space over 50 yards.

While the tries finished at four each, Easts had looked the better side. Scrums went Wests' way by 9-6.

For Wests, halfback Greg Oliphant, five-eighth Johnny White, lock Nev McDonald and second rower Ian Robson played best.

Wests' chosen fullback Errol Stock received a cut head and was replaced by Kev Denman in the second half.

FIRST SCORERS: L. Hutchinson (7, Easts) and W. Stewart (5, Wests).

H. Fullarton 7 goals, L. Hutchinson a (field goal) d. WESTS 18 (E. Robinson, I. Robson, A. Connell, W. Stewart, tries; W. Stewart 3 goals).



EASTS Rugby League captain and second rower Des Morris has a panther on his leg and it's Wests' lock Nev McDonald who stops Morris with a flying tackle as halfback Greg Oliphant (No. 7) moves in to complete the tackle. Easts had a real Tiger in their tank yesterday running over Wests 27-18.

1972

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 20 v Wests 14

Easts and Valleys in the final

By Jack Reardon

THE Valley Rugby League Diehards attacked their way into yet another grand final when they beat Wests by 20-14 in yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park.

Now the Diehards will play East s in the Brisbane grand final next Sunday for the second successive year.



VALLEYS forward John Crilly points to his chin and invites a Wests player to "have a go" during one of the heated clashes in the B.R.L. preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday. He is supported by half back Ross Threlfo.

If anyone had suggested last April-May-period that Wests would not make the grand final, you would probably have told him to go home and "sleep it off."

But if anyone now tells you that Valleys are not an attractive side to watch, have a look at yesterday's scoring details.

Valleys scored five tries to Wests two, and if the Diehards had a reliable goalkicker the margin would have been greater.

Centre Barrie Rose missed four shots at goal. Prop John Crilly landed two goals from four attempts.

West's goalkicker Wayne Stewart did his part for his team. He was successful four times from five shots.

But it was not a match in which golakicking could have won for either team.

Scanlon boast

Valleys got a tremendous boost to their morale when it was decided on Saturday morning that the Datsun "player of the year" and Rothman's Gold medal winner Martin Scanlan would play in this match.

Of course, the crowd did not know this until an announcement was hind a Valley play-the-ball and snapped a valuable field goal to put Valleys six points ahead.

No player had a poor game. It was a tough encounter.

But I thought Threlfo, Fitzpatrick and Abraham in the backs and Canavan, McCabe and O'Doherty in the forwards were Valleys' most valuable players.

For Wests, none tried harder than Greg Oliphant, Nev McDonald, Ian Robson and Errol Stock.

The entire Wests team rallied splendidly for 25 minutes of the second half.

But Wests' greatest lack was the devastating thrust and fast cover defence of the absent Richie Twist.

Wests' coach Norm Pope was philosophical. "They were too good on the day, but I wish that second half by Wests had been at the start instead of the finish."

Victorious coach Henry Holloway said: "Our tactics worked out better than I expected. We played to a plan and it really worked."

And from Easts' coach Ted Verrenkamp: "I am glad it worked out the way it did. Valleys earned their win. But I am sure that we are a better team than we were last year. And I doubt whether Valleys are as good as they were last year."

Valleys also won the Reserve grade preliminary final 19-[illegible] Wests and will play Norths in the grand final next Sunday.

Norths C grade also qualified for the grand final against Wynnum-Manly by beating Redcliffe 18-0 yesterday.

First scorers: D. Abraham (no. 5, Valleys) and W. Stewart (no. 5, Wests).

Scores: VALLEYS 20 (D. Abraham 2, B. Rose, J. Crilly, A. Mills, tries; J. Crilly, 2 goals, A. Mills, field goal) v. [illegible] (R. Thompson, A. Connell, tries; W. Stewart 4 goals).

VALLEYS powerhouse front row forward John McCabe grimaces as he slashes into the defence of Wests centres Johnny White and Eric Robinson (No. 4) during the preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday. Valleys won 20-14 and will meet Easts in the Grand Final next Sunday.



1972

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 16 v VALLEYS 15



JEFF FYFE

FYFE'S FIRST KICK WAS THE WINNER

Easts are premiers

By Jack Reardon

Easts' Rugby League lock forward Jeff Fyfe l anded the first field goal of his life at Lang Park yesterday to win Easts' first B.R.L. premiershi p since 1950.

The one-pointer field goal gave Easts a 16-15 win over Valleys.

It was the best grand final match that I have ever seen, and a fitting climax would have been a 10-minutes each way play-off in extra time.

The game was tied at 9-all soon after halftime, and again at 15-all with four minutes to go.

Ironically, Fyfe was lucky to be on the field. He played with a sprained ankle and pain-killing injections, following a mishap when he was giving Easts' Under-15 team a lecture on "warming-up" on Saturday.

And he went against coach Ted Verrankamp's orders when he kicked that field goal. Verrenkamp had given strict instructions at half-time that only three players — Lee Hutchinson, "Butch" Pearse or Howard Fullarton — were to kick the ball.

Fyfe said after the match: "I took a pass from a ruck, looked left, then right and all teammates were covered, but the goal posts looked wide open, so I had a shot for a field goal.

"I have seldom been able to get the ball off the ground for a drop kick. But everything went right for that one."

Before a crowd which must have been close to 40,000 and a record for a B.R.L. match, spectators were lifted to fever pitch by the full - blooded tackles from the kick - off and by the fluctuating fortunes of the match.

I thought that Easts always looked like winners, even though Valleys scored three tries to Easts' two.

Easts' backs and second - rower Des Morris had more thrust and combination in attack, helped by an 18-10 majority of possession from scrums through hooker Johnny Lang.

But that wonderful Valley Diehard spirit kept on bringing the team back into consideration for the 80 minutes.

Coach's tribute

East's coach Ted Verrenkamp paid a tribute to Valleys. He said: "The way our lads were playing, and with a strong breeze at our backs, we would have beaten any other Brisbane team comfortably.

"But those Valleys' players kept on coming back. They do have a tremendous spirit and no one has to be told that I was worried right to the end."

Valleys' coach Henry Holloway said: "Things went to our plan again, and I am happy with the way the team played. We did score more tries than Easts.

"And if anyone wants to bet on the result of our first meeting with Easts next year, I will accommodate them for plenty."

Easts' captain and second - rower Des Morris was the outstanding player of the match. He won two awards, 4IP's $60 transistor radio and Symons $100 suit.

Valleys' prop Russell Hughes plased the best game of his career. The Valleys' halves, Martin Scanland and Ross Threlfo, were great, so were John McCabe, John Crilly, and Hugh O'Doherty.

Winger Daryl Abraham almost pulled off a win for Valleys late in the match. Fullback Alan Mills had one of his best games.

Ted Verrenkamp was reluctant to nominate his best players. But apart from the real star Des Mossis, there was some great stuff from halfback Lee Hutchinson and wingers Jeff Denman and Alan Currie.

Kicker's 4

But a lot of Easts' success came from forwards Kev Stephens, Boris Crassini, Johnny Lang and the pacey Paul Khan.

There also was the goal-kicking by fullback Howard Fullarton who landed four from six attempts against John Crilly's three from five attempts.

While Easts scored two tries to Valleys' three Easts also narrowly missed three more tries on the corner flags and much as I admired Valleys' fighting spirit and the way they kept oncoming back, I think that the better team won.

FIRST SCORERS: J. Crilly (13 Valleys) and H. Fullarton (1, Easts).

Scores. — EASTS 16 (B. Crassini, D. Morris, tries; H. Fullarton 4 goals, L. Hutchinson, J. Fyfe field goals) d. VALLEYS 15 (J. Gill, R. Hughes, P. Gayler, tries; J. Crilly 3 goals).

Wynnum up

wynnum-Manly club won its first B.R.L. premiership when its C grade team beat Norths 9-2 in a close game with only one try scored — by the winners' winger John Callus.

Norths defeated Valleys by 45-3 in the Reserve Grade grand final.



EASTS' captain Des Morris steps out of Valleys winger Paul Gayler's tackle in his desperate bid to scare late in the second half of yesterday's Grand Final. This try put Easts in front 13-12.

EASTS front row forward Kev Stephens (No. 11) goes down on his knees as he meets Valleys punishing runner Russell Hughes in a front-on tackle in yesterday's Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park. As Stephens goes low, Easts hooker Johnny Lang is there to assist. Backing Hughes is second rower Joe Canavan.

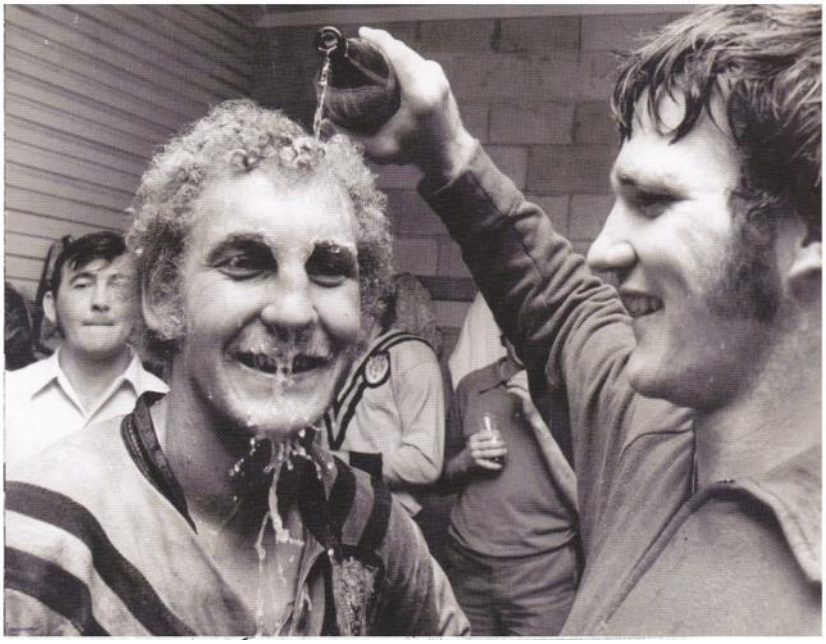




1972

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 16 v VALLEYS 15





40,000 Saw Easts Win

LEFT: Hero of Easts Grand Final win Jeff Fyfe is doused with beer by Valleys forward Russell Hughes who called by the Easts dressing room after the match to congratulate the winners. Fyfe didn't seem to mind Hughes' unorthodox congratulations.



RIGHT: Heading for a try is Easts second rower Boris Crassini who appears to be well covered by Valleys lock Jeff Gill. Gill took Crassini in a last ditch tackle, but the line was too close to prevent Boris from scoring under the post.





1972

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 16 v VALLEYS 15



1972 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League BRL First Grade Premiers; Winners Woolworths Competition. Front Row: *Jack Loth (Patron); John Lang; Des Morris (Captain); Jack Atkin (President); Rob Pearse; John Atkin; Tom Drysdale (Secretary).* ***Second Row:*** *Nev Brett (Manager); Lee Hutchinson; Mick Georgiou; Wayne Phillips; Rod Morris; John Eales; Wayne Heydt; Ray Price (Selector).* ***Third Row:*** *Jim Ward; Alan Currie; Jeff Denman; Jeff Fyfe; Paul Khan; Boris Crassini; John Dowling.* ***Fourth Row:*** *Tony McGuin (Asst Sec); Ian Murphy; Ray Norbury; Kev Stephens; Frank Paulger; Alan Shepherd; Graham Lawson; Wal Taylor (Masseur).* ***Back Row:*** *Ted Verrenkamp (Coach); Neil Bradley (Trainer); John Schatz (Selector).*

RESULTS

27 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 12 (Abraham, Gayler, tries; Crilly 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 6 (O'Connor, Thomas tries).
Valleys: A.Mills, P.Gayler, G.Fitzpatrick, B.Rose, D.Abraham, D.Robertson, R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Canavan, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway.
Brothers: I.Dauth, G.Quinn, G.Cronk, J.O'Connor, M.Anderson, S.Damro, J.Smith, W.Abdy, C.Weiss (c/c), G.Thomas, D.Wright, D.Haigh, E.Brosnan.
Referee: Bill McKenny.

3 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 27 (Denman 2, Currie, Lang tries; Fullarton 7 goals; Hutchinson field goal) d Western Suburbs 18 (Robinson, Robson, Connell, Stewart tries; Stewart 3 goals).
Easts: H.Fullarton, A.Currie, J.Eales, J.Atkin, J.Denman, R.Pearse, L.Hutchinson, J.Fyfe, B.Crassini, D.Morris (c), K.Stephens, J.Lang, P.Khan. Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Wests: E.Stock, R.Kuhn, R.Thompson, E.Robinson, W.Stewart, J.White (c), G.Oliphant, N.McDonald, I.Robson, R.Green, S.McAllister, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 26,000.***

10 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 20 (Abraham 2, Rose, Crilly, Mills tries; Crilly 2 goals; Mills field goal) d. Western Suburbs 14 (Thompson, Connell tries; Stewart 4 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, P.Gayler, G.Fitzpatrick, B.Rose, D.Abraham, D.Robertson, R.Threlfo (c), J.Gill, J.Canavan, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway.
Wests: E.Stock, R.Thompson, J.White (c), E.Robinson, W.Stewart, K.Rafferty, G.Oliphant, N.McDonald, I.Robson, J. McKenzie, R.Green, A.Connell, R.McCarron. Coach: N.Pope.
Referee: Dale Coogan.

17 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 16 (Crassini, Morris tries; Fullarton 4 goals; Hutchinson, Fyfe field goals) d. Fortitude Valley 15 (Gill, Hughes, Gayler tries; Crilly 3 goals).
Easts: H.Fullarton, J.Denman, J.Eales, J.Atkin, A.Currie, R.Pearse, L.Hutchinson, J.Fyfe, B.Crassini, D.Morris (c), K.Stephens, J.Lang, P.Khan. Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Valleys: A.Mills, P.Gayler, G.Fitzpatrick, B.Rose, D.Abrahams, M.Scanlan (c), R.Threlfo, J.Gill, J.Canavan, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway
Referee: Henry Albert. ***Crowd: 37,672.***

Rothmans Medal: Marty Scanlan (Valleys).

1973

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	15	1	5	393	267	31
EASTERN SUBURBS	12	2	7	399	320	26
NORTHERN SUBURBS	12	1	8	399	289	25
REDCLIFFE	12	0	9	368	255	24
BROTHERS	10	1	10	383	354	21
WESTERN SUBURBS	8	1	12	354	359	17
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	8	1	12	309	401	17
WYNNUM MANLY	3	1	17	247	607	7

A GRADE PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION MATCHES 1973

	Club	Round	Past Brothers	Northern Suburbs	Southern Suburbs	Fort. Valley	Western Suburbs	Eastern Suburbs	Redcliffe	Wynnum Manly	Points
1	Fortitude Valley	1	W. 31-27	W. 14-13	D. 14-14		L. 14-28	W. 21-12	W. 12- 7	W. 34- 3	31
		2	W. 15-13	L. 8-23	L. 13-23		L. 10-21	W. 22-17	W. 11- 5	W. 18-17	
		3	W. 15- 8	W. 12- 8	W. 15- 2		W. 33-10	W. 18-0	L. 9-11	W. 56- 7	
2	Eastern Suburbs	1	L. 24-25	L. 14-22	W. 33- 5	L. 12-21	W. 29-22		W. 18-11	W. 41-12	26
		2	L. 17- 7	W. 15-11	L. 11-25	L. 17-22	D. 11-11		W. 22-14	W. 14- 8	
		3	W. 23-20	D. 15-15	W. 20-10	L. 0-18	W. 7-5		L. 7-31	W. 49- 5	
3	Northern Suburbs	1	L. 14-18		W. 16- 9	L. 13-14	L. 13-17	W. 22-14	W. 16- 9	L. 21-27	25
		2	L. 11-30		W. 24-10	W. 23- 8	W. 19- 3	L. 11-15	W. 11- 9	W. 28-14	
		3	L. 18-20		W. 35- 5	L. 8-12	W. 22-13	D. 15-15	W. 25-17	W. 34-10	
4	Redcliffe	1	W. 19- 9	L. 9-16	L. 13-17	L. 7-12	W. 27- 2	L. 11-18		W. 27- 3	24
		2	W. 22-16	L. 9-11	W. 29-16	L. 5-11	W. 8- 2	L. 14-22		W. 23-12	
		3	L. 14-16	L. 17-25	W. 34- 6	W. 11- 9	W. 14-11	W. 31- 7		W. 24-14	
5	Past Brothers	1		W. 18-14	W. 18-12	L. 27-31	L. 15-28	W. 25-24	L. 9-19	W. 44-14	21
		2		W. 30-11	L. 10-29	L. 13-15	W. 31- 2	L. 7-17	L. 16-22	D. 10-10	
		3		W. 20-18	W. 13- 9	L. 8-15	L. 2-25	L. 20-23	W. 16-14	W. 31- 2	
6	Western Suburbs	1	W. 28-15	W. 17-13	L. 10-20	W. 28-14		L. 22-29	L. 2-27	W. 27- 7	17
		2	L. 2-31	L. 3-19	W. 30-12	W. 21-10		D. 11-11	L. 2- 8	W. 42-10	
		3	W. 25- 2	L. 13-22	L. 21-27	L. 10-33		L. 5- 7	L. 11-14	L. 28-24	
7	Southern Suburbs	1	L. 12-18	L. 9-16		D. 12-12	W. 20-10	L. 5-33	W. 17-13	W. 20-10	17
		2	W. 29-10	L. 10-24		W. 23-13	L. 12-30	W. 25-11	L. 16-29	L. 14-19	
		3	L. 9-13	L. 5-35		L. 2-15	W. 27-21	L. 10-20	L. 6-34	W. 26-15	
8	Wynnum Manly	1	L. 14-44	W. 27-21	L. 10-20	L. 3-34	L. 7-27	L. 12-41	L. 3-27		7
		2	D. 10-10	L. 14-28	W. 19-14	L. 17-18	L. 10-42	L. 8-14	L. 12-23		
		3	L. 2-31	L. 10-34	L. 15-26	L. 7-56	W. 28-24	L. 5-49	L. 14-24		

1973

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Redcliffe 25 v Norths 9

MUIR'S BOYS GET CLOSER

Down Norths 25 - 9

By Jack Reardon

REDCLIFFE thundered into equal favouritism for Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final honours with a devastating 25-9 win over Norths in the first BRL semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Following successive wins over last year's grand finalists, Easts and Valleys, then over Norths yesterday, Redcliffe now are being rated equal with top team Valleys to take out the B.R.L. premiership.

With Norths now out of the running Valleys, Easts and Redcliffe, will battle out the contest for the top honours and top money.

Valleys and Easts will meet next Sunday in the major semi-final between the top two.

Redcliffe then will meet the loser of the major semi-final in the Preliminary final a week later.

With an epic second-half defence and some brilliant backline attack, Barry Muir's inspired Redcliffe team emerged from yesterday's match as likely premiers.

Ron Raper's accurate goalkicking for five out of seven attempts and two brilliant tries by centre Ron Carige, were the scoring highlights of the tense match.

But I rated Redcliffe's second-half defence, against repeated thrusts at their line by Norths as the major factor in the result.

Norths' coach Bob Hagan said: "They were too strong, despite a couple of our missed opportunities."

Norths' second rower Jim Hicks had opened the scoring with a try from a bustling fast burst into the corner.

But Redcliffe drew level at 5-all when prop Bev Bleakley sliced through to score following a very fast burst by Carige.

There was plenty of fire in the match in the first half and Redcliffe were heavily penalised, giving Norths goalkicker Ken Berrigan opportunities to land two long distance goals to make it 9-5 to Norths.

But those tow goals were Norths' last scoring efforts.

Redcliffe, with tries by winger Vic Poudziunas and Carige, plus Raper's goalkicking, gave Redcliffe a halftime lead of 15-9.

Won Scrums 6-2.

Norths had ample scoring opportunities in the second half when their hooker Nick Geiger won scrums 6-2, but despite some strong attack, led by prop forward Peter Hall, they just could not break that tremendous Redcliffe defence.

There was no score in the second half until the 25th minute, when prop Bev Bleakley, who had a great game, put centre Carige clear to use his speed for a try.

Just on the final siren, winger Merv Cook caught Norths' defence on the wrong foot to dash over in the corner.

Cook's try made it five tries to one by Redcliffe, but there was some great attack by the Dolphins which just failed to produce a try.

Winger Poudziunas once gathered the ball behind Redcliffe's goal line, dodged and swerved upfield for 40 yards, passed to Carige who raced ahead before passing to Cook 10 yards out from Norths goal line, but Cook's pass to Thinee for a certain try was ruled forward by referee Bernie Pramberg.



NORTHS Rugby League prop forward Alan Nunan gets the treatment from Redcliffe forwards Ron Raper (on the ground) and Robert Orchard moving in for "the kill" at Lang Park yesterday.

Robert Orchard, tackling more than he has done previously this season, was one of Redcliffe's strongest players. Fullback Tony Obst had another good game. Rod Halley, Bev Bleakley and Ian Thinee were tremendous in defence.

Norths had scoring opportunities but lacked the skill to break that strong Redcliffe defence.

Peter Hall and Nick Geiger were Norths' strongest players, with good support from Alan Nunan.

For the match, Geiger won scrums over Redcliffe's Bob Wilson by 12-9. Penalties also went Norths' way by 16-8.

First scorers were Norths 10, Redcliffe 11. First try-scorers, Norths 10, Redcliffe 11.

Norths had a very convincing win over Wests in the Reserve grade semi-final, winning by 22-5 after leading by 15-0 at halftime.

In the Third grade semi-final, Brothers got up in the last few minutes to beat Easts by 14-12 after leading by 7-6 at halftime.

LEAGUE SCORES

1st. SEMI-FINALS

REDCLIFFE 25 d NORTHS 9

SCORERS: Redcliffe — R. Carige 2, V. Puodziunas, M. Cook, B. Bleakley 4 tries; R. Raper 5 goals. Norths — J. Hicks try; K. Berrigan 3 goals.

1973

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 35 v Easts 7

IT'S A REDCLIFFE-VALLEY FINAL

says JACK REARDON

JUST WHAT THE FANS ORDERED

THE Valley Rugby League Diehards crunched Easts out of Brisbane Grand Final calculations yesterday with a 35-7 thrashing in the main semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

From where I sat, it now looks certain that it will be a Valley-Redcliffe grand final, and this is what all League fans are licking their chops for.

Easts, the 1972 grand final winners, will now meet the rejuvenated Redcliffe side in the preliminary final at Lang Park next Sunday.

The winner of that match will play Valleys in the grand final on September 16 at Lang Park.

Easts do not have much margin for improvement. Their best player, Des Morris, did not play yesterday and will not play next Sunday.

He will enter hospital within a week for a knee operation.

Valleys also lost one of their top players, John Crilly, during yesterday's match as a result of a late tackle after he had kicked the ball.

Crilly, Valleys' top goalkicker, was taken from the field in an ambulance and admitted to hospital with severe concussion. He must be in doubt for the grand final.

A Valley win was seldom in doubt yesterday. The Diehards scored four tries in the first half to lead by 18-4 at halftime and followed that up with another three tries in the second half to make it seven tries to one.

Kicked well

Before he was injured John Crilly had landed three goals from five attempts.

Full back Alan Mills took over the goalkicking for the second half and was successful four times from five attempts.

Easts' hooker Johnny Lang won scrums by 12-9, but Easts only once were able to finish off an attacking movement with a try.

The solid, front-on tackling by most of the Valley players invariably contained Easts' attacking efforts or knocked the ball loose from Easts' players arms.

Easts, with a few exceptions, such as prop Kev Stephens, Rod Morris, and John Lang, lacked this very necessary tactic to block Valleys' attack.

And credit must go to Valleys for some really smart attacking football in which there was never any lack of backing up.

Their first try came after a typically strong safe upfield manoeuvre in four tackles, followed by a run off the ruck by hefty Russell Hughes, who put a long pass out to the wing.

Winger Greg Jones, unable to catch the ball on the full, gathered it on the bounce and forced his way over to score in the corner.

Valleys' other winger Paul Gayler scored the try of the match when centre Bob Beatson ran from the dummy half position and put Gayler clear for a race to the corner.

Gayler got around two Easts defenders then cleverly outmanoeuvred young fullback Wayne Watt to score in the corner.

Best game

Hugh O'Doherty put Mike Rathbourne over for a try and Jeff Gill scored after a smart break by Marty Scanlan to give Valleys their winning lead of 18-4 at halftime.

Valleys lost nothing with Tony Perkins' replacement Mike Rathbourne, who was probably their best player of the day.

Dave Herbert, who replaced the injured John Crilly, also was very prominent in the second half.

Halfback Ross Strudwick played one of his best games. He scored two tries, the first from a sharp burst from 10 yards out, the second from the neatest short kick of the season which he regathered on the full to score between the posts.

Easts did produce some clever attack. But they were never able to overcome the keen Valley defence for more than a tackle or two.

I thought that Lee Hutchinson could have used his speed more in attack. He also left his deep kicking until too late.

Young fullback Wayne Watt only showed his youth in that one instance when he missed Gayler for a try. Otherwise he was pretty sound and did make ground. He landed two goals from his only three attempts.

Great trier

Paul Khan, as a second rower, appeared to be scouting too much and was not in the middle enough to break up Valleys' attack.

Allan Shepherd was a great trier and Jeff Fyfe also tried hard to produce the Des Morris effect.

But generally Easts did not give enough support to the ball carriers, nor did they move up quickly enough to block Valleys' attack.

Valleys errors were down to the usual minimum.

Centres Gerry Fitzpatrick, Bob Beatson, five-eighth Martin Scanlan played it tight and hard and lock Jeff Gill was never far from the ball.

Valleys' scrum formation was hard to follow.

Hugh O'Dougherty packed down as lock in some early scrums and John Crilly was in there as hooker, later, as second row.

Easts' coach Ted Verenkamp said: "They were far too strong on the day. But I have seen teams come back from worse beatings, to win. We can improve."

A jovial Henry Holloway said after the match: "Our skipper Marty Scanlan summed it up when he said, 'We played as we trained right to the tactics'."

Penalties went Easts' way 10-8.

FIRST SCORERS: Valleys No. 13, Easts No. 1. First try scorers, Valleys No. 5, Easts No. 3. Valleys 35 (P. Gayler 2, R. Strudwick 2, G. Jones, J. Gill, M. Rathbourne tries; A. Mills 4, J. Crilly 3 goals) d Easts 7 (J. Denman a try; W. Watt 2 goals).

Brothers' strong young reserve grade team coasted to a 28-10 win over Easts in the reserve grade major semi-final, after leading by 20-0 at halftime.

In the third grade semi-final, Valleys got up in the last minute to beat the previously undefeated Norths team by 11-10.



THE line within reach and Valley Rugby League winger Paul Gayler lunges through a lost ditch tackle by Easts fullback Wayne Watt, to score his second try of the semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. Valley won by 35-7 and go straight to the grand final.

1973

BRL Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 33 v Easts 8

A GRAND FINAL DREAM says Jack Reardon

Hooker Wilson paved the way

THE Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final for next Sunday was confirmed yesterday as a promoter's dream when Redcliffe defeated Easts in the Preliminary final at Lang Park by 33-8.

It is now a Valleys versus Redcliffe grand final at Lang Park, the match which everyone but Easts supporters wanted to see.

Redcliffe's win was a triumph for their hooker Bob Wilson and their fast, driving backline.

Wilson, with the support of a strong, vigorous pack won the scrums, surprisingly, over Johnny Lang by 8-5 and was the most consistent "backer-up" in the team.

But the speed and zest of the Redcliffe backline was the real "killer" in the match.

Redcliffe scored seven tries to one and every Redcliffe try was scored by a back — two each by centre Ron Carige and halfback Brian Winney and one each by centre Peter Leis, and wingers Merv Cook and Vic Puodziunas.

But those backs were very well served from the middle particularly by key ball player Ron Raper, slicing lock Ian Thinee and prop Bev Bleakley.

This was a game which the majority of fans expected Redcliffe to win easily, and they did, on the scores.

But the final scores do not reflect the tremendous efforts by Easts for the first 20 minutes and for a 25 minutes period in the second half.

Easts did the only thing they had in hand in the first 20 minutes, aggressive tactics to try to unsettle Redcliffe.

There was violent kicking and punching brawl after three minutes play brought on by tension in both teams and some pressurising by players on both sides.

Referee Bernie Pramberg, desperately trying to maintain control of the game, awarded six penalties in the first five minutes.

It was 2-all from a penalty goal each, then 3-2 to Easts when halfback Lee Hutchinson snapped a field goal.

Tough tackling by Easts and accurate deep kicking by Hutchinson put lots of pressure on Redcliffe in the first 20 minutes.

Ron Raper, Peter Leis, Brian Winney, Ian Thinee, Rod Halley made frequent runs which relieved pressure on Redcliffe's line.

Then the first try of the match came from smart play by Raper and Leis who set up a try for winger Merv Cook after 22 minutes play.

This was the signal for some superb attack by Redcliffe backs. Winney fed Tony Obst on the blind side of a scrum, Obst fed winger Cook and Winney, backing up took Cook's pass to race away for the second try.

Running on

Obst was again in the attack with Leis and Cook to clear the way for a great try by pacey centre Ron Carige and Leis went over after Thinee, Orchard and Winney had handled the ball over another 60 metre (65yd) movement.

Redcliffe at this stage were irresistable in their attack, running on to passes at the last split second. It was great football which a former hard tackling Easts side just could not block.

Easts had matched Redcliffe in a crunching, crashing encounter, with Easts forwards Kev Stephens, Paul Khan, Rod Morris and Alan Shephard meeting the hard running Redcliffe forwards front on.

Hutchinson, five-eighth "Butch" Pearse, fullback Howard Fullarton and Shephard broke through, tackled and strove to stay on top.

But they just could not maintain a team pressure on the well organised Redcliffe side.

Relaxed

There was a period of about 25 minutes in the second half when Easts did get on top of an apparently relaxed Redcliffe side.

Pearse and forward Paul Khan broke through, Rod Morris scored from a designed move from a tap kick, and Easts seemed likely to break Redcliffe's hold on the game.

But with about 10 minutes play remaining, Redcliffe halfback Brian Winney cut loose with some great attacking play to score himself and then to handle twice in a long attacking move to put winger Vic Puodziunas over.

"Too good"

That 25 minutes lapse by Redcliffe could be ominous for them. Valleys would have killed them in that period when too many Redcliffe players wanted to play fancy football with flick passes and long lobbed passes to outside players.

Easts coach Ted Verrenkamp said: "They were far too good. Redcliffe is a smart competent team. They can come back so well and it looks like a great grand final between Redcliffe and Valleys."

Redcliffe coach, double Kangaroo and World Cup halfback Barry Muir was not over jubilant.

"Okay, it was a good win today," he said. "But it will be a far different proposition against Valleys next Sunday — no fancy football then."

There were only 13 effective scrums in the match and they went to Bob Wilson, Redcliffe hooker, over Easts Johnny Lang by 8-5. Penalties went Easts way by 18-5.

First scorers: Easts 3, Redcliffe 9. First try scorers Redcliffe 2, Easts 13.

Redcliffe 33 (R. Carige 2, B. Winney 2, M. Cook, P. Leis, V. Puodziunas (tries; R. Raper 6 goals) d. Easts 8 (R. Morris a try; H. Fullarton 2 goals, L. Hutchinson a field goal).

Goals won

In a hard fought reserve grade preliminary final Easts Rob Wheeler kicked three penalty goals to give his team a 6-0 win over Norths. Easts now meet Brothers in the grand final.

Norths strong third grade team beat Brothers by 18-2 to qualify for the grand final against Valleys.



"COOL down young Merv," says Redcliffe forward Robert Orchard as he pours a soft drink over winger Merv Cook's head in a happy Redcliffe dressing room at Lang Park yesterday. In front, smiling, are winger Vic Puodziunas (left) and hooker Bob Wilson.

$10,000...

(Said Bob to Big Artie)



REDCLIFFE Rugby League old boy Artie Beetson (right) had plenty to smile about when he went to Redcliffe dressing room after yesterday's preliminary final to congratulate coach Barry Muir (left). Norths president Bob Box (centre) also had a few words to say.

1973

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 15 v REDCLIFFE 7

THIRD GRAND FINAL WIN IN 4 YEARS



TOP CENTRE Gerry Fitzpatrick, one of the outstanding players in yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final, shows the determination which exemplified the Valley team in their thrilling 15 - 7 win over Redcliffe.

THE Valley Rugby League Diehards — there is no beter name for them — won their third premiership in four years when they defeated Redcliffe by 15-7 in a gripping Brisbane Grand Final at Lang Park yesterday.

Before a record grand final crowd of more than 40,000 Valleys only clinched the win about six minutes from the end with a try by forward John McCabe.

Following a thrilling first half which had the huge crowd in a constant uproar, the halftime score was 7-all.

But the most exciting period was the 12 minutes after halftime when both teams put everything they had into all out efforts to get on top.

Play switched from end to end of the field, with first one team on top and then the other retaliating with attacking bursts.

Both teams went close to scoring a try in that period.

But this was where Valleys' greater grand final experience told. They set about consolidating yardage as they worked upfield.

Then suddenly the ball was whipped out from a Valley ruck along the backs. Winger Paul Gayler snapped up a hampered pass, strode through one tackle, evaded another and dived over for a try.

That made it 10-7 to Valleys, and while the game from there lost some of its earlier spectacle, there was still great excitement as Redcliffe generated more attack to put pressure on Valleys' defence.

Ruled out

There were thrilling moments when Redcliffe's Tony Obst came up into the attack more frequently searching for a breakthrough.

One Obst crunching burst was followed by a slicing run by five-eighth Rod Cameron and then a thrust at the line by lock Ian Thinee, with the referee having to make a decision on a try. He ruled it out.

The pace and toughness told. Valleys prop Russell Hughes and Redcliffe's great tackler Rod Halley left the field with leg injuries to be replaced by Dave Herbert (Valleys) and Don Rudd (Redcliffe).

Then in one of the most thrilling runs of the match, Redcliffe centre Ron Carige broke away from his own goal line, beating Valleys backline defence in a great burst over about 60m.

But the Diehard spirit then became most evident as lock Jeff Gill and prop John McCabe chased Carige.

Well over the halfway line Gill dived low, McCabe dived high at Carige and the Redcliffe centre was thrown off balance and forced into touch.

If there was a turning point in the game, that successful chase by Gill and McCabe of Carige was it.

Broken arm

Or it could have come a few minutes later when Redcliffe captain Ron Raper broke his forearm in a tackle of Mick Rathborne, who had replaced John Crilly at halftime.

Raper was replaced by Ron Sparrow, who went in as five-eighth with Rob Cameron going into the second row.

Redcliffe nevertheless were not beaten yet and an up and under by hooker Bob Wilson, who made a hash of an earlier attempt, saw Redcliffe again close to equalising.

But then Valleys took over again in their own style, working play upfield in a series of short bursts. Then Tony Perkins put a beautifully timed pass out to McCabe on the burst and the Redcliffe defence just did not have the strength left to pull down the tall McCabe, who scored in the corner.

That made it 13-7 and Mills landed a penalty a minute from the end to make the final score 15-7.

Valleys won mainly through their greater experience and their ability to get back in defence, plus of course that "never beaten" approach which saves tries against them and scores tries for them.

Sorting out players for special mention might not be fair to others, but I thought that Hugh O'Doherty, Tony Perkins, John McCabe, Jeff Gill, Marty Scanlan, Gerry Fitzpatrick were outstanding, but then what about Ross Strudwick and Alan Mills?

Redcliffe had many great players on the day, too. Ian Thinee, Tony Obst, Ron Raper, Ron Carige, Peter Leis, Bev Bleakley, Brian Winney were well up with their opponents.

Hooker Bob Wilson won scrums for Redcliffe over Hugh O'Doherty by 12-9, but O'Doherty made up for that deficit with his great foraging and tackling in the open play.

Referee Bernie Pramberg, in his first grand final, gained strong control early and maintained it. He had a splendid first "big match."

SCORES: First grade, Valleys 15 (H. O'Doherty, P. Gayler, J. McCabe tries; J. Crilly 2, A. Mills goals; d. Redcliffe 7 (P. Leis a try; J. Raper 2 goals). Reserve grade: Brothers 24 (B. Shelvy 2, B. Costello, S. Damro, R. Cock tries; K. Woolley 4 goals, S. Damro a field goal; d. Easts 5 (W. Heydt a try; R. Wheeler a goal). Third grade: Norths 11 (D. Lowe a try; S. McNally 3 goals and 2 field goals; d. Valleys 5 (A. Pike a try; G. Murphy a goal).

CAPTAIN WATCHES THE TEAM GO DOWN



BROKEN ARM, SHATTERED HOPES . . . Redcliffe's captain Ron Raper had to sit out the final 10 minutes of yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League grand final against Valleys at Lang Park. Valley's led 10-7 when Raper was hurt tackling Mick Rathbourne. For Raper, the events on the field were nearly as painful. His side went down 15-7.

1973

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 15 v REDCLIFFE 7



ROOM for not one more man or motor vehicle in the vicinity of Lang Park yesterday, when more than 40,000 people watched the Rugby League clash of the year — the grand final between Redcliffe and Valleys. This special Courier - Mail aerial photograph was taken at 3.45 p.m.



Above: Lang Park from the Frank Burke grandstand at the start of the 1973 Reserve Grade grand final where Brothers defeated Easts 24-5.

1973

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 15 v REDCLIFFE 7



Fortitude Valley RLFC. BRL Premiers 1973

BACK ROW: R.Gurnett, M.Rathborne, J.McCabe, G.Robson (masseur), G.Fitzpatrick, A.Batibasaga, H.Kirk.
THIRD ROW: G.Jones, R.Beatson, A.Beauchamp, L.Dellit (asst. secretary), A.Perkins, R.McDougall, F.Clancy.
SECOND ROW: G.Dziewicki (secretary), R.Strudwick, A.Mills, J.Canavan, J.Gill, D.Herbert, J.Delaforce, K.Overell (treasurer). FRONT ROW: H.Holloway (coach), H.O'Doherty, M.Scanlan (captain), F.Neumann (president), J.Crilly, P.Gayler, J.Murphy (manager). ABSENT: R.Hughes, N.Clarke, J.Abbott, B.McLeod.

RESULTS

26 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 25 (Carige 2, Puodziunas, Cook, Bleakley tries; Raper 5 goals) d. Norths 9 (Hicks try; Berrigan 3 goals).
*Redcliffe: T.Obst, M.Cook, P.Leis, R.Carige, V.Puodziunas, R.Cameron, B.Winney, I.Thinee, R.Raper (c), R.Halley, R.Orchard, R.Wilson, B.Bleakley. Coach: B.Muir.
Norths: E.Goode, K.Berrigan, E.Lilley, R.Michaels, G.Harrison, D.Noble, S.Farquhar, A.Trent, P.Kleinhans, D.Scheiwe, P.Hall, N.Geiger, A.Nunan. Coach: R.Hagan.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

2 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 35 (Gayler 2, Strudwick 2, Jones, Gill, Rathborne tries; Mills 4, Crilly 3 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 7 Denman try; Watt 2 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, P.Gayler, G.Fitzpatrick, R.Beatson, G.Jones, M.Scanlan (c), R.Strudwick, J.Gill, T.Perkins, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly.
Reserve: M.Rathborne. Coach: H.Holloway.
Easts: W.Watt, A.Currie, J.Eales, D.Wakerley, J.Denman, L.Hutchinson, W.Heydt, A.Shephard, P.Khan, J.Fyfe, K.Stephens, J.Lang, R.Morris. Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Referee: Henry Albert.

9 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL LANG PARK
Redcliffe 33 (Carige 2, Winney 2, Cook, Leis, Puodziunas tries; Raper 6 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 8 (R.Morris try; Fullarton 2 goals, Hutchinson field goal).
Redcliffe: T.Obst, M.Cook, P.Leis, R.Carige, V.Puodziunas, R.Cameron, B.Winney, I.Thinee, R.Raper (c), R.Halley, B.Bleakley, R.Wilson, R.Orchard. Coach: B.Muir.
Easts: W.Watt, A.Currie, H.Fullarton, W.Heydt, G.Lawson, R.Pearse, L.Hutchinson, A.Shephard, P.Khan, J.Fyfe, K.Stephens, J.Lang, R.Morris. Coach: E.Verrenkamp.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

16 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 15 (O'Doherty, Gayler, McCabe tries; Crilly 2, Mills goals) d. Redcliffe 7 (Leis try; Raper 2 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, P.Gayler, G.Fitzpatrick, R.Beatson, G.Jones, M.Scanlan (c), R.Strudwick, J.Gill, M.Rathborne, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Reserves: A.Perkins, D.Herbert. Coach: H.Holloway.
Redcliffe: T.Obst, M.Cook, P.Leis, R.Carige, V.Puodziunas, R.Cameron, B.Winney, R.Raper (c), I.Thinee, R.Halley, R.Orchard, R.Wilson, B.Bleakley. Reserves: D.Rudd, R.Sparrow. Coach B.Muir.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.
Crowd: 42,000 (record).

*Teams as selected

Rothmans Medal: John Eales (Easts).

LEADERSHIP . . .
it's an old Valleys asset

Can any Brisbane Rugby League club measure up to Valleys' tradition of having outstanding leaders in their teams?

This is an intriguing question. And it is difficult in recent years to find a more imposing line-up of on-field leaders than the Diehards have produced.

Going back to the 1950s (and there could have been inspiring Valleys leaders before this), there is the legendary NORM POPE.

Pope, by any standards, was a brilliant player with an enviable record as an infallible full-back. As a defender he was rock solid. As an attack unit he was enterprising and alert. And as a goal kicker he was a champion, a record-setter.

All these football assets were secondary to his leadership. With Pope plotting the play, Valleys set a tradition of tight, tigerish defence — a style of play that still is maintained by the blues.

Pope, as much as anyone, shaped the Valleys' Diehard tradition. He played his heart out for 80 minutes, and would never concede a yard, or a point, despite the odds.

By example he could lift a team amazingly.

The same gift was apparent with Valleys MICK RETCHLESS.



NORM POPE . . . one of the most distinguished records in Brisbane football.



MICK RETCHLESS . . . led many a Valley charge.

Mick was a tower of power on the field.

He had a talent for getting his team to come up with a 100 per cent effort, leading them by example.

With Mick leading the charges, Valleys were a formidable combination and their successes could be attributed substantially to the Retchless leadership.

Mick had plenty of help, too, for the MARTY SCANLAN-ROSS THRELFO five-eighth-half back combination must have been one of the most capable in Brisbane Rugby League history.

Either Marty or Ross could organise a team brilliantly, and both shared the gift of keeping a team cohesive, tightening up the loose play, and rallying players when the points were against them.

Another was forward JOHN CRILLY who could lead a pack efficiently.

With this tradition established it is no wonder that "The General," ROSS STRUDWICK has continued in the role of being an inspiring leader.

Struddy has been acknowledged as a genius for dictating the tempo of a game. He has the talent for taking charge, and his leadership is unquestioned.

It is no wonder that Valleys have a fine premiership tradition. The club has been lucky in having had such an array of players with leadership talents.

And this happy state of affairs looks like continuing strongly in 1980, with Struddy calling the shots, and keeping his team tightly organised.



MARTY SCANLAN . . . a by-word in the Valleys club, which has produced many champions.



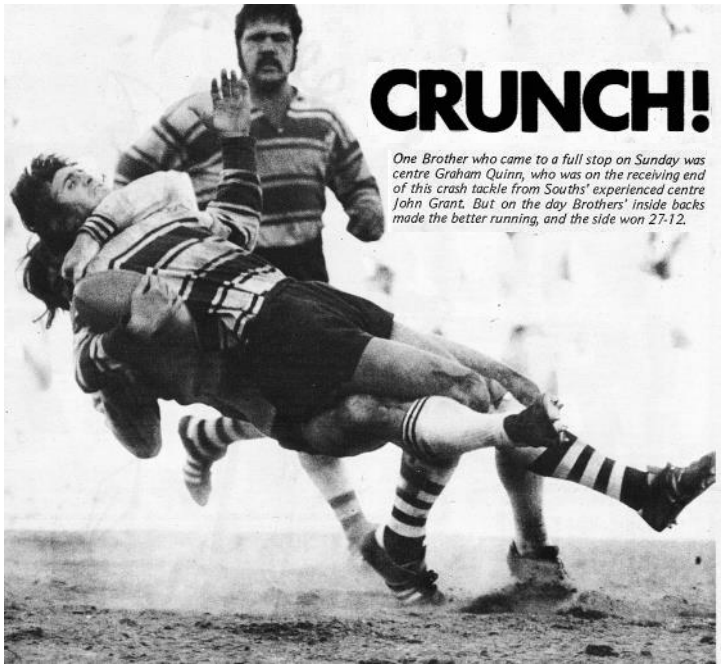
ROSS THRELFO . . . he was known as the "tackling machine."



JOHN CRILLY . . . he was a seasoned campaigner for the Diehards.



ROSS STRUDWICK . . . continuing the old leadership tradition strongly.



CRUNCH!

One Brother who came to a full stop on Sunday was centre Graham Quinn, who was on the receiving end of this crash tackle from Souths' experienced centre John Grant. But on the day Brothers' inside backs made the better running, and the side won 27-12.



Above: John Grant



Above: John Sattler

Below: Souths players including Fijian import Isoa Vola Vola

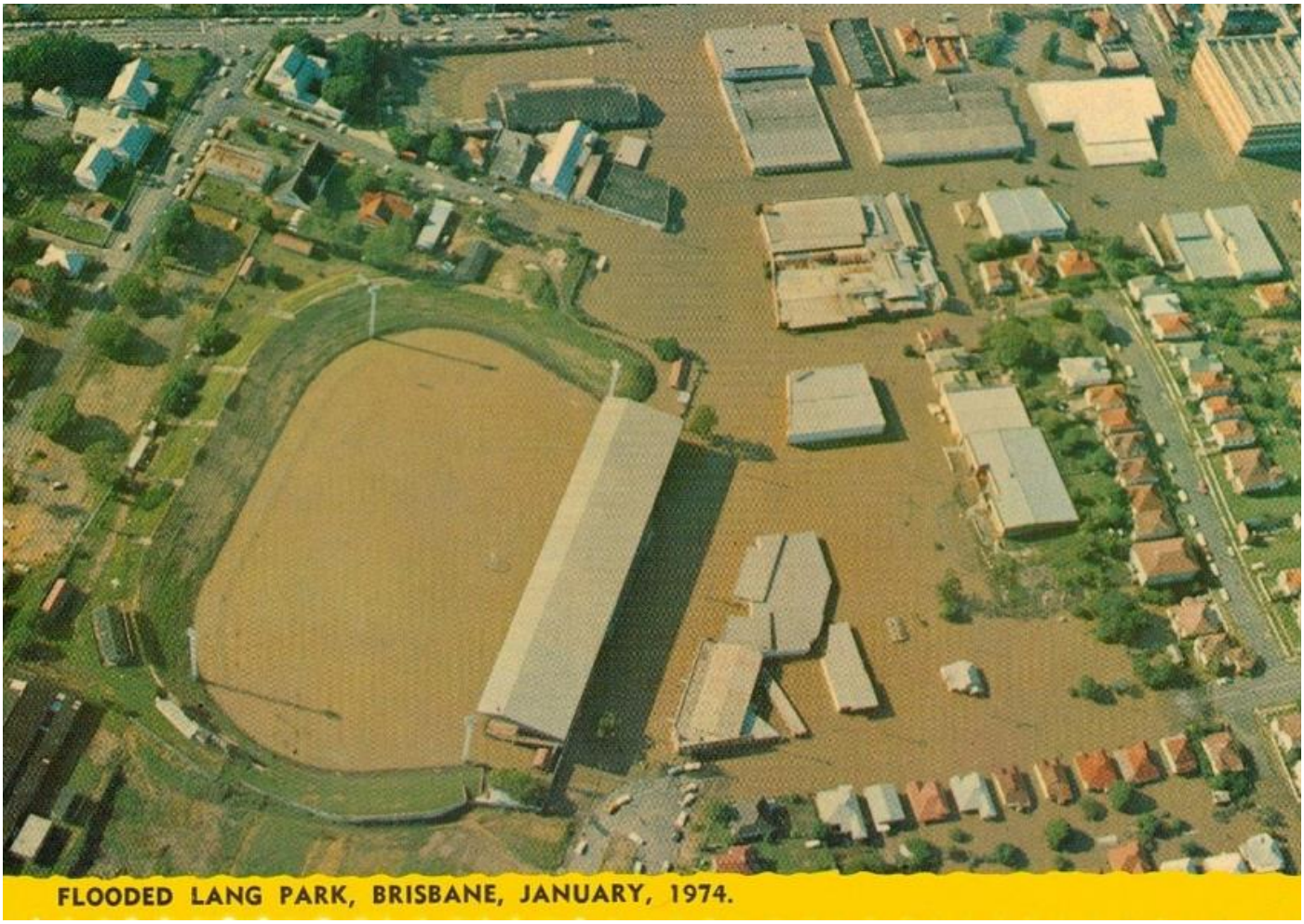


Valleys' Marty Scanlan is about to be taken down. Nick Geiger is ready to swoop









FLOODED LANG PARK, BRISBANE, JANUARY, 1974.



1974

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHERN SUBURBS	16	0	5	423	234	32
VALLEYS	14	0	7	356	260	28
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	11	1	9	319	344	23
BROTHERS	10	1	10	330	300	21
REDCLIFFE	10	0	11	314	301	20
WYNNUM MANLY	9	0	12	264	383	18
EASTERN SUBURBS	7	1	13	283	328	15
WESTERN SUBURBS	5	1	15	301	440	11

1974 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

FIRST ROUND

SAT. 30th - SUN. 31st MARCH 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 21 d. EASTS 15
WYN-MANLY 23 d. SOUTHS 17
WESTS 21 d. BROTHERS 10
VALLEYS 27 d. REDCLIFFE 13

SAT. 6th - SUN 7th APRIL 1974
FIRST GRADE
WESTS 14 d. WYN-MANLY 13
NORTHS 23 d. REDCLIFFE 9
EASTS 18 d. VALLEYS 12
SOUTHS 20 d. BROTHERS 18

13th, 14th, 15th APRIL 1974
FIRST GRADE
SOUTHS 14 d. WESTS 12
VALLEYS 22 d. NORTHS 12
REDCLIFFE 25 d. EASTS 7
BROTHERS 22 d. WYN-MANLY 11

SAT. 20th - SUN. 21st APRIL 1974
FIRST GRADE
REDCLIFFE 18 d. WESTS 5
WYN-MANLY 8 d. NORTHS 7
SOUTHS 12 d. EASTS 11
VALLEYS 13 d. BROTHERS 9

THUR. 25th - SAT. 27th - SUN. 28th APRIL 1974
FIRST GRADE
VALLEYS 29 d. WESTS 6
SOUTHS 21 d. NORTHS 5
EASTS 13 d. WYN-MANLY 2
BROTHERS 31 d. REDCLIFFE 0

4th, 5th, 6th MAY 1974
FIRST GRADE
VALLEYS 13 d. SOUTHS 10
WESTS 19 d. NORTHS 13
REDCLIFFE 16 d. WYN-MANLY 7
EASTS 17 d. BROTHERS 13

SAT. 11th MAY, 1974
FIRST GRADE
EASTS 27 d. WESTS 23
NORTHS 28 d. BROTHERS 5
REDCLIFFE 23 d. SOUTHS 4
VALLEYS 15 d. WYNNUM-MANLY 2

SECOND ROUND

SAT. 18th & SUN. 19th MAY 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 34 d. VALLEYS 10
REDCLIFFE 20 d. EASTS 7
SOUTHS 16 d. WESTS 10
BROTHERS 27 d. W/MANLY 4

SAT. 25th & SUN. 26th MAY, 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 10 d. REDCLIFFE 7
EASTS 16 d. VALLEYS 8
WESTS 36 d. W/MANLY 7
BROTHERS 40 d. SOUTHS 0

SAT. 1st JUNE 1974
FIRST GRADE
REDCLIFFE 18 d. W/MANLY 11
BROTHERS 23 d. EASTS 16

SAT. 8th JUNE 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 26 d. WESTS 3
VALLEYS 26 d. SOUTHS 16

SUNDAY 16th JUNE 1974
FIRST GRADE
BROTHERS 10 d. VALLEYS 5
SOUTHS 23 d. EASTS 5
NORTHS 27 d. W/MANLY 3
REDCLIFFE 29 d. WESTS 18

SAT. 22nd & SUN. 23rd JUNE 1974
FIRST GRADE
REDCLIFFE 16 d. BROTHERS 7
NORTHS 23 d. SOUTHS 22
EASTS 22 d. W/MANLY 5
VALLEYS 28 d. WESTS 6

SAT. 29th & SUN. 30th JUNE, 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 19 d. EASTS 13
BROTHERS 25 d. WESTS 14
W/MANLY 24 d. SOUTHS 18
VALLEYS 19 d. REDCLIFFE 11
(Valleys 1974 President's Cup)

SAT. 6th & SUN. 7th JULY 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 27 d. BROTHERS 2
W/MANLY 18 d. VALLEYS 10
SOUTHS 10 d. REDCLIFFE 7
WESTS 12 drew EASTS 12

THIRD ROUND

SAT. 13th & SUN. 14th JULY 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 13 d. EASTS 7
BROTHERS 12 d. WESTS 4
REDCLIFFE 19 d. VALLEYS 15
WYNNUM-MANLY 19 d. SOUTHS 16

SAT. 20th & SUN. 21st JULY 1974
FIRST GRADE
VALLEYS 10 d. EASTS 7
NORTHS 16 d. REDCLIFFE 5
W-MANLY 17 d. WESTS 15
BROTHERS 15 d. SOUTHS 15

SAT. 27th & SUN. 28th JULY 1974
FIRST GRADE
VALLEYS 10 d. NORTHS 4
EASTS 15 d. REDCLIFFE 12
SOUTHS 20 d. WESTS 17
W-MANLY 20 d. BROTHERS 6

SAT. 3rd & SUN. 4th AUGUST 1974
FIRST GRADE
VALLEYS 9 d. BROTHERS 6
REDCLIFFE 31 d. WESTS 8
NORTHS 22 d. W-MANLY 11
SOUTHS 14 d. EASTS 10

SAT. 10th & SUN. 11th AUGUST 1974
FIRST GRADE
NORTHS 18 d. SOUTHS 10
VALLEYS 27 d. WESTS 20
BROTHERS 19 d. REDCLIFFE 10
W-MANLY 25 d. EASTS 14

SAT. 17th & SUN. 18th AUGUST 1974
FIRST GRADE
W/MANLY 21 d. REDCLIFFE 14
NORTHS 47 d. WESTS 15
BROTHERS 13 d. EASTS 12
SOUTHS 20 d. VALLEYS 14

SAT. 24th & SUN. 25th AUGUST 1974
FIRST GRADE
SOUTHS 21 d. REDCLIFFE 11
VALLEYS 34 d. W-MANLY 3
WESTS 23 d. EASTS 19
NORTHS 28 d. BROTHERS 17

1974

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 27 v Souths 12

BROTHERS HIT FORM TO UPSET SOUTHS

By Jack Reardon

BROTHERS Rugby League team hit its best form of the season at the right time when it convincingly beat Souths 27-12 in the B.R.L. first semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The win qualified Brothers for the preliminary final on September 15, in which they will meet the loser of next Sunday's major semi-final between top teams Norths and Valleys.

And on yesterday's form, Brothers emerged as a threat to both Norths and Valleys.

Besides scoring five tries to two, Brothers crossed the goal line on three other occasions, but were recalled.

They were recalled twice for narrow touch-line decisions, and when forward Bob Cock was held on his back, unable to touch down.

That was the measure of Brothers' superiority on the day, but there was also some great defence, particularly from young centre pair Graham Quinn and Murray Schultz, halves Tony White and Brian Bennett.

Souths, following their two recent wins over Valleys and Redcliffe, were the popular choice to win yesterday's match.

But they appeared possible winners for only two periods about 20 minutes of the first half and 10 minutes early in the second half, when hooker Bob Muir won the first four scrums.

Big gains

One of the major factors in Brothers' win was that former Test hooker Brian Fitzsimmons, who took over the captaincy as well, won the last 10 scrums of the match.

And that was when Brothers swept over Souths to score another three tries, while Souths added only a penalty goal.

Souths' defence cracked up the middle, where there were too many attempts at shoulder high and head high tackles.

Brothers' heftiest forwards, Ian Sartori, Peter McNamara, Noel Harrington and Bob Cock, made big games as they plunged through the early Souths tacklers.

Sartori, particularly, broke the line and set up attacking movements for Brothers in the first half.

And the solid defence presented by McNamara, Cock, Sartori, Fitzsimmons and Harrington, with Greg Thomas covering well, broke up Souths' forward attacks.

Bright attack

I thought Souths erred tactically. There was too much emphasis on attack through the forwards, while they had probably the best attacking set of backs in Brisbane yearning for the ball.

Five-eighth Graeme Atherton repeatedly tried to set his three-quarters away, but there was just that split-second delay in getting the ball to him and a subsequent delay to his outside men.

Replacement halfback John Langton, standing in for injured Gary Dobrich had some bright periods in attack and defended well for Souths and lock Joe Cedro put up his usual wholehearted defence for 80 minutes.

But Souths' most useful player must have been hooker Muir, who broke through frequently and was one of the strongest defenders.

John Grant was well covered by his opponent, Quinn, but managed a couple of strong breaks that could have resulted in tries.

Tony Scott, playing his last game for Souths, had few opportunities in attack, but was not to blame for any of Brothers' tries.

Brothers coach, Paul Broughton said; "The boys have been building up to this form. I was particularly pleased with their formation in defence."

Fine tries

Brothers winger Ian Dauth scored two fine tries and landed six goals for a personal tally of 18.

He also gave new young Souths winger Mitch Brennan something of a lesson on what a semi-final is all about.

Brennan had his hands full marking Dauth, but he showed his alertness and quick reflexes to score a sharp try from an "up and under" kick.

The thrust by fullback Wayne Bennett, who was always alert to attacking opportunities, the penetration by five-eighth Brian Bennett and some great line-breaking bursts by young centre Graham Quinn, were features of Brothers' attack.

There were some good tries during the match, but the one that grabbed me most was Brothers' third effort, when there were four passes in about 12 metres involving White, Wayne Bennett, Quinn and a final, quick one to Dauth.

Scrums for the match were 16-11 to Brothers.



BROTHERS half back Tony White does a handstand as he finishes a crashing tackle of Souths lock Joe Cedro in yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park. Brothers won 27-12 to go into the preliminary final on Sunday week.

BROTHERS 27 d SOUTHS 12

SCORERS. — Brothers: I. Dauth 2, B. Shelby, G. Thomas, N. Harrington tries; I. Dauth 6 goals. Souths: J. Langton, M. Brennan tries; T. Scott 3 goals.

1974

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 16 v Norths 15

VALLEYS FIGHT BACK TO STOP NORTHS

By Jack Reardon

THE Valley Rugby League team lived up to its Diehard tradition when it fought back from 4-8 to beat Norths by 16-15 in a spine-tingling major BRL semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Valleys now move directly into the Grand Final on September 22, in which it will play the winner of next Sunday's Norths v Brothers preliminary final.

Norths scored three tries to Valleys' two but the winning margin came from four goals out of four attempts by Valley half-back Ross Strudwick and one from one by prop John Crilly.

Norths' goalkicker, High School student Darryl Brohman, landed three goals from six attempts, but had few easy shots.

Valleys clinched its win 10 minutes from the end, when winger Greg Jones flashed over in the corner following a quick-passing backline movement and Strudwick landed a finely-angled goal from less than a metre inside the touchline.

There were plenty of people agreeing after the match that Strudwick is the best Rugby League player in Queensland and they included Norths' president Bob Bax.

Strudwick took plenty of punishment, particularly in the first half, when he was hit late, hard and often but continued to come back better than ever.

His well-judged short kicking and "grubber" kicking repeatedly had Norths scurrying back in defence and his skilful dummying and switching from a pretended inside pass to Russell Hughes, to a quick, orthodox pass to Gerry Fitzpatrick, produced Valley's first try in the second half.

It was a crowd-pleasing game, a typical, hard-tackling semi-final that brought cheers from a tense crowd of about 19,000 who stayed to the end.

Norths had the upper hand in the first half. Their heavier forwards, Ron Clothier, Glen Harrison and Paul Khan always gained distance with plunging runs and Valleys' defence was slow in moving up to meet them.

There was lots of probing by both sides. Earlier, there were deep kicks into opponent's territory, both fullbacks Alan Mills (Valleys) and Geoff Wraith (Norths) handled cleanly and penetrated.

Wraith's venture into a backline attack helped greatly in Norths first try, by winger Mick Peut.

Mills, however, won two awards for the match with his elusive running, which gained much territory for Valleys and he saved under pressure.

Bishop's skill

One of the features of the first half was the skilful passing by Tommy Bishop.

Often, he cut out the first-up runner and put the ball right into the hands of the next up for penetrating bursts.

The defence by both sides was strong and the covering of the fast penetrating runners was keen and an indication of good coaching.

Norths' hefty prop Ron Clothier bore the brunt of some solid Valleys defence as he charged up the middle to take the bruising tackles and hold possession.

Clothier deserved his try, when he charged through a momentary gap created by Bishop.

Norths led by 8-4 at halftime from tries by Peut and Clothier and a goal by Brohman, against penalty goals by John Crilly and Strudwick.

Hit front

Valleys hit the front 11-8 early in the second half from a penalty by Strudwick and a converted try by Fitzpatrick and Norths came back with a penalty goal by Brohman.

Norths scored again with Lilley's great effort, but they had run out of time.

There were exciting early games when Norths scrambled home 9-7 over Valleys in the third grade from a late penalty goal by Steve McNally and Easts held out a determined Norths second half bid to win the Reserve grade by 18-16.

First scorer: Valleys No. 13; Norths No. 3.
First try scorers: Valleys No. 3; Norths No. 2.
Valleys 16 (G. Fitzpatrick, G. Jones tries; R. Strudwick 4 J. Crilly goals) d. Norths 15 (M. Peut, E. Lilley, R. Clothier tries; D. Brohman 3 goals).



VALLEYS big prop Russell Hughes was going nowhere but to ground when he was tackled by Norths hooker Nick Geiger (bottom) and Glen Harrison coming in over the top in yesterday's semi-final. Valleys hooker Hugh O'Doherty is in the background.



Valleys coach Henry Holloway was not happy with some aspects of yesterday's game, particularly the feeding of the scrums.



NORTHS centre Eric Lilley grimaces as he looks at the ball and another three points for Norths in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final against Valleys. Lilley scored a great try with only three minutes to go when he pulled out of several tackles then reached out one handed to score when he was still well short of the line.

1974

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 12 v Norths 9

Brilliant 110 metre try sealed Norths' fate

BROTHERS GET UP 12-9

BROTHERS Rugby League team dashed into the Brisbane Grand Final with a magnificent 110-metre try late in yesterday's Preliminary Final against Norths at Lang Park. The try broke a 9-all draw with five minutes to go.

Tough defence denied Devils

By Jack Reardon

It is now a Valleys-Brothers Grand Final and there are plenty of League followers prepared to bet odds on Valleys to win, or to give Brothers points start for a bet.

But these same people will have to take into consideration Brothers' grand defence in the second half, when Norths pounded at their goal line for 30 minutes.

I don't think Valleys are, any odds-on certainties to win next Sunday. It will be another great battle.

Brothers showed their attacking brilliance with two tries. The first came from a tackle-shedding burst by fullback Wayne Bennett in Norths' quarter, followed by a well-timed pass to winger Ian Dauth, who swung in a Norths tackle to reach out and touch-down.

Brothers' second and match-winning try came five minutes from the end, whes the score was 9-all and Norths' replacement centre Lee Hutchinson took a shot at a field goal.

Wayne Bennett gathered the ball right on the dead ball line behind his own goal and gained 30 metres before he was tackled.

Then, from the ruck, the ball was swept out along the backline through five-eighth and centres to winger Brad Shelvey, who gained ground before sending a pass in to second-rower Ian Sartori, who then put it back again to Shelvey and the young winger outpaced Norths' defence to score in the corner.

In hand

I thought Norths had the game in hand early in the seond half when Peter Hall, Glen Harrison, Darryl Brohman and Tony Trent began to break through Brothers defence up the front.

But you can put down Brothers' back-to-the-wall defence in the second half as the equal of anything Valleys have put up this season.

There were some big-hearted tacklers for Brothers in that period, and there were no shirkers.

But again put down young second-rower Bob Cock as the most prominent and the one who knocked down one after the other of Norths attackers, climbing up off the ground repeatedly to do it again.

In that storming period by Norths, fullback Geoff Wraith was always tough and dangerous in strong thrusts. Tommy Bishop, who suffered a depressed cheekbone fracture, set up frequent attacking movements.

But always, there was just that lack of finish by Norths when breaks were made. There was just not enough backing-up at the right time.

"We were hit hard by injuries and definitely the ball did not bounce our way," Norths coach Bob Hagan said. "But we did lack finishing power in our attack."

Norths' main attacking figure, Eric Lilley did not take the field until midway through the first half and then he replaced sound, constructive centre Peter Kelso, who suffered a badly bruised thigh.

Later in the second half, Lilley left the field to be replaced by Lee Hutchinson.

This was an exciting game, not spectacular, but it was a typical hard-hitting final, with plenty of early needle by both teams.

Referee Bernie Pramberg handled the tough game with early tolerance, but plenty of penalties and he got on top to maintain control of what could have been an explosive situation in the first 10 minutes.

Brothers' young halfback Tony White, obviously not fully fit, did more tackling than any other player on the field until he was forced off with a knee injury in the second half.

His replacement, Stan Damro, carried on with great tackling and a couple of smart breaks.

Norths successfully covered one of Brothers' most dangerous attacking players, Greg Thomas, who just could not get free of the defence for his long-striding bursts.

But Norths did not fully cover Wayne Bennett, who played one of his best games.

Ian Dauth's defence often jolted Norths' attack and five-eighth Brian Bennett, who took a severe pummelling, had some good periods in attack.

But no one can deny the big-hearted defence in front of their goal posts by Bob Cock, Peter McNamara, Noel Harrington, Ian Sartori and Brian Fitzsimmons when Norths kept on mounting attack after attack, in the Brothers quarter.

Scrums for the match went to Norths 14-11 and penalties were level at 12-all.
First scorers: Brothers No. 2, Norths No. 9.
First try-scorers: Brothers No. 2; Norths No. 5.

Norths Reserve grade defeated Redcliffe by 18-0 and will meet Easts in the Grand Final next Sunday. In the Third grade, Valleys beat Easts 18-7 and will meet Norths in next Sunday's Grand Final.

First grade scores were: Brothers 12 (I. Dauth, B. Shelvey tries; I. Dauth 3 goals) d. Norths 9 (P. Smith a try; D. Brohman 3 goals).



BROTHERS' high scoring winger Ian Dauth dives over for a try despite the spirited defence of Norths' Peter Hall and Tommy Bishop. Dauth scored nine points in Brothers' 12-9 Rugby League final win at Lang Park yesterday.

1974

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 9 v BROTHERS 2

VALLEY KICKED HOME; TRYLESS G. FINAL

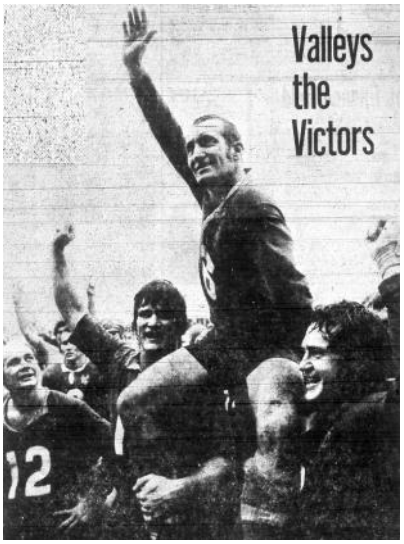
By Jack Reardon

IN ONLY the second try-less grand final in Brisbane Rugby League history, State halfback Ross Strudwick kicked the Valley Diehards to a 9-2 win over Brothers at Lang Park yesterday.

Strudwick landed two penalty goals and a field goal, in a match which produced one of the best defensive displays by two sides for many years.

Brothers won the only other try-less grand final, in 1967, when Noel Cavanagh kicked three penalty goals to one by Peter Lobegeiger for Norths.

Valleys other points came from two field goals by fleetfooted fullback Alan Mills, and a penalty goal by John Crilly. Brothers winger Ian Dauth scored his team's only points with one penalty goal from three attempts.



CHAIR OF TRIUMPH for Valleys Rugby League captain, Martin Scanlan, escorted off the field at Lang Park yesterday by team mates (from left) Hugh O'Doherty, Alan Beauchamp (partly obscured), Russell Hughes and Ross Strudwick. Valleys retained the B.R.L. premiership by defeating Brothers 9-2. — Tryless match,



BROTHERS winger Ian Dauth leaps high in an attempt to mark this up and under during yesterday's exciting grand final at Lang Park. He is well covered by Valleys players Jeff Gill (left) and Greg Jones.

It was a dour, unspectacular but exciting grand final with the emphasis on hard tackling by both teams, but it was always clean, with only one short punch-up between two players.

Brothers' supporters waited in vain for one of their team's typical long, sweeping bursts for a try.

It was "on" only occasionally. Fullback Wayne Bennett made some attacking bursts which could have built up into try-scoring movements.

But always there was that magnificent Valley defence which cut off the supports.

You could name 13 great Valley defenders, may be even 14; Dave Herbert came on in place of a hard-working Jeff Gill in the second half.

And the same could be said of the young Brothers. After all, they did keep Valleys out, too.

This was a game of few break-throughs and short advances in attack.

Advantage

Valleys obviously had the advantage territorially; they were in position to kick three penalty goals and three one-pointer field goals.

In the grinding, hard-tackling encounter, Strudwick, Marty Scanlan, John Crilly and Russell Hughes made most ground for Valleys.

Strudwick, always alert and slippery, Scanlan always close to the action were, in my opinion, the major factors in Valleys win because they advanced most and were the equal of any defenders.

Hughes, always hard to bring down, and Crilly, showing unexpected side-stepping penetration up the middle, also had the defence storming back to hold them.

A well-judged and obviously rehearsed short kick to the corner by halfback Tony White just missed producing a Brothers try in the second half.

But there were also some near misses by Valleys when Strudwick, Scanlan, Bob Beatson and Crilly split the defence only to be blocked by great cover.

Bursts

Wayne Bennett and Ian Sartori, had Brothers supporters standing with some promising bursts, and Greg Thomas was cut off by Valleys great defence when he looked dangerous.

In the hard-working match, Brothers young halfback White got through a tremendous amount of tackling, but so did forwards Bob Cock and Peter McNamara, and five-eighth Brian Bennett.

Brothers made more errors than Valleys, but many of them came from attempted efforts to break Valleys defence with something unorthodox, such as reverse passing when it was barely on, and a bit of over-eagerness moving up in defence too quickly, thereby missing tackles.

But look at the age gap and then look out for this young Brothers team next year!

Brothers won scrums 7-3 in the first half, and 8-7 in the second. Penalties were 10-all.

In the Reserve grade grand final, Easts finished brilliantly in the backs to beat Norths 21-6.

Easts fullback Roger Kuhn, still one of the most exciting players in Brisbane, took part in all four Easts tries. Greg Lawson scored two fine tries with polished "finishing off."

In the third grade grand final, Valleys came from behind to beat Norths 11-8.

FIRST SCORERS: Valleys 7, Brothers 2. First try scorers, paid on 12 and 12. Valleys 9 (R. Strudwick 2 goals, and a field goal, J. Crilly goal, A. Mills 2 field goals) d Brothers 2 (I. Dauth a goal).

HENRY'S KING AGAIN FOR ANOTHER YEAR

By Lawrie Kavanagh

King Henry Holloway swigged down the champagne and summed up Valleys' tryless 9-2 victory over Brothers in yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League grand final.

"The points are not on the board, but the superiority was there in Valleys on the field," he said.

Holloway, coach of Valleys, was replying generally to a fact which shocked many Valleys supporters — that Valleys could not score a try against underdogs, Brothers in the grand final.

"We spent 80 per cent of the match in Brothers territory and we had the better of the play, even though we lost the scrums," said Holloway.

It was Holloway's fourth premiership in the last six years with Valleys and he really didn't have to apologise for a tryless grand final.

DISAPPOINTMENT

For Holloway is king again for another year and there is no reason to think that he will not take this Valleys team to next year's grand final . . . and win that one, too.

The overall atmosphere in Brothers dressing room after the grand final was one of disappointment, naturally. But it was also one of elation that the underdogs had held the mighty Valleys tryless.

"We are disappointed at missing out on the premiership," said Brothers coach Paul Broughton, "But you can't take anything away from our players."

However, Broughton, who has proved in only one year that his revolutionary coaching methods work, said Brothers would be back stronger than ever next year.

"Right now it's going to be more homework — and that starts tomorrow — in preparation for next season," Broughton said with a smile.

"We will be retaining all our players of today and I think we will have quite a team," he said.

Broughton, a Sydney business man of independent means joined Brothers this year mainly to prove his coaching methods. He is signed on with Brothers again next year.

Broughton coaches on a total club basis, with teams of all grades, training to a similar plan and all coaches directly responsible to him. As director of coaching, Broughton can and does coach at all levels.

He accepted the Brisbane Brothers coaching job this season only after his old club St. George (Sydney) had rejected his methods, untried.

"I was a week off a life membership with St. George when I left the club," Broughton said yesterday. "But I don't regret my move now."

Yesterday's match proved one point which the Brisbane Rugby League must look into thoroughly next season — the playing area must be fenced off completely from the public.

In one amazing incident yesterday Valleys winger Paul Gayler was tackled from behind and wrestled to the ground during the match by a drunken spectator.

INVASION

The man, in shorts and singlet, staggered over the outer fence and ran a tottering course for almost 50 metres before pouncing on Gayler.

He then staggered off the field and was soon lost in the crowd.

Also at the end of the match hundreds of school children and some adults who should be back at school stormed onto the ground when the final hooter sounded, although the match was still very much in play.



RIGHT: Valleys Rugby League captain Marty Scanlan (right) drinks champagne from the premiership cup cheered on by Hugh O'Doherty (left), coach Henry Holloway and Jeff Gill.

1974

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 9 v BROTHERS 2

Fortitude Valley Rugby League Football Club

FIRST GRADE – 1974

B.R.L. Premiers, Winners President's Cup and Peter Scott Memorial

Games Played 23–Won 16, Lost 7. Points For 381, Against 277.



Sidney Riley *246 Queen St., Brisbane*

Front Row: H. HOLLOWAY (Coach), H. O'DOHERTY, M. SCANLAN (Captain), F. NEUMANN (President), J. CRILLY (Vice-Captain), A. MILLS, F. CLANCY (Manager).

Second Row: T. DOOLEY (Club Doctor), G. DZIEWICKI (Club Secretary), D. HERBERT, J. ABBOTT, J. McCABE, R. BEATSON, K. OVERELL (Treasurer), L. DELLIT (Assistant Secretary).

Third Row: D. MULLINS (Masseur), G. JONES, P. GAYLER, R. GURNETT, R. STRUDWICK, G. PERRETT, G. ROBSON (Masseur).

Back Row: F. LONGHURST, N. CLARKE, G. FITZPATRICK, A. McINNES, R. HUGHES, J. GILL, M. RATHBORNE.

Inset: A. BEAUCHAMP.

▼ RESULTS

1 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 27 (Dauth 2, Shelvey, Thomas, Harrington tries; Dauth 6 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 12 (Langton, Brennan tries; Scott 3 goals).
Brothers: W.Bennett, I.Dauth, M.Schultz, G.Quinn, B.Bennett, T.White, G.Thomas, R.Cock, I.Sartori, P.McNamara, B.Fitzsimmons (c), N.Harrington.
Coach: P.Broughton.
Souths: T.Scott, M.Brennan, J.Grant (c/c), B.Astill, K.McCasker, G.Atherton, J.Langton, J.Cedro, D.Van de Velde, B.Kirkbride, J.Tronc, B.Muir, S.Lyons.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

8 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 16 (Fitzpatrick, Jones tries; Strudwick 4, Crilly goals) d. Northern Suburbs 15 (Peut, Lilley, Clothier tries; Brohman 3 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, A.Beauchamp, G.Fitzpatrick, R.Beatson, G.Jones, M.Scanlan (c), R.Strudwick, J.Gill, R.Gurnett, J.McCabe, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway.
Norths: G.Wraith, M.Peut, E.Lilley, A.Trent, P.Smith, S.Farquhar, T.Bishop (c), S.Calder, D.Brohman, G.Harrison, P.Khan, N.Geiger, R.Clothier. Coach: R.Hagan.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg. ***Crowd: 19,000.***

15 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 12 (Dauth, Shelvey tries; Dauth 3 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 9 (Smith try; Brohman 3 goals).
Brothers: W.Bennett, I.Dauth, M.Schultz, G.Quinn, B.Shelvey, B.Bennett, T.White, G.Thomas, R.Cock, I.Sartori, P.McNamara, B.Fitzsimmons (c), N.Harrington.
Reserve: S.Damro. Coaches: P.Broughton, J.Lohman.
Norths: G.Wraith, M.Peut, L.Hutchinson, P.Kelso, P.Smith, S.Farquhar, T.Bishop (c), A.Trent, D.Brohman, G.Harrison, P.Khan, N.Geiger, P.Hall. Reserve: E.Lilley. Coach: R.Hagan.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

22 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 9 (Strudwick 2, Crilly goals; Mills 2, Strudwick field goals) d. Past Brothers 2 (I.Dauth goal).
Valleys: A.Mills, A.Beauchamp, G.Fitzpatrick, R.Beatson, G.Jones, M.Scanlan (c), R.Strudwick, J.Gill, R.Gurnett, J.Abbott, R.Hughes, H.O'Doherty, J.Crilly. Coach: H.Holloway.
Brothers: W.Bennett, I.Dauth, M.Schultz, G.Quinn, B.Shelvey, B.Bennett, T.White, G.Thomas, R.Cock, I.Sartori, P.McNamara, B.Fitzsimmons (c), N.Harrington.
Coach: P.Broughton.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg. ***Crowd: 38,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Jeff Fyfe (Easts).

1975

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTERN SUBURBS	16	0	5	473	296	32
NORTHERN SUBURBS	13	1	7	467	346	27
REDCLIFFE	13	0	8	387	337	26
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	2	8	390	228	24
WYNNUM MANLY	10	1	10	352	349	21
BROTHERS	8	1	12	347	385	17
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	15	331	490	12
VALLEYS	4	1	16	289	495	9

B.R.L. FIRST GRADE PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION – 1975

CLUB	WESTS	REDCLIFFE	NORTHS	W/MANLY	EASTS	P/BROS.	SOUTHS	F/VALLEY
WESTS		W 25-NIL W 30-7 W 34-19	L 7-19 W 20-15 L 16-25	L 10-36 W 8-4 W 29-10	L 16-31 W 31-8 W 19-12	W 17-11 W 17- 4 W 23-17	W 31-8 W 22-14 L 14-26	W 33-2 W 30-18 W 41-10
REDCLIFFE	L 0-25 L 7-30 L 19-34		W 24- 7 W 26-24 W 15- 6	W 18-12 L 19-25 L 13-17	W 18-13 L 12-14 W 16-14	W 15-10 W 16- 8 W 26-17	L 21-31 W 17- 5 W 41- 3	W 25- 7 W 18-16 W 23-17
NORTHS	W 19- 7 L 15-20 W 25-16	L 7-24 L 24-26 L 6-15		W 26- 7 W20-12 W 27- 7	W 25-13 D 24-24 L 18-28	L 19-20 W 25-20 W 42-17	W 30-17 W 31-12 W 21-16	W 29-17 W 36-10 L 13-18
WYNNUM-MANLY	W 36-10 L 4- 8 L 10-29	L 12-18 W 25-19 W 17-13	L 7-26 L 12-20 L 7-28		D 13-13 W 16-12 L 4-27	W 27-11 W 19-13 L 5-15	W 22- 6 L 25-26 W 34-12	W 21- 7 L 21-26 W 15- 6
EASTS	W 31-16 L 8-31 L 12-19	L 13-18 W 14-12 L 14-16	L 13-25 D 24-24 W 28-18	D 13-13 L 12-16 W 27- 4		L 14-26 L 17-19 W 15-11	W 30-14 L 17-18 W 19- 8	W 31-15 W 17-13 W 19- 4
PAST BROTHERS	L 11-17 L 4-17 L 17-23	L 10-15 L 8-16 L 17-23	W 20-19 L 20-25 L 17-42	L 11-27 L 13-19 W 15- 5	W 26-14 W 19-17 L 11-15		W 22-18 W 18-12 W 21-19	D 18-18 W 22-13 W 33-12
SOUTHS	L 8-31 L 14-22 W 26-14	W 31-21 L 5-17 L 3-41	L 17-30 L 12-31 L 16-21	L 6-22 W 26-25 L 12-34	L 14-30 W 18-17 L 8-19	L 18-22 L 12-18 L 19-21		L 15-21 W 14-13 L 21-26
FORTITUDE VALLEY	L 2-33 L 18-30 L 10-41	L 25- 7 L 16-18 L 17-23	L 17-29 L 10-36 W 18-13	L 7- 4 W 26-21 L 6-15	L 15-31 L 13-17 L 4-19	D 18-18 L 13-22 L 12-33	W 21-15 L 13-14 W 26-21	

1975

AMCO CUP

The Amco Cup was a midweek competition designed for television. No Brisbane teams were invited to compete in its first season.

In 1975 for its second season the top four Brisbane teams from 1974 (Valleys, Brothers, Norths and Souths) and Ipswich and Toowoomba competed in the 1975 Amco Cup. Only Valleys made it to the quarter finals and were beaten by Parramatta 33-10.

1975 Amco Cup Games Involving Queensland Teams

2/04/75	South Sydney	37	Ipswich	6	Redfern Oval
16/04/75	Balmain	24	Brothers	16	Lang Park
7/05/75	St George	35	Brisbane Norths	16	Leichhardt Oval
7/05/75	Penrith	37	Brisbane Souths	9	Leichhardt Oval
18/06/75	Valleys	15	Toowoomba	6	Lang Park
23/07/75 (QF)	Parramatta	33	Valleys	10	Leichhardt Oval

Amco Cup Quarter Final - Parramatta 33 v Valleys 10

Valleys overwhelmed in Sydney

SYDNEY. — Parramatta had too much pace and power for Valleys, winning 33-10 in the Amco Cup Rugby League quarter-final last night.

Spearheaded by former Australian five-eighth Dennis Pittard, Parramatta scored seven tries to two, and Pittard landed six goals from eight attempts.

Valleys had a brief moment of glory when they led 5-0 at the end of the first quarter after a spectacular try by winger Doug Muir.

Five-eighth Marty Scanlan got the ball to Muir at halfway. The speedy winger outpaced his opposite, then cut inside to beat the covering lock forward and the fullback to score beside the post.

Muir was the outstanding Valleys player. He defended strongly and twice prevented certain tries by crossing to the opposite wing to make strong tackles.

Parramatta levelled at 5-all early in the second quarter, then went ahead 15-5 after winning five successive scrums.

Valleys scored their second try when Al McInnes put John Abbott over near the post from a ruck.

But by half-time Parramatta had gone to a 20-10 lead and was in charge from then.

Valleys were Queensland's last hope in the Amco Cup. Their "take" for reaching the quarter-final was $3350.

1975

BRL Elimination Final (4 v 5) - Wynnum 9 v Easts 7

Wynnum home with late try

By JACK REARDON

FULLBACK Bob Patterson crashed home a 9-7 win for Wynnum-Manly over Easts in the Brisbane Rugby League knock-out semi-final seven minutes from full time at Lang Park yesterday.

Chiming into a backline attack 30 metres out, Patterson swept through a gap and raced diagonally away from the defence to score a try in the corner.

This put the Seagulls ahead 8-7, and four minutes later Patterson scored the final point with a field goal.

The game was the best of the season hard-fought, close all the way, and certainly the fastest game of the season.

Easts now drop out of the semi-finals, while Wynnum-Manly go on to play next Saturday against the loser of today's semi-final between Norths and Redcliffe.

Wynnum-Manly made it a double for the day, as their third grade had a convincing 24-5 victory over Redcliffe in their semi-final.

The Seagulls also have their Reserve grade team playing today against Redcliffe.

In the Reserve grade semi-final yesterday, Valleys defeated Brothers 12-7 in a close match. Brothers made a strong rally late in the match but could not bridge the gap.

Wynnum-Manly and Easts produced long sweeping movements in attack in the first half of yesterday's A grade match, which was played at blistering speed.

Easts' try came from a 70 yard movement. It was started by a long pass from John Payne to centre Bevan de Bruyn, who cut infield, found fullback Roger Kuhn racing alongside, fed him the ball and Kuhn was able to get a quick pass to the five-eighth Greg Holden, who scored.

Wynnum-Manly kept on coming back with quick bursts by five-eighth Bob Hardie, centre John Rhodes, and foward Lew Platz, while halfback Des Lee and lock Nev Hornery maintained the movements as great connecting links.

Kangaroo winger Warren Orr, with strong and elusive runs, took Wynnum-Manly up close to Easts' goal line where Ken Churchill just missed a try.

GREAT RUN

John Dowling then burrowed through a ruck and reached out one-handed to score.

Goals in the first half came from Wayne Watt for Easts and Bob Patterson for Wynnum-Manly.

Easts, however, led 7-5 at half time as a result of field goals by John Payne and Greg Holden.

Judged on the first half play there was little between the teams, although Easts had looked slightly more dangerous in attack.

They generated movements much more quickly than Wynnum-Manly.

Easts hounded Wynnum-Manly's goal line for the first 30 minutes of the second half, but could not break through.

Payne and Watt attempted field goals but both missed.

Watt, who had kicked six goals out of six attempts a week ago, landed only one from four yesterday.

The attendance of about 8000 was around the figure expected for a Saturday match, even a semi-final.

First scorers Easts No. 6 — Wynnum-Manly No. 12 first try-scorers; Easts No. 6, Wynnum-Manly No. 12.

AT LANG PARK. — B.R.L. Semi-final: Wynnum-Manly 9 (Dowling, Patterson tries Patterson goal field goal) d. Easts 7 (Holben try; Watt goal, Holben, Payne field goals).



WYNNUM-MANLY fullback Bob Patterson dives over for the winning try in yesterday's Rugby League first semi-final at Lang Park. Grabbing too late is East Fullback, Roger Kuhn.

1975

BRL Qualifying Final (2 v 3) - Norths 15 v Redcliffe 2

ENGLISH STARS BOOST NORTHS

NORTHS' Rugby League Poms, fullback Geoff Wraith and halfback Tommy Bishop, revelled in the Lang Park mud yesterday to spearhead the Blue Devils' advance to the major semi-final against Wests next Sunday.

In appalling conditions following overnight and steady all-day rain, Norths beat Redcliffe 15-2, scoring three tries in the second half.

Norths emerged as a tough defending side with enough players of imagination in attack to be shortening in the odds for the premiership.

Their game against Wests next Sunday could be a grand final preview.

Redcliffe live for another day. They will meet Wynnum-Manly next Saturday at Lang Park in another knockout semi-final.

The loser of that match is out. The winner plays the loser of the Norths-Wests match in the preliminary final.

The winner of the Norths-Wests game next week goes straight into the Grand Final.

In the wet, muddy conditions with a slippery ball, it was not a game of fancy attack yesterday.

Redcliffe and State captain, Ian Pearce said: "They were the better side of the day. They made fewer handling errors with the wet ball. We bombed at least three tries because we did not hold the ball at the vital pass."

Prominent

The powerfully built Wraith frequently plunged upfield in tackle-beating bursts, spent most of the game up in the middle tackling and relieving team mates as ruck half.

But he was never missing from his fullback spot when Redcliffe put the ball up high and he was sound when the pressure was "on." Three times he took the ball and a stunning tackle simultaneously without faltering.

He said he has never experienced in England the equal of yesterday's muddy conditions. "We get it wet and muddy at times, but not like this, with rain right through a match."

Bishop, always the cunning player, dummied his way through for valuable gains, set up openings for team-mates and was right on the spot to touch down a loose ball for Norths' first try.

There were other strong players for Norths in props John Sattler and Mick Walker who played to the point of exhaustion, tackling and always striving to gain those valuable metres

They must have been the most consistent players for Norths and Walker, still had energy at the end, to dummy his way over for the final try.

There was also strong play from centres Eric Lilley and Ralph Michaels, with Lilley sewing up the win with a typical burst from ruck- half, evading four tacklers to score the second try.

Redcliffe were well in the match until Lilley scored Norths' second try.

There was nothing in it by half-time when Norths led by 2-0. The Dolphins forwards had looked strong enough to wear down the opposition.

Norths had been closest to scoring tries in the first half, but spot-on cover defence by Ian Thinee, Forrester Grayson and Steve Bullow frequently broke up Norths' attack.

And both sides had the straight-line defence with backs and forwards spread across the field.

Redcliffe's fullback Tony Obst had few opportunities to use his line busting runs among the threequarters, because of the wet conditions and the hazards of passing the greasy ball.

Changes

Redcliffe coach Barry Muir made backline changes. He sent Peter Leis on in the first half to replace Brad McArthur, but Leis lasted about 15 minutes then left the field with his recurring leg injury.

He said later he was finished for the season.

Halfback Brian Whinney came on in the second half, with Geoff Russell moving back to fullback and Tony Obst to the centre in a search for a breakthrough.

Five-eighth Steve Williams had a strong game and kicked with accuracy, but he was up against a tough young defender in Peter Clark, who gave him no quarter.

Brisbane's top referee Bernie Pramberg is to have an x-ray on an injured ankle this week and is in doubt for the grand final, for which he was favourite.

Pramberg injured the ankle in the Wests-Valleys match a week ago.



WHAT'S SO FUNNY . . . That's the question a wide-eyed Tommy Bishop (centre) seems to be asking Redcliffe's second rower Rod Halley (extreme left) in yesterday's Rugby League semi-final under shocking conditions at Lang Park. If anyone had cause to laugh it was Bishop, as Norths prop forward Mick Walker had just scored to seal the game for the Devils.

NORTHS 15 d REDCLIFFE 2

Scorers. — T. Bishop, E. Lilley, M. Walker tries; B. Warwick 3 goals. Reecliffe: I. Pearce a goal. First Scorers: Norths No. 2. Reecliffe No. 4. First try scorers: Norths No. 7, Redcliffe No. 12.

1975

BRL Minor Semi-Final (Winner EF v Loser QF) - Redcliffe 22 v Wynnum 15

REDCLIFFE INTO FINAL BY 22-15 WIN

By JACK REARDON

Redcliffe advanced to the Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final when they downed Wynnum Manly by 22-15 in a slashing knock-out semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Redcliffe will now meet the loser of today's major semi-final, between Wests and Norths, Wynnum-Manly, who went down gallantly, can now hang up their gear.

AT LANG PARK — B.R.L. Semi-finals. 1st gde: Redcliffe 22 (Obst, Pearce Gardiner, Grayson tries; Pearce 5 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 15 (Rhodes try; Patterson 5 goals; Hornery 2 field goals).

Redcliffe deserved their win. They led by 9-3 at half time and scored four tries to one in the match.

But it was anyone's game right up to the last half minute when Redcliffe forward Forrester Grayson scooped up a loose ball and raced clear to score.

Just three minutes earlier, Wynnum Manly had a splendid scoring chance when lock Nev Hornery broke through a tackle and put a short pass out to five-eighth Bob Hardie, who raced clear and got the ball to winger, Warren Orr. But Hardie was recalled and penalised for off-side.

And, just before that, Hornery had made a man over from a ruck but centre Ron Milne, with a clear field ahead for he and his winger, dropped the pass.

Wynnum Manly, in fact, lost as much by their own mistakes as by Redcliffe's strong play.

The Seagulls produced a stirring second half rally, drawing level at 12-all, hitting the front at 13-12 and levelling again at 15 all.

But, for most of the match I thought Redcliffe looked the sounder and stronger team.

The clash between the forwards was fierce, but generally the game was hard and clean, with a minimum of incidents.

There was little between the forward packs, and it is difficult to single out the top players.

BEST TRY

But Ian Thinee, Rod Halley, Forrester Grayson and Bev Bleakley hunted in defence for Redcliffe, hungry for tackles, and they missed very few.

Lew Platz, Ken Churchill, John Dowling and Barry McTaggart did equally well for Wynnum Manly.

Wynnum Manly scored the try of the match in the second half when half-back Des Lee and Hornery combined cleverly to create a gap for centre Milne, who swept through to the full-back and put his co-centre, John Rhodes, over for the try.

In the first half, Redcliffe scored the only try, and it came from a perfectly judged high kick right to the goal mouth by half-back Brian Winney.

Hornery raced back, faced the opposition and took the ball and Tony Obst's tackle simultaneously.

The ball was jarred out of Hornery's hand straight into Obst's arm, and he rolled over to score between the posts.

Two penalty goals and a conversion by Redcliffe skipper Ian Pearce made up Redcliffe's first half points.

A penalty by fullback Bob Patterson and a field goal by Hornery gave Wynnum - Manly their three points up until half time.

Pearce scored a clever try for Redcliffe early in the second half when he dummied to pass from ruck-half but kicked ahead, chased the ball, and touched down a foot short of the dead - ball line.

last half minute, but a sloppy pass by Hornery who had done so many good things during the match gave Grayson his opportunity to score the final try.

Wynnum Manly full-back Bob Patterson had another strong game and his goal kicking was impeccable. He landed five from five attempts.

Pearce always sound and producing occasional clever bits of play, landed five goals from eight attempts and scored a try to give him 13 points for for the match.

Redcliffe five-eighth Steve Williams, also played soundly in attack and defence, and after today's performance I feel that Redcliffe remains a threat to both of today's semi-finalists Wests and Norths.

Scrums went Wynnum Manly's way by 12-6 and they also also received most penalties by 13-10.

First scorers:- Redcliffe 4, Wynnum Manly 1.

First try scorers: Redcliffe 1, Wynnum Manly 3.



REDCLIFFE forward Forrester Grayson is crashed to the ground by Wynnum Manly defenders Ken Churchill (left) and John Dowling as Tony Obst looks on.

WYNNUM-Manly's Bob Hardie is surrounded by Redcliffe players as he battles his way upfield in yesterday's match at Lang Park. From left are Ian Thinee, Bob Jones, Brian Winney, Forrester Grayson (about to grab Hardie), Steve Williams (behind Steve Bullow) and referee Smith.



1975

BRL Major Semi-Final (1 v Winner QF) - Wests 21 v Norths 11

Wests ends its long Grand Final drought

WESTS Panthers played their way into their first Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final in 19 years when they out-tackled and outsped Norths to win yesterday's major semi-final at Lang Park by 21-11.

It was a convincing win. Wests played with a 2-1 deficit of possession from scrums but scored three tries to one.

In one magnificent display of defence, the Panthers held the storming Norths out for 30 consecutive tackles in Wests quarter.

Wests straight-line defence kept play alive by frequently touching the ball with foot or hand in this period, and when finally a scrum was ordered by referee Eddie Ward, the crowd gave Wests a great ovation.

The main comment in Wests' dressing room after the match was: "Who said Wests can't tackle "

Norths won scrums for the match by 12-6, but by halftime they were a frustrated team. Wests had scored the only try at that stage and led by 4-4.

September 21 this year will be Wests first A grade grand final since 1956. They will meet the winner of next Sunday's preliminary final between Norths and Redcliffe.

In 1956 they went down to Brothers by 17-10 in the grand final following a sensational semi-final which was abandoned by referee Col Wright and subsequently awarded to Brothers.

Wests last won the B.R.L. Premiership in 1954, their sixth since they went through undefeated in 1922, the inaugural year of the Brisbane Rugby League.

They are hot favourites to make it seven on Sunday week following their great showing yesterday.

In 1974 Wests finished at the bottom of the competition, winning only five games of 21.

This year, after strong interstate buying of players, they won 16 matches to be minor Premiers.

But as club president Gordon Treichel was quick to point out, seven local junior products played in yesterday's game.

Differences

They were Rob Thompson, Mike Flesser, Greg Heading, Wayne Stewart, Chris Anderson, Norm Carr and Greg Oliphant (a former Wests junior who joined Valleys for a couple of years).

However the star of yesterday's match was a Wests import, fullback Greg M'Carthy, who scored two of their three tries and who was always sharp and elusive, with splendid timing in all phases of the game.

I thought that the main differences between the teams were the skills of M'Carthy, five-eighth Geoff Richardson, halfback Oliphant and the off-field coaching by Ron Raper.

Another plus factor was the great defence by the entire Wests team led by the unobtrusive but steady worker Kel Brown who seldom wins scrums for a match, but who is always in the vanguard in defence.

Norths' president Bob Bax said: "To think that we probably could have had the Williamson brothers with us this year. They had a big part in beating us today."

Henry Williamson, one of the most consistent players in Brisbane this year, and his big brother Max, were two of the strong Wests forwards in attack and defence.

But they had great support from Rod Bradshaw, locks Chris Anderson and Norm Carr, who shared the game, and props John Armstrong and Bob Green who also played a half game each.

Winger Wayne Stewart, always strong in general play, also kicked well to land six goals from seven shots. Harry Cameron and Greg Heading held their own in the centres.

Main fault

Norths main fault was a lack of penetration and involved in that was a lack of variety in attack.

They lacked nothing by comparison to Wests in tough defence, but when faced by the elusiveness of McCarthy and the accurate kicking, of Richardson, Norths had no answer.

In fact, I was surprised that Norths did not short kick over Wests straight line defence.

John Sattler, Tommy Bishop, Mick Walker and Eric Lilley again put up strong resistance for Norths, but there has to be some closer connection in their attack for Norths to improve.

They are just too straight up and down and the question is whether they have the time to improve their tactics this year.

Second rower Tony Trent and centre Eric Lilley were Norths best bets in attack. Trent scored their only try and went very close to a second.

First scorers: Wests 5, Norths 2. First try scorers: Wests 1 Norths 9.

First grade: Wests 21 (G. M'Carthy 2, N. Carr tries; W. Stewart 6 goals) d. Norths 11 (T. Trent a try, B. Warwick 4 goals).

Reserve grade: Wynnum-Manly 19 d. Norths 9. Third grade: Wests 17 d. Norths 9

WESTS Rugby League team kept its line intact for 70 minutes of yesterday's semi-final against Norths at Lang Park. Norths centre Wayne Hale comes in for his share of the crunch from Greg Heading (top) and Rob Thompson (below).



1975

BRL Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 25 v Norths 2

Try avalanche buries Norths

By Jack Reardon

REDCLIFFE, the youngest Brisbane Rugby League club, qualified yesterday for its third grand final with a second half scoring avalanche to beat Norths by 25-2 in the preliminary final at Lang Park.

Redcliffe will now play minor premiers Wests in the grand final next Sunday in a match which has more than a hint of grudge in it.

Wests' coach is Ron Raper, who led Redcliffe in its last grand final appearance in 1973, then snatched his contract time late in 1974, a year early, to take over as non-playing coach of Wests for 1975.

Barry Muir was then Redcliffe coach and still is, so both coaches will know each other's approach to the game.

On their second half form yesterday, Redcliffe must be very much in the hunt to take out the premiership.

It was a strong, even game right to the last 10 minutes yesterday and the final score does not reflect how much Norths were in it.

The Devils in fact led 2-0 at half-time and even when the score was 10-2 in Redcliffe's favour, Norths attacked well enough to put centre Eric Lilley over the goal-line.

Lilley lost the ball over the line through a strong tackle by fullback Tony Obst, who used everything to knock the ball loose from Lilley's arms.

Had that not happened Norths could have been 7-10.

ATTACKING EDGE

My summing up of the match is that Redcliffe won because of a little more attacking skill and some extra speed in some positions.

I though that Redcliffe five-eighth Steve Williams was the man of the match. He had a "no-error" game and was always up with the play in attack and defence.

But what about the Dolphins skipper Ian Pearce, probably the worst looking good footballer in Queensland. He comes out on top so often that he inspires his team, who have the utmost confidence in him.

Then there were Norths' two Poms, Geoff Wraith and Tommy Bishop, who put more into their efforts than any local boy.

Wraith said after the match to Bishop: "Well, I did my best for you skipper," and he certainly did just that.

Wraith has been a great player for Norths in their last five games.

But Bishop was just as willing and near the end was still chasing wingers, and tackling them, when the position looked hopeless for his team.

Norths' president Bob Bax, in announcing club trophy winners said: "Bishop has won nearly the lot and I think that this was his most dedicated game since he joined us."

For two teams which I had rated stronger in defence than attack, the first half was a splendid contest, played at a cracking pace, with quick recoveries and bruising tackles.

Norths had more possession from scrums and they were very close to scoring on several occasions. But so were Redcliffe.

Norths' most dangerous attacking forward, Tony Trent, forced his way over the line, but lost the ball forward in a bruising tackle by Obst.

The first five minutes of the second half proved the winning period for Redcliffe when they scored two tries.

Winger Brian Gardiner, from a rare but well directed pass by Ian Thinee, beat three tackles, then put halfback Brian Winney over for the first try.

Then Winney, four minutes later, brought off a neat little "dummy" pass and put Pearce over near the posts.

Redcliffe scored its third try eight minutes from the end when Williams and Steve Bullow stood in tackles, got passes away and the ball was whipped out to Pearce, who put strong young winger Vic Tighe clear for the try.

Bullow, who had a strong game, made the lead-up break for a try by Rod Halley, who had his best game of the year and Chris Mason, a second half replacement, set up winger Brian Gardiner for the final try.

Redcliffe 25 (B. Gardiner, I. Pearce, B. Winney, V. Tighe, R. Halley tries; I. Pearce 4, S. Williams goals) d. Norths 2 (B. Warwick a goal). First scorers: Norths 2, Redcliffe 2. First try scorers: Redcliffe 2, Norths 12. Reserve grade: Norths 17 d. Valleys 6. Third grade: Wynnum-Manly 26 d. Norths 0.



REDCLIFFE Rugby League team's inspiring captain Ian (Bunny) Pearce slams into Norths defenders Peter Clarke (No. 6) and Ralph Michaels (No. 4) in yesterday's hard fought preliminary final at Lang Park. Backing up Pearce is Peter Flanders.

1975

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 26 v REDCLIFFE 24

OH! WHAT A FINISH

Wests hold out — just

By Jack Reardon

THE Paddo Panthers won their first Brisbane Rugby League premiership for 21 years yesterday at Lang Park, but only after time ran out for Redcliffe.

In the most exciting finish to a grand final since Easts' Jeff Fyfe kicked his famous field goal in 1972, Wests held on just long enough to beat Redcliffe 26-24.

And that was after Wests had led 19-4 at halftime.

The storming finish by Redcliffe had the crowd of about 40,000, barracking their heads off.

One Redcliffe official complained: "Those damn kids beat us. I reckon if the field was clear for that last high kick by Pearce, one of our blokes would have got to the ball and Wests, who had had it at that time, would not have been able to catch him."

When the full time siren sounded, a scrum had already been formed and Redcliffe won it.

Pearce put the ball high in the air, it landed infield on the grandstand side among some young boys already on the field for autographs before the final whistle.

Pearce, was following it, dodging boys, but then it went into touch and the game was over.

Wests appeared to have the game won more than comfortably with a brilliant first half in which they scored three tries to nil, while not winning a scrum.

They led 7-0 after seven minutes, following a penalty by Wayne Stewart and a clever converted try by Harry Cameron, following smart lead up play by Geoff Richardson.

Vital plan

Richardson also figured in the vital play in the second try when he switched play again to Cameron for young forward Rod Bradshaw to carry on with a dummy and swerve to score.

Max and Henry Williamson did the lead-up play for Wests' third try in the first half, with powerful bursts and fullback Greg McCarthy scored from a ruck.

Redcliffe had been using their hard-running forwards Bev Bleakley, Rod Halley, Forrester Grayson, and big Steve Bullow as attacking spearheads in the first half.

But they had got nowhere against the tight Wests defence.

It was amazing that Wests, without winning a scrum, had scored three tries to nil in the first half.

However, Wests had gained enough possession from Redcliffe's handling errors to maintain their attacking pressure.

Classy

Wests had shown too much class in attack through halfback Greg Oliphant, Richardson, Cameron and surprise packet centre Greg Heading, plus line breaking by Henry and Max Williamson, Norm Carr and Bradshaw.

There was that eagerness to back up in Wests' entire team which the strong defending Redcliffe team just could not contain.

First hint of the change in the game's trend came early in the second half when fullback Tony Obst finished off a storming burst by Redcliffe by scoring alongside a goalpost from a typically powerful run.

He had been closely watched by Wests in the first half.

Wests hit back when Richardson put a magnificently timed long pass out to Heading, who cleared away to score.

This was a try which I will always remember for the judgment of both players. Heading positioned himself outside his opponent and Richardson sensed it.

But that was it for Wests. They led then 26-9.

Maybe Wests grew careless, but that incredible footballer, Bunny Pearce, spotted a gap at a ruck and whipped through for a try which he also converted.

Punch-up

And about this time Ron Raper made a forward change, replacing Max Williamson with Bob Green.

The first punch-up of the match occurred, Redcliffe winger Brian Gardiner made a long dash and Redcliffe gained some attacking momentum.

With 12 minutes to go, Chris Mason (a replacement) fed winger Brad McArthur (a replacement), Ian Thinee chimed in and Geoff Russell (replacement) whipped over for a try.

Russell also figured in the final try when he put a long, well-timed pass out to vigorous forward Bev Bleakley whose power, pace and determination put him over in the corner and a great conversion by Pearce made it 26-24.

There was an incredible change in the second half. But there were also some puzzling team changes by both coaches.

Barry Muir made a successful switch of State centre Peter Leis for Peter Flanders in the first half, but also brought Forrester Grayson off for Chris Mason when Grayson was putting plenty into the game.

First scorers: Wests 5 Redcliffe 4. Frist try scorers Wests 3 Redcliffe 1.

Wynnum-Manly finished on a top note for the season by taking out the Reserve and Third grade premierships.

Scores: A grade, Wests 26 (H. Cameron, R. Bradshaw, G. McCarthy, G. Heading tries; W. Stewart 7 goals) d. Redcliffe 24 (T. Obst, I. Pearce, G. Russell, B. Bleakley tries; I. Pearce 6 goals).

Reserve grade: Wynnum-Manly 23 d. Norths 9.

Third grade: Wynnum-Manly 22 d. Wests 13.



"It's ours!" Wests captain Kel Brown holds up the premiership trophy for the capacity Lang Park crowd after the grand final.

ELATED Wests coach Ron Raper with Chris Anderson (left) and Henry Williamson after Wests win yesterday.





REDCLIFFE Rugby League lock forward, Ian Thinee gets his pass away under attack from Wests centre Greg Heading in yesterday's grand final at Lang Park. Wests won narrowly 26-24 after leading 19-4 at halftime.

CROWD estimated at close to 40,000 at Lang Park yesterday for the Brisbane Rugby League grand final was one of the biggest to watch a club match in Queensland. The new 4800-seat stand in the outer section (right) was sold out. Wests survived a spirited late recovery by Redcliffe to win 26-24. — **Report Page 13.**





1975

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 26 v REDCLIFFE 24



A packed Lang Park saw Wests defeat Redcliffe 26-24 in the unforgettable 1975 grand final. Here Redcliffe lock Ian Thinee takes the ball forward with (from left) Kel Brown, Max Williamson and Henry Williamson hoping to halt his progress. Rohanis Ian Smith watches closely with John Young on the far right.



It's a pensive mood on the Redcliffe bench during the spine-tingling 1975 grand final. From left: coach Barry Muir, David Moffatt and Gary Richards.



1975

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 26 v REDCLIFFE 24



WESTS

The Panthers

In 1915 North Brisbane and Toowong Rugby League Clubs came together to become Western Suburbs, the Panthers.

BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Mick Close, Kel Brown, John Armstrong, Greg McCarthy, Gary Thomas, Henry Williamson, Brian Isbester. **MIDDLE ROW, FROM LEFT:** Steve Crear, Norm Carr, Greg Oliphant, Harry Cameron (Captain), Geoff Richardson. **FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT:** Wayne Stewart, Carlo Costa, John Ribot, Michael Flesser.

RESULTS

30 AUGUST ELIMINATION FINAL
LANG PARK
Wynnum-Manly 9 (Dowling, Patterson tries; Patterson goal, field goal) d. Eastern Suburbs 7 (Holben try; Watt goal; Holben, Payne field goals).
*Wynnum: R.Patterson, W.Hodges, J.Rhodes (c), R.Milne, W.Orr, R.Hardie, D.Lee, N.Hornery, L.Platz, K.Churchill, B.McTaggart, J.Dowling, N.Crausaz. Reserves: R.Robertson, G.Haigh, R.Clapham. Coach: T.Berry.
Easts: R.Kuhn, R.Clark, W.Watt, B.De Bruyn, J.Atkin, G.Holben, T.Creedy, A. Currie, J.Payne, D.Morris (c/c), E.Slingsby, J.Lang, R.Morris. Reserve: G.Freeman.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

31 AUGUST QUALIFYING FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 15 (Bishop, Lilley, Walker tries; Warwick 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 2 (Pearce goal).
Norths: G.Wraith, B.Warwick, W.Hale, E.Lilley, R.Michaels, P.Clarke, T.Bishop (c/c), S.Calder, T.Trent, D.Drew, J.Sattler, N.Geiger, M.Walker.
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.McArthur, P.Flanders, I.Pearce (c), B.Gardiner, S.Williams, G.Russell, I.Thinee, R.Halley, F.Grayson, B.Bleakley, R.Jones, S.Bullow. Reserves: P.Leis, E.Roberts, B.Winney. Coach: B.Muir.
Referee: Ian Smith.

6 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 22 (Obst, Pearce, Gardiner, Grayson tries; Pearce 5 goals) d. Wynnum 15 (Rhodes try; Patterson 5 goals, Hornery 2 field goals).
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, P.Flanders, I.Pearce (c), V.Tighe, S.Williams, B.Winney, I.Thinee, R.Halley, F.Grayson, B.Bleakley, R.Jones, S.Bullow. Reserve: G.Russell. Coach: B.Muir.
Wynnum: R.Patterson, W.Hodges, J.Rhodes (c), R.Milne, W.Orr, R.Hardie, D.Lee, N.Hornery, L.Platz, K.Churchill, B.McTaggart, J.Dowling, N.Crausaz. Reserves: R.Clapham, J.Fredericksen. Coach: T.Berry.
Referee: Ian Smith.

7 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 21 (McCarthy 2, Carr tries; Stewart 6 goals) d Northern Suburbs 11 (Trent try; Warwick 4 goals).
Wests: G.McCarthy, R.Thompson, H.Cameron, G.Heading, W.Stewart, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, C.Anderson, R.Bradshaw, H.Williamson, M.Williamson, K.Brown (c), J.Armstrong. Reserves: R.Green, N.Carr, M.Flesser. Coach: R.Raper.
Norths: G.Wraith, B.Warwick, W.Hale, E.Lilley, R.Michaels, P.Clarke, T.Bishop (c/c), S.Calder, A.Trent, D.Brohman, J.Sattler, N.Geiger, M.Walker. Reserves: D.Drew, E.Wanka.
Referee: E.Ward.

14 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 25 (Gardiner, Pearce, Winney, Tighe, Halley tries; Pearce 4, Williams goals) d. Northern Suburbs 2 (Warwick goal).
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, P.Flanders, I.Pearce (c), V.Tighe, S.Williams, B.Winney, I.Thinee, R.Halley, F.Grayson, B.Bleakley, R.Jones, S.Bullow. Reserves: C.Mason, G.Russell. Coach: B.Muir.
Norths: G.Wraith, B.Warwick, E.Lilley, R.Michaels, W.Hale, P.Clarke, T.Bishop (c/c), S.Calder, A.Trent, D.Drew, M.Walker, N.Geiger, J.Sattler. Reserves: D.Brohman, E.Wanka, S.Farquhar.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

21 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 26 (Cameron, Bradshaw, McCarthy, Heading tries; Stewart 7 goals) d. Redcliffe 24 (Obst, Pearce, Russell, Bleakley tries; Pearce 6 goals).
Wests: G.McCarthy, M.Flesser, H.Cameron, G.Heading, W.Stewart, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, N.Carr, R.Bradshaw, H.Williamson, M.Williamson, K.Brown (c), J.Young. Coach: R.Raper.
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, P.Flanders, I.Pearce (c), V.Tighe, S.Williams, B.Winney, I.Thinee, R.Halley, F.Grayson, B.Bleakley, R.Jones, S.Bullow. Reserves: C.Mason, G.Russell, P.Leis, B.McArthur. Coach: B.Muir.
Referee: Ian Smith. ***Crowd: 41,000.***

*Teams as selected

Rothmans Medal: Steve Calder (Norths).

1976

BRL: WESTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTERN SUBURBS	15	0	6	482	313	30
WESTERN SUBURBS	15	0	6	420	278	30
BROTHERS	13	0	8	393	260	26
REDCLIFFE	11	0	10	367	378	22
WYNNUM MANLY	8	0	13	303	335	16
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	8	0	13	329	428	16
VALLEYS	8	0	13	276	387	16
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	15	291	482	12

THE 1976 PREMIERSHIP Week by Week

MARCH 28 WEEKEND –

WESTS	32	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	12
NORTHS	26	Defeated	W/MANLY	22
SOUTHS	32	Defeated	VALLEYS	17
EASTS	19	Defeated	BROTHERS	11

APRIL 4 WEEKEND –

EASTS	18	Defeated	SOUTHS	9
REDCLIFFE	19	Defeated	W/MANLY	12
BROTHERS	19	Defeated	VALLEYS	5
WESTS	25	Defeated	NORTHS	11

APRIL 11 WEEKEND –

REDCLIFFE	25	Defeated	NORTHS	15
BROTHERS	15	Defeated	SOUTHS	9
WESTS	23	Defeated	W/MANLY	17
VALLEYS	20	Defeated	EASTS	17

APRIL 18-19 WEEKEND –

EASTS	21	Defeated	WESTS	10
NORTHS	19	Defeated	SOUTHS	16
BROTHERS	22	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	21
VALLEYS	19	Defeated	W/MANLY	12

APRIL 25-26 WEEKEND –

WESTS	25	Defeated	BROTHERS	6
VALLEYS	11	Defeated	NORTHS	2
REDCLIFFE	25	Defeated	EASTS	22
SOUTHS	23	Defeated	W/MANLY	20

MAY 2-3 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	29	Defeated	W/MANLY	7
WESTS	24	Defeated	SOUTHS	11
EASTS	36	Defeated	NORTHS	10
VALLEYS	23	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	15

MAY 15-16 WEEKEND –

WESTS	20	Defeated	VALLEYS	13
BROTHERS	27	Defeated	NORTHS	4
REDCLIFFE	18	Defeated	SOUTHS	12
W/MANLY	26	Defeated	EASTS	18

MAY 22-23 WEEKEND –

WESTS	17	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	0
W/MANLY	15	Defeated	NORTHS	8
EASTS	8	Defeated	BROTHERS	5
VALLEYS	13	Defeated	SOUTHS	3

MAY 29 WEEKEND –

VALLEYS	16	Defeated	BROTHERS	12
NORTHS	15	Defeated	WESTS	3
EASTS	29	Defeated	SOUTHS	19
REDCLIFFE	9	Defeated	W/MANLY	4

JUNE 5-6 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	43	Defeated	SOUTHS	4
W/MANLY	10	Defeated	WESTS	9
EASTS	31	Defeated	VALLEYS	6
REDCLIFFE	24	Defeated	NORTHS	13

JUNE 12-14 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	31	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	15
NORTHS	22	Defeated	SOUTHS	19
W/MANLY	12	Defeated	VALLEYS	8
WESTS	27	Defeated	EASTS	16

JUNE 19-20 WEEKEND –

SOUTHS	21	Defeated	WESTS	15
W/MANLY	15	Defeated	BROTHERS	11
EASTS	31	Defeated	NORTHS	12
VALLEYS	21	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	13

JUNE 26-27 WEEKEND –

SOUTHS	24	Defeated	W/MANLY	11
BROTHERS	15	Defeated	WESTS	8
REDCLIFFE	29	Defeated	EASTS	18
NORTHS	25	Defeated	VALLEYS	14

JULY 3-4 WEEKEND

SOUTHS	21	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	18
EASTS	14	Defeated	W/MANLY	13
BROTHERS	17	Defeated	NORTHS	8
WESTS	19	Defeated	VALLEYS	12

JULY 10-11 WEEKEND –

W/MANLY	22	Defeated	NORTHS	12
EASTS	19	Defeated	BROTHERS	14
SOUTHS	15	Defeated	VALLEYS	14
WESTS	24	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	16

JULY 17-18 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	18	Defeated	VALLEYS	7
EASTS	25	Defeated	SOUTHS	7
WESTS	40	Defeated	NORTHS	7
REDCLIFFE	13	Defeated	W/MANLY	7

JULY 24-25 WEEKEND –

EASTS	46	Defeated	VALLEYS	9
W/MANLY	27	Defeated	WESTS	12
BROTHERS	30	Defeated	SOUTHS	15
REDCLIFFE	26	Defeated	NORTHS	18

JULY 31-AUGUST 1 WEEKEND –

WESTS	30	Defeated	EASTS	11
BROTHERS	21	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	4
SOUTHS	27	Defeated	NORTHS	15
VALLEYS	11	Defeated	W/MANLY	9

AUGUST 7-8 WEEKEND –

SOUTHS	19	Defeated	W/MANLY	14
WESTS	16	Defeated	BROTHERS	8
NORTHS	25	Defeated	VALLEYS	13
EASTS	27	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	16

AUGUST 14-15 WEEKEND –

REDCLIFFE	17	Defeated	VALLEYS	5
EASTS	42	Defeated	NORTHS	5
W/MANLY	16	Defeated	BROTHERS	14
WESTS	16	Defeated	SOUTHS	10

AUGUST 21-22 WEEKEND –

REDCLIFFE	32	Defeated	SOUTHS	13
EASTS	14	Defeated	W/MANLY	12
WESTS	25	Defeated	VALLEYS	19
BROTHERS	27	Defeated	NORTHS	19

1976

AMCO CUP

The Amco Cup midweek competition was again expanded in 1976. All of the Brisbane teams except Wynnum-Manly and a number of Queensland country teams competed in 1976.

Again only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals. Brothers became the first Brisbane team to beat a Sydney team beating Penrith 19-8 but were beaten in their quarter final against Balman 19-3.

1976 Amco Cup Games Involving Queensland Teams

31/03/76	South Sydney	17	Brisbane Souths	8	Lang Park
31/03/76	Ryde-Eastwood	29	Ipswich	13	Toowoomba
31/03/76	Toowoomba	39	Nth Territory	7	Toowoomba
31/03/76	Nth Queensland	21	Wide Bay	11	Rockhampton
7/04/76	Brothers	19	Penrith	8	Lang Park
14/04/76	Auckland	30	Redcliffe	5	Lang Park
14/04/76	Cronulla	28	Toowoomba	5	Lang Park
21/04/76	Brisbane Easts	38	Canterbury (NZ)	7	Lang Park
28/04/76	Riverina	36	Valleys	2	Lang Park
5/05/76	Brisbane Wests	17	Brisbane Norths	2	Lang Park
19/05/76	Brothers	12	Nthern Division	6	Leichhardt Oval
9/06/76	Manly	24	Brisbane Wests	8	Lang Park
30/06/76	Canterbury	13	Brisbane Easts	7	Leichhardt Oval
14/07/76 (QF)	Balmain	19	Brothers	3	Leichhardt Oval

Amco Cup Quarter Final - Balmain 19 v Brothers 3

Brothers sink in Cup bog

SYDNEY. — Brothers, Brisbane's last Amco Cup challengers, were eliminated by Balmain in a quarter-final last night.

Balmain won 19-3 in a match played under deplorable conditions.

Rain has fallen almost continuously in Sydney since Sunday, and there is no reason why the match could not have been switched to Lang Park.

Balmain selector, and former first grade centre Terry Parker, said: "We were all prepared for the match to be transferred to Brisbane.

"The conditions were close to the worst I have seen at Leichhardt Oval in 10 years with Balmain."

Balmain, aided by a massive 17-6 scrum advantage, overpowered Brothers, whose hooker, Greg. Keane, was playing his first top grade match.

Balman scored five tries to one and the result was never in doubt.

Casualty

Brothers were unlucky to lose fullback Alan Power after the first quarter with a leg injury. He is unlikely to play against Valleys on Saturday.

Halfback John Herlihy was a late withdrawal. His place was taken by Shane Dyson who gave a determined display.

Balmain's evergreen second-rower Dennis Tutty stood out in defence and won the man of the match award.

He was closely pressed by rugged prop Keith Cook, and Brothers long-striding second-rower Bob Cock.

Cock made the only clean break in the match, from which a try should have eventuated, and was always prominent.

Brothers' only points came midway through the second quarter when Keane dived over from dummy half.

Balmain led only 5-3 at half-time, but increased to 11-3 after the third quarter.

They added two more tries and a penalty goal by Russel Cox in the last quarter.

Former Brothers player Dennis Manteit, returning from a long layoff through injury, had a good game for Balmain.

Peter McNamara and David Wright were the best for Brothers, along with Cock while the backline had little chance in the bog.

SCORES: Balmain 19 (T. Ryan 2, A. McMahon, D. Manteit, J. Shield, tries; G. Cox, K. Cook goals) d Brothers 3 (G. Keane (try). Scrums, Balmain 17, Brothers 6; penalties Balmain 13, Brothers 13.

1976

BRL Elimination Final (4 v 5) - Souths 14 v Redcliffe 6

Gillogly's seven goals a winner

By JACK REARDON

SOUTHS yesterday triumphed in the toughest-ever programme for a club team when they defeated Redcliffe 14 – 6 in the Brisbane Rugby League knockout semi-final at Lang Park.

Not one try was scored. All points came from penalty goals.

Souths winger Tom Gillogly landed seven from nine shots and Redcliffe captain Ian Pearce three from six.

The result means the end of the line for Redcliffe. Souths now will play the loser of today's semi-final between Brothers and Wests next Saturday.

Souths were defeated eight days ago 32-13 by Redcliffe. They then faced a three-way play off, beating Valleys last Tuesday night and Wynnum-Manly last Thursday night.

They had to line up against Redcliffe yesterday for their fourth match in eight days.

Sometimes a touring international team faces a similar programme, but this is the first such task for a Brisbane club team.

MAGNIFICENT

Everyone expected Souths to run out of energy yesterday.

Some of their hard working forwards got up off the ground very slowly in the closing stages, but they staggered back into the fray to keep their line intact.

It was a magnificent effort by the Magpies. Their defense was superb. Captain Greg Veivers took the field under a cloud with injuries to an ankle and knee from Thursday night's game.

But Veivers never stopped tackling, plunging into the Redcliffe defenders and urging his team on to hold out repeated assaults on their goal line.

The same can be said for the Redcliffe team. Their defence was just as secure and their captain, Ian Pearce, a tremendous trier.

There was little between the teams in penalties of possession from scrums. Redcliffe was credited with eight scrums to seven, and 15 penalties to 13.

Even though Souths appeared to have more kickable penalties, Gillogly was in very accurate form.

He kicked his first three shots to give Souths a 6-0 lead, missed one, then kicked the next two including, one from right on the half way mark, over 50 metres.

It was probably Gillogly's best goal-kicking effort of the season.

With such terrific defence by both sides the game was not spectacular, but there were some attaoking movements which lifted the crowd to its feet.

Redcliffe centre Chris Wellman and winger



TOM GILLOGLY

Brian Gardiner looked most likely to win the game for the peninsula team.

There was one thrilling attacking burst in the first half when John Barber, Wellman and Gardiner combined over 60 metres, only to have the flying Gardiner well tackled by Souths' fullback Chris Skelton.

In the second half, Wellman again broke clear in a 40-metre burst, but Skelton again brought off a great tackle to stop him five metres short of the goal line and Wellman's inside pass to supports was knocked down.

Both sides used long, deep punt kicks to force their opponents back. John Barber did this well in the first half for Redcliffe, but Souths centre, John Grant, kicked long and accurately for the entire match to give his team regular territorial advantage.

Grant's defence was also another feature of South's play. He repeatedly broke up Redcliffe's backline attack with smothering ball and all tackles.

Halfback John Salter was another outstanding player for Souths. He is very quick with a sharp side step and he seldom failed to make ground when he elected to run.

NO SHIRKERS

There were no shirkers in this match, particularly in defence, and some Souths promoted players showed up very well, particularly former Townsville forward Marshall Colwell, Barry Lynch and promoted five-eighth Jim Clancy.

Hefty second rower Darryl Van de Velde had an outstanding game. His defence was the equal of any player on the ground, and like Salter, he often broke the line to set up attack for Souths.

Redcliffe's forwards worked very hard in defence but, apart from Barber's initial breakthrough for the Wellman-Gardiner run, they did not penetrate as well as Souths.

Hooker Bob Jones was an exception, but his breaks lacked support.

Both teams suffered player losses. Hard tackling Souths second rower Arnold Bussen left the field after 10 minutes with a leg injury and was replaced by another ex-Townsville player, Pat Phelan.

Redcliffe's loss was equally as great if not greater. They lost second rower Forrester Grayson with an ankle injury in the first half and he was replaced by Chris Mason, who subsequently gave way to Terry Donnelly.

ELIMINATION SEMIS
SOUTHS 14 d. REDCLIFFE 6

Scorers — Souths: T. Gollogly 7 goals. Redcliffe: I. Pearce 3 goals. First scorers: Souths 5, Redcliffe 6. First try scorers: Souths 12, Redcliffe 12.



STORMING run by Souths' prop Barry Lynch in yesterday's League match at Lang Park. Redcliffe defenders (from left) are Bob Jones, Forrester Grayson and Chris Wellman. On the ground are Souths Darryl Van De Velde and Ross Henrick, Redcliffe's half back.

1976

BRL Qualifying Final (2 v 3) - Brothers 19 v Wests 10

FIGHTING IRISH STORM IN

But Brothers lose their ace goalkicker for season

By Jack Reardon

BROTHERS emerged as the top contender for the Brisbane Rugby League premiership when they beat Wests 19-10 in the second semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Brothers outplayed equal favourites, Wests, with tighter defence and more penetrative attack.

It was another of the string of upsets in a season in which no top team was safe. Brothers never were favourites to reach the grand final.

In the 21-match competition, Brothers finished as the top defending side. Yesterday they held that record and added their best attacking performance of the season.

And they won without the goalkicking ability of Brisbane's top points scorer Ian Dauth, (222 points) who, after landing an early penalty goal, had to leave the field with a dislocated shoulder in about the 15th minute.

Dauth said after the match: "The club doctor said, 'Well you have had a good season, rest on it.'"

"But I am not sure that he is right, not until I cool down and try it out," the gutsy winger-goal kicker said.

Brothers qualified to play minor premiers Easts in the major semi-final at Lang Park next Sunday, and still have a second shot if beaten.

Wests will meet Souths on Saturday in the second knock-out semi-final.

Brothers had to fight back from a 10-2 deficit after Wests scored two smart tries. One came from an up and under by five-eighth Geoff Richardson and the other from quick, smart play by Greg Oliphant and Norm Carr to put Harry Cameron over.

The fighting Irish, with a penalties advantage and possession from scrums, came back hard to level the scores 10-10 at halftime with two great tries.

Big second rower Bob Cock, standing wide from a ruck, was put through a gap by halfback John Herlihy and accelerated quickly to score.

Cock showed surprising pace and set himself to crash through anyone in front of him. He sent Wests fullback, Greg M'Carthy, spinning backwards.

That was five minutes from halftime. Two minutes later, centre Graham Quinn made a magnificent break between Wests' centres Crear and Cameron, put the ball quickly to the racing fullback Alan Power, who sent winger Paul O'Connell clear for the second try.

It was still anyone's game, but Brothers took charge of the second half to score the only points.

There was no weak player in the Brothers team and that makes it tough to name the best.

I go for promoted Pat Hannan and tough John Short. Both are lightweights by forward standards, something over 13 stone, but revel in tackling. They are a coach's dream — they like to tackle.

Hannan was playing only his second first grade game and must have secured a permanent place in Brothers pack for the rest of this season.

Lock Alan Rafton played his best game of the season. David Wright ran more with the ball, tackled strongly where it was needed in the middle and led his team splendidly. Bob Cock turned in yet another great game.

Brothers were good individually and great as a team and as coach John Lohman can start looking for next year's contract now.

And what about Wests? They were not good enough on the day. Key men Geoff Richardson, Greg Oliphant, John Ribot were successfully muzzled when it counted — in that tough second half.

Greg McCarthy, Richardson and Oliphant always were dangers and Wests early looked like convincing winners.

In lower grade games yesterday, Wynnum-Manly was too strong for Wests, winning 21-6, scoring the only three tries of the match. Wests won the third grade semi-final, beating Easts 29-10.

WESTS Rugby League replacement forward Bob Green came face to face with the fact that his team had been ground into the Lang Park turf yesterday. Rubbing it in is Brothers captain David Wright.

B.R.L. SEMI FINALS
BROTHERS 19 d. WESTS 10.

Scorers— Brothers: P. O'Donnell, R. Cock, A. Rafton tries; A. Power 3, C. Ryan, I. Dauth goals. Wests: H. Cameron; G. Mc'Carthy tries; W. Stewart 2 goals. First scorers: Brothers 2, Wests 1. First try scorers: Brothers 10 Wests 1.



1976

BRL Minor Semi-Final (Winner EF v Loser QF) - Wests 11 v Souths 5

Wests' big step closer to title

By JACK REARDON

WESTS tackled their way into the Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final with a dour 11-5 win over Souths in the second knock-out semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Beaten 18-10 for possession from scrums, Wests were called on to hold out repeated assaults on their goal-line when Souths spent at least 80 per cent of the game attacking in Wests territory.

It was a fierce tackling game, with both sets of forwards tearing into their opponents with jarring, front-on tackles.

Souths were by no way beaten in general play.

They repeatedly set-up attacking movements, occasionally splitting Wests' front line defence, but only once were the Magpies able to clinch their attack with a try.

Wests will now play the loser of today's Brothers-Easts major semi-final at Lang Park next Sunday.

On yesterday's defensive effort Wests looked capable of containing either of the two teams remaining in the battle for premiership honours.

Wests coach Ron Raper, was finally forced to name his team just before the match.

It included red-headed hooker Gary Prickett, who said during the week that there was no way he could play.

"It would be too dangerous," he said.

SURPRISE

Another surprise inclusin was 104 kg prop Max Williamson, who took over from his brother Henry in the front row lasted for 70 minutes, then walked off.

Max Williamson had been on the injured list for at least two months until a week ago, whe he played ina reserve match at Lang Park.

There were phases of brilliant attack by both sides, but only two tries were scored, one to each.

The difference came from immaculate goal kicking by left winger Wayne Stewart, who landed four goals from four attempts.

Stewart also scored Wests only try following a clever break by five-eighth Geoff Richardson, which was carried on by a great burst from Max Williamson, who put a long pass out to Stewart

SKILLFUL

Stewart showed what an experienced and skilful winger he still is, when he chopped back inside Souths cover de-

but for the fact that this was a semi-final, I thought that Souths in their general play earned at least a draw.

There is a remarkable difference in their present team to that which was thrashed by Redcliffe a fortnight ago, then had to play its way into the semi-finals.

Perhaps Souths selectors have learned a lesson.

I thought that the most penetrative player on the field was Souths half-back, John Salter.

He repeatedly evaded two or three tacklers but seldom had any teammate fast enough to get up in support.

BATTERING

Salter took a heavy battering from Wests vigorous defenders.

In the first half the slightly built half completely beat Wests early defence to make a 40 m burst, but was heavily tackled by the speeding Wests lock, John Ribot.

Ribot has certainly toughened up during this season and is doing far more tackling now than in his early games.

In such a tough match with the scores so close, obviously there were no

Souths, however, appeared best served by Greg Veivers Marshall Colwell and Darryl Van de Velde, but Des Lang, Pat Phelan and Barry Lynch were little behind them.

Wests' early tactics appeared to be a softening up period, in which rugged John Young and Max Williamson tried to bore up the middle with Bob Green.



AT LANG PARK — Knockout semi-finals No. 2. A gde: Wests 11 (W. Stewart try, 4 goals) d Souths 5 (Astill try, Gillogly goal).

RUGBY League maestro Geoff Richardson leads 11 forwards on a merry chase in the Wests-Souths second knockout semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

From left are Rod Bradshaw (W), Barry Lynch (S), Des Lange (S), John Ribot (W), Marshall Colwell (S); Bob Green (W), Max Williamson (W), Darryl Van Der Velde (S), Greg Veivers (S), Gary Prickett (W), Pat Phelan (S), and Jim Clancy (S). The only forward not in the picture is Wests' John Young.

1976

BRL Major Semi-Final (1 v Winner QF) - Easts 13 v Brothers 3

EASTS WIN WITH PREMIER STYLE

By Jack Reardon

EASTS Rugby League team played like premiers when they defeated Brothers by 13-3 in a tough tackling major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The Tigers now go straight into the grand final on September 19 against the winner of next Sunday's preliminary final between Brothers and Wests.

And the way that the Tigers attacked and defended yesterday, they must become odds-on favourites for the premiership.

Always the most spectacular attacking side in the competition for years, Easts yesterday rounded off their game with some great defence.

Brothers previously had proved that they were no slouches in attack when they defeated Wests convincingly.

But yesterday the Brethren had to wait until the last quarter of the game before their attack began to function.

Meanwhile Easts had John Payne for most of the first half and Roger Kuhn for the full game, providing the extra man in attack and stretching Brothers defence with terrific pressure.

It is a tribute to Brothers defence record that under this pressure and with scrum possession against them by 18-11, they allowed only two tries by Easts — one in each half.

While it had no strong bearing on the final result, I thought that referee Eddie Ward was very lax on the five yards rule in rucks and this upset Brothers attack.

Anything they tried was quickly cut down by Easts "stand-up" defence inside the five yards.

Tactics

But Brothers also contributed to their own defeat by their failure to reform quickly into attacking formation, and were frequently left with an overlap against them in Easts defence.

This was a compact Easts side with good tactics which exploded theories about the shortcomings of a player coach.

Des Morris was on the spot to lead his team and you can bet that Brothers' coach John Lohman was wishing that he was out there to change some of his team's tactics.

As always in semi-finals and finals, this was another tough tackling match.

Brothers defended strongly against the pounding bursts up the middle by Des Morris, Rod Morris, Geoff Naylor, John Abbott and Errol Slingsby.

But this took its toll of Brothers' forwards energy and strength and in the second half, there were signs of fatigue among Brothers' lighter forwards.

Their big men — David Wright and Bob Cock — maintained their strong running, but it was not until "Chips" Harrington was brought on that Brothers' attack began to function.

Late pass

Harrington began to "pull on" two, three and four Easts' tacklers, plunging ahead for strong gains and several times he was able to get a late pass away to supports.

Brothers, in fact, scored their first points five minutes after Harrington took the field.

Five-eighth Chris Ryan put up a high kick into the goal mouth, fullback Alan Power took it on the full, was tackled, and played the ball. Replacement halfback Shane Dyson then threw a long accurate pass out to centre Paul Beauchamp who put winger Noel Russell away for a try in the corner.

Easts had been put to a 3-0 lead after seven minutes by a penalty goal and a field goal by halfback Wayne Lindenberg, their smartest back.

The Tigers led by 6-0 at halftime as a result of a typical attacking move with Kuhn chiming in early. Payne making another extra man and centre Steve Farquhar putting winger Nick Nicolau over in the corner.

Jarred

Easts spent the first 20 minutes of the second half pounding Brothers goal line and scored their second try from an up and under by Lindenberg. Power caught the ball, but had the ball jarred loose by hard tackles and five-eighth Holben pounced to touch down.

It was a very sound, occasionally brilliant performance by Easts with Brothers functioning too late with their attack.



WHICH WAY are they going? That was the problem Brothers had to solve as John Payne (left) and Des Morris were involved in a switch of play in yesterday's major semi final at Lang Park. Paul Beauchamp, of Brothers, at least had Morris covered.



1976

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 18 v Brothers 10

BROTHERS MISS DAUTH'S BOOT

By Jack Reardon

"Oh for Dauth to be out there," Brothers Rugby League supporters wailed yesterday as their team went down to Wests by 18-10 in a hard hitting preliminary final at Lang Park.

But Ian Dauth, the top points scorer in Brisbane this season, was in the grandstand nursing a dislocated collarbone, while Brothers goalkickers Alan Power and Wayne O'Keefe landed only one goal each from a collective eight attempts.

It is now a Wests-Easts grand final at Lang Park next Sunday — a promoter's dream with this year's minor premiers Easts meeting last year's premiers Wests.

But it so easily could have been a Brothers-Easts grand final.

Each side scored two tries, but the scoring difference came from the boot of Wests winger Wayne Stewart who landed six goals from nine attempts.

There was very little between the teams in general play, apart from the goal kicking.

Brothers tries were more constructive yet Wests frequently looked more dangerous in attack.

Brothers second row forward Bob Cock was sent from the field by referee Bernie Pramberg three minutes from the end of the game for some alleged late tackling tactics.

Cock had been warned two minutes earlier.

But Brothers had one player carried off the field, five-eighth Chris Ryan, following two blatant late tackles another, "Chips" Harrington, assisted off after another obvious late tackle; and were lucky to have halfback John Herlihy on the field at the end of the game following some head treatment as he scored his try.

However, Brothers gave away eight points in four penalty goals for standing up within the five yards in rucks, right up near their goalposts early in the second half.

PLENTY OF PRESSURE

Earlier, Brothers had won the first five scrums and put plenty of pressure on Wests. Then hooker Greg Keane suffered a dislocated elbow and was replaced by Ross Franklin.

Brothers still won scrums 9-5 for the match, but after leading in penalties 8-4 at halftime, they finished down by 15-10 for the match.

Wests, starved for possession for the first 20 minutes of the game scored the only try in the first half when Harry Cameron, Geoff Richardson, Greg Oliphant and Greg M'Carthy combined in a brilliant effort to give winger Mike Reardon the opportunity to crash over for a try.

As Wests began to win more scrums, their attack built up dangerously and they deservedly led by 5-2 at halftime.

They narrowly missed another two tries from a Richardson up and under and a great burst by John Ribot and Wayne Stewart.

Referee Pramberg began to pay more attention to the five yards rule in rucks and this cost Brothers four quick penalties.

Stewart landed the goals and Wests led by 11-4.

But Brothers fought back well.

O'Keefe moved in to the five-eighth spot after Ryan was carried off, gave centrre Paul Beauchamp a chance to break the line. Beauchamp, after a sharp penetrating burst, put a long pass out to winger Russell who fought his way over for a try in the corner.

STRONG BREAK

Brothers attacked again when Bob Cock made a strong break, sent an accurate long pass out to the speeding halfback Herlihy who beat Wests cover with speed to score in a last ditch head tackle.

But that was the end of Brothers points. At that stage they had scored two tries to one, but another penalty goal by Stewart and a lucky try by Gary Prickett from an up and under by Richardson put Wests safely ahead by 16-10 with four minutes to go.

Stewart landed yet another penalty goal in the last minute and this made five penalties for 10 points given away by Brothers in the second half.

It was a strong effort by Brothers and I feel that they could have won with an accurate goalkicker.

Their defence was a feature of their play — as it has been throughout the season — with Pat Hannan, John Short, John Herlihy, Paul Beauchamp, David Wright and Bob Cock getting through tons of work.

But Wests were equally strong in defence with Geoff Richardson doing plenty of cover, and also giving Brothers fullback Alan Power an unhappy match with a series of well placed "up and unders."

Scores: Wests 18 (M. Reardon, G. Prickett tries; W. Stewart 6 goals) d. Brothers 10 (N. Russell, J. Herlihy tries; A. Power, W. O'Keeffe goals).

First scorers: Wests 2, Brothers 1. First try scorers, Wests 2, Brothers 2.

Reserve grade: Wests 14 d. Souths 8.

Third grade: Easts 22 d. Wests 4.



WESTS second rower John Young was blocked top and bottom by Ross Franklin (19) and Bob Cock (left) during yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League preliminary final at Lang Park. One of the stars of the match, Wests hooker Gary Prickett is in the centre background and one of Brothers stars, halfback John Herlihy is on the right.



GEOFF RICHARDSON sends up one of his many high kicks which kept Brothers under pressure at Lang Park yesterday. Wests won the match 18-10 and now meet Easts in the grand final next Sunday.

1976

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 16 v EASTS 1

RON'S PANTHERS MAUL EASTS

By Jack Reardon

WESTS Rugby League team, splendidly prepared for the event, made it two premierships in a row, when they defeated favourites Easts by 16-1 in the grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

It must be the only grand final in which a side has scored only one point. It came from the first point of the match, a field goal by Easts' second-rower John Payne.

But Wests scored two tries — to none by Easts — and that is a great effort in a grand final when play must be tight and hard.

Wests won the match because of their magnificent defensive effort, plus the ability to score tries from scarce opportunities.

Without doubt, Wests' young hooker Gary Prickett was the man of the match. He scored Wests' first try because of his non-stop style of play and alertness, tackled his heart out and as anticipated won enough scrums against Johnny Lang to give Wests their attacking opportunities.

But he was closely followed by five-eighth Geoff Richardson who took clever advantage of nearly an equal share of possession, kicked with his usual good judgment and also lifted his defence to be one of Wests' best.

The victory was a triumph for coach Ron Raper who in only two years of coaching has won two premierships with Wests.

The intense Raper, I feel sure, set his team with shrewd judgment of all opposition, to beat Easts in the grand final.

I think he called it all the way that Wests would meet Easts in the grand final and patterned Wests' defence to offset Easts' undoubted brilliant attack.

Faults

Many people said that they rated it a disappointing grand final. Maybe it was, because Easts did not produce their customary brilliant attack.

There were occasions when handling faults cost Easts scoring opportunities. Someone did not pass early enough, someone else passed too early.

But I feel that Raper's close study of Easts' pattern of play and his counters won the premiership for Wests.

Easts' leader Des Morris was frustrated by close attention from Prickett, Rod Bradshaw and John Ribot.

The marauding Roger Kuhn's usually sharp entries into Easts' attacking line were cut off. John Payne, generally a player who can quickly make the extra man in attack, was effectively muzzled.

And when Easts looked dangerous in attack there were always at least three Wests players covering the final Easts attacker.

Brilliant

Wests did not just defend. Prickett's try, the first, followed lead-up play by Richardson's well judged short kick.

And Richardson put up another kick to a strategic spot, the bounce favoured him, he regathered, passed to Greg Oliphant who put a spot-on pass to John Ribot for a brilliant second Wests' try.

Easts had their opportunities to score tries. Winger John Callus was very dangerous in the second half, so was prop Rod Morris. Both were very close to scoring.

But when Easts were trying desperately to get back into the game in the second half, trailing by 1-12, Wests were still too tight in defence and still bustling Easts into handling errors.

I thought that five-eighth Greg Holben was Easts least flustered player, despite his indiscretions which gave Wests some penalties.

Wayne Lindenberg was a key Easts player effectively blocked by Wests' defence. Centre Bevan De Bruyn had his best game of the season.

For a tough grand final, the match was pretty clean. The major blemish was the flattening of Wests' prop Max Williamson by Easts John Payne and it seemed that referee Pramberg gave Payne a long and final warning after Williamson was helped from the field.

Williamson was soon replaced by his brother Henry and Payne was subsequently replaced by Errol Slingsby in the second half.

Wests' other changes were Gary Thomas for Greg M'Carthy at fullback and Norm Carr for John Ribot at lock, both in the second half.

Easts found it hard to get into top gear early in the match when penalties favoured Wests by 5-0 in the first 20 minutes and in the same period Wests won scrums by 3-1.

First scorers: Easts 9, Wests 5. First try scorers: Wests 12, Easts 12.

Wests 16 (J. Ribot, G. Prickett tries; W. Stewart 5 goals) d. Easts 1 (J. Payne field goal).

Reserve grade: Wests 17 d. Wynnum-Manly 9.

C grade: Wynnum-Manly 20 d. Easts 7.



WESTS dangerman, five-eighth Geoff Richardson about to be tackled over the top by Easts half back Wayne Lindenberg in yesterday's torrid defensive Grand Final.



CHAIRED by his players, Wests coach Ron Raper acknowledged the cheers of the Lang Park crowd yesterday.

Raper took Wests to their second successive premiership on a drinking ban and a strict curfew: "I told the players to be out of the club by 8 p.m. each night and never drink more than two beers. "They also were told to get 10 hours sleep each night."

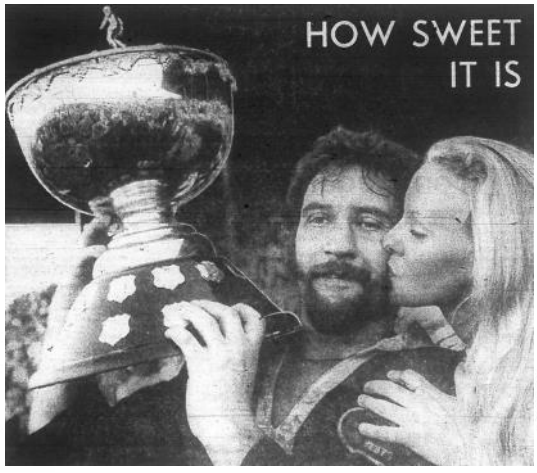
Raper said he did not know how closely his players stuck to the beer ban and the curfew. "But they must have been pretty good because we have retained the premiership."

Raper is uncertain of his future, but hopes to be with Wests again next year. "It's a matter for negotiation," he said. "My two-year contract is up with Wests, but I would like to stay in Brisbane and I would like to stay with the club."

A bitterly disappointed Easts captain-coach Des Morris said he would play on again next year. He said he would be available to coach.

"But that is up to the club," he said. "I would probably be available if they want me."

— LAWRIE KAVANAGH





WESTS goal kicker Wayne Stewart was on target with five from eight attempts yesterday. But with his team scoring two tries to none, his 10 points were just the icing on the cake.

THE KISS AND THE CUP, spoils for the victor . . . Wests captain Bob Green wins a congratulatory kiss from Miss Brisbane Rugby League (Robyn Butterworth) after his side had defeated Easts 16-1 in yesterday's Brisbane Rugby League Grand Final at Lang Park. Bob is holding the Kirks' Cup, symbol of League supremacy in Brisbane.

1976

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 16 v EASTS 1



Above: The Wests Panthers defence was like a wall keeping Easts scoreless except for a single field goal. Here an Easts player is heavily tackled with referee Bernie Pramberg close by the action.



Above: John Payne who scored Easts only point in the grand final fires a pass out to his backline with halfback Wayne Lindenberg looking on from behind.

1976

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 16 v EASTS 1



LANG PARK THE HOME OF THE GREATEST GAME OF ALL - RUGBY LEAGUE

(SCENE FROM LAST YEARS ACTION PACKED GRAND FINAL)



The Rugby League crowd at Lang Park watches an exciting moment.



1976

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 16 v EASTS 1

WESTERN SUBURBS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB
1976 FIRST GRADE — PREMIERS & CLUB CHAMPIONS



Back Row: H. Williamson, W. Stewart, J. Ribot, G. Prickett, ?, P. O'Sullivan (Manager). Second Row: G. Treichel (President), G. Thomas, N. Carr, R.Green (Captain), R. Bradshaw, H. Cameron, K. Martin (Treasurer), L. Boyle (Trainer). Front Row: M. Reardon, G. Oliphant, G. McCarthy, R. Raper (Coach), S. Crear, G. Richardson

RESULTS

28 AUGUST ELIMINATION FINAL
LANG PARK
Southern Suburbs 14 (Gillogly 7 goals) d. Redcliffe 6 (Pearce 3 goals).
Souths: G.Skelton, M.Brennan, J.Grant, B.Astill, T.Gillogly, J.Clancy, J.Salter, D.Lange, A.Eussen, D.Van De Velde, B.Lynch, M.Colwell, G.Veivers (c). Coach T.Berry.
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, P.Leis, C.Wellman, V.Tighe, I.Pearce (c), R.Henrick, C.Manns, S.O'Connor, F.Grayson, S.Bullow, R.Jones, J.Barber. Coach: B.Muir.
Referee: Ian Smith.

29 AUGUST QUALIFYING FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 19 (O'Donnell, Cock, Rafton tries; Power, 3, Ryan, Dauth goals) d Western Suburbs 10 (Cameron, McCarthy tries; Stewart 2 goals).
Brothers: A.Power, I.Dauth, G.Quinn, P.Beauchamp, P.O'Donnell, C.Ryan, J.Herlihy, A.Rafton, P.Hannan, R.Cock, D.Wright (c), G.Keane, J.Short. Coach: J.Lohman.
Wests: G.McCarthy, M.Reardon, H.Cameron (c), S.Crear, W.Stewart, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, J.Ribot, N.Carr, H.Williamson, P.Kelly, K.Brown, J.Young. Coach: R.Raper.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

4 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 11 (Stewart try; Stewart 4 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 5 (Astill try; Gillogly goal).
Wests: G.McCarthy, M.Reardon, H.Cameron (c), S.Crear, W.Stewart, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, J.Ribot, N.Carr, H.Williamson, R.Green, K.Brown, J.Young. Coach: R.Raper.
Souths: G.Skelton, M.Brennan, J.Grant, B.Astill, T.Gillogly, J.Clancy, J.Salter, D.Lange, A.Eussen, D.Van De Velde, B.Lynch, M.Colwell, G.Veivers (c). Coach: T.Berry.
Referee: Ian Smith.

5 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 13 (Nicolau, Holben tries; Lindenberg 3 goals, field goal) d. Past Brothers 3 (Russell try).
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, B.De Bruyn, S.Farquhar, N.Nicolau, G.Holben, W.Lindenberg, J.Abbott, J.Payne, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, G.Naylor.
Brothers: A.Power, N.Russell, G.Quinn, P.Beauchamp, P.O'Donnell, C.Ryan, J.Herlihy, A.Rafton, P.Hannan, R.Cock, D.Wright (c), G.Keane, J.Short. Coach: J.Lohman.
Referee: Eddie Ward

12 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 18 (Reardon, Prickett tries; Stewart 6 goals) d. Past Brothers 10 (Russell, Herlihy tries; Power, O'Keefe goals).
Wests: G.McCarthy, M.Reardon, H.Cameron (c), S.Crear, W.Stewart, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, J.Ribot, R.Bradshaw, J.Young, R.Green, G.Prickett, M.Williamson. Coach: R.Raper.
Brothers: A.Power, N.Russell, G.Quinn, P.Beauchamp, P.O'Donnell, C.Ryan, J.Herlihy, A.Rafton, P.Hannan, R.Cock, D.Wright (c), G.Keane, J.Short. Reserve: R.Franklin, W.O'Keefe. Coach: J.Lohman.
Referee: Bernie Pramberg.

19 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Western Suburbs 16 (Ribot, Prickett tries; Stewart 5 goals) d Eastern Suburbs 1 (Payne field goal).
Wests: G.McCarthy, W.Stewart, H.Cameron, S.Crear, M.Reardon, G.Richardson, G.Oliphant, J.Ribot, R.Bradshaw, J.Young, R.Green (c), G.Prickett, M.Williamson. Reserves: H.Williamson, G.Thomas, N.Carr. Coach: R.Raper.
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, B.De Bruyn, S.Farquhar, N.Nicolau, G.Holben, W.Lindenberg, J.Abbott, J.Payne, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, G.Naylor. Reserve: E.Slingsby.
Referee: B.Pramberg. ***Crowd: 37,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Darryl Brohman (Norths).

1977

BRL: EASTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REDCLIFFE	14	0	7	339	237	28
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	0	9	383	331	24
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	378	323	22
NORTHERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	414	401	22
BROTHERS	11	0	10	301	341	22
VALLEYS	9	0	12	380	363	18
WYNNUM MANLY	9	0	12	259	376	18
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	7	0	14	328	410	14

THE 1977 PREMIERSHIP

MARCH 25 WEEKEND –

W/MANLY	23	Defeated	NORTHS	18
REDCLIFFE	26	Defeated	WESTS	Nil
VALLEYS	31	Defeated	SOUTHS	11
BROTHERS	24	Defeated	EASTS	20

APRIL 2 WEEK-END –

BROTHERS	34	Defeated	VALLEYS	7
REDCLIFFE	14	Defeated	W/MANLY	7
WESTS	38	Defeated	NORTHS	22
SOUTHS	34	Defeated	EASTS	17

APRIL 9 WEEK-END –

VALLEYS	28	Defeated	EASTS	9
BROTHERS	18	Defeated	SOUTHS	9
NORTHS	15	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	10
W/MANLY	29	Defeated	WESTS	7

APRIL 16 WEEKEND –

REDCLIFFE	20	Defeated	BROTHERS	12
VALLEYS	13	Defeated	W/MANLY	12
SOUTHS	35	Defeated	NORTHS	23
EASTS	10	Defeated	WESTS	6

APRIL 23 WEEKEND----

SOUTHS	27	Defeated	W/MANLY	13
WESTS	10	Defeated	BROTHERS	8
NORTHS	28	Defeated	VALLEYS	6
REDCLIFFE	16	Defeated	EASTS	12

APRIL 30 WEEKEND –

NORTHS	19	Defeated	EASTS	18
WESTS	32	Defeated	SOUTHS	15
REDCLIFFE	16	Defeated	VALLEYS	14
BROTHERS	4	Defeated	W/MANLY	2

MAY 7 WEEKEND –

WESTS	22	Defeated	VALLEYS	15
NORTHS	24	Defeated	BROTHERS	13
W/MANLY	15	Defeated	EASTS	13
REDCLIFFE	11	Defeated	SOUTHS	5

MAY 14 WEEKEND –

NORTHS	37	Defeated	W/MANLY	2
REDCLIFFE	16	Defeated	WESTS	10
BROTHERS	23	Defeated	EASTS	15
VALLEYS	21	Defeated	SOUTHS	5

MAY 28 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	20	Defeated	VALLEYS	11
WESTS	19	Defeated	NORTHS	16
W/MANLY	9	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	7
EASTS	26	Defeated	SOUTHS	15

JUNE 4 WEEKEND –

SOUTHS	19	Defeated	BROTHERS	11
EASTS	17	Defeated	VALLEY	7
WESTS	31	Defeated	W/MANLY	11
NORTHS	19	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	15

JUNE 11 WEEKEND –

EASTS	26	Defeated	WESTS	15
REDCLIFFE	33	Defeated	BROTHERS	2
SOUTHS	32	Defeated	NORTHS	19
VALLEYS	25	Defeated	W/MANLY	9

JUNE 19 WEEKEND –

REDCLIFFE	15	Defeated	EASTS	10
WESTS	12	Defeated	BROTHERS	8
NORTHS	19	Defeated	VALLEYS	15
W/MANLY	12	Defeated	SOUTHS	7

JUNE 26 WEEKEND –

WESTS	18	Defeated	SOUTHS	3
NORTHS	23	Defeated	EASTS	10
W/MANLY	17	Defeated	BROTHERS	15
VALLEYS	24	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	13

JULY 2 WEEKEND –

EASTS	20	Defeated	W/MANLY	7
WESTS	12	Defeated	VALLEYS	11
REDCLIFFE	18	Defeated	SOUTHS	14
NORTHS	23	Defeated	BROTHERS	9

JULY 9 WEEKEND –

EASTS	24	Defeated	BROTHERS	7
REDCLIFFE	13	Defeated	WESTS	9
SOUTHS	20	Defeated	VALLEYS	17
W/MANLY	17	Defeated	NORTHS	10

JULY 16 WEEKEND –

W/MANLY	17	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	16
EASTS	14	Defeated	SOUTHS	13
WESTS	27	Defeated	NORTHS	14
BROTHERS	23	Defeated	VALLEYS	13

JULY 23 WEEKEND –

BROTHERS	13	Defeated	SOUTHS	11
REDCLIFFE	20	Defeated	NORTHS	9
EASTS	26	Defeated	VALLEYS	19
WESTS	21	Defeated	W/MANLY	16

JULY 30 WEEKEND –

VALLEYS	24	Defeated	W/MANLY	14
BROTHERS	14	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	8
EASTS	29	Defeated	WESTS	14
NORTHS	19	Defeated	SOUTHS	10

AUGUST 6 WEEKEND –

W/MANLY	20	Defeated	SOUTHS	17
VALLEYS	42	Defeated	NORTHS	15
BROTHERS	13	Defeated	WESTS	12
REDCLIFFE	7	Defeated	EASTS	2

AUGUST 13 WEEKEND –

EASTS	32	Defeated	NORTHS	16
BROTHERS	22	Defeated	W/MANLY	7
REDCLIFFE	28	Defeated	VALLEY	15
WESTS	40	Defeated	SOUTHS	8

AUGUST 20 WEEKEND –

VALLEYS	22	Defeated	WESTS	10
SOUTHS	18	Defeated	REDCLIFFE	17
NORTHS	26	Defeated	BROTHERS	8
EASTS	28	Defeated	W/MANLY	0

1977

In 1977 all of the Brisbane teams and a number of Queensland country teams competed in the Amco Cup.

Again only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals. Valleys made the quarter finals but were thrashed 35-2 by Easts (Sydney).

1977 Amco Cup Games Involving Queensland Teams

30/03/77	Central Qld*	7	Wide Bay	7	Rockhampton
4/05/77	North Coast	40	Ipswich	22	Ipswich
30/03/77	Brothers	16	Wynnum-Manly	15	Lang Park
30/03/77	Toowoomba	31	North Qld	13	Toowoomba
6/04/77	Cronulla	75	Central Qld	3	Leichhardt Oval
6/04/77	Redcliffe	19	Brisbane Wests	10	Lang Park
13/04/77	Wests (Sydney)	60	Brisbane Norths	0	Lang Park
4/05/77	Valleys	19	Illawarra	10	Lang Park
25/05/77	Monaro	21	Brisbane Easts	18	Lang Park
4/05/77	Brisbane Souths	20	Canterbury (NZ)	12	Lang Park
1/06/77	Valleys	13	Brothers	9	Lang Park
8/06/77	Canterbury	25	Toowoomba	15	Toowoomba
8/06/77	Wests (Sydney)	20	Redcliffe	2	Lang Park
29/06/77	Nthern Division	34	Brisbane Souths	20	Lang Park
20/07/77 (QF)	Easts (Sydney)	35	Valleys	2	Lang Park

*Won on penalty countback

Amco Cup Quarter Final - Easts (Sydney) 35 v Valleys 2

Valleys crushed by Easts

By Lawrie Kavanagh

SYDNEY EASTS outclassed Brisbane Valleys 35 - 2 in the Amco Cup Rugby League quarter final at Lang Park last night.

Valleys seemed overawed by the Sydneysiders and presented the visitors with several tries through ridiculous passes and at times weak defence.

Easts were not as impressive as their huge score suggests, but there were several outstanding performances.

Lock forward Bob Laurie was my man of the match for his great attack and equally good defence.

But he was narrowly beaten for the television set award by his halfback Kevin Hastings.

There were some outstanding games from Valleys players, with centre Alan Beauchamp and second rowers Tom Duggan and Bruce Cameron the pick.

Valleys were unlucky to lose hooker Mark Hirst early and it was not surprising that they were beaten 18-11 in the scrums.

However, it was Easts' night.

SLICK PROFESSIONALS

It was the old story of a slick team of professionals playing a team of week-end footballers.

Easts winger Ian Schubert gave a great display of attacking football, especially in the first half.

He seemed to be keen to give the surprisingly good night crowd their money's worth.

Russell Fairfax and Bob Fulton took things easy, which is understandable in a match which was expected to go the way it went.

One of Easts top forwards, David Grant, also attacked well.

Artie Beetson only came on the field in a token appearance in the last quarter, and was not called on to have more than a training run.

In the dressing room after the match Beetson said it was difficult to criticise such a convincing win.

But he said several lapses in handling had cost at least two more tries.

"We can play a lot tighter," Beetson said.

Easts now meet Penrith in two weeks in the semi-finals.

SCORES: Easts 35 (W. Mullins 2, I. Schubert, K. Stevens, K. Hastings, A. Laurie, R. Ayliffe tries; Stevens 7 goals) d Valleys 2 (R. Strudwick goal).

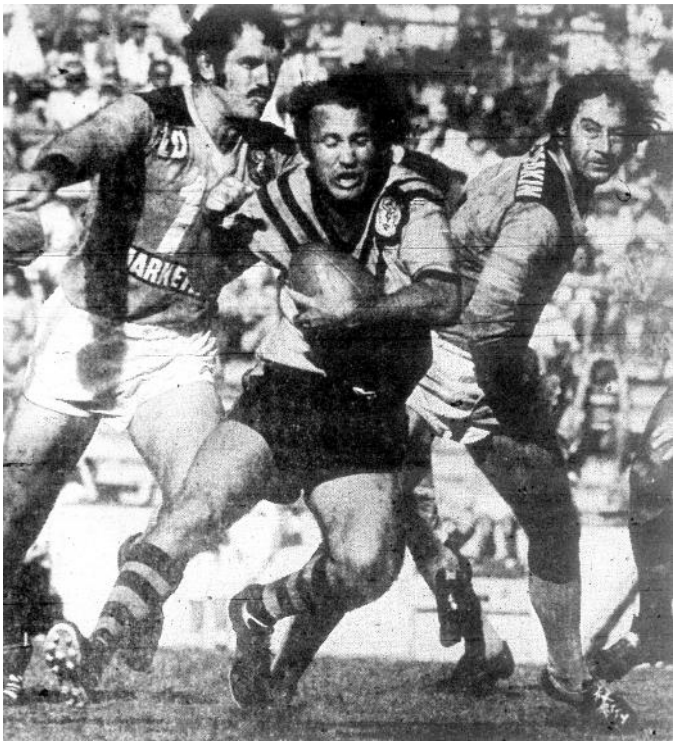
First scorers: Easts No. 2, Valley No. 7. First try scorers: Easts No. 2, Valleys No. 12.

Amco Shield, quarter final: Ferrer High (NSW) 18 d Richlands High 7.

1977

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Easts 21 v Norths 11

EASTS' BACK WINNER



EASTS RUGBY LEAGUE fullback, Roger Kuhn, with a firm grip on the ball, but with eyes closed in anticipation of a crushing tackle is about to go down under North s' defenders Rick Bradford, left, and Wayne Hale.



End of line for Norths

By Jack Reardon

EASTS' backline clinched a 21-11 Rugby League semi-final win over Norths at Lang Park yesterday with a 60-metre try in the 78th minute of a tough, hard tackling game.

The try came from a quick passing burst by halves Wayne Lindenberg, Wayne Woods, centre Steve Farquhar, with a splendid finishing run by winger John Callus to cross for the second time.

But up to that minute the battling Norths were well in the game and had gone very close to levelling the scores in the 77th minute following a smart piece of play by their fullback Peter Dutton.

Norths' great finishing burst for the season has thus ended and they are out of the remaining games after knocking Brothers out of the semi-finals with two successive wins and going close to beating Easts.

Easts now have a two weeks' break before playing the loser of next Sunday's major semi-final between Redcliffe and Wests.

Norths' coach Bob Bax said: "We were a definite chance until that 77th minute penalty against us and I did not agree with the referee's ruling then, or the one late in the first half from which Easts also scored."

"We have come through a tough season to finish with a crocked-up bunch of players who responded superbly in the last few games and I am proud of them," Bax said.

Easts' president Ted Verrenkamp said: "It was a hard game for our lads, but I never had any doubt that they would win this one."

Easts looked the better attacking side for most of the game and scored three tries to one. They also defended strongly.

But I do not think that they were ever certain winners until those closing two minutes.

Norths kept on coming back too strongly and frustrating many of Easts' attacking bursts.

There were tough early exchanges, full blooded tackles, and it looked like a mutual tryout in softening up tactics.

Easts scored first with a penalty goal by Greg Holben but Norths took back the lead when centre Wayne Hale snapped up a dropped ball and scored untouched.

A Holben penalty, two goals by Bruce Warwick put the score at 7-4 to Norths after 30 minutes but Easts hit the front again with two goals by Holben and a great try by Callus.

Des Morris, who had a top game for Easts, set up the try when he held back a pass to place it in John Abbott's hands.

Abbott put it out to Callus who ran 25 metres in the goal area to touch down between the goal-posts.

Opening

Easts led by 11-7 at half-time and a penalty goal by Warwick made it 11-9 until Wayne Lindenberg and Holben built an opening for a try by Des Morris.

Another penalty goal by Warwick and one by Holben made it 16-11 to Easts but with Norths still within reach and keeping Easts very much occupied.

Easts' hooker John Lang gave his team a majority of possession from scrums in the first half, but Norths' Nick Geiger came back strongly in the second half to shade Lang by 10-9 for the match.

In other statistics, penalties were even at 13-all. Bruce Warwick landed four goals from five attempts for Norths, Greg Holben six from nine shots for Easts.

EASTS 21 NORTHS 11

SCORERS: Easts: John Callus 2, Des Morris tries; Greg Helben 6 goals; Norths, Wayne Hale a try, Bruce Warwick 4 goals. First scorers, Easts No. 3, Norths No.3 First try-scorers; Norths No. 3, Easts No. 2.

1977

BRL Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 5 v Wests 4

REDCLIFFE INTO FINAL

Wests must fight again

By Jack Reardon

REDCLIFFE won, but Wests looked more like grand finalists in the Brisbane Rugby League major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Redcliffe got the decision by 5-4 with a one-point field goal by Steve Williams in a tryless game.



SO near and yet so far . . . Wests centre Peter Kelly, i s within sight of the goal posts, but is well cought in a good tackle by Redcliffe captain coach, Ian Pearce. Ready to finish off the tackle is Redcliffe halfback (left) Greg Oliphant. Redcliffe won the try less Rugby League semi-final 5-4.

It was just about the toughest match of the season with emphasis on defence.

Points came from two penalty goals each by winger Wayne Stewart of Wests and Ian Pearce of Redcliffe.

Williams landed the winning field goal for Redcliffe about 15 minutes into the second half.

Redcliffe now go straight into the grand final on September 18.

Wests will meet Easts in the preliminary final next Sunday to decide who meets Redcliffe in the grand final.

There has been no better defence this season than was shown yesterday by both sides.

BEST PLAYER

Redcliffe frontrower David Moffett won an award for the outstanding player of the game and deserved it but must have been closely pressed by 10 or 12 other strong defenders.

The Dolphins halfback Greg Oliphant was another top player award winner.

He won it with his continuous involvement in all phases of the game.

But Wests, for so long in the game looked likely winners.

I thought from about the 20th minute their robust attack would shatter Redcliffe's defence.

But coach Ron Raper must have been beating his forehead against the oval fence as Wests "bombed" at least three try-scoring opportunities.

Two were missed through mishandling and wrong decisions by the ball carriers and Wayne Stewart was over the line but held up.

Redcliffe also had a near miss when Peter Leis was over the line but prevented from touching down.

I thought Raper's selection decisions were good, particularly in the centres where heavy, strong running pair Mark Hogan and Peter Kelly were punishing runners and defenders against top Brisbane pair Ian Pearce and Peter Leis.

An indication of Wests' strength in defence came in the second half when Redcliffe won nine successive scrums but scored only a field goal.

Scrums went Redcliffe's way by 18-16 and penalties also went to the Dolphins by 10-6.

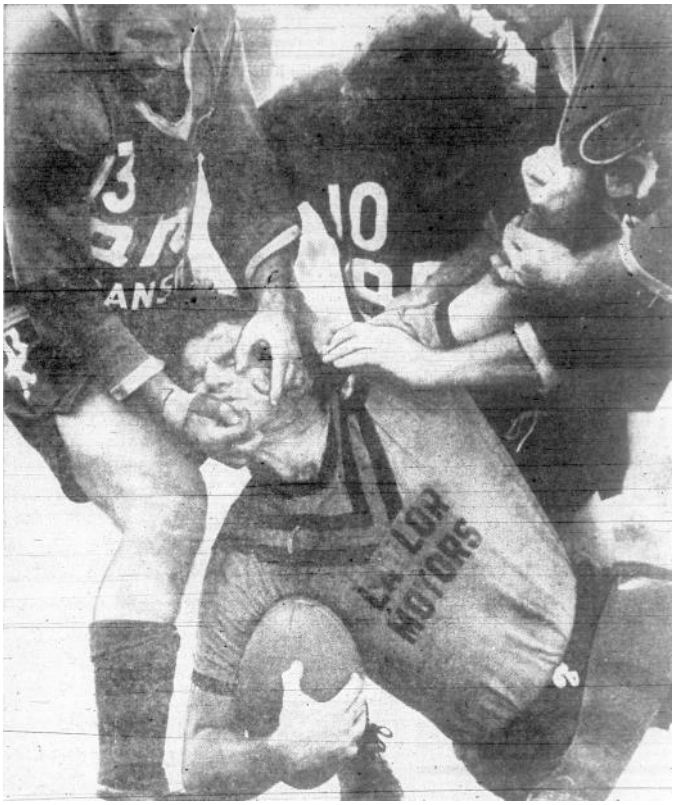
Scores: Redcliffe 5 (I. Pearce 2 goals; S. Williams field goal) d. Wests 4 (W. Stewart 2 goals).
First scorers: Wests 5, Redcliffe 3.
First try scorers Redcliffe 12, Wests 12.
Reserve grade: Easts 11 d. Souths 6.
C. Grade: Wests 21 d. Easts 16.



1977

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 9 v Wests 5

EASTS HAVE THREE IN FINALS



EASTS Rugby League centre Steve Farquhar gets a face massage from Wests forward Bob Green with Henry Williamson (No. 10) and a third Wests player also on the job during yesterday's rugged preliminary final at Lang Park.



By 1977, Channel Seven commentators George Doniger and Mick "The Farmer" Veivers had comedown from the scaffolding and were now enjoying palatial new digs in front of the Hale Street grandstand. Kel Geddes (middle) was their long-serving producer. Behind them stands the one camera used in the telecast. Accomplished TV callers like Arthur Denovan, Cyril Connell, David Wright and Billy J.Smith also brought the action into our lounge rooms.

Stacey runaway shatters Wests

By Jack Reardon

IT'S A Tigers versus Dolphins Rugby League Grand Final next Sunday, following yesterday's fierce tackling preliminary final between Easts and Wests at Lang Park.

Easts Tigers got on top after about 15 minutes, and stayed there for most of the match to win 9-5.

The scores came from one try each, but with three goals by Greg Holben to one by Wayne Stewart.

Easts now have their three senior teams in the grand finals Reserve grade meets Souths and Third grade plays Wests.

Easts' try came in the 37th minute, when teenage winger Steve Stacey's 55 metres sprint left Wests' defence trailing and lifted about 20,000 spectators to their feet.

Stacey, the 19-year-old former high school sprint champion, looked stunned for a second when the ball landed in his hands from a mishandle by a Wests back off a lofted pass by Max Williamson.

But then he took off, and the closest to him at the goal line was Wests' big-hearted lock Carr, who cut him off from the posts.

Wests' lone try came within a half-minute of the end, when replacement forward Bob Downey forced over wide out after some scrambling play by both teams.

It was a game of punishing tackles from the start, with plenty of spite from both teams.

Tolerant

But strangely, there was little, if any, punching. There was one minor flare-up in a scrum which was quickly subdued by the more responsible forwards.

And referee Ron Thomas showed too much tolerance. Okay, so it's a final, and everyone wants to see 26 players on the field for 80 minutes.

But six cautions to one player who was still there at the end is stretching it too far.

Easts won because they had more speed all round.

The telling example was that Easts halfback and most prominent player Wayne Lindenberg was the only player to handle the dangerous Wests fullback Greg M'Carthy effectively.

Counter

That was because Lindenberg had the speed to stay with the slippery M'Carthy, and to go in under him around the lower legs.

Johnny Lang won scrums 18-13 over Gary Prickett, and was also one of Easts' top players in attack and defence.

The same can be said of Prickett.

But with their all-round speed, Easts had Wests pinned down in their own half for at least 65 minutes.

Rod Morris, Des Morris, John Abbott and Geoff Naylor were yards faster than Wests equivalent, Bob Green, Henry Williamson and Max Williamson.

And they were also quicker passers and faster in cover defence.

It was not a spectacular match; the defence by both sides was too strong, too covering.

Tough

But it was a tense, tough encounter, and there must be 26 sore footballers this morning.

In match sidelights, I thought Easts lighter centres—Greg Holben and Steve Farquhar—handled their heavier opponents Peter Kelly and Mark Hogan very competently.

There are some big-hearted lock forwards around, and yesterday's pair, Alan Currie and Norm Carr, are right at the top.

And in the defence department, Wests five-eighth Stephen Crear was also strong, turfing as many forwards as he did backs.

Penalties went Easts way 13-12.

Easts 9 (S. Stacey try, G. Holben 3 goals) d Wests 5 (Downey try; W. Stewart goal). First scorers: Easts 5, Wests 9. First try scorers: Easts 5, Wests 9.

RESERVE GRADE: Souths 20 (M. Gramm 2, T. Gibson, P. Hocken tries; B. Turnbull 2 goals) d Wynnum-Manly 9 (G. Peerless 2 try; G. Clayphan 3 goals).

THIRD GRADE: Easts 21 d Valleys 12.

1977

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 17 v REDCLIFFE 13

EASTS HAVE THE FINAL SAY 17—13

Show-stopper try from Lindenberg

By Jack Reardon

EASTS Tigers took out the 1977 Brisbane Rugby League premiership with a 17-13 win over Redcliffe in a heart - stopping grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

It was one of the best and cleanest Rugby League finals that I have seen. The result was in doubt until the last two minutes.

The game had everything to make it a thriller — from crowd lifting attack to shuddering, whole hearted front-on tackling, and a close goal kicking contest.

The game was watched by probably the best grand final crowd for three years — estimated at 37,000.



REDCLIFFE'S Ian Thinee tries to break a tackle by Easts' fullback Rodger Kuhn about four minutes from the end of the Rugby League grand final at Lang Park yesterday. Three-and Ian Pearce (no. 3) had their eyes popping at the prospect of a late win, but Easts' defence held and the Tigers won 17-13.

Easts saw their dreams of a three-grade grand final coup disappear when their Third grade went down 22-14 to Wests. But their Reserve grade team held on strongly to beat Souths 23-16.

Officials and supporters of both teams agreed that the match was won by a magnificent try two minutes after half-time by Easts' quick halfback Wayne Lindenberg.

Easts had led by 12-7 at half-time from tries by winger John Callus and centre Steve Farquhar, plus three goals by centre Greg Holben.

Lindenberg, my man of the match, even apart from his great try, had taken part in a combined burst by Easts to the 30 metre mark out from Redcliffe's goal line.

He raced up to take over the ruck half spot, looked left and right, dummied, then took off on his own with an electrifying burst to race clear of the ruck.

He weaved away from fullback Tony Obst and touched down for a great try.

SEARING BURST

That put Easts ahead by 15-7 and was also the last try of the match. The remaining points all came from penalty goals by both sides.

Redcliffe's strong second-rower Forrester Grayson produced the first try of the game with a searing burst through three tackles after he had positioned himself cleverly to run off a ruck 30 metres out from the goal line.

That put Redcliffe in front by 5-2 but it was their last lead of the game.

Easts produced some magnificent attacks involving Des Morris, Greg Holben, Steve Farquhar who built up the momentum for an 80 metre movement which put winger John Callus over.

A Redcliffe error gave winger Steve Stacey a chance to scoop up the loose ball only to be well tackled by Steve Williams. From the ruck, the ball was swept across field by quick hands to put centre Steve Farquhar over.

It was a match that produced more open play than we have seen for years in a Lang Park grand final.

Nevertheless, the defence by both sides was well planned and most effective. There had to be something extra to make the "bust" of a defence line.

Easts won because they had the players who could produce that extra bit in attack, such as Lindenberg, five-eighth Wayne Woods, Rodger Kuhn, Steve Farquhar, and of course wingers Stacey and Callus.

Redcliffe had the same kind of players in Steve Williams, Bunny Pearce, Peter Leis, and later Tony Obst. But they were never as effective as Easts.

There was only one change in both teams. John Abbott, Easts second rower, left the field after 32 minutes with a recurrence of a shoulder injury and was replaced by Errol Slingsby.

Johnny Lang was credited with a scrum advantage of 9-7 and penalties went Redcliffe's way 12-6.

First scorers: Easts 3 Redcliffe 10. First try-scorers: Redcliffe 10 Easts 2.

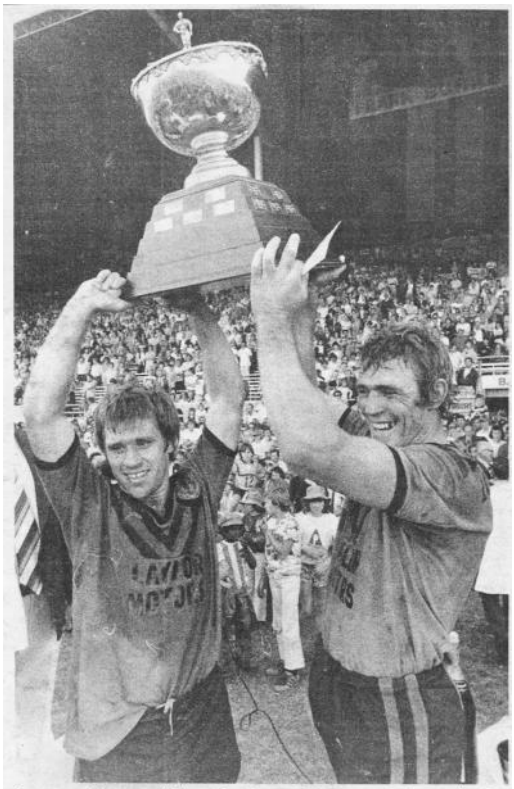
Scores: First grade, Easts 17 (John Callus, Steve Farquhar, Wayne Lindenberg tries; Greg Holben 4 goals) d Redcliffe 13 (Forrester Grayson try, Ian Pearce 5 goals).

Reserve grade: Easts 23 (Russell Smith 2, Brad Sulley, Mark Fyfe, Bernie Lowther tries; Howard Fullarton 4 goals) d Souths 16 (Barry Lynch, Brad Holland tries, Brian Turnbull 5 goals).

Third grade: Wests 22 (Kerry Cronan, Peter Eastwell, Peter Watterson, Paul Hodder tries; Bob Abel 5 goals) d Easts 14 (Wayne Dawson, Steve Bowerman tries; Ian McGuire 4 goals).



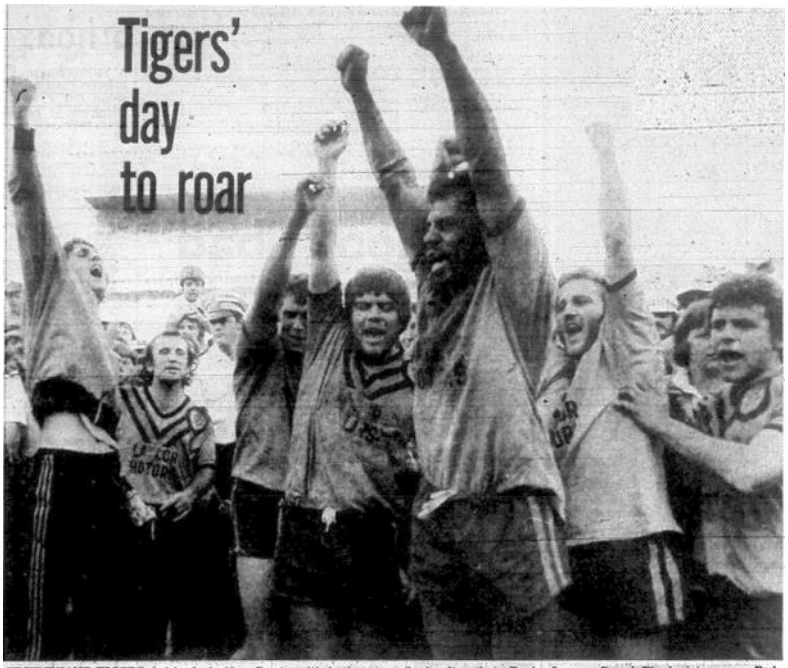
FRIENDLY rivals Easts' Wayne Lindenberg and Redcliffe's Greg Oliphant share a drink together after yesterday's hard fought grand final.



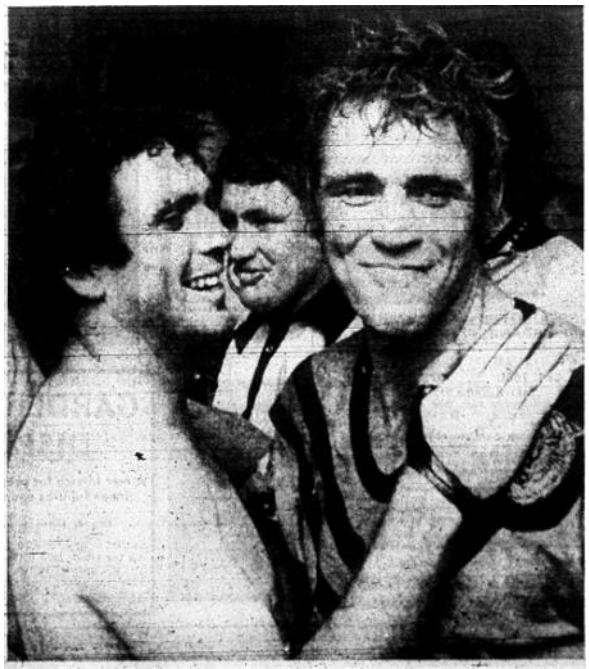
Easts stars John Lang (left) and Des Morris hold the premiership trophy after the Tigers' grand final victory at Lang Park.

1977

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 17 v REDCLIFFE 13



TRIUMPHANT TIGERS, led by lock Alan Currie, with both arms raised, after their Rugby League Grand Final victory over Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday. On Currie's right are forward Errol Slingsby, captain Des Morris and full-back Rodger Kuhn. On his left are winger Steve Stacey and half-back Wayne Lindenberg.



O BROTHER, what a win. Easts captain Des Morris (right) and his brother, Rod, congratulate each other after yesterday's Grand final.



THE B.R.L. BIG ONE!!!

The colourful Scene as the ACTION gets under way in Brisbane's Grand Final — Eastern Suburbs v Redcliffe, Lang Park, 18/9/77.

1977

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 17 v REDCLIFFE 13



1977 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Premiers First Grade 1977. Front Row: *Jack Loth (Patron); Alan Currie; Des Morris (Capt/Coach); Ted Verrenkamp (President); John Lang; Rodger Kuhn; Terry Creedy (Manager).* ***Second Row:*** *Rod Beare (Selector); Brian Smart (Secretary); Wayne Lindenberg; John Callus; Frank Roddy; Greg Holben; Alan Stanton (Selector); George West (Selector).* ***Third Row:*** *Wal Taylor (Masseur); Frank Shaw (Manager); Steve Farquhar; Bevan De Bruyn; Steve Stacey; Errol Slingsby; Wayne Woods; Tom Drysdale (Treasurer); John Sheppard (Selector).* ***Back Row:*** *Arthur Alexander (Trainer); John Abbott; Rod Morris; Geoff Naylor; Luciano Nobile; Mark Fyfe; Tony Stanton (Strapper).*

RESULTS

28 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 21 (Callus 2, D.Morris tries; Holben 6 goals) d. Northern Suburbs 11 (Hale try; Warwick 4 goals).
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, G.Holben, S.Farquhar, S.Stacey, W.Woods, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, J.Abbott, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, G.Naylor
Norths: P.Dutton, S.McMahon, W.Hale, R.Michaels, B.Warwick, T.Trent, G.Dickens, A.Proberts, K.Hartwig, B.Carroll, R.Bradford, N.Geiger, D.Brohman. Coach: R.Bax.
Referee: Ian Smith.

4 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 5 (Pearce 2 goals; Williams field goal) d. Western Suburbs 4 (Stewart 2 goals).
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, I.Pearce (c/c), P.Leis, V.Tighe, S.Williams, G.Oliphant, I.Thinee, N.Heathwood, F.Grayson, S.Bullow, A.Nunan, D.Moffatt.
Wests: Peter Kelly, M.Reardon, G.Heading, G.McCarthy, W.Stewart, S.Crear, D.McKenzie, N.Carr, R.Bradshaw, J.Young, R.Green, G.Prickett, Pat Kelly. Coach: R.Raper.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

11 SEPTEMBER PREMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 9 (Stacey try; Holben 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 5 (Downey try; Stewart goal).
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, G.Holben, S.Farquhar, S.Stacey, W.Woods, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, J.Abbott, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, G.Naylor.
Wests: G.McCarthy, G.Heading, Peter Kelly, M.Hogan, W.Stewart, S.Crear, D.McKenzie, N.Carr, R.Bradshaw, H.Williamson, Pat Kelly, G.Prickett, R.Green. Coach: R.Raper.
Referee: Ron Thomas. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

18 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 17 (Callus, Farquhar, Lindenberg tries; Holben 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 13 (Grayson try; Pearce 5 goals).
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, G.Holben, S.Farquhar, S.Stacey, W.Woods, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, J.Abbott, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, G.Naylor. Reserve: E.Slingsby.
Redcliffe: T.Obst, B.Gardiner, I.Pearce (c/c), P.Leis, V.Tighe, S.Williams, G.Oliphant, I.Thinee, N.Heathwood, F.Grayson, S.Bullow, A.Nunan, D.Moffatt.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 37,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Alan Currie (Easts).


BAR
BAR
HIBERNIAN
13
LEAGUE ACTION
PRESIDENTS CUP LANG PARK
BROTHERS V REDCLIFFE
SUNDAY JUNE 12th 1977


PETER SCOTT MEMORIAL TROPHY
REDCLIFFE V's NORTHS
LANG PARK
24th JULY, 1977



Above: Easts players celebrate winning the 1977 President's Cup.

AUGUST 20, 1977

RUGBY LEAGUE WEEK

Wayne Bennett, D.C., wants to put the spirit back into Souths

A COUPLE of days after Souths dropped out of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership race the team's captain-coach, Wayne Bennett, was re-appointed — and promoted.

By KEITH LAWRIE

Not only was the former Australian fullback retained as coach, but he was appointed to a brand new position with Souths, director of coaching of the entire senior club.

That may have sounded strange in any other club but not so with Souths and you would understand why if you have been following the BRL this year.

The club administration was only expressing what the rest of Souths' supporters have felt during the season . . . that Bennett had done a sound coaching job despite the bad luck and some bad form which has plagued the team this season.



Souths fullback Mitch Brennan. "The player of 1978", says Wayne Bennett.

It was a solid vote of confidence in Bennett and the tall police physical education instructor doesn't mean to let it go astray in 1978.

He said this week he knows there are hurdles aplenty in 1978, but that his early appointment for next season, compared with his last-minute push into the player-coaching job this year, will make the difference.

"I didn't want to be coach this year . . . just to play. But then Tom Berry pulled out and the club asked me to take on the coaching also," Bennett said.

"I don't like the idea of player-coaches, although people like Bunny Pearce and Des Morris seem to be doing pretty well.

"But the club wanted it, so I did it.

"Next year, however, I will be coaching only. I have retired as a player.

"I feel I will be able to make a greater contribution as a coach from the sideline."

Bennett will also have a big say in what players Souths will buy for next season.

For a start, he will retain all his present players. But there will be some new faces also . . . forwards mainly, and at least one inside back.

He believes Souths need another three or four quality players and he is out to get them.

But Bennett will mainly be re-vamping the structure of coaching within the club.

As director of coaching, he will have all his coaches working for the good of the club rather than the good of individual teams.

He will coach A grade primarily, but will call on his other coaches to help out with specialised knowledge where they can.

Coaching of all four senior teams will be along the same lines so that players from C grade, or even under-25's, can fit in smoothly with the A grade team if they are called on.

Of course, the A grade teams will get the preferences, because today you need a successful A grade team to build a successful club.

Bennett will have a little surprise for his players when they put their boots away for the last time in the 1977 season — he will be starting official team training early in December.

"I intend to start training privately a bit earlier and the players can join me if they like.

"But official training starts in December," Bennett said.

Bennett believes that his fullback, Mitch Brennan, will be the player of 1978 in Brisbane.

"Brennan's place is fullback, not wing, and he will be playing fullback next season," he said.

Bennett believes Brennan will be a bigger sensation that Wests' trump fullback Greg M'Carthy.

"Brennan is a stronger and more explosive player than M'Carthy," he said.

"He will be number one fullback in Brisbane next season."

Bennett also said that international back John Grant would move permanently to lock next year.

"Lock is Grant's best position these days and he wants to play there. I agree," Bennett said.

"But he will have to fight for the position against our regular lock Pat Phelan."

If Bennett's plans work out there will be several present players fighting for the positions which have been taken for granted this season.

That's the way he wants it . . . to bring new spirit to a club which has allowed itself to become a little complacent in recent years.



Explosive international back John Grant. Lock next year?



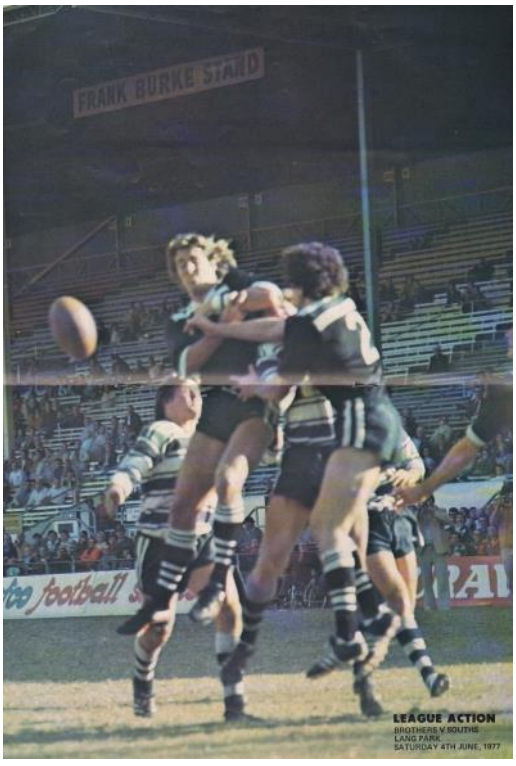
Above Right: Greg Holben takes an eternity to line up a kick at goal.



Left: Russell Bates takes the ball up for Souths.



EASTS WINGER STEVE STACEY HITS THE TURF WITH THE HELP OF WYNNUM-MANLY'S D. WILLS





Valleys' cheeky half ROSS STRUDWICK is determined to wrest the Australian No. 7 jumper from Tommy Raudonikis this year. Judging by this well delivered pass, Strudwick has lost none of last year's finesse — he's a step ahead of Norths' Peter Clark. That big lump of a lad in the background is Trevor Fellows (ex-Maryborough).

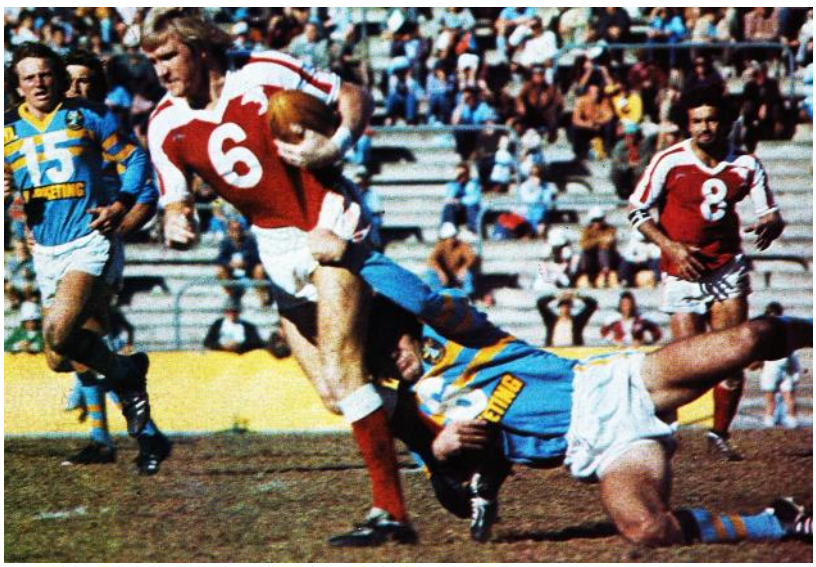




Above Left: Wayne Lindenberg tries to get around Peter McWhirter. **Above Right:** Greg Vievers tries to get the ball away. **Right:** Steve Williams for Redcliffe in a game against Norths.



Norths' own police force (from left): constable 1st class (mobile patrols) Gary Hatchinson; constable Peter McIlwain (Valleys); constable Trevor Wendt (City); constable Ash Lumby (Morningside); constable (mobile patrols) Peter Allen; constable (mobile patrols) Bill Stibbard; constable (mobile patrols) Wayne Saul; constable (CIB) John Hannery; constable Chris Kosiey (Redcliffe); constable Paul Foley (Woodridge); constable (plain clothes) Phil Hocken; constable Wayne Bennet. Absent on duty were constable Ray Swift (Gabba); constable John Wacker (Ipswich); constable 1st class (mobile patrols) Ken Rugh; constable Steve Glynn (Oxley Academy) and constable Tony Gibson (Valleys).



1978

BRL: EASTS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REDCLIFFE	16	0	5	502	306	32
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	0	7	451	249	28
VALLEYS	13	0	8	317	328	26
WESTERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	339	306	22
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	12	322	369	18
WYNNUM MANLY	8	0	13	305	378	16
BROTHERS	7	0	14	274	474	14
NORTHERN SUBURBS	6	0	15	313	413	12

THE 1978 PREMIERSHIP
Week by Week

1st Round

MARCH 27 & 28 WEEKEND

REDCLIFFE	13	d	EASTS	5
SOUTHS	26	d	W/MANLY	14
WESTS	19	d	NORTHS	10
BROTHERS	38	d	VALLEYS	3

WEEKEND 1 & 2 APRIL

SOUTHS	6	d	BROTHERS	5
EASTS	12	d	NORTHS	7
WESTS	13	d	REDCLIFFE	3
W/MANLY	10	d	VALLEYS	3

WEEKEND 8 & 9 APRIL

EASTS	20	d	W/MANLY	15
WESTS	13	d	BROTHERS	5
VALLEYS	31	d	NORTHS	14
REDCLIFFE	20	d	SOUTHS	18

WEEKEND 15 & 16 APRIL

VALLEYS	15	d	WESTS	11
REDCLIFFE	27	d	W/MANLY	21
SOUTHS	12	d	EASTS	5
BROTHERS	17	d	NORTHS	16

WEEKEND 22, 23 & 25 APRIL

W/MANLY	32	d	NORTHS	14
SOUTHS	27	d	WESTS	15
REDCLIFFE	51	d	BROTHERS	10
VALLEYS	27	d	EASTS	15

WEEKEND 30 APRIL & 1 MAY

VALLEYS	25	d	SOUTHS	14
REDCLIFFE	21	d	NORTHS	13
BROTHERS	17	d	W/MANLY	11
EASTS	26	d	WESTS	5

WEEKEND MAY 13

WESTS	10	d	W/MANLY	7
NORTHS	25	d	SOUTHS	14
REDCLIFFE	25	d	VALLEY	6
EASTS	35	d	BROTHERS	5

2ND ROUND

WEEKEND 20 & 21 MAY

BROTHERS	12	d	VALLEYS	7
EASTS	28	d	REDCLIFFE	4
WESTS	25	d	NORTHS	15
W/MANLY	15	d	SOUTHS	12

WEEKEND 27 & 28 MAY

WESTS	24	d	REDCLIFFE	12
VALLEYS	24	d	W/MANLY	5
NORTHS	16	d	EASTS	13
SOUTHS	16	d	BROTHERS	14

WEEKEND 4 & 5 JUNE

WESTS	32	d	BROTHERS	8
VALLEYS	15	d	NORTHS	9
W/MANLY	23	d	EASTS	14
REDCLIFFE	25	d	SOUTHS	10

WEEKEND 10 & 11 JUNE

REDCLIFFE	35	d	W/MANLY	4
VALLEYS	19	d	WESTS	8
EASTS	28	d	SOUTHS	3
NORTHS	27	d	BROTHERS	16

WEEKEND 17 & 18 JUNE

SOUTHS	20	d	WESTS	13
EASTS	22	d	VALLEYS	7
REDCLIFFE	34	d	BROTHERS	11
NORTHS	16	d	W/MANLY	13

WEEKEND 24 & 25 JUNE

REDCLIFFE	36	d	NORTHS	10
W/MANLY	10	d	BROTHERS	7
VALLEYS	15	d	SOUTHS	9
EASTS	33	d	WESTS	7

WEEKEND 1 & 2 JULY

REDCLIFFE	25	d	VALLEYS	12
W/MANLY	16	d	WESTS	10
SOUTHS	20	d	NORTHS	19
EASTS	48	d	BROTHERS	9

3RD ROUND

WEEKEND 8 & 9 JULY

EASTS	16	d	REDCLIFFE	4
NORTHS	23	d	WESTS	11
SOUTHS	15	d	W/MANLY	11
BROTHERS	23	d	VALLEYS	19

WEEKEND 16 JULY

VALLEYS	26	d	W/MANLY	20
WESTS	15	d	REDCLIFFE	13
SOUTHS	16	d	BROTHERS	11
NORTHS	17	d	EASTS	9

WEEKEND 22 & 23 JULY

VALLEYS	18	d	NORTHS	16
EASTS	33	d	W/MANLY	17
BROTHERS	21	d	WESTS	18
REDCLIFFE	34	d	SOUTHS	19

WEEKEND 29 & 30 JULY

EASTS	22	d	SOUTHS	9
W/MANLY	24	d	REDCLIFFE	9
VALLEYS	17	d	WESTS	7
NORTHS	23	d	BROTHERS	13

WEEKEND 5 & 6 AUGUST

SOUTHS	10	d	WESTS	3
NORTHS	21	d	W/MANLY	15
EASTS	31	d	VALLEYS	21
BROTHERS	31	d	REDCLIFFE	8

WEEKEND 12 & 13 AUGUST

REDCLIFFE	39	d	NORTHS	4
SOUTHS	31	d	VALLEYS	2
EASTS	28	d	WESTS	7
BROTHERS	32	d	W/MANLY	13

WEEKEND 19 & 20 AUGUST

VALLEYS	25	d	REDCLIFFE	12
W/MANLY	18	d	WESTS	2
NORTHS	25	d	SOUTHS	3
EASTS	30	d	BROTHERS	14

1978

In 1978 all of the Brisbane teams and a number of Queensland country teams competed in the Amco Cup.

The 1977 BRL premiers, Easts, had a big win against North Sydney to make the quarter finals. Again only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals and were beaten by a Sydney team when Easts put up a gallant fight against Manly-Warringah at Lang Park going down 27-10. Both teams would go on to win that year's Brisbane and Sydney premierships respectively.

The poor showing by Brisbane clubs with only one team a year making the quarter finals and not proceeding any further would see the end of individual BRL clubs competing in the Amco Cup. In 1979 a combined Brisbane and a combined Qld Country team competed and met each other in one of the semi-finals before Brisbane lost the final 22-5 to Cronulla.

1978 Amco Cup Games Involving Queensland Teams

26/03/78	Toowoomba	22	Ipswich	12	Ipswich
30/03/78	Gold Coast	18	North Qld	16	Gold Coast
5/04/78	Wide Bay	12	Central Qld	3	Maryborough
30/03/78	Brisbane Wests*	8	Wynnum-Manly	8	Lang Park
30/03/78	Newtown	49	Brothers	0	Leichhardt Oval
5/04/78	Brisbane Souths	10	Gold Coast	4	Gold Coast
5/04/78	Illawarra	35	Valleys	7	Lang Park
12/04/78	Riverina	43	Wide Bay	4	Griffith
24/05/78	North Coast	22	Toowoomba	13	Lismore
19/04/78	Wests (Sydney)	25	Brisbane Souths	5	Leichhardt Oval
26/04/78	Brisbane Wests	4	Redcliffe	3	Lang Park
24/05/78	Illawarra	44	Brisbane Norths	5	Wollongong
7/06/78	Parramatta	28	Brisbane Wests	0	Leichhardt Oval
5/07/78	Brisbane Easts	27	North Sydney	6	Lang Park
19/07/78 (QF)	Manly	27	Brisbane Easts	10	Lang Park

*Won on penalty countback

Amco Cup Quarter Final - Manly-Warringah 27 v Easts (Brisbane) 10

Early tries end Easts' Cup bid

TOP Sydney Rugby League side Manly-Warringah had to rely on an early scoring spree to down Brisbane Easts 27-10 in an Amco Cup quarter-final at Lang Park last night.

Easts turned in a spirited second-half defensive effort and had Manly struggling to repeat the breaks they created in the first two quarters.



MANLY captain John Gray finds himself sandwiched in a tackle from two Easts players during last night's Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park. Manly won 27-10.

With a glut of possession, Manly went to a 12-0 lead six minutes into the second quarter, but from there Easts almost matched them.

It was Manly's speedy backs who set up their win, although Test prop Ian Thomson did tremendous work in the rucks.

Brilliant fullback — come - halfback Johnny Gibbs was at his mercurial best and repeatedly made inroads into Easts' defence.

Gibbs, who scored a fine solo try late in the game, justfiably won the man - of - the - match award.

Lively centre Alan Thompson always looked dangerous.

Easts' two tries came from "bombs" — one put up by halfback Wayne Lindenberg and the other by hooker Johnny Lang.

Unknown Manly third grade hooker Greg Cross took the first six scrums from Test rake Lang and finished the match with ar. 18-11 advantage.

But Lang had two second grade second rowers, Bob Arnold and Luciano Nobile, as props.

Manly led 8-0 in the first quarter after two tries from lock forward Bruce Walker, a former Easts' junior.

Walker stepped from the base of a scrum and strolled five metres to score the first.



Winger John Callus scored Easts' first try when he regathered a fumbled ball after Lindenberg's perfectly placed bomb.

Smith scores

Seventeen minutes into the third quarter five eighth Russell Smith grabbed the ball from Lang's up-and-under after it had again been fumbled by two Manly players.

Players to go well for Easts were Smith, Callus, second rowers John Abbott and Des Morris and fullback Roger Kuhn, who was forced to make too many tackles when his forwards failed in defence.

First scorers: Manly No. 8, Easts No. 5. First try scorers: Manly No. 8, Easts No. 5.

Scores: Manly-Warringah 27 (B. Walker 2, J. Gibbs, T. Mooney, A. Thompson tries; J. Gray 5, C. Montgomery goals) d. Easts 10 (J. Callus, R. Smith tries; W. Lindenberg 2 goals).

1978

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 17 v Wests 10

THE CHAMPAGNE'S BACK



BIG Alister McInnes strides through a West player's tackle in one of his line-breaking bursts in yesterday's knock-out Rugby League semi-final at Lang Park. McInness was one of the stars of Valleys' 17-10 win.

Valleys are shouting

By Jack Craig

CHAMPAGNE Rugby League returned to Lang Park yesterday as Valleys and Wests did battle in a knock-out semi-final that had 15,000 fans roaring approval.

Valleys won 17-10 — after the scores were tied 7-7 at half-time — to qualify for the preliminary final on September 10.

They will meet the losers of next Sunday's semi-final between Redcliffe and Easts, with the winners of that match going straight to the grand final.

Valleys' coach John Rhodes said it did not matter to him which team Valleys would face in the preliminary final.

"I think we'll give both the top teams a shake-up," said Valleys selector Nev Lessina, who rated yesterday's win as one of the best he had seen from Valleys.

"The 1970 grand final win over Norths was Valleys' best effort," said Lessina, who has a long association with the club. "But today's performance has to come very close."

Cliffhanger

Valleys players would not want it much closer.

They came from behind twice, and overcame some torrid defence to score their three tries.

They also put on a great defensive effort of their own to deny the Panthers first half scoring opportunities with a glut of possession.

The statistics tell the story.

Wests won first half scrums 10-3, and shaded Valleys 5-4 on penalties.

Still they managed only one try, against some ball-jarring tackles from Al McInnes, John McLeod, Tom Duggan and Peter McWhirter.

In the second half, Valleys' Trevor Johnson won scrums 8-3, while Wests were caned 9-3 in penalties.

With more possession, Valleys exerted so much pressure it seemed only a matter of time before the defence crumbled.

But that was not before Wests second rower Paul Vautin scored the try of the match.

He broke Valleys stand-up defence, and in a solo 65 metre effort, outpaced fullback Alan Mills and winger Mick Neill to score near the posts.

Henry Williamson's conversion rebounded from the upright and Wests led 10-7.

Then came some attacking brilliance that was vintage Wests.

The ball swept along the backline, and with slippery Greg M'Carthy chiming in, it seemed a certain try.

But magnificent cover by Wally Lewis and Mills again denied the Panthers.

VALLEYS 17 d WESTS 10

Scorers — Valleys: P. McWhirter, R. Strudwick, A. Mills tries; M. Neil 4 goals; Wests: R. Brennan, P. Vautin, tries; H. Williamson 2 goals. First scorers: Wests 2, Valleys 5. First try scorers: Wests 2, Valleys 6.

Two minutes later Valleys were knocking on the door of a try, but lost the ball in a tackle.

Williamson tried a clearing kick, which was knocked down, and Ross Strudwick turned the game in Valleys favour when he recovered the ball, then backed up on two passes to score.

The next 10 minutes were all Valleys, with Mills, McInnes, replacement centre Brian Dunne, and McWhirter punching holes through Wests.

But the Panthers held until Mills flashed down the blind side of a ruck on to a Strudwick pass and Valleys hit the front 15-10.

Late tackle

Neill finished the scoring with a penalty which referee Eddie Ward issued for a blatant late tackle on Strudwick.

Picking a player of the match was near impossible. But strong contenders were McInnes, Mills, McWhirter, and Strudwick for Valleys, while West players to shine were Gary Prickett, Norm Carr and David McKenzie.

McInnes topped off a big tackling first half with strong line-bursting runs late in the game.

Mills was at his attacking best, while Strudwick was the driving force behind the Diehards.

Valleys made one change to their line-up when they replaced the injured Gerry Fitzpatrick at half time with Dunne.

Dunne, who had not played for six weeks, showed outstanding form and the potential of future State player.

1978

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 21 v Redcliffe 16

REF GIVEN 'SEND-OFF'



EASTS second rower John Abbott gets a pass away in a Redcliffe player's tackle during yesterday's incident-packed Rugby League major semi-final at Lang Park.

His last for us—Turner

By Lawrie Kavanagh

REFEREE Ian Smith was spat at by a spectator and widely abused after Brisbane Rugby League premiers Easts beat Redcliffe 21-16 in the major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The win took Easts into the grand final, but it was a hollow victory after Smith had sent big Redcliffe forward John Barber off in the fourth minute of the match.

Redcliffe president Dick Turner said later his club would protest if Smith was appointed to control another of their matches this year.

"We are not protesting because we lost," Turner said.

"We would feel the same way if we had won. But we feel that the refereeing was so inconsistent we could not tolerate it again."

Barber will be charged with violent conduct when he appears before the Brisbane Rugby League judiciary committee.

Easts second-rower John Abbott had to be carried off after the incident involving Barber.

However, he was able to resume about a minute later and emerged as one of the outstanding forwards on the ground.

Scrum loss

It was to Redcliffe's credit that they hung on until 12 minutes from full-time, despite losing scrums 14-8.

Easts dressing room after the match was far from happy, because they had beaten a 12-man team.

Easts captain-coach Des Morris was testy, even though he had steered his team into the grand final for the second successive year.

Despite the fact they played one man short for the majority of the match, Redcliffe led from the 10th minute right until the 28th minute of the last half.

But in the final count, Easts scored five tries to two.

Captain Bunny Pearce kept Redcliffe in the match with some outstanding goal-kicking he landed five from seven attempts.

Easts gained their tries in some explosive bursts when they swung the ball wide.

They were not allowed to move the ball about as much as they would have liked, because of the tight defence, but when they did, it looked good.

As expected, the speed in the backs was the telling feature of Easts play.

Centre Mark Payne and winger Brad Backer, set Lang Park alight with several brilliant runs.

Payne picked up two tries and Backer one.

Four of Easts tries came from strong backline bursts, and were scored by backs. The only forward try came from Rod Morris in a typical move from dummy half.

But as convincing as a five tries to two victory sounds, Easts can still not know just how strong they are against Redcliffe until they face the Dolphins at full strength, with 13 men.

That just could be the case in the grand final, but first Redcliffe have to face Valleys in the preliminary final on Sunday.

They should win this match and make it an Easts-Redcliffe final for the second successive year.

Redcliffe selectors may look at including both Bevan Bleakley and Daryl Van de Velde in their original team against Valleys.

Van de Velde came on for Bleakley shortly before halftime yesterday, but both should have been on for the full match.

EASTS 21 d. REDCLIFFE 16

Scorers — Easts: M. Payne 2, R. Kuhn, B. Backer, R. Morris tries; W. Lindenberg 3 goals. Redcliffe: K. Cherry, A. Nunan tries; I. Pearce 5 goals.

First scorers: Easts 1, Redcliffe 1. **First try:** Easts 1, Redcliffe 12.

1978

BRL Preliminary Final - Valleys 17 v Redcliffe 13

Dolphins stranded when tide turns

DEFENCE . . . defence . . . and more defence took Valleys into the Brisbane Rugby League grand final with an exciting 17-13 win over Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday

In a classic comeback in the best Valley Diehard tradition, the young Royal blue side came back from 2-10 down midway through the first half.

Valleys now meet defending premiers Easts in the grand final at Lang Park next Sunday and Redcliffe president. Dick Turner had no hesitation after yesterday's defeat in predicting a Valleys win.

"They will go into the grand final 10 feet tall after today," Turner said. "I don't think there is any risk that Valleys will beat Easts."

Valleys beat the odds yesterday.

They went into this match underdogs. They lost the scrums 16-11, but in the first half, when it counted they trailled 6-1 at one stage.

And they also made some major handling blunders on the rare occasions they did get possession.

But all the while they tackled as though life depended on it.

Valleys defence completely frustrated the Redcliffe attack. And it brought out a weakness in that same attack . . . lack of variation.

Redcliffe just did not know how to handle the walk-up, no-nonsense defence which blocked their way at almost every turn.

While the Valleys defence was a team effort, with not one player falling down, four players stood out, captain and halfback Ross Strudwick, lock Wally Lewis, five-eighth Peter McWhirter and prop Al McInnes.

Lewis won most of the praise for his outstanding game in attack and defence, but I believe it was a toss-up between Lewis and five-eighth McWhirter for the man of the Match.

Asked where he thought Redcliffe had lost the match, Pearce said: "When that young bloke scored for Valleys just before half-time.

The try was the try of the match. It came eight minutes before half-time when Lewis, the 18-year-old who toured England with the Australian Rugby Union Schoolboys team earlier this year, spied a gap about 40 metres out.

The Valleys lock took off with a stunning burst, beat some early cover, then beat Pearce with the neatest sidestep seen at Lang Park for some time.

After that it was a straight run to the line in top gear to leave the cover in tatters.

Full steam

VALLEYS hit the front for the first time in the match 15 minutes into the second half when McInnes got the ball about 20 metres out.

Again it was Pearce in the hot seat . . . the only player in his way.

From the moment he got the ball it was evident McInnes had set his mind on scoring: Pearce hit him with as good a tackle as could be seen in the game, but McInnes powered on like a robot and crashed over.

There were other good tries by Redcliffe's Tony Obst (two) and Peter Leis, but the one by Lewis was the feature.

Three tries

Each team scored three tries, and the difference came from the boot of Valley's winger Mick Neill. He kicked four, mostly from good positions, while Pearce kicked two from four, mostly from awkward angles.

The match was in stark contrast to the bitter encounter between Redcliffe and Easts last week.

It was clean and solid, under good control from referee Eddie Ward, who was later appointed to control the grand final.

But it was far from gentle. Many players, including Redcliffe's Bevan Bleakley and Steve Bullow, and Valleys Tom Duggan, staggered in a daze for minutes after heavy tackles.

A crowd of more than 18,000, the biggest of the season, saw the match.

Referees appointment Board last night named Ward for the A grade grand final, Bill McKenny the Reserve Grade, and Ron Thomas C Grade.

FIRST SCORERS: Valleys 5, Redcliffe 4. FIRST TRY: Valleyus 8, Redcliffe 4.

A GRADE: Valleys 17 (P. McWhirter, W. Lewis, A. McInnes tries; M. Neill 4 goals) d. Redcliffe 13 (T. Obst 2, P. Leis tries; I. Pearce 2 goals).

RESERVE GRADE: Easts 30 d. Norths 11.
C GRADE: Norths 20 d. Brothers 19.

— Lawrie Kavanagh



THE determination of Redcliffe Rugby League captain-coach Ian Pearce (right) was not enough to prevent giant Valleys forward Al McInnes from scoring in yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park. Pearce completed a copybook tackle, but McInnes carried him at least five metres to the line. Valleys won 17-13.

1978

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v VALLEYS 10

ONLY CHAMPIONS FINISH LIKE THAT

Easts' rush finds Valleys one short

By Lawrie Kavanagh

EASTS retained the Brisbane Rugby League premiership by beating Valleys 14-10 at Lang Park yesterday, but only after the Diehards had given them the fright – and fright – of a lifetime.

Easts had to produce one of the greatest tries seen on Lang Park in years to grab the premiership just four minutes from time.

Valleys led 10-9, and looked like hanging on for an upset victory after scoring two tries to one.

But in the style of true champions, Easts unleashed a withering burst of multi-passing over more than 70 metres with just four minutes to go.

At least six players handled the ball before prop forward Bruce McLeod sent five-eighth Greg Holben away for the try of the match.

The try, and an excellent conversion by Easts replacement winger Jeff McDonald, gave Easts the match, and left the majority of the 33,000 Lang Park fans feeling a little sad.

They were with Valleys from the outset and looked certain to have their way after a magnificent overall display by the Diehards.

The fans were right behind Valleys because of their gutsy fight to the grand final against all odds.

And as yesterday's match wore on, Valleys won even more fans with a gallant mixture of last ditch defence and tireless attack.

But two major mistakes in goal kicking put Valleys behind the eight ball in the premiership.

First-up kicker, young winger Mick Neill, had a dismal match as far as kicking was concerned, after building up a good reputation this season.

He missed two from right in front of the posts, the first in the 24th minute of the first half, and the second, in the 15th minute of the second half.

SCORES: Easts 14 (R. Morris, G. Holben tries; G. McDonald 3 goals, W. Lindenberg goal) d Valleys 10 (V. Welland, M. Neill tries; M. Neill goal, A. Mills goal). First scorers: Easts 7, Valleys 5; first try, Easts 11. Valleys 5.
Reserve Grade: Redcliffe 15 d Easts 7.
C GRADE: Easts 28 d Norths 10.

Tireless

Those two misses were stunning in their simplicity.

But Valleys never let up. They came back with tireless attack and played the majority of the second half in Easts territory, aided greatly by a majority of scrum possession in the second half.

Trevor Johnson won the scrums 8-4 over Easts John Lang in the second half, and finished ahead 15-13 overall.

However, Lang's play throughout was of championship class, and he must surely have clinched a spot in the Kangaroo team to be named tomorrow night.

The full Australian selection panel was at Lang Park, and it could not have failed to recognise Lang at his best.

Understandably, Valleys officials were very disappointed after getting so close to an unexpected premiership.

In the dressing room after the match, they claimed Valleys should have been awarded a penalty try for an obstruction by Easts prop Bruce McLeod on Valleys lock Wally Lewis, in the 12th minute of the second half.

Lewis, who had a great game, and is bound for a big future in football, was following through his own short kick when McLeod ran alongside him and appeared to obstruct him.

The action did not deserve a penalty try as was claimed, but it was surprising that referee Eddie Ward did not penalise McLeod.

The incident was almost under the posts, and should have been two points for Valleys.

But it must be remembered Neill missed two goal attempts from a similar position.

Praise

Easts captain-coach Des Morris, not one to give praise for any opposition, nevertheless praised Valleys for their great effort.

"That last try showed Easts have what it takes to be champions," he said.

"But I have to say Valleys went well. We did not under-estimate them; but I did not think they could go so well."

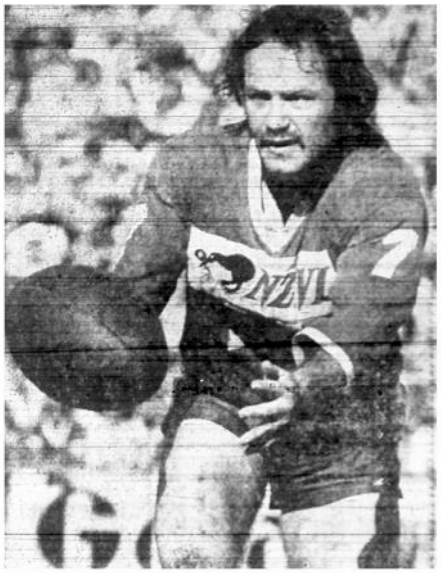
Referring to Easts winning try, Valleys captain Ross Strudwick said: "We matched their moves man for man until the last tackle. We just ran out of tacklers, and they scored. We were one tackle away from the premiership."

Valleys coach John Rhodes, who is undecided about his coaching future, said that if Valleys retained the present team it would be unbeatable next year.

If the Diehards do retain the team, Rhodes is likely to have one more crack at coaching.

Valleys won scrums 15-13 and the penalties went Valleys way 10-8.





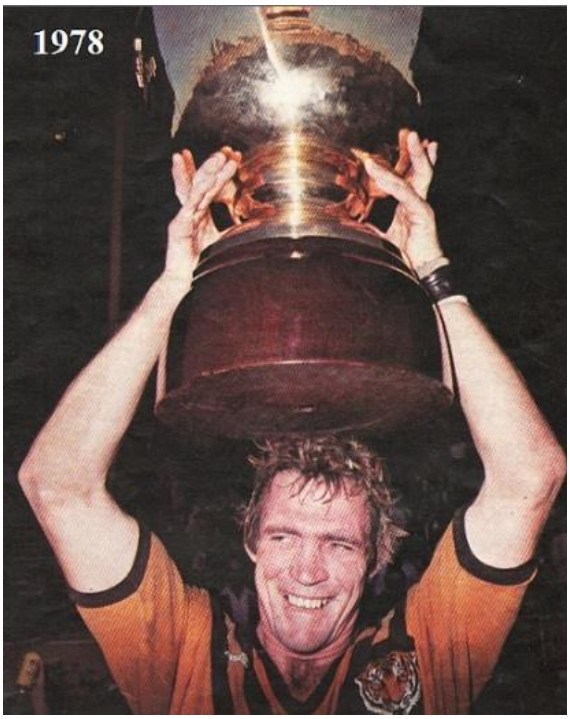
FOR concentration and dedication Valleys Rugby League maestro Ross Strudwick (pictured) deserved to be a premiership captain yesterday.

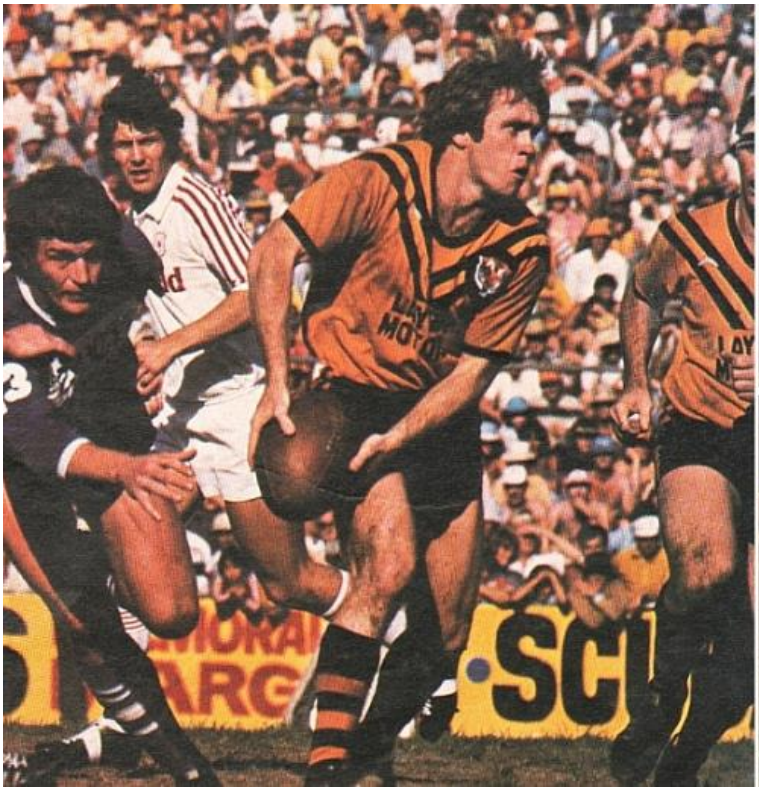


ONE of the few lapses in Valleys' defence allowed Easts prop Rod Morris to dive over for this try in the 11th minute of yesterday's grand final. Valleys defence was there, but too late. From left to right are Tom Duggan (9), Mark Zillman, Wally Lewis, referee Eddie Ward, and Ross Strudwick (on his knees).

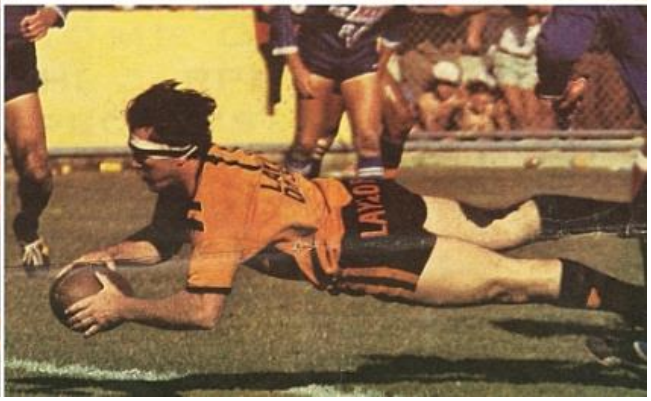
1978

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v VALLEYS 10









A crowd of more than 30,000 watched Easts win their second successive rugby league premiership at Lang Park yesterday. The Tigers had to fight every inch of the way to beat underdogs Valleys 14-10.



1978

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v VALLEYS 10



1978 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Premiership Winners, President Cup Winners, Peter Scott Memorial Winners, Club Champions. ***Front Row:*** *Jack Loth (Patron); Steve Stacey; John Lang; Des Morris (Capt/Coach); Greg Holben; Brad Backer; Ted Verrenkamp (President).* ***Second Row:*** *Cliff Green Sr (Selector); Rod McDougall (Manager); John Callus; Bruce McLeod; Brad Sully; Frank Roddy; Boris Crassini (Manager); George West (Selector).* ***Third Row:*** *John Sheppard (Selector). Wayne Smith; Errol Slingsby; Bernie Lowther; Wayne Lindenberg; Wayne McEwan; Brian Smart (Secretary);* ***Back Row:*** *Arthur Alexander (Trainer); Mark Payne; Rod Morris; Luciano Nobile; Bob Arnold; Tony Stanton (Strapper).* ***Inserts:*** *Alan Currie; John Abbott; Rodger Kuhn.* ***Absent:*** *Jeff McDonald.*

RESULTS

27 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 17 (McWhirter, Strudwick, Mills tries; Neill 4 goals) d. Western Suburbs 10 (Brennan, Vautin tries; H.Williamson 2 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, M.Svensen, G.Fitzpatrick, V.Wieland, M.Neill, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c), W.Lewis, T.Duggan, J.McLeod, M.Zillman, T.Johnson, A.McInnes. Reserve: B.Dunne. Coach: J.Rhodes.
Wests: R.Sellars, R.Brennan, G.McCarthy, H.Cameron, P.McDonald, W.Carr, D.McKenzie, N.Carr, P.Vautin, R.Bradshaw, H.Williamson, G.Prickett, B.Whitmore. Coach: D.Oxenham.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 15,000.***

3 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 21 (Payne 2, Kuhn, Backer, R.Morris tries; Lindenberg 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 16 (Cherry, Nunan tries; Pearce 5 goals).
Easts: R.Kuhn, B.Backer, F.Roddy, M.Payne, J.Callus, G.Holben, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, J.Abbott, D.Morris (c/c), R.Morris, J.Lang, B.McLeod.
Redcliffe: I.Pearce (c/c), K.Cherry, P.Leis, T.Obst, V.Tighe, S.Williams, G.Oliphant, C.Mason, D.Van De Velde, I.Thinee, J.Barber, A.Nunan, D.Moffatt.
Referee: Ian Smith.

10 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 17 (McWhirter, Lewis, McInnes tries; Neill 4 goals) d Redcliffe 13 (Obst 2, Leis tries; Pearce 2 goals).
Valleys: A.Mills, M.Svensen, G.Fitzpatrick, V.Wieland, M.Neill, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c), W.Lewis, T.Duggan, J.McLeod, M.Zillman, T.Johnson, A.McInnes. Coach: J.Rhodes.
Redcliffe: I.Pearce (c/c), K.Cherry, P.Leis, T.Obst, V.Tighe, S.Williams, G.Oliphant, C.Mason, D.Van De Velde, I.Thinee, S.Bullow, A.Nunan, D.Moffatt.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 18,000.***

17 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 14 (Holben, R.Morris tries; McDonald 3, Lindenberg goals) d. Fortitude Valley 10 (Neill, Wieland tries; Neill, Mills goals).
Easts: R.Kuhn, B.Backer, M.Payne, F.Roddy, J.Callus, G.Holben, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, J.Abbott, D.Morris (c/c), B.McLeod, J.Lang, R.Morris. Reserves: J.McDonald.
Valleys: A. Mills, M.Neill, G.Fitzpatrick, V.Wieland, M.Svensen, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c),W.Lewis, J.McLeod, T.Duggan, M.Zillman, T.Johnson, A.McInnes. Coach: J.Rhodes.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 30,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Ian Pearce (Redcliffe).



Brisbane Easts and Queensland halfback Wayne Lindenberg, the man they're calling Joh's answer to Steve Mortimer.


GREG CONESCU
(Norths, Brisbane)


SOUTH BRITISH
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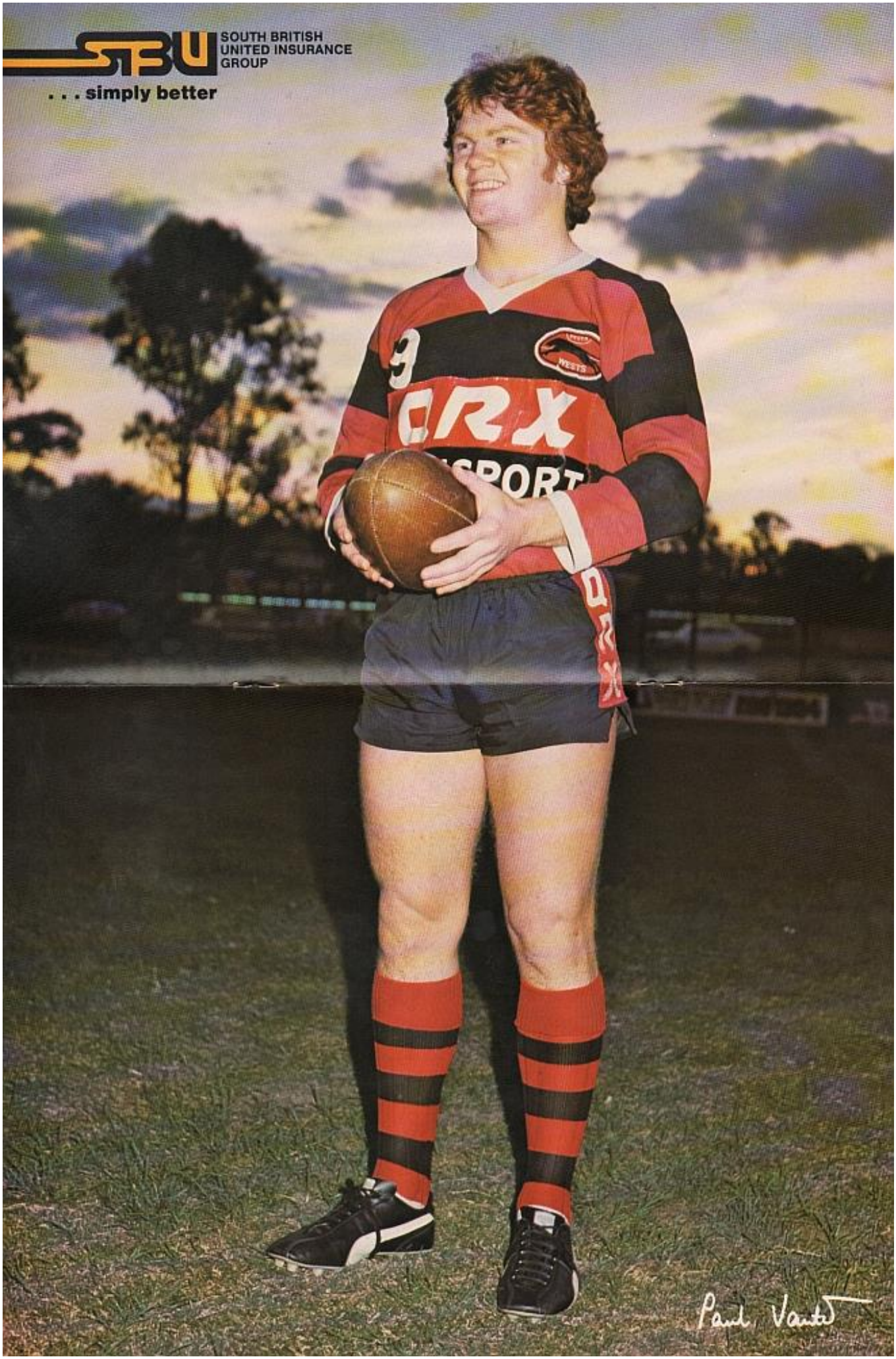
Rugby League News
Greg Oliphant


SOUTH BRITISH
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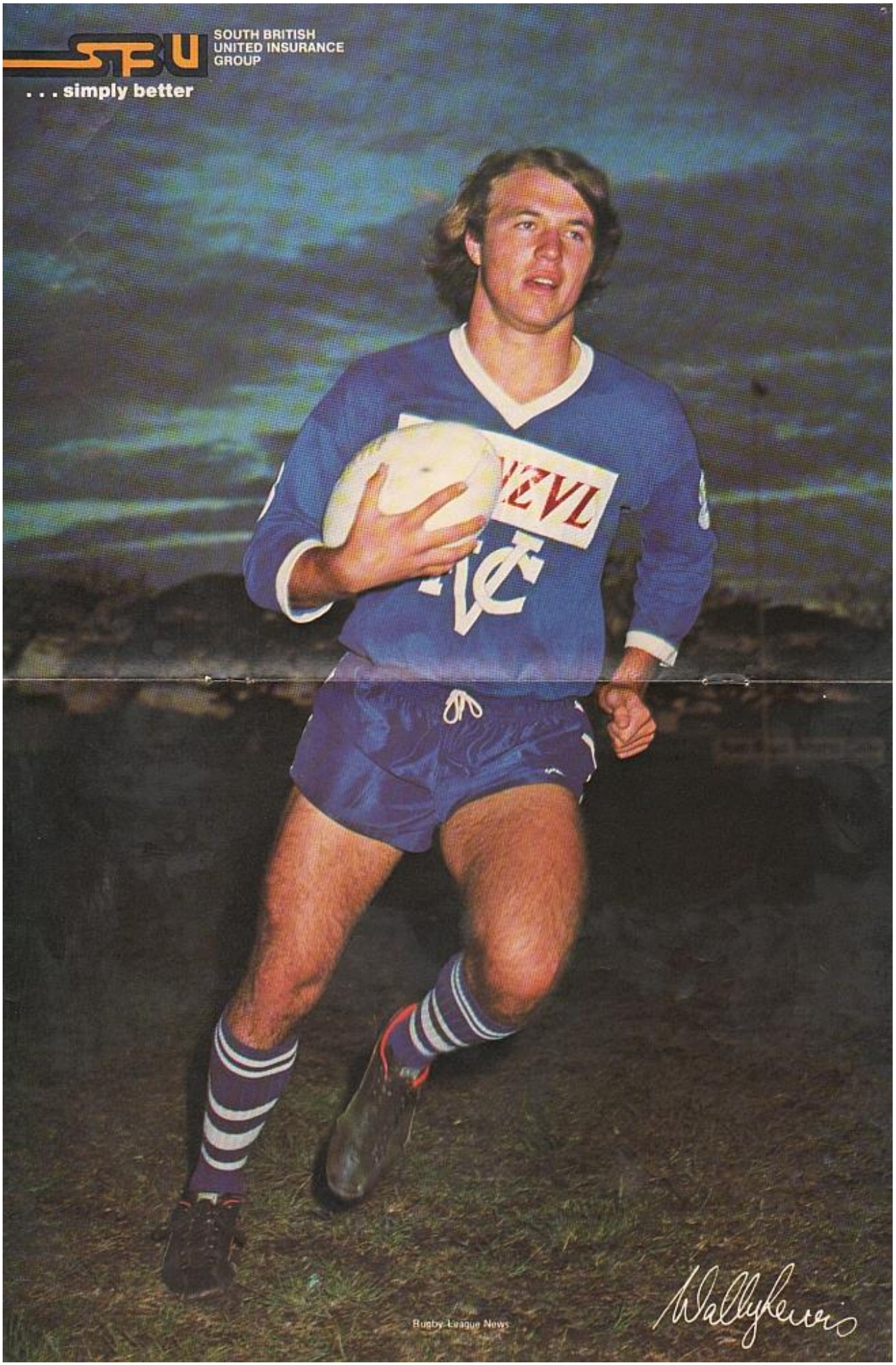
. . . simply better
9
WESTS
ORX
Paul Vautin



PETER McNAMARA, A BROTHERS FRONT ROWER, IS HAVING AN OUTSTANDING SEASON. PETER IS LIVING UP TO THE PROMISE HE SHOWED SINCE COMING TO BROTHERS AS A TEENAGER, AND IN THE TOUGH, DEMANDING ROLE OF FRONT-ROWER HE IS GIVING BROTHERS GREAT SERVICE.


Personality
OF THE WEEK
BEAUREPAIRS
4
TYRES
Gene Miles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Rugby League News


Personality
OF THE WEEK
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IF YOU FEEL LIKE A
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1979

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	17	1	3	549	263	35
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	0	7	435	315	28
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	13	0	8	374	312	26
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	1	8	381	310	25
NORTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	12	337	418	18
REDCLIFFE	7	0	14	286	426	14
BROTHERS	5	1	15	350	488	11
WYNNUM MANLY	5	1	15	284	464	11

1979 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

FIRST ROUND

24th/25th March, 1979

Easts	31	d	Red.	19
Souths	23	d	W/Manly	8
F/Valley	20	d	P/Bros.	9
Wests	18	d	Norths	7

31st March, / 1st April

F/Valley	30	d	W/Manly	8
Wests	24	d	Red.	8
Easts	22	d	Norths	10
Souths	14	d	P/Bros.	8

7th/8th April

Wests	43	d	P/Bros.	16
Easts	34	d	W/Manly	10
F/Valley	41	d	Norths	12
Souths	16	d	Red.	2

14th/15th/16th April

Norths	20	d	P/Bros.	18
Souths	9	d	Easts	7
F/Valley	14	—	Wests	14
W/Manly	26	d	Red.	5

21st/22nd/25th April

P/Bros.	19	d	Red.	13
Easts	32	d	F/Valley	12
Souths	25	d	Wests	14
Norths	27	d	W/Manly	5

28th/29th April

Easts	30	d	Wests	24
F/Valley	25	d	Souths	7
P/Bros.	24	d	W/Manly	13
Red.	20	d	Norths	5

5th/6th/7th May

Souths	34	d	Norths	10
F/Valley	36	d	Red.	4
W/Manly	21	d	Wests	11

SECOND ROUND

19th/20th May

Norths	17	d	Wests	7
Souths	15	d	W/Manly	12
Easts	12	d	Red.	2
F/Valley	41	d	P/Bros.	13

26th/27th May

Souths	17	d	P/Bros.	8
Easts	26	d	Norths	10
F/Valley	38	d	W/Manly	19
Wests	30	d	Red.	15

2nd/3rd June

Red.	25	d	Souths	0
F/Valley	27	d	Norths	7
P/Bros.	23	d	Wests	8
Easts	25	d	W/Manly	8

9th/10th June

Norths	25	d	P/Bros.	16
F/Valley	25	d	Wests	8
Easts	23	d	Souths	13
Red.	11	d	W/Manly	8

17th June

Wests	7	d	Souths	6
F/Valley	31	d	Easts	6
Red.	26	d	P/Bros.	15
Norths	38	d	W/Manly	7

23rd/24th June

P/Bros.	18	d	W/Manly	11
F/Valley	26	d	Souths	13
Wests	24	d	Easts	12
Norths	22	d	Red.	20

1st July,

W/Manly	18	d	Wests	6
Easts	26	d	P/Bros.	14
Norths	16	d	Souths	15
F/Valley	28	d	Red.	10

THIRD ROUND

7th/8th July

Easts	18	d	Red.	10
Wests	15	d	Norths	7
F/Valley	25	d	P/Bros.	18
Souths	28	d	W/Manly	11

15th July

Wests	28	d	Red.	5
F/Valley	23	d	W/Manly	10
Souths	35	d	P/Bros.	13
Easts	12	d	Norths	9

21st/22nd July

W/Manly	21	d	Easts	18
Norths	27	d	F/Valley	15
Wests	26	d	P/Bros.	19
Souths	33	d	Red.	16

28th/29th July

Norths	18	d	P/Bros.	17
Wests	8	d	F/Valley	5
Red.	23	d	W/Manly	10
Souths	10	d	Easts	5

4th/5th August

Red.	19	d	P/Bros.	14
F/Valley	21	d	Easts	17
W/Manly	24	d	Norths	20
Wests	29	d	Souths	14

11th/12th August

Red.	26	d	Norths	9
F/Valley	26	d	Souths	14
Easts	13	d	Wests	12
P/Bros.	22	—	W/Manly	22

18th/19th August

Wests	25	d	W/Manly	10
Easts	45	d	P/Bros.	12
Souths	33	d	Norths	21
F/Valley	40	d	Red.	7

1979

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 22 v Wests 13

MAGNIFICENT MAGPIES

Wests were stunned, then knocked right out

By Lawrie Kavanagh

SOUTHS beat the odds to score a stunning 22-13 victory over Wests in the Brisbane Rugby League knockout semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Souths came from down, and almost certainly out, 10-5, at halftime against 6-4 on favourite, Wests. Most of the big Lang Park crowd had written them off. The Magpies looked slack and unable to find an answer to Wests' glut of possession.

But not Souths coach, Wayne Bennett, who had two trump cards up his sleeve in this match.

The first was his switch of selected winger, Chris Kealey, to five-eighth, before the match, and the second, his decision to hold back non-stop second rower, Mal Connell until the second half.

Certainly the Kingaroy-born policeman, Kealey, 20 caught everyone by surprise.

He came into Souths' A grade line-up only three weeks ago as a replacement, and yesterday he was lining up for only his second full A grade game — as a winger.

But Bennett sent him on as five-eighth, his natural position in the lower grades.

This allowed Souths to keep top centre combination, Mal Meninga and Bruce Astill, together.

From a nervous start, Kealey settled down to play a leading role in the win and he will be there for the preliminary final in two weeks, no matter if regular five-eighth, Alan Brackin, is fighting fit.

Souths now meet the loser of next Sunday's major semi-final between Valleys and Easts in the preliminary final the following week.

As far as Souths officials could recall last night, this is the first time the Magpies have been in a preliminary final since 1963.

Young Kealey's attack was strong and deceptive and it was his exceptional run five minutes after half time which mowed down Wests defence and paved the way for a try by halfback, John Salter — the try that turned the tide of the match.

Attacker

That try, and the immediate success of forward Connell as a fresh attacker after halftime, set the pattern for victory.

Bennett said later he believed Souths were well in the game at halftime, despite their poor first half.

"Wests had everything going for them in the first half," Bennett said.

"Wests had all the ball (10-3 in scrums), and the breaks were going their way, but they were only five points ahead.

"I told my players they had to attack more forcibly, and they did.

"Also Connell, who was fresh and strong, was able to make a big difference to our attack."

Wests' coach, Don Oxenham, blamed referee, Eddie Ward's handling of scrums in the second half for Wests' loss.

He said he would not coach again in Brisbane while referees like Ward were handling top matches.

Not ready

However, while Souths had more ball in the second half, Wests hooker, Gary Prickett, still dominated possession.

He won scrums overall 15-7 (5-4 in the second half) and penalties went Souths way 6-5.

Wests lost this match in the first half when they failed to take advantage of overwhelming possession and the general run of play.

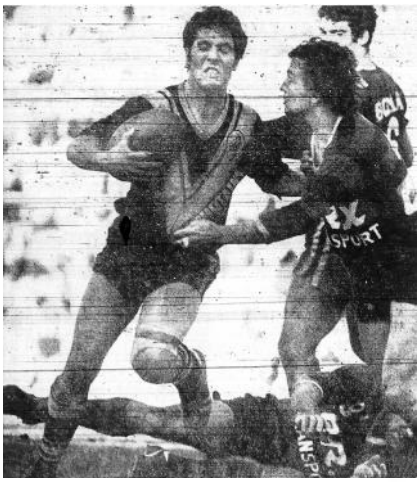
And when Souths got some early second half breaks, Wests were just not ready for it.

Unfortunately also for Wests, several of their star players picked the wrong time to have bad matches.

Prickett and Norm Carr, two of the most reliable performers in Brisbane, had their worst games of the season.

But don't take anything away from Souths, and the tactics of Bennett.

Souths fullback Tony Gibson, Kealey, Meninga, half Salter, unlikely lock, Bill Argeros, second rowers Brian Weir and Connell and prop Dave Brown, were superb in the second half comeback.



SOUTHS star replacement five-eighth Chris Kealey (with ball) tries to fend off Wests centre Mick Moore after evading the tackle of Wests lock, Norm Carr (on ground) during yesterday's Rugby League semi-final which Souths won 22-13.

KNOCK-OUT SEMI-FINALS

A GRADE

SOUTHS 22 d. WESTS 13

Scorers. — Souths 22: M. Meninga, J. Salter, R. Kellaway, D. Brown tries, Meninga 5 goals. Wests 13: G. Herms, R. Sellers, R. Houston tries, H. Williamson 3 goals. First scorers: Souths 6, Wests 11. First try scorers: Souths 6, Wests 2.

WESTS prop Bill Whitmore (with ball) stretches out for the line with Souths prop Bob Kellaway about to grab him over the top and hooker David Gould going down low in an effort to stop him. Wests second rower Ray Pickup is in the background.



1979

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 27 v Easts 2

FINAL APPEARS FORMALITY FOR VALLEYS

VALLEYS took out a mortgage on the Brisbane Rugby League Winfield Cup premiership with a 27-2 thrashing of reigning premiers, Easts, at Lang Park yesterday.

It is difficult to see Easts beating Valleys in the grand final on Sunday week, even if the Tigers get past South in next Sunday's preliminary final.

Even allowing that Easts will not play so badly again, and that their key player, hooker John Lang, will be fit, there just does not appear enough room for improvement in Easts.

There must be a big cloud over Lang for this Sunday's match.

He staggered off the field 15 minutes after the kick-off after taking a heavy knock on the head.

Lang has had a history of eye trouble this year, and yesterday's knock would not have helped.

He will see a doctor today, and must be considered in serious doubt for the preliminary final.

Easts five-eighth, Greg Holben, could also be in doubt with a shoulder injury shortly before halftime, when he was replaced . . . one of four replacements made by Easts during yesterday's game.

It was a horror match for Easts, and captain-coach Des Morris said later he did not think they could make as many errors again.

We made just about every mistake there is, and I hope we've got rid of them all," he said.

Even Easts' most safe handlers sank into the most elementary of errors.

Fullback Roger Kuhn, who fielded some excellent high kicks, highlighted Easts' errors when he fumbled the ball four times back over his own goal line in the one incident, which almost allowed Valleys to score yet another try.

Valleys' captain-coach Ross Strudwick said his players had pressurised Easts into their many errors.

But Strudwick predicted Easts would improve to beat Souths in next Sunday's match, and go on to play the Diehards in the grand final.

If that is the case, Morris is going to have his work cut out to rally his players against the Diehards after yesterday's debacle.

SET UP TRIES

Star of the match was Valleys fullback, Alan Mills, who is right back at his elusive best after a particularly slow start to the season.

Mills set up three tries, one from a brilliant bit of vintage Mills stepping which resulted in a move over the full length of the field.

It came in the 34th minute when he fielded a good kick on his own line.

Mills flew down the touch line, beating five attempted tacklers with a typical sidestep before giving winger Peter Falvey a wide berth to show his considerable pace.

Six minutes earlier Mills sent his other winger, Mick Neill, over with an excellent pass.

Neill, Brisbane's leading points scorer and goal kicker, had another field day, scoring two tries and booting six goals for 18 points.

The game opened as one of the most incident-packed clashes on Lang Park for some time.

Players from both teams were flattened left, right and centre by punches and heavy tackles in a furious first ten minutes.

But just as the match appeared to be getting out of hand, the players settled down, with Valleys taking control with strong attacking football.

But all the action did not take place on field.

A Valley official and an Easts Reserve Grade player were cited to appear before the League following an incident in the grandstand area when Easts five-eighth Holben was leaving the field injured late in the first half.

Valleys scored five tries, and just as importantly, their defence held up strongly to keep the Premiers tryless.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

VALLEYS 27 d. EASTS 2

Scorers. — Valleys: M. Neill 2, P. Falvey 2, R. Strudwick tries; Neill 6 goals. Easts: S. McNally goal. First scorers: Valleys 2, Easts 11. First try-scorers: Valleys 2, Easts 12.



VALLEYS centre Vic Wieland (with ball) pulls out of a low tackle by Brad Sully in yesterday's major semi-final. His teammates, Wally Lewis (left) and Arch McSween (21) support.



ALAN MILLS had three points on his mind as he raced away from Greg Holben at Lang Park yesterday. This move resulted in the try of the match when Mills set Peter Falvey up.

1979

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 18 v Easts 16

FLYING WINGERS PUT SOUTHS IN

SOUTHS scraped into their first Brisbane Rugby League grand final in 16 years, with just 90 seconds to spare in the preliminary final at Lang Park yesterday.

Souths did it the hard way, beating the premiers Easts 18-16, after trailing for all but the last 90 seconds.

Souths now meet Valleys in the grand final at Lang Park on Sunday, and will be chasing their first premiership in 26 years.

Yesterday Souths looked defeat in the face after 30 minutes of football when they trailed 14-0.

The writing was definitely on the wall, and the 20,000 Lang Park fans could see it . . . all bar one, Souths coach Wayne Bennett.

At that stage, Easts had settled into their typical flowing attacking style and looked in complete control.

Bennett did not lose faith, and later explained why: "At that stage I still thought we were in it, if we could just pick up a try before halftime. We needed something before halftime and I said, 'Don't write us off'."

Bennett not only got his try before halftime, he got two of the smartest wingers' tries any coach could hope for, all within two minutes just before the break.

The first, in the 34th minute, came from a quick switch by halfback John Salter — one of Souths' stars — with the ball spinning quickly out to blind-side winger Alan Brackin, who was unmarked. He scored in the corner.

Defence caught napping

Two minutes later, Souths raced to a similar situation in Easts territory when second rower Mal Connell caught the defence napping with a long pass out to Bruce Astill. He sent winger Mick Gramm, also unmarked, away for a superb try in the opposite corner.

That made it two tries each, but with Easts kicker Shane McNally right on the ball, and Souths' Mal Meninga in poor kicking form, Easts led at halftime, 14-8.

Bennett said he was excited about Souths' attacking prospects at that stage.

"At halftime I told them their attack was tremendous . . . that they did not have to worry about it. But I picked them up on a couple of things in defence."

But as hopeful as Bennett may have been at halftime, Souths were still a long way off victory, especially when McNally booted his fifth straight goal in the 49th minute for Easts to lead 16-8.

However, Souths got a break in the 55th minute when Salter stepped his way through a wide gap in the defence to score Souths' third try, this time under the posts for an easy conversion by Meninga.

Souths were right in it, trailing only 16-13.

Then, in the 58th and 64th minutes, Souths gained the breaks Bennett later said were their due, following a run of bad luck earlier — McNally, following great early kicking, missed two goals well within his kicking range.

Those misses gave Souths breathing space, and Meninga was right on the ball in the 66th minute with a penalty goal which made it Easts 16-15.

By this time the crowd was right behind Souths in a screaming show of support for the underdog on the comeback trail.

With the crowd behind them it was all Souths, pressing in Easts territory against strong defence.

Forward pass

Meninga had the crowd on its feet with a great run in the 71st minute when fullback Tony Gibson flashed in under the posts, but the pass was ruled forward.

Then Meninga appeared to score a corner try with just two minutes to go, but was ruled out by touch judge, Bill McKenny.

But 30 seconds later it was the brilliant

Just what the coach ordered

Salter who stretched through the weary defence to score the winning try, his second for the match.

Souths led 18-16 for the first time, in the match and it was all over.

Once again, Bennett's decision to hold back explosive second rower, Connell, until the game had settled down, proved a match winner.

He sent Connell on in the 32nd minute when Easts led 14-0, and Connell, as expected, injected new life into the team.

SOUTHS 18 d. EASTS 16

Scorers. — Souths: J. Salter 2, A. Brackin, M. Gramm tries; M. Meninga 3 goals. Easts: W. Lindenberg 2 tries; S. McNally 5 goals. First scorers: Souths 5, Easts 11; First try scorers: Souths 5, Easts 7.



Souths winger Alan Bracken goes over for a try out wide despite the attention of Easts fullback Roger Khun. Souths knocked premiers Easts out of this year's BRL competition with a 18-16 win at Lang Park last Sunday.



TWO looks at the try of the match . . . Souths winger Mick Gramm flies for the Lang Park corner with Easts second rower Jim Foreman in hot pursuit (right) during yesterday's Rugby League preliminary final. But a desperate dive by Foreman (left) failed to stop

1979

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 26 v SOUTHS 0

NO STOPPING THAT MIGHTY VALLEYS MACHINE

VALLEYS took out the Brisbane Rugby League grand final with a tradesman-like 26-0 win over Souths before a crowd of 35,000 at Lang Park yesterday.

It was not the brightest or most spectacular Winfield Cup grand final, but it highlighted two points about Valleys — the Diehards are the most professional team to play in Brisbane for some years, and their defence is second to none.

The win was a credit to Valleys captain-coach Ross Strudwick who was one of the stars of the match.

Strudwick gave it everything, and collapsed in the dressing room later from exhaustion.

"He just ran out of energy," Valleys president and medical officer, Dr. Tom Dooley, said later.

Strudwick was resting on a bench in Valleys dressing room when he slumped to the floor.

He was carried to the nearby medical centre and treated by Dr. Dooley.

Strudwick said last night he was feeling fine, although it is believed he could have broken a bone in his right foot during the first half.

Dr. Dooley said Strudwick would be X-rayed this morning.

Continuing

Strudwick said he would play and coach again next year, and he expected to keep all but about three of his players.

"We could lose Wally Lewis and Chris Close to Sydney, but it is up to Queensland to keep young players like them here.

"I believe they want to stay here, but Queensland will have to find the money to keep them".

Ironically, Lewis and Close were two of the stars of the match.

Close made many excellent breaks, although he tried to beat too many men on most occasions.

Lewis was the player of the match.

Despite a couple of sloppy passes, Lewis demonstrated yet again that he will be a major force in Australian League in the very near future.

Natural

He is the most natural young footballer seen on Lang Park in ages, and his future is bright, no matter where he goes, but it is particularly so if he stays with Strudwick.

The pair work brilliantly together.

While Souths trailed 9-0 at half-time, they were still very much in the game, although their attack lacked imagination against the stonewall Diehard defence.

But with only one try against them, there was always a chance.

For long periods after half-time, Souths pressed deep into Valleys territory, but still could not crack the defence.

They won possession from scrums, and also from some dropped ball by Valleys, but could still not cross.

Then, in the 64th minute, the sturdy, bandy legs of Valleys second rower John McLeod drove their way through a host of defenders for a great blind-side try in the corner.

Valleys winger, Mick Neill, booted an excellent goal — his fourth straight — and Valleys were away 14-0.

It was the try to break the last Souths resistance.

Four minutes later, five-eighth Peter McWhirter scored from a great run by Lewis, who lost a shoe pulling out of a tackle before running about 15 metres to send McWhirter away.

Neill again converted for a 19-0 Diehard lead.

During the next six minutes, Lewis and Strudwick rubbed salt into Souths wounds with a field goal each.

Then, with two minutes to go, centre Vic Wieland scored off another break by Lewis.

Neill booted his sixth goal without fail, and it was the Diehards premiership 26-0 . . . and no team could have deserved it more.

SCORES: Valleys 26 (C. Close, V. Wieland, P. McWhirter, J. McLeod tries; M. Neill 6 goals; R. Strudwick field goal, W. Lewis field goal) d. Souths 0. First scorers: Valleys 3, Souths 12. First try scorers: Same.

Reserve Grade: Brothers 26 (K. Dunn, P. Weightman, T. Butler, J. Alroe, C. Blom, R. Parrot tries; T. Butler 4 goals) d. Easts 8 (Z. Sarra, S. George tries; B. Lowther goal).

C GRADE: Wynnum-Manly 5 (S. Chylewski try; G. Clayphan goal) d. Valleys 0.



To the victors the spoils



DASHING Valleys fullback Alan Mills is well held by Souths five-eighth Chris Kealey.

1979

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 26 v SOUTHS 0

Fortitude Valley RLFC
BRL Premiers 1979



BACK ROW: Mick Neill, Chris Close, Peter McWhirter, Clyde Williams (manager), Vic Wieland, John McLeod, Alan Mills. SECOND ROW: Brian Canavan (trainer), Wally Lewis, Marc Svensen, Peter Falvey, Al McInnes, Tom Duggan, Gordon Robson (masseur). FRONT ROW: Tom Dooley (president), Ian Sommer (vice captain), Ross Strudwick (captain/coach), Paul Richards, Ted Lloyd (sponsor).

RESULTS

26 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Southern Suburbs 22 (Meninga, Salter, Kellaway, Brown tries; Meninga 5 goals) d. Western Suburbs 13 (Harms, Sellars, Houston tries; Williamson 2 goals).
Souths: T.Gibson, M.Gramm, P.Ryan, B.Astill (c), C.Kealey, M.Meninga, J.Salter, B.Argeros, M.Connell, A.Lumby, B.Kellaway, D.Gould, D.Brown. Coach: W.Bennett.
Wests: R.Sellars, G.Harms, R.Brennan, M.Moore, P.McDonald, W.Carr, R.Houston, N.Carr, R.Bradshaw, H.Williamson, G.Prickett, B.Whitmore. Coach: D.Oxenham.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

2 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 27 (Neill 2, Falvey 2, Strudwick tries; Neill 6 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 2 (McNally goal).
Valleys: A.Mills, M.Neill, C.Close, V.Wieland, P.Falvey, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c/c), W.Lewis, I.Sommer, J.McLeod, T.Duggan, P.Richards, A.McInnes.
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, B.Backer, F.Roddy, M.Payne, G.Holben, W.Lindenberg, A.Currie, L.Nobile, D.Morris (c/c), S.McNally, J.Lang, B.McLeod.
Referee: Harry Dearness. ***Crowd: 23,000.***

9 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Southern Suburbs 18 (Salter 2, Brackin, Gramm tries; Meninga 3 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 16 (Lindenberg 2 tries; McNally 5 goals).Souths: T.Gibson, M.Gramm, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), A.Brackin, C.Kealey, J.Salter, B.Argeros, B.Weir, A.Lumby, B.Kellaway, D.Gould, D.Brown.
Reserves: M.Connell. Coach: W.Bennett.
Easts: R.Kuhn, J.Callus, F.Roddy, B.Lowther, B.Backer, B.Sully, W.Lindenberg, J.Foreman, L.Nobile, D.Morris (c/c), S.McNally, W.Smith, B.McLeod. Reserves: A.Currie, B.Arnold.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

16 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 26 (Close, Wieland, McWhirter, McLeod tries; Neill 6 goals, Strudwick, Lewis field goals) d. Southern Suburbs 0.
Valleys: A.Mills, M.Neill, C.Close, P.Falvey, V.Wieland, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c/c), W.Lewis, I.Sommer, J.McLeod, T.Duggan, P.Richards, A.McInnes. Reserve: M.Svensen.
Souths: T.Gibson, M.Gramm, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), A.Brackin, C.Kealey, J.Salter, B.Argeros, B.Weir, A.Lumby, B.Kellaway, D.Gould, D.Brown. Coach: W.Bennett.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 35,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Neville Draper (Norths).



Above: A young Wally Lewis sprints away from a scrum at Lang Park in a game against Redcliffe.



It's so easy! Crack Valleys lock Wally Lewis leaves a trail of forlorn Brothers defenders in his wake as he scorches across for a try after coming on as a fresh second half replacement in the pre-season final at Lang Park last Sunday.

RIGHT: A hair-raising tackle by crack Diehard lock Wally Lewis puts replacement Magpie half Bill Kallis out of the play at Lang Park last Sunday.

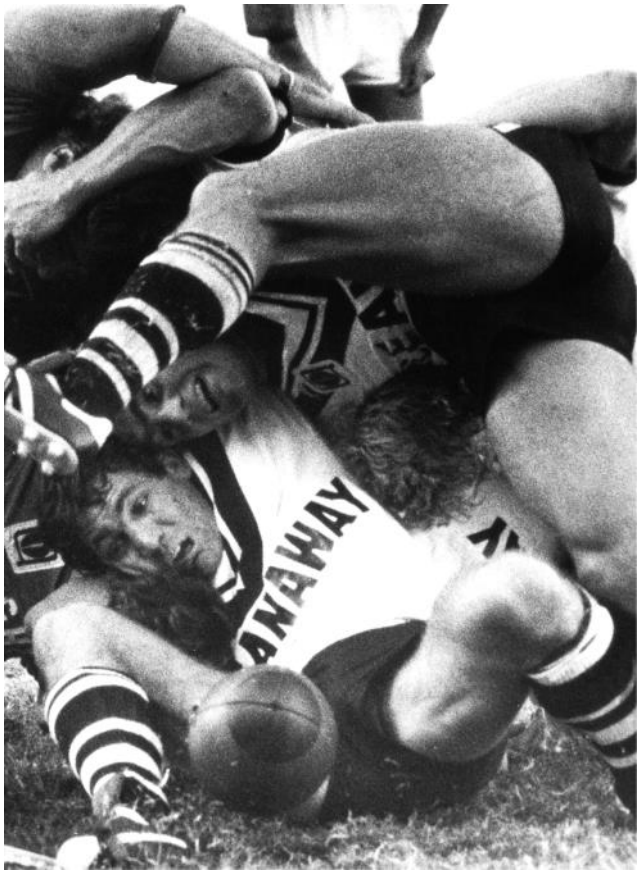




Although he left the field with a suspected torn stomach muscle after 35 minutes, Souths centre Mal Meninga left no doubts about his talents against Brothers at Davies Park last Sunday. Meninga broke the Brothers' line Rogers-fashion leaving no less than five Leprechauns spread-eagled before racing 60 metres to put his winger Gary Thompson over. Here Meninga gives Brothers prop Harvey Carter the brush off in another attacking blitz.

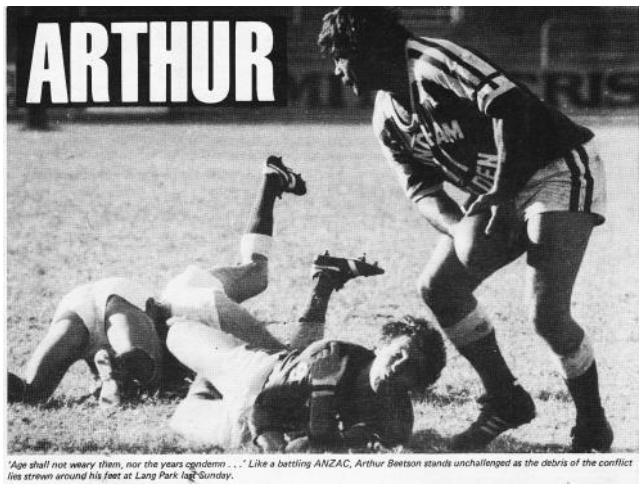


The strength of Mal Meninga couldn't be better illustrated than by this photo from last Sunday's clash with Redcliffe at Lang Park. In possession of the ball, Meninga drops his shoulder to send Redcliffe lock Chris Holmes heading for the turf.





Left: When scrums really were a contest and not the disgrace that they are today. Occasionally there were scrums that would collapse like this one with Billy Johnstone looking on.



'Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn . . .' Like a battling ANZAC, Arthur Beetson stands unchallenged as the debris of the conflict lies strewn around his feet at Lang Park last Sunday.



Forget about raging bulls; cop the 'Devastating Dolphin'! In real life he's Redcliffe centre Chris Close, but when he dons his Dolphin gear each Sunday he becomes a super hero. Here, Devastating Dolphin surges clear of the Easts defence at Langlands Park last Sunday to score one of two tries. Hooray!



The Higgs brothers Darryl (left) and Adrian get in some heavy work carrying cartons of beer at the Melbourne Hotel — smack in the middle of Souths territory in Brisbane.

Below: TV and Radio commentators—Peter Meares, David Wright and John McCoy.





ABOVE: 'Here, you take it . . .' That's what Souths prop Dave Brown could be saying as he off-loads to Mal Connell (left) in the tackle of Redcliffe's Gary Cox at Lang Park last Sunday. That's Souths' Billy Johnston and Redcliffe's Chris Holmes watching Brown's style.

1980

BRL: NORTHS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag.	Pts
VALLEYS	21	16	-	5	452	261	**32**
SOUTHS	21	15	1	5	434	257	**31**
BROTHERS	21	14	-	7	342	326	**28**
NORTHS	21	13	-	8	380	314	**26**
Redcliffe	21	11	1	9	429	368	23
Easts	21	6	-	15	404	432	12
W/Manly	21	4	1	16	328	523	9
Wests	21	3	1	17	209	497	7

1980 BRL WINFIELD CUP RESULTS

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Redcliffe 28 d Norths 22	Norths 19 d Redcliffe 16	Norths 33 d Redcliffe 10
Valleys 24 d Easts 17	Valleys 25 d Easts 12	Valleys 23 d Easts 10
Souths 28 d P/Bros 11	P/Bros 30 d Souths 23	Souths 7 d P/Bros 4
Wests 22 d W/Manly 13	Wests 18 - W/Manly 18	W/Manly 39 d Wests 10
Norths 20 d Wests 18	Norths 24 d Wests 6	Norths 21 d Wests 15
Valleys 30 d Souths 7	Souths 21 d Valleys 11	Souths 19 d Valleys 9
P/Bros 22 d Easts 17	P/Bros 16 d Easts 15	P/Bros 19 d Easts 13
Redcliffe 36 d W/Manly 11	Redcliffe 29 d W/Manly 24	Redcliffe 30 d W/Manly 12
Norths 16 d W/Manly 10	Norths 20 d W/Manly 19	Norths 23 d W/Manly 8
Valleys 43 d P/Bros 2	Valleys 15 d P/Bros 9	P/Bros 15 d Valleys 7
Redcliffe 34 d Wests 8	Redcliffe 34 d Wests 5	Redcliffe 15 d Wests 13
Souths 21 d Easts 18	Easts 22 d Souths 12	Souths 42 d Easts 10
Valleys 20 d Norths 18	Valleys 14 d Norths 12	Norths 21 d Valleys 9
Souths 18 d Wests 10	Souths 17 d Wests 0	Souths 25 d Wests 9
Easts 25 d Redcliffe 16	Redcliffe 29 d Easts 18	Redcliffe 25 d Easts 8
W/Manly 16 d P/Bros 5	P/Bros 34 d W/Manly 21	P/Bros 29 d W/Manly 17
Norths 27 d Easts 25	Norths 22 d Easts 15	Norths 20 d Easts 15
Valleys 21 d Redcliffe 14	Valleys 16 d Redcliffe 6	Redcliffe 23 d Valleys 20
Souths 45 d W/Manly 4	W/Manly 16 d Souths 7	Souths 34 d W/Manly 4
Wests 18 d P/Bros 17	P/Bros 29 d Wests 4	P/Bros 9 d Wests 5
Souths 19 d Norths 7	Souths 24 d Norths 7	Souths 14 d Norths 9
P/Bros 17 d Redcliffe 10	P/Bros 26 d Redcliffe 13	P/Bros 19 d Redcliffe 15
Valleys 39 d Wests 10	Valleys 23 d Wests 0	Valleys 22 d Wests 7
Easts 35 d W/Manly 18	W/Manly 28 d Easts 18	Easts 31 d W/Manly 12
P/Bros 10 d Norths 9	Norths 20 d P/Bros 6	P/Bros 13 d Norths 10
Easts 43 d Wests 5	Wests 13 d Easts 7	Easts 30 d Wests 13
Souths 14 - Redcliffe 14	Souths 19 d Redcliffe 11	Redcliffe 21 d Souths 18
Valleys 31 d W/Manly 6	Valleys 23 d W/Manly 19	Valleys 27 d W/Manly 13

1980

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 24 v Brothers 17

NORTHS CRUISE INTO PRELIM FINAL

Too many mistakes by Brothers

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

NORTHS cruised into the Brisbane rugby league preliminary final with a 24-17 win over Brothers in the knock-out semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The Devils deserved the six tries to three win, but their progress to the preliminary final was made a lot easier by Brothers slackness in the basics of the game.

Their defence was poor and mistake rate high.

Brothers coach Wayne Bennett, who has impressed on his players throughout the season the importance of cutting errors and eliminating what he calls "silly" penalties, must have been bitterly disappointed. But he did not show it after the match.

He said his team had not played well enough to win, but was pleased with the way they came back at varying stages in the second half.

Norths now meet the losers of next Sunday's major semi-final between Valleys and Souths in the preliminary final on Sunday week.

Norths coach Graham Lowe had no hesitation in nominating Souths as his team's opponents in the preliminary final.

"I think we will play Valleys in the grand final," he said.

"But right now we can sit back and relax while Valleys and Souths go out there and belt each other about.

"Next Sunday it will be Norths up on the hill drinking tea while we watch the game," Lowe said.

Yesterday, Valleys captain-coach Ross Strudwick served his team tea and scones in the outer while they watched the knockout semi.

While Norths played well with a minimum of errors, they will not get such an easy go against either Valleys or Souths.

Brothers early defence was not good, particularly against the snappy attack of players such as back-rowers Nev Draper and Mark Graham who scored three of Norths six tries and were involved in many long gains with exciting runs.

Kiwi test star Graham, who I feel is capable of inspiring Norths to the grand final, handed Brothers their first shock when he staggered the defence with an angled run to score in the corner from about 30 m out.

It was a demoralising try for Brothers as two players had their hands on Graham before he got going.

But he is such a strong and fast player that it was not surprising he ripped through the defence to score in the 12th minute and set the pattern for the whole game.

That first try was followed four minutes later by another three-pointer by winger Brian Bird, 12 minutes later by a try from centre Brian Dunn, and six minutes after that Graham scored his second try for Norths to lead 14-2 at halftime.

The score could have been higher but goalkicker Gary Warnock, who was brought into the team as a specialist kicker, missed his first four attempts. It is not as bad as it sounds as all kicks were from the sidelines, although some Norths fans were unhappy because, they argued, Warnock was only in the team for his kicking ability.

Brothers redeemed something of their reputation as premiership material in the second half when they tightened the defence and started to throw the ball around for some good gains through Norths defence. Centre Paul Beauchamp put supports away with some well timed passes and five-eighth Peter Lehman and halfback Greg Smith were well in the attack.

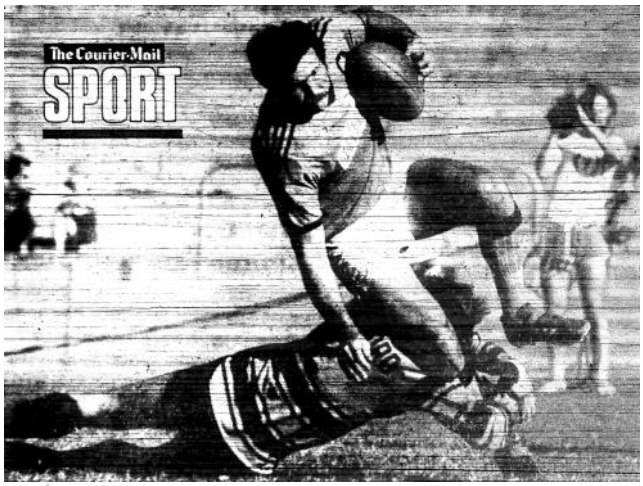
But Norths always had the ability to come thundering back after each of Brothers' three second half tries.

Their winning margin would have been a lot more if it hadn't been for the grand defence of hooker Jay Hoffman. He was Brothers best player, and also won the scrums 8-7.

Top players for Norths were Graham, Draper, halfback Ross Henrick, five-eighth Mark Murray and fullback Joe Kilroy.

I believe after yesterday's display, Norths will be a big worry to whoever they meet in the preliminary final.

Penalties finished 12-all with scrum penalties Brothers' way 6-5.



NORTHS centre Peter Dutton had one leg to spare, but was fully trapped in a typical low tackle by Brothers hooker Jay Hoffman at Lang Park yesterday.



"Don't drop it," Norths captain Mark Murray seems to be saying as he watches his pass float off to a support at Lang Park. Murray was tackled by Brothers centre Shane McErlean.

KNOCK-OUT SEMIS

NORTHS 24 d. BROTHERS 17

Scorers. — Norths: M. Graham 2, B. Bird, B. Dunn, P. Dutton, N. Draper tries; G. Warnock 3 goals. Brothers: B. Clerke, G. Quinn, P. Lehman tries; L. Chemello 4 goals. First scorers: Norths No. 9, Brothers No. 1. First try scorers: Norths No. 9, Brothers No. 10.

1980

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 22 v Valleys 14

BIG THREE IN BRUISING SEMI

SOUTHS moved into the Brisbane rugby league grand final after beating Valleys 22-14 in a major semi-final of heavy drama at Lang Park yesterday.

During the match, Valleys lost their three stars to injury — captain-coach Ross Strudwick, lock Wally Lewis and five-eighth Peter McWhirter.

Souths lost hooker Billy Johnstone three minutes from the final hooter, when he was sent off by referee Eddie Ward on a touch judge's report.

Johnstone got his marching orders after Strudwick was flattened in back play in front of the grandstand.

Souths had well and truly won the semi-final at that stage.

Johnstone was later charged with stiff-arming an opponent, and will appear before the Brisbane judiciary committee tonight.

Souths coach, Bob McCarthy, said it was the first time Johnstone had been sent off on a violent conduct charge. He had been sent off for scrum infringements only, McCarthy said.

Strudwick was carried off after the incident, after playing a major role in keeping the Diehards within striking distance of victory for most of the match.

Valleys have major problems with McWhirter and Lewis.

McWhirter, one of Valleys' major grand final hopes, is in extreme doubt for next Sunday's preliminary final against Norths.

He took a severe blow from an elbow to the face, and was undergoing a series of X-rays last night to determine if an operation was necessary.

Doubtful

Even if there are no fractures to his cheekbone or jaw, he is unlikely to be fit for the preliminary final.

McWhirter left the field in the 26th minute of the first half, and was followed a minute later by Lewis with a knee injury.

McWhirter returned to play out the half, but was replaced at halftime.

Just before he left the field, Lewis set up a spectacular try for centre Vic Wieland, after Lewis chipped a short kick over the defence, re-gathered, and passed to Strudwick, who sent Wieland away.

At that stage it was a tight match, with the scores 7-7.

While Lewis was off the field receiving treatment before being replaced, Souths halfback Brad Scully took full advantage of the situation with a clever try from the scrum base to put Souths in front 12-7.

With McWhirter and Lewis off for the second half, only a miracle could have saved Valleys.

But miracles are rare in semi-final football, even if Valleys did force the score to 12-all in the 48th minute after a smart try by Strudwick and a penalty goal by Alan Mills.

Three faces of defeat



VALLEYS rugby league captain Ross Strudwick (left) is carried off dazed in the closing minutes of Souths 22-14 major semi-final win. Wally Lewis (centre) limps off assisted by trainer Brian Canavan, and Valleys five-eighth Peter McWhirter has a suspected cheek fracture examined by Valleys president Dr Tom Dooley.

Souths really strode out for their victory when captain and centre Bruce Astill, scored an intercept try after hauling down a floating pass from Strudwick in the 50th minute.

That victory became a certainty when one of the stars of Souths win, centre Mal Meninga, sent Souths backline on its way with a long pass to Astill, creating a backline overlap.

Astill simply drew the Valley winger, then served his own winger, Mick Gramm, who raced in for a corner try.

While there were some big games from players from both teams — and Strudwick was by no means the least of these — it was the young policeman, Meninga, who was the most dominant player of the match.

His crash tackling had opponents looking for him, disrupting the attack.

He was good when he had the ball, although Valleys' defence did a good job of blocking most of that supply.

But while Meninga is in full cry, Souths will be hard to keep out of this premiership.

While Valleys fans can take some comfort in the fact that they were forced to play without some stars, Souths are still up there on top, and safely in the grand final with a four tries to two win over the premiers.

Not only that, they have three teams in the grand final, and looking to repeat the premiership hat-trick they scored in 1945, when they won A, Reserve and C Grade premierships.

There are still a few bumps and bruises between now and then, but at least Souths are there and the opposition has still to make it.



● **LEFT:** Souths heavyweight Dave Brown puts every ounce of his bulk into this run as he is tackled by Peter McWhirter during yesterday's semi-final. Looking on are Ash Lumby (background) and Valleys hooker Paul Richards (12).

SOUTHS 22 d VALLEYS 14

SCORERS. — Souths: M. Meninga, B. Astill, M. Gramm, B. Scully tries; M. Meninga 5 goals. Valleys: V. Wieland, R. Strudwick tries; A. Mills 4 goals. First scorers: Souths No. 3, Valleys No. 1. First try scorers: Souths No. 3, Valleys No. 4.

1980

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 15 v Valleys 14

DEVILS HOLD OFF GUTSY CHALLENGE

Diehards to the letter

BY LEWIS KAVANAGH

NORTHS made the Brisbane rugby league grand final by the skin of their teeth in a classic preliminary final against Valleys yesterday.

Norths hung on to just edge our Valleys 15-14 in a match that had everything including one of the most outstanding performances from an injury-torn and finally beaten side.

Even winning coach Graham Lowe was full of praise for the beaten captain-coach Ross Strudwick and his team after the match.

"You couldn't say too much about the way Strudwick kept Valleys going in that match," Lowe said.

"He finished with a heap of replacements, including C grade players, yet they almost got there.

"He is a top coach and a top player."

Strudwick made six changes to the Diehard line-up during the match, some forced by injury and others tactical changes when chosen players were not playing up to par.

His most important change was **that of his star lock, Wally Lewis, in the 60th minute, after Lewis took a illegal injury in a try-saving tackle on North's Kiwi forward Mark Graham (story and pictures page one).**

Lewis collapsed in the tackle, unable to breathe, and received mouth-to-mouth resuscitation from trainer Brian Canavan, and later, club president Dr Tom Dooley.

Lewis was replaced and later recovered in the dressing room.

While he was on the field, **Lewis** was in brilliant form in both attack and defence. He scored Valleys first try, two minutes before half-time, when he ran off Strudwick in a perfectly executed set move which took Valleys to a half-time lead of 9-5.

Lewis then slotted Valleys into what looked like a winning position when he set up the try of the match after 51 minutes, for the Diehards to lead 14-8.

Lewis chipped a short kick over the defence, re-gathered on the full, and sprinted away pulling out of two tackles before being confronted by a last-ditch defender, winger Gary Warnock.

Lewis again short kicked, this time a grubber kick positioned with a precision that rolled just over the dayline.

Winger Doug Muir just beat Lewis in a race for the ball to get the try.

It was as brilliant a piece of football as has been seen on Lang Park, and once again stamped Lewis as a match winner in any company.

Nine minutes later Lewis was sidelined, and within two minutes of him leaving the field, Norths' captain and five-eighth, Mark Murray, had flashed over for his second try to give the Devils their winning score of 15-14.

But Norths supporters had a few more heartaches to overcome before the match was over.

In the last few minutes, Valleys young replacement fullback, Scott Czislowski, who replaced Alan Mills late in the first half, narrowly missed two penalty attempts.

And in the final minute, Norths fullback Joe Kilroy ran down a field goal attempt by Strudwick which could have forced extra time.

However, all the bad luck did not go Valleys way. Norths lost their early star, lock Nev Draper, with a stomach injury after 30 minutes.

Draper had been Valleys' major headache, several times he completely shattered Valleys defence with clear breaks.

Norths opened the match sensationally when Murray scored after only two minutes, as opposing prop forwards Shane Bernardin (Norths) and Craig Brodie (Valleys) locked horns in centre field in one of the longest individual battles seen on Lang Park this year.

Then, after only 10 minutes, Strudwick, who started the match with 10 stitches in his left leg, limped off the field for four minutes. He had a pain killer for a torn muscle in the left leg, and received another pain killer at half-time.

Valleys selectors George Souvlis said last night: "If we had got through today's match we probably wouldn't have been able to field a team for the grand final."

Norths could also be in trouble this week, with centre Peter Dutton who has a shoulder injury: Draper will also have tests for his stomach injury.



NORTHS Kiwi prop, Stan Nopa (with ball) is headed for the turf with no options in this tackle by a Valleys opponent. Looking on are (from left) Norths' Greg Conescu and Ross Henrick, and Valleys' Russell Klein (3) and Al McInnes (13).



Norths captain Mark Murray (with ball) picks the gap during one of his many breaks against Valleys. Murray avoids In Sommer's flying tackle, while he swerved away from Bryan Niebling. (10) and Peter Affleck (6).

PRELIMINARY FINALS

NORTHS 15 d. VALLEYS 14

Scorers — Norths: M. Murray 2, R. Henrick" tries; G. Warnock 3 goals. Valleys: D. Muir, W. Lewis tries; A. Mills 2, S. Czislowski 2 goals. First scorers: Norths No. 6, Valleys No. 1. First try scorers: Norths No. 6, Valleys No. 8.

1980

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v SOUTHS 15

Dynamo Joe sparks Devils

Kilroy was here, there, everywhere

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

THE better team got up, when Norths beat the odds to down Souths 17 - 15 in the Brisbane rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

Norths, the underdogs of the Brisbane competition, had too much combination, and too much brilliance for the Magpies.

Man of the match, and the man who turned the tide Norths' way immediately after half-time, was Norths fullback Joe Kilroy.

Kilroy savaged Souths defence with several demoralising bursts.

If there was a tactical error in the match, it was the clearing kick of Souths centre Mal Meninga one minute after the resumption of the second half. The kick went straight to Kilroy.

With the score 7-7, Kilroy accepted the ball with glee, and started a movement that was to give Norths the match.

Kilroy beat at least five attempts at tackles in an outstanding 50 metre run before creating an opening for centre Brian Dunn.

Dunn took a perfect pass from Kilroy and raced another 25 metres to dive over for Norths to lead 12-7.

That was the try that broke up a very even match, and Souths, the 2-1 on favorites, never recovered.

Earlier, in the 23rd minute of the first half, Kilroy played an outstanding part in Norths' first try — one of the best of the season — which was scored by halfback Ross Henrick.

Norths threw the ball around in dazzling fashion to shatter Souths defence.

Centre Dunn also had a big hand in this try, bustling his way through the defence in lead-up attack.

This Henrick try gave Norths a 7-2 lead after 23 minutes.

Souths struck back with a brute strength try by Meninga three minutes from half-time. He converted to level at 7-7.

But Kilroy's staggering run through Souths defence early in the second session set Souths back on their heels.

While Souths struck back with a try by George Moroko in the 55th minute, and one by hooker Billy Johnstone in the 72nd minute, they still trailed Norths at every turn.

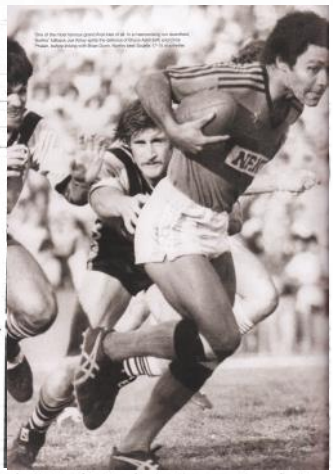
The match finished with three tries each, and the four goal kicks of Norths winger Gary Warnock provided the winning margin; Souths' Meninga kicked only three from five attempts.

Greg Conescu beat Billy Johnstone 12-10 in the scrums, and referee Eddie Ward gave penalties 13-6 to Souths.

Ward handled the match well after lecturing both teams en-masse in the first five minutes.

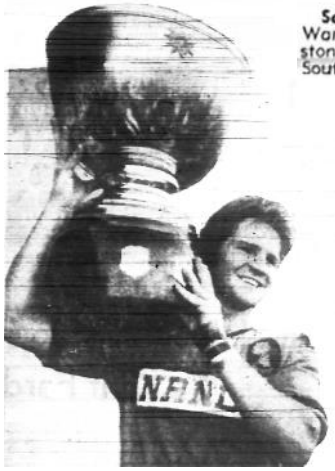
The players were involved in an all-in brawl at that stage, during which the touch judges and Ward battled to control the game.





MAN OF THE MATCH, Norths fullback Joe Kilroy is seen at his shattering best as he breaks away from Souths defence to set up the try of the match at Lang Park yesterday. One minute into the second half, Kilroy made a withering burst which left Souths centre Bruce Astill and second rower George Moroko groping, then served a perfect pass to his centre, Brian Dunn, who scored.

TO THE victor the spoils . . . Mark Murray and the Winfield Cup.

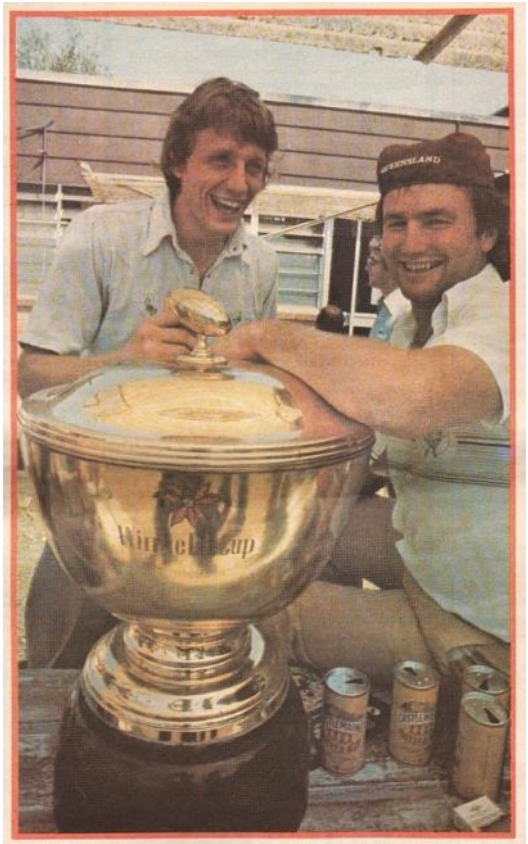


WINFIELD CUP GRAND FINAL

NORTHS 17 d SOUTHS 15

Scorers. — Norths: R. Henrick, B. Dunn, P. Dutton tries; G. Warnock 4 goals. Souths: M. Meninga, G. Moroko, B. Johnstone tries; Meninga 3 goals. First scorers: Norths No. 5, Souths No. 3. First try scorers: Norths No. 7, Souths No. 3.





Norths coach Graham Lowe (right) and New Zealand tour captain and Devils' tactician, Mark Graham, are all smiles after their BRL premiership win over Souths two weeks ago. Polishing off Fourex tinnies and keeping the Winfield Cup well-polished will make for a delightful Souths summer.

1980

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v SOUTHS 15

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BRISBANE, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1980

LEAGUE FINAL souvenir



Keeping the ball alive . . . Norths ability to keep the ball moving played a big part in the 17-15 grand final win over Souths.

Norths lock Nev Draper spins in a tackle and unloads a pass as hooker Greg Conescu looks on.

The outsiders

Yesterday was the day of the underdogs. Norths had lost to Souths in their three fixture clashes.

But yesterday Norths always looked to have the edge. It was a triumph for Graham Lowe in his second year as coach.

Teamwork, more than anything, laid the foundation for the win — before a near-capacity Lang Park crowd of 32,000. Picture by Geoff McLachlan.

More pictures: Pages 2, 39

1980

BRL GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v SOUTHS 15



1980 Winfield Cup Grand Final

BACK ROW (from left): Stan Napa, Mark Graham, Campbell Dews, Brett Ferguson, Gary Warnock, Hillary Pocock (Trainer)
MIDDLE ROW: Darryl Guymer (Manager), Nev Draper, Peter Dutton, Gary Walker, Greg Conescu, Brian Bird, Ross Hendrick, Bill Davies (Manager)
FRONT ROW: Joe Kilroy, Shane Bernardin, Graham Lowe (Coach), mark Murray (Captain), Brian Dunn

▼ RESULTS

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 24 (Graham 2, Bird, Dunn, Dutton, Draper tries; Warnock 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 17 (Clerke, Quinn, Lehman tries; Chemello 4 goals).
Norths: J.Kilroy, B.Bird, B.Dunn, P.Dutton, G.Warnock, M.Murray (c), R.Henrick, N.Draper, M.Graham, G.Walker, C.Dews, G.Conescu, S.Napa. Coach: G.Lowe.
Brothers: L.Chemello, B.Davidson, P.Beauchamp, S.McErlean, J.Weier, P.Lehman, G.Smith, G.Quinn (c), H.Carter, R.Clerke, P.McNamara, J.Hoffman, D.Stafford. Coach: W.Bennett.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

7 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Southern Suburbs 22 (Meninga, Astill, Gramm, Sully tries; Meninga 5 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (Wieland, Strudwick tries; Mills 4 goals).
Souths: S.Glynn, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), M.Gramm, A.Brackin, B.Sully, C.Phelan, G.Moroko, A.Lumby, G.Naylor, B.Johnstone, D.Brown. Coach: R.McCarthy.
Valleys: A.Mills, D.Muir, R.Klein, V.Wieland, P.Falvey, P.McWhirter, R.Strudwick (c/c), W.Lewis, I.Sommer, B.Niebling, C.Brodie, P.Richards, A.McInnes.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

14 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 15 (Murray 2, Henrick tries; Warnock 3 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 14 (Muir, Lewis tries; Mills 2, Czislowski 2 goals).
Norths: J.Kilroy, B.Bird, B.Dunn, P.Dutton, G.Warnock, M.Murray (c), R.Henrick, N.Draper, M.Graham, G.Walker, C.Dews, G.Conescu, S.Bernardin. Reserve: Z.Strasser.
Coach: G.Lowe.
Valleys: A.Mills, D.Muir, R.Klein, V.Wieland, P.Falvey, P.Affleck, R.Strudwick (c/c), W.Lewis, I.Sommer, A.McSween, C.Brodie, P.Richards, A.McInnes. Reserves: S.Czislowski, M.Zillman.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

21 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Northern Suburbs 17 (Henrick, Dunn, Dutton tries; Warnock 4 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 15 (Meninga, Moroko, Johnstone tries; Meninga 3 goals).
Norths: J.Kilroy, B.Bird, B.Dunn, P.Dutton, G.Warnock, M.Murray (c), R.Henrick, N.Draper, M.Graham, G.Walker, C.Dews, G.Conescu, S.Bernardin. Reserve: S.Napa. Coach: G.Lowe.
Souths: S.Glynn, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), M.Gramm, A.Brackin, B.Sully, C.Phelan, G.Moroko, A.Lumby, G.Naylor, B.Johnstone, D.Brown. Coach: R.McCarthy.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 32,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Tony Obst (Redcliffe).

1981

BRL: SOUTHS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	14	1	6	352	147	29
REDCLIFFE	14	0	7	413	274	28
WYNNUM MANLY	14	0	7	410	382	28
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	0	10	411	307	22
VALLEYS	10	1	10	308	305	21
NORTHERN SUBURBS	8	0	13	270	396	16
WESTERN SUBURBS	6	1	14	275	415	13
BROTHERS	5	1	15	309	422	11

RESULTS OF THE WINFIELD PREMIERSHIP 1981

		Norths	Souths	Easts	Wests	Brothers	Valleys	Wynnum-Manly	Redcliffe
Norths	1st Round		W 16–10	L 10–18	L 4–22	W 17–15	L 13–19	W 15–13	W 16–14
	2nd Round		L 7–17	L 7–35	L 17–37	L 13–22	L 6–10	L 15–16	L 5–19
	3rd Round		L 8–29	W 11–10	W 23–10	W 17–10	L 15–26	L 13–31	W 22–13
Souths	1st Round	L 10–16		W 12– 5	L 16–21	L 11–23	W 15– 5	W 32– 8	L 13–22
	2nd Round	W 17– 7		L 3–16	W 17– 8	W 21– 8	D 12–12	W 31– 5	W 17– 9
	3rd Round	W 29– 8		W 9– 7	W 20–10	W 18–17	W 16–12	L 12–18	W 21–10
Easts	1st Round	W 18–10	L 5–12		W 28– 3	W 32–14	W 16–13	L 7–10	L 13–29
	2nd Round	W 35– 7	W 16– 3		W 28–18	L 5–19	L 11–22	W 40–21	L 18–22
	3rd Round	L 10–11	L 7– 9		W 25–10	W 46–10	L 4–34	W 36–10	L 11–20
Wests	1st Round	W 22– 4	W 21–16	L 3–28		D 12–12	L 5–15	L 7–23	L 10–31
	2nd Round	W 37–17	L 8–17	L 18–28		W 19–11	L 7–13	L 10–35	W 20–15
	3rd Round	L 10–23	L 10–20	L 10–25		L 5–18	W 24–10	L 11–26	L 6–28
Brothers	1st Round	L 15–17	W 23–11	L 14–32	D 12–12		L 15–17	L 13–28	L 7–18
	2nd Round	W 22–13	L 8–21	W 19– 5	L 11–19		L 17–25	L 20–25	L 12–20
	3rd Round	L 10–17	L 17–18	L 10–46	W 18– 5		W 11– 8	L 18–32	L 17–33
Valleys	1st Round	W 19–13	L 5–15	L 13–16	W 15– 5	W 17–15		L 11–22	L 2–11
	2nd Round	W 10– 6	D 12–12	W 22–11	W 13– 7	W 25–17		L 11–25	L 0–32
	3rd Round	W 26–15	L 12–16	W 34– 4	L 10–24	L 8–11		W 31–10	L 12–18
Wynnum-Manly	1st Round	L 13–15	L 8–32	W 10– 7	W 23– 7	W 28–13	W 22–11		W 20–16
	2nd Round	W 16–15	L 5–31	L 21–40	W 35–10	W 25–20	W 25–11		W 17–10
	3rd Round	W 31–13	W 18–12	L 10–36	W 26–11	W 32–18	L 10–31		L 15–23
Redcliffe	1st Round	L 14–16	W 22–13	W 29–13	W 31–10	W 18– 7	W 11– 2	L 16–20	
	2nd Round	W 19– 5	L 9–17	W 22–18	L 15–20	W 20–12	W 32– 0	L 10–17	
	3rd Round	L 13–22	L 10–21	W 20–11	W 28– 6	W 33–17	W 18–12	W 23–15	

1981

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 20 v Easts 9

DOWLING'S FRACTURE MARS WIN BY GULLS

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

WYNNUM-MANLY turned back the clock 22 years when they won through to the Winfield Cup rugby league preliminary final with a 20-9 win over Easts at Lang Park yesterday.

In that year Wynnum-Manly, then the baby club of the Brisbane competition, beat Valleys in the corresponding knockout semi-final, but were beaten by Norths in the preliminary final in a quagmire.

Also that year Wynnum won the President's Cup, which they won again this year.

"But we hope to go one better than that this year with a premiership win," club president Arthur Lovell said.

The Seagulls now move into Sunday week's preliminary final. In that match they meet the losers of this Sunday's major semi between Souths and Redcliffe.

That winner goes straight into the September 20 grand final.

But it was not all good news for Wynnum-Manly. The Seagulls have lost state second rower Greg Dowling for the rest of the season with a fractured shin bone.

Officials hoped Dowling, who was carried off on a stretcher in the 66th minute, had a muscle injury. However, X-rays showed a fracture which will put Dowling's right leg in plaster for the next six weeks.

It is his second serious injury for the year, he missed a large slice of the season after injuring his arm in the return interstate match in Sydney on June 16.

Dowling was settling back from that injury when he was injured yesterday. He will be badly missed by the Seagulls because of his strength and the authority he can bring to Wynnum-Manly's pack.

There is a ready made replacement in Gary Seaton, who came on for Dowling yesterday. But, as a club official explained, Dowling was one of the club's least dispensable forwards and would be badly missed.

John Lang, who took Easts to the semi finals in his first year as a coach, said he had no excuses to offer. He thought Wynnum-Manly could go on to win the grand final.

"Wynnum-Manly is the most talented team of the three left in the competition," Lang said.

"If they can put their game together on the day they can make the grand final and anything can happen there."

Yesterday's semi-final was not the most inspiring on record, with far too much scrappy play, caused mainly by loose handling and dropped ball in tackles.

But it was well and truly dominated by Wynnum-Manly once the Seagulls hit their straps in the second half.

After a slow start in which they trailed 6-0 after 15 minutes, the Seagulls came roaring back to score 15 points to nil in the second half.

Wynnum-Manly finished with four tries to one and there appeared little doubt about the outcome when the Seagulls hit the front for the first time after 45 minutes with the try of the match.

It was one of the few glimpses of brilliance of the match in which fullback Colin Scott opened the way for a strong run by lock Ian French with a perfect pass. French's younger brother Brett flew in from nowhere to take the final pass and score the first of his two tries.

That sparkling try made it Wynnum-Manly 10-9 from a halftime score of Easts 9-5. It set the stage for a Seagull win.

It also set the stage for fullback Scott, returning from a hand injury, to burst back to some of his best form of the match.

In the first half he joined in the attack but not with his usual authority.

Young centre French put the lid on the match when he picked up a loose ball from Easts backline and scored a runaway try against the run of play. Scott converted and Wynnum-Manly led 17-9.

At that stage Easts made two unusual replacements. Hard working second rower Zac Sarra and captain and five-eighth Greg Holben were replaced by Bruce McLeod and Ray Kelly respectively.

Sarra and Holben had been playing well and Wynnum-Manly players and officials were not unhappy to see them leave.

The match was not a brilliant one with far too many mistakes and too many penalties. Wynnum-Manly got the better in that department 19-16.

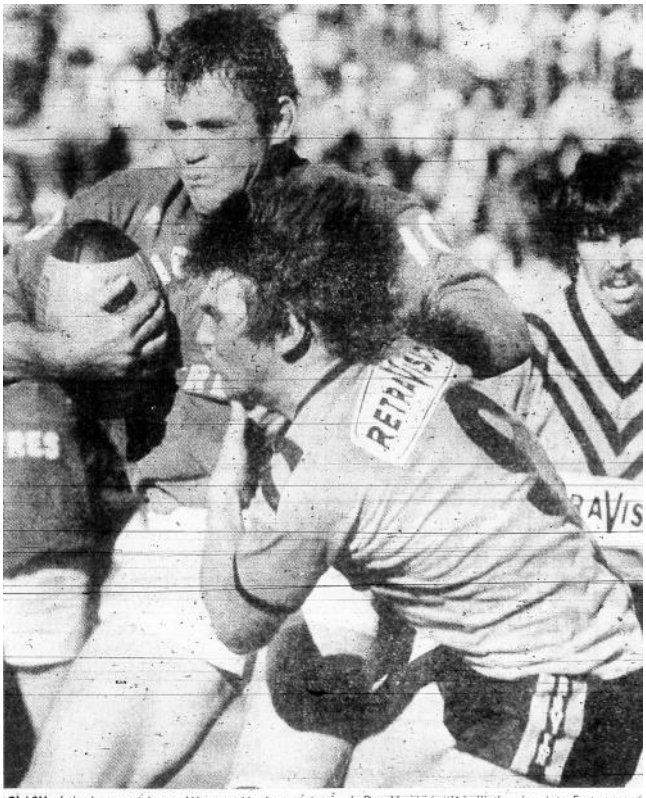
Top Wynnum-Manly players were captain-coach Des Morris, lock Ian French and fullback Scott. While Scott is on the field, Wynnum-Manly are capable of beating both Souths and Redcliffe, provided the rest of the team plays to capability.

Hookers David Green of Wynnum and Easts Jeff Ashe had a battle royal of hookers in and out of the scrums. Wynnum-Manly won possession 11-8.

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

WYNNUM-MANLY 20 d EASTS 9

SCORERS. — Wynnum-Manly: B. French 2, T. Butler, D. Green try; C. Scott 4 goals. Easts: Z. Sarra try; S. McNally 2 goals, field goal; G. Holben field goal. First scorers: Wynnum-Manly No. 1, Easts No. 11. First try-scorers: Wynnum-Manly No. 2, Easts No. 10.



CLASH of the heavyweights as Wynnum-Manly captain-coach Des Morris (with ball) thunders into Easts second rower, Cavill Heugh, in yesterday's Winfield Cup rugby league semi-final.

1981

BRL Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 21 v Souths 10

BEETSON REVIVES THE PAST FOR DOLPHINS

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

RUGBY league veteran Artie Beetson set the stage for a glorious retirement when he led the Dolphins into the Winfield Cup grand final with a 21-10 win over Souths in yesterday's Lang Park major semi-final.

Beetson, 35, almost certainly will call it a day after the grand final on Sunday week. It will be his second grand final with Redcliffe.

He played in the club's first and only winning grand final in 1965 before being snapped up by Sydney talent scouts, and went on to become one of the greatest forwards in Australia. He returned to Redcliffe this season after 15 years in Sydney.

As the Redcliffe giant predicted before the match, the Dolphins played the game in the forwards and simply had too much weight and power for Souths smaller men.

Redcliffe had all the possession they wanted from scrums and wore down the opposition with thundering attack and top defence.

From midway through the first half it was obvious that Redcliffe was on its way to the grand final.

It was also obvious that Souths will be in real trouble against Wynnum-Manly in this Sunday's preliminary final unless they can come up with something new in attack and win more ball than they did yesterday.

While Redcliffe concentrated on defence, Souths never looked like scoring and it was 64 minutes before Souths managed to cross Redcliffe's line.

At that stage Redcliffe led 16-2 and were inclined to relax. But that did not please captain-coach, Arthur Beetson.

"We should never have let them in for those cheap tries," Beetson said later. "I hate cheap tries like those. When you have a team in that position you should be rubbing their noses in defeat . . . not allowing them to score."

The tries which upset Beetson were by hooker Billy Johnstone who twisted over from dummy half in the 64th minute, and an individual effort by centre Mal Meninga with two minutes to go.

But despite the late tries by Souths to give the score some respectability, Redcliffe defence overall was excellnt. At one stage Redcliffe held out the attack for 30 tackles.

Beetson said later he did not care who the Dolphins met in the grand final.

"It's all the same to me. Redcliffe will be there and I guess some other team will turn up for the match on Sunday week."

But Redcliffe president, Dick "Tosser" Turner, said he expected Redcliffe would meet Wynnum-Manly in the grand final, "Wynnum-Manly will be to good for Souths next Sunday," he said.

If Turner's predictions are correct, then the stage will be set for a battle of the veterans, with Des Morris in his last playing year, leading Wynnum-Manly against Beetson's Dolphins.

With Morris and Wynnum-Manly having yesterday off it is hard to see them dropping out of the premiership race against Souths next Sunday.

While Souths did not appear to have major injury problems they took a heavy pasting from Redcliffe and the psychological shock of a loss at this stage may be hard to overcome in the preliminary final.

All round, it was a horror day for Souths, with kicking star, Mal Meninga, in poor form, missing several easy one to boot only two from five attempts.

On the other hand veteran Redcliffe fullback, Ian "Bunny" Pearce was back at his best with 15 points from a try and six goals from six attempts.

Pearce had a fine game amazing even his ardent fans with his anticipation and ability to be in the right position at the right time.

Hooker Bob Abbott was in top form apart from winning the scrums 15-10 and was voted the best player of the match by his teammates.

All the forwards turned in top games, with Tony Obst, Vic Tighe, Peter Griffith, Beetson and Chris Holmes giving it everything.

Anything can and does happen in a grand final, but the way Redcliffe played yesterday they should start favorites, for their second premiership.

The strength of the club is shown through the grades, with A and reserve grade and under 21's into the grand finals, and the C grade with a chance in this Sunday's preliminary final.

This is the fifth time Redcliffe have fought through to the A grade grand final with the only win being back in 1965 when Beetson was a youngster.

The team also played losing grand finals in 1973, 75 and 77, losing the 1977 grand final to Easts, when the Tigers were led by present Wynnum-Manly captain-coach, Des Morris.

Redcliffe lost Beetson for 10 minutes yesterday when he was sent to the sin bin shortly before halftime following an apparent high tackle on Meninga.

Earlier, in the third minute of the match, there was a major flare up when a scrum erupted in a swirl of punches which spread throughout the teams.

The fight broke up into several slugging matches, but no one was hurt.

Referee Stan Scamp, whose appointment to yesterday's match sparked controversy, has been relegated to reserve grade this week, and the A grade preliminary final will be controlled by Test referee, Eddie Ward. The C grade match will go to David Manson.

SCORERS. — Redcliffe 21: I. Pearce, M. Waller, C. Part tries; Pearce 6 goals. Souths 10: B. Johnstone, M. Meninga tries; Meninga 2 goals.



COPYBOOK tackle by Souths lock Billy Argeros as Redcliffe halfback Colin Part looks for an opening in yesterday's rugby league semi-final at Lang Park. Argeros and Part played prominent roles in their teams' efforts. Photo: JIM FENWICK



REDCLIFFE'S blockbusting front rower Peter Griffiths makes a determined charge for the line during yesterday's rugby league semi-final at Lang Park but was dropped short by a swarm of Souths defenders, notably Adrian Higgs and Billy Argeros.

1981

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 16 v Wynnum 12

SOUTHS STILL IN BUT UNDERDOGS

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

SOUTHS thundered into their third consecutive Brisbane Rugby League Winfield Cup grand final with a 16-12 win over sentimental favorites Wynnum-Manly at Lang Park yesterday.

Souths now line up against favorites Redcliffe in the grand final this Sunday and will go in as underdogs following their major semi-final loss to Redcliffe 21-10 eight days ago.

However, Souths' form yesterday gave Magpie supporters plenty to hope for, they will not be as easy to contain as they were last week.

But they will need to eliminate errors at vital times, and Mal Meninga will need to get his kicking boots on.

It would have been an injustice had Souths lost yesterday's match because they were much the better team on the day.

But in the closing minutes Wynnum-Manly — with veteran captain-coach Des Morris throwing everything into it — almost grabbed a breath-taking win.

At that stage Souths should have been perhaps 10 points further in front, at least two tries were bombed, one in the first half by Billy Johnstone and one in the second by Bruce Astill when they dropped the ball with the line wide open.

And Ash Lumby crashed over off a fine pass from five-eighth Bruce Harry only to lose the ball over the line in the 14th minute.

Just as devastating as those setbacks were two missed goals by Meninga early in the match. The goal attempts, in the 10th and 18th minutes, would have been sitters for a novice.

(Meninga finished with two goals from five attempts and added an excellent try to his points tally).

That was the horror side of Souths performance, but there were many good points.

They set the stage for the victory from the outset, taking the initiative early and never letting go.

Souths always seemed to be going forward, even in a defensive role. Their defence in centre field was rock solid with the forwards, particularly the mini-front row of the Higgs brothers Darryl and Adrian, and hooker, Billy Johnstone, dynamite.

With Wynnum-Manly gaining overall scrum possession of 14-7 Souths had plenty of tackling to do, but they got more than normal relief from some very shoddy handling by Wynnum-Manly.

Probably Wynnum-Manly's biggest mistake was their failure to isolate South's steamrolling centre combination of Meninga and Bruce Astill from free flowing possession.

Meninga and Astill saw more ball yesterday than they usually do and made great use of it with plenty of strong attack.

Souths halfback Brad Sully and five-eighth Bruce Harry gave the ball plenty of air allowing the Magpies' scoring machine to swing into operation.

Sully was a new player compared to his match against Redcliffe the previous week when he must have been lucky to hold his position.

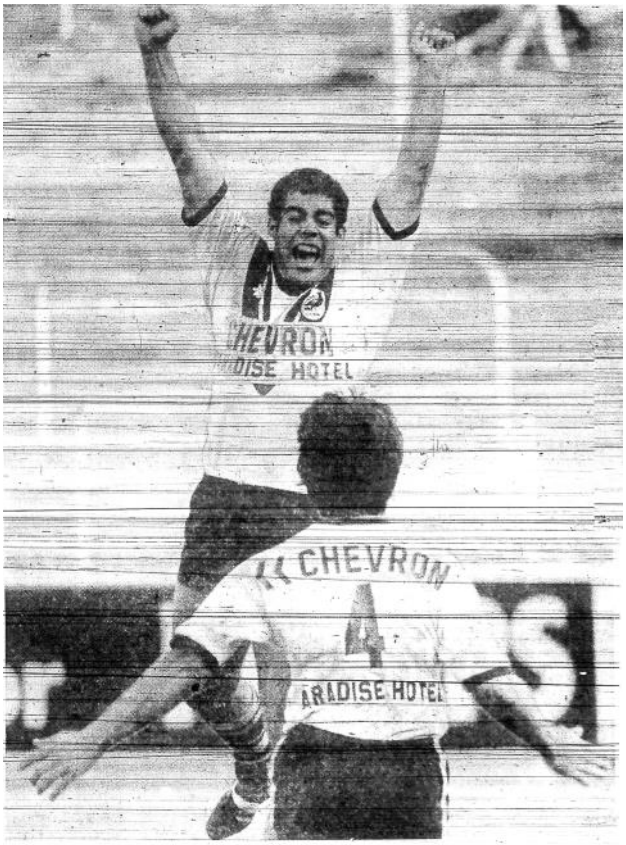
A big plus for Souths in the early stages was the attacking form of fullback Ken Spencer.

It was Spencer who helped put Souths on the offensive early and kept Wynnum-Manly players on their heels.

After both teams settled down Wynnum-Manly looked flat, and even the human battering ram, Ray Duncan, was tentative going into attack and defence.

Although Souths looked the big danger in the first half, they left the field at halftime leading only 8-7 after a great try by Seagull lock Ian French from a top move involving Morris and Scott.

Souths deserved to be probably seven points better off at that stage but they failed through their own mistakes and had no one else to blame.



SOUTHS captain Bruce Astill (No. 4) races in to congratulate a jubilant Mal Meninga who had just scored Souths fourth try to give the Magpies the winning break they needed to clinch yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park. Astill had made the break and served the pass to Meninga to score. **Picture:** Jim Fenwick.

Then came Astill's blunder six minutes into the second session. Meninga thundered through the defence and may have even scored himself but swung out a long hard pass to his captain. It was not an easy pass but one Astill could be expected to take. He put it down and a certain try went begging.

However, 14 minutes later Astill redeemed himself when he made an opening to slot Meninga through for a top try with Souths going to a 16-7 lead. The game looked finished with Souths four tries to one. But Wynnum-Manly kept hopes alive with a second try by lock Ian French from a strong burst by replacement Darryl Jenner.

PRELIMINARY FINAL
SOUTHS 16 d WYNNUM-MANLY 12

Scorers. — Souths: B. Astill, C. Phelan, B. Sully, M. Meninga tries; Meninga 2 goals. Wynnum-Manly: I. French 2 tries; C. Scott 3 goals). First scorers: Souths No. 4, Wynnum-Manly No. 1. First try scorers: Souths No. 4, Wynnum-Manly No. 8.

Below: Jim Fenwick of the Courier Mail captures a spectacular multiple exposure photo of Brad Sully's try for Souths.



1981

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9

LEAGUE FINAL '81

CLIFFHANGER TRY

SOUTHS took just 30 seconds to turn back the clock 28 years when they downed Redcliffe 13-9 in a heart-stopping Winfield Cup rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

Souths won the match in the last minute on their last tackle when they were desperately trying to overcome Redcliffe's 9-8 lead.

Going into the final minute and down one point Souths would have settled for a field goal or a bomb in a desperate last fling at their first premiership since 1953.

But Redcliffe defence, with backs-to-the-wall close to their own line, swarmed up preventing any attempts at kicking.

On the second last tackle one of Souths' heroes halfback Brad Sully, set himself for a field goal well within range, but was cut off by defenders before he could even shape for the kick.

From the next play the ball, the last before referee Stan Scamp would have called for a scrum on the sixth tackle, Souths Rothmans Medal winner Chris Phelan got the ball and many Souths supporters shuddered . . . Phelan is not known for his ability or willingness to pass.

Phelan ran a couple of metres with the defence bunching to him, then whipped out a quick, short pass to giant centre Mal Meninga who moved the ball immediately on to winger Mick Reardon.

Reardon hit the pass at his top and roared off for the corner with Redcliffe defence caught out of position by the speed of the passes.

Reardon dived into the corner through a desperate lunge by opposite winger Lotta Atoi and Souths hit the front 11-9 for the first time in 37½ minutes.

The match was over in the most dramatic fashion when few people in the 30,000 crowd including Souths top officials, believed a try was possible — in the swarming defence.

They were looking for a field goal to tie the score 9-all and force extra time, or a bomb to give them a chance at a desperation try. But a try from a planned move at that stage seemed impossible.

Souths coach Bob McCarthy said later Phelan had remembered vital instructions to start the try in motion.

"I was waiting for Brad Sully to kick for a field goal, but then when Chris (Phelan) got it he did what I wanted him to do ... to look ahead." McCarthy said. "The players have been told to always look ahead and that's what Phelan did . . . and he saw the opportunity."

Long-term Redcliffe president Dick "Tosser" Turner, summed up Redcliffe's sad tale when he said: "We were half a minute away from history. Thirty seconds more — and we would have won a hat-trick of premierships for the first time in our club's history."

Earlier in the day Turner saw Redcliffe down Souths 26-15 in the Reserve Grade grand final and beat Norths 33-12 in the C Grade premiership.

It is 36 years since a Brisbane club has won a hat-trick of senior premierships, and ironically the last club to do it was Souths back in 1945.

By Lawrie Kavanagh

Just as ironically Souths had the chance to repeat the hat-trick last year, winning the Reserve and C Grade grand finals but losing the grand final to Norths by two points 17-15.

Yesterday's match was anyone's and a win by either team would have been acceptable for any true supporter of rugby league.

It was not a highly spectacular match, but it was played in true grand final style, with a torrid defence, but very little malice.

Probably the major difference in the form reversal shown by Souths from their 21-19 loss to Redcliffe in the major semi-final two weeks ago was in scrum possession.

Two weeks ago Souths pack was continually overpowered by the Redcliffe heavyweights and lost scrums 15-10.

Yesterday it was a dramatic swing to Souths hooker Billy Johnstone who won the scrums 18-10 and who practically had a mortgage on the vital scrums.

There is little doubt that his staggering reversal of form by Johnstone and Souths smaller pack resulted from some extra coaching from Souths former Australian forward Greg Veivers, who has been in charge of the Magpies' scrummaging in recent weeks.

Yesterday he had Johnstone standing out of the scrum facing his two props as every scrum was set, urging them to pack tight and concentrate on winning the ball before he finally fitted in and packed down.

Veivers said Souths forwards had tended to become lazy and lose concentration in recent matches. "I told Billy to keep at them before every scrum . . . to keep their minds on the job," he explained.

The experiment worked when you stack Johnstone's loss of two weeks ago against yesterday's scrum victory.

Defence was the dominant factor yesterday and no one took a backward step on either team.

But it would be hard to go past Souths tireless lock Billy Argeros in that department. He put in 42 tackles yesterday to go with his 48 against Wynnum-Manly the previous week.

The final statistics of the game showed how evenly matched were the teams. For 79½ minutes each team scored only one try... Souths halfback Brad Sully from the scrum base in the 12th minute and Ian "Bunny" Pearce from a Redcliffe "bomb" in the 50th minute.

Souths second try is history... 30 seconds from fulltime when even a field goal and the chance of extra time would have been appreciated by the Magpies.

Instead, the Reardon try and a magnificent sideline conversion by Meninga made it look reasonably easy for Souths for future generations who will look at the record book's 13-9 result.

Don't believe the record books... it was a tough, grim match between two teams which were each other's equal on the day, and the game of rugby league was the winner.



Above: That magical moment for Souths with 30 seconds to go on the last tackle when Mick Reardon scored in the corner to win the 1981 Grand Final.

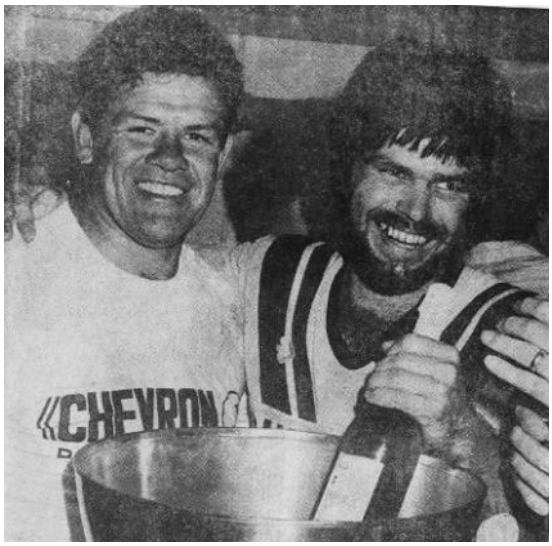


THREE points coming up for Souths halfback Brad Sully as he wrong foots Redcliffe lock Chris Holmes to weave his way past the collapsing scrum and score Souths first points in the 12th minute. Redcliffe forwards looking on in dismay are (left to right) Artie Beetson, Bob Abbott, Tony Obst and Peter Griffith. — **PHOTOS by Jim Fenwick.**

1981

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9







Below: Mal Meninga runs over the top of Arthur Beetson in the 1981 Grand Final against Redcliffe.





THREE points coming up for Souths halfback Brad Sully as he wrong-foots Redcliffe lock Chris Holmes to weave his way past the collapsing scrum and score Souths first points in the 12th minute. Redcliffe forwards looking on in dismay are (left to right) Artie Beetson, Bob Abbott, Tony Obst and Peter Griffith. —

1981

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9



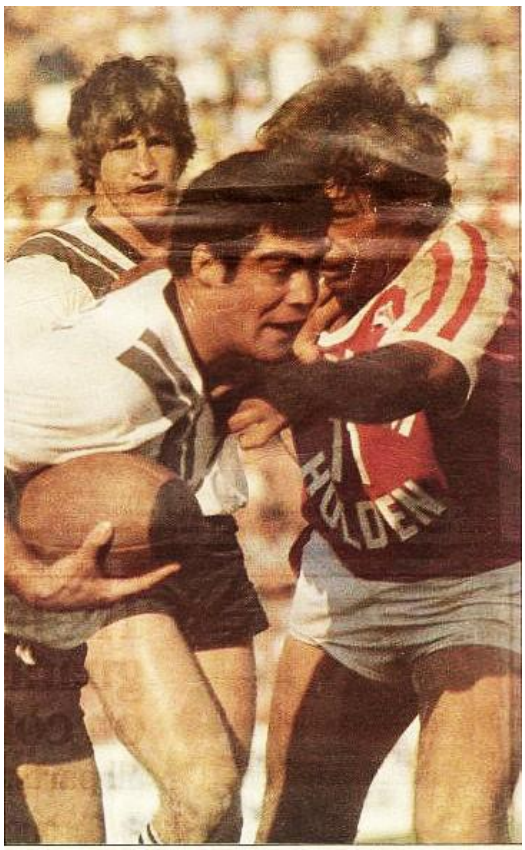
1981

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9



The winners can laugh . . . and they usually do. Particularly when they've only become winners through a 79th-minute salvation. Souths captain Bruce Astill (left) and star centre Mal Meninga are chaired from Lang Park by their team-mates after the grand final last Sunday.





MAGPIE MAGIC

The rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday lasted about a minute too long for Redcliffe captain-coach Artie Beetson . . . these two Magpies, Chris Phelan (background) and Mal Meninga set up the match-winning try by Mick Reardon that left a tired Artie — and the Dolphins — defeated 9-13. More on the big match, P.2, 33, 34, 35.

1981

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9



THEY might have the smallest pack of forwards in the business, but that didn't stop the tenacious Souths from winning their first Brisbane minor premiership since 1953. BACK ROW: Brad Tessmann, Alan Power, Ash Lumby, Ken Spencer, Chris Phelan, Steve Glynn. CENTRE: Chris Thorley, Darryl Higgs, Brad Sully, Bruce Harry, Peter Ryan, Adrian Higgs, Trevor Wendt, Billy Argeros. FRONT: Billy Johnstone, Mick Reardon, Bob McCarthy (coach), Bruce Astill (captain), Mal Meninga, Gary Thompson.

RESULTS

30 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 20 (B.French 2, Butler, Green tries; Scott 4 goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 9 (Sarra try; McNally 2 goals, field goal, Holben field goal).
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, J.Callus, T.Kambouris, T.Saunders, I.French, G.Dowling, D.Morris (c/c), M.Zillman, D.Green, R.Duncan. Reserve: G.Seaton.
Easts: G.Payne, S.Stacey, M.Payne, M.Thomas, B.Backer, G.Holben (c), L.Briggenshaw, B.Le Man, C.Heugh, Z.Sarra, S.McNally, J.Ashe, E.Slingsby. Reserves: B.McLeod, R.Kelly. Coach: J.Lang.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

6 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Redcliffe 21 (Pearce, Waller, Part tries; Pearce 6 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 10 (Johnstone, Meninga tries; Meninga 2 goals).
Redcliffe: I.Pearce, M.Waller, S.Bleakley, S.Cherry, L.Atoi, T.Benson, C.Part, C.Holmes, T.Obst, V.Tighe, A.Beetson (c/c), R.Abbott, P.Griffiths. Reserve: S.Bax.
Souths: K.Spencer, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), M.Reardon, B.Harry, B.Sully, B.Argeros, C.Phelan, A.Lumby, A.Higgs, W.Johnstone, D.Higgs. Coach: B.McCarthy.
Referee: Stan Scamp.

13 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Southern Suburbs 16 (Astill, Phelan, Sully, Meninga tries; Meninga 2 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 12 (French 2 tries; Scott 3 goals).
Souths: K.Spencer, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), M.Reardon, B.Harry, B.Sully, B.Argeros, C.Phelan, A.Lumby, A.Higgs, W.Johnstone, D.Higgs. Coach: B.McCarthy.
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, G.Miles, N.Moy, J.Callus, T.Kambouris, T.Saunders, I.French, G.Seaton, D.Morris (c/c), M.Zillman, D.Green, R.Duncan. Reserve: D.Jenner.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

20 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Southern Suburbs 13 (Sully, Reardon tries; Meninga 3 goals; Spencer field goal).
d. Redcliffe 9 (Pearce try; 3 goals).
Southern Suburbs: K.Spencer, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, B.Astill (c), M.Reardon, B.Harry, B.Sully, B.Argeros, C.Phelan, A.Lumby, A.Higgs, W.Johnstone, D.Higgs. Coach: B.McCarthy.
Redcliffe: I.Pearce, M.Waller, S.Cherry, S.Bleakley, L.Atoi, T.Benson, C.Part, C.Holmes, T.Obst, V.Tighe, A.Beetson (c/c), R.Abbott, P.Griffiths.
Reserves: P.Leis, R.Jones, I.Thinee.
Referee: Stan Scamp. ***Crowd: 30,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Chris Phelan (Souths).

1982

THE WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE

Beginning in 1982, for the first third of each season the 8 Brisbane clubs and 6 Qld Country teams played in a new statewide competition followed by the Brisbane competition. In 1996 the statewide competition expanded and became a new full season competition called the Queensland Cup and superceded the Brisbane premiership. The country sides included during the 1980's were North Qld, Central Qld, Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Ipswich (which entered the BRL competition in 1986) and the Gold Coast.







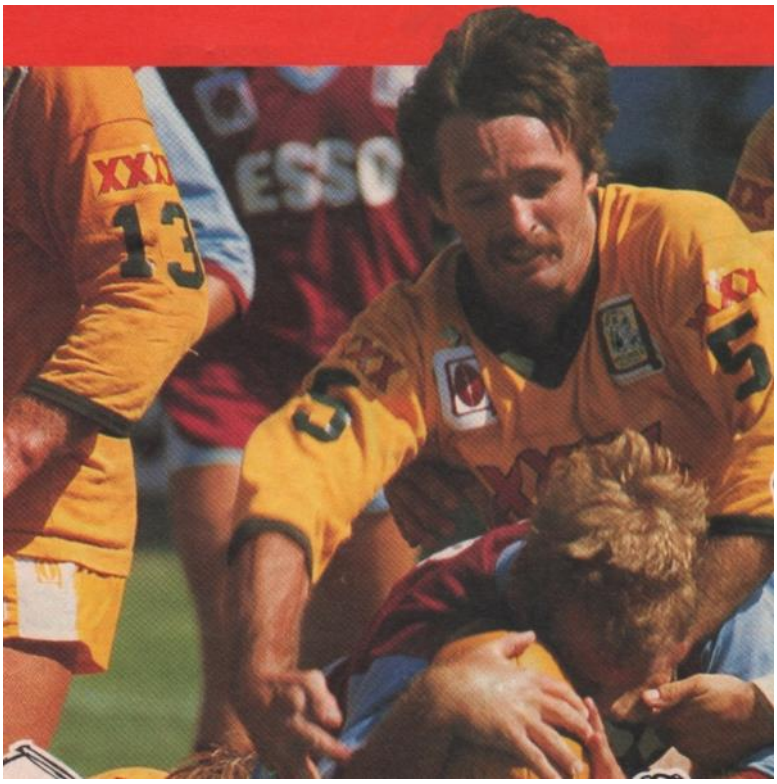


Logan City later admitted to the BRL and State League in 1988

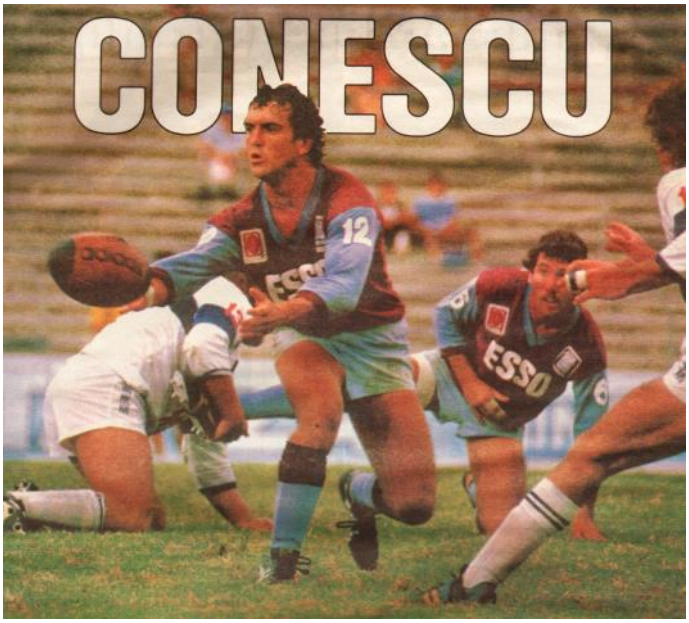




THE WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE











THE WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE





RIGHT: Big, tough and fast — that's how Brisbane clubs found Wide Bay's boom centre Dan Tanner. The bearded Tanner was one of the finds of the Winfield State League.









I spy with my 30 eyes . . . Gold Coast's Mick Thorburn is the centre of attention as he fires out a pass.

1982

STATE LEAGUE: EASTS



1982 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Easts won the inaugural State League title when they defeated Redcliffe in the grand final. The first competition proved to be a resounding success even though the 6 country sides filled the last 6 places on the table.

ROUND 1

Wests 21 defeated Valleys 18 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 17 defeated Gold Coast 12 at Southport
Brothers 13 defeated Ipswich 7 at Ipswich
Souths 30 defeated North Qld 6 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 28 defeated Wide Bay 12 at Maryborough
Toowoomba 18 defeated Norths 7 at Toowoomba
Easts 31 defeated Central Qld 8 at Emerald

ROUND 2

Valleys 25 defeated Ipswich 2 at Ipswich
Wests 22 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Warwick
Gold Coast 22 defeated Souths 8 at Southport
Brothers 44 defeated Central Qld 12 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 16 defeated Wide Bay 14 at Nambour
Easts 37 defeated Wynnum-Manly 20 at Lang Park
Norths 24 defeated North Qld 18 at Townsville

ROUND 3 -April 2, 4

Friday April 2
Wynnum-Manly 18 defeated Ipswich 3 at Ipswich
Sunday April 4
Valleys 30 defeated Central Qld 17 at Biloela
Wests 13 defeated North Qld 8 at Mackay
Wide Bay 17 defeated Souths 16 at Gympie
Gold Coast 20 drew with Norths 20 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 28 defeated Brothers 15 at Lang Park
Easts 26 defeated Toowoomba 17 at Toowoomba

ROUND 4 -April 11

Sunday April 11
Souths 25 defeated Valleys 8 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 27 defeated Ipswich 0 at Lang Park
Gold Coast 9 defeated Wests 7 at Southport
Brothers 5 defeated Toowoomba 0 at Toowoomba
Norths 17 defeated Wide Bay 8 at Wondai
Central Qld 22 defeated Wynnum-Manly 18 at Rockhampton
North Qld 21 defeated Easts 8 at Ayr

ROUND 5 -April 16-18

Friday April 16
Souths 23 defeated Ipswich 10 at Ipswich
Saturday April 17
Redcliffe 18 defeated Central Qld 5 at Blackwater
Sunday April 18
Wynnum-Manly 24 defeated Norths 18 at Lang Park
Valleys 18 defeated Toowoomba 11 at Lang Park

Brothers 14 defeated North Qld 0 at Ingham
Wests 21 defeated Wide Bay 18 at Bundaberg
Easts 21 defeated Gold Coast 8 at Southport

ROUND 6 -April 23, 25

Friday April 23
Norths 28 defeated Ipswich 2 at Ipswich
Sunday April 25
North Qld 16 defeated Valleys 14 at Mount Isa
Souths 51 defeated Central Qld 2 at Rockhampton
Wynnum-Manly 25 defeated Toowoomba 15 at Toowoomba
Gold Coast 20 defeated Brothers 14 at Southport
Easts 48 defeated Wide Bay 8 at Lang Park
Wests 12 defeated Redcliffe 8 at Lang Park

ROUND 7 -April 30, May 2

Friday April 30
Wests 34 defeated Ipswich 17 at Ipswich
Sunday May 2
Wynnum-Manly 16 defeated North Qld 7 at Cairns
Wide Bay 13 defeated Brothers 10 at Maryborough
Redcliffe 37 defeated Toowoomba 0 at Roma
Valleys 19 defeated Gold Coast 5 at Southport
Souths 20 defeated Easts 14 at Lang Park
Norths 30 defeated Central Qld 8 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
REDCLIFFE	7	6	-	1	151	58	12
WESTS	7	6	-	1	130	58	12
SOUTHS	7	5	-	2	173	79	10
EASTS	7	5	-	2	185	102	10
Wynnum-Manly	7	5	-	2	149	114	10
Norths	7	4	1	2	144	98	9
Brothers	7	4	-	3	115	80	8
Valleys	7	4	-	3	129	97	8
Gold Coast	7	3	1	3	96	106	7
North Queensland	7	2	-	5	76	119	4
Wide Bay	7	2	-	5	90	156	4
Toowoomba	7	1	-	6	77	140	2
Central Queensland	7	1	-	6	74	222	2
Ipswich	7	0	-	7	45	188	0

SEMI FINALS

REDCLIFFE 17 (Terry Webb, Vic Tighe, George Trudgett tries; Steve Bax 4 goals) defeated
SOUTHS 13 (Mal Meninga try, 5 goals) at Lang Park

EASTS 13 (Cavill Haugh, Paul Khan tries; Shane McNally 3 goals, Greg Holben field goal) defeated
WESTS 6 (Peter McDonald, Tim Watson tries) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL

EASTS 23 (Brett Tengdahl, Brad Backer, Steve Stacey, Errol Slingsby tries; Shane McNally 5 goals, Larry Brigginshaw field goal) defeated
REDCLIFFE 15 (Terry Webb 2, Steve Bleakley tries; Steve Bax 3 goals) at Lang Park

1982

State League Semi-Final -
Redcliffe 17 v Souths 13

REDCLIFFE AND EASTS IN FINAL

Dolphins score late comeback

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

REDCLIFFE earned the right to favoritism in the inaugural Winfield State Rugby League final with a tough exciting 17-13 win over Souths at Lang Park last night.

Redcliffe scored three tries to one by the Brisbane rugby league premiers to move into Sunday's final against Easts.

In the curtain raiser last night Easts defeated Wests 13-6.

But on the standard of matches on the night it should be Redcliffe to start favorites.

Redcliffe overcame a shocking first quarter in which the premiers raced to a 9-0 lead and looked to have the match shot to pieces.

Although Souths had scored only one try at that stage they were playing a much more positive game with a professional approach which gave them the look of a Sydney team.

It was particularly noticeable in that first quarter how quickly Souths players recovered from all situations in both attack and defence.

But after leading at half time 11-5 Souths were forced to take a back seat against a particularly determined comeback from the Dolphins.

The comeback started with a very determined try by secondrower Vic Tighe from a ruck after Redcliffe had persistently pressed Souths defence.

The try was converted by fullback Steve Bax and Redcliffe hit the lead for the first time in the match 12-11 after 15 minutes into the second half.

At this stage Souths were still well in the match but were not functioning as they had earlier mainly because of the strong defence.

Redcliffe hooker George Trudgett gave the Dolphins the leeway they were looking for when he scored a try from the ruck with 12 minutes to go, a try which Bax converted for a 17-11 lead.

Then followed 12 minutes of exciting pressure football in which both teams poured on torrid defence with the game wide open.

There were some great battles from individuals on both sides particularly from rival prop forwards Souths Gary Grienke and Redcliffe's Peter Griffiths.

It was a duel which Grienke won on points and no doubt Griffiths will need a big game on Sunday to recover a little of the prestige he lost last night.

This was he first match Souths have lost in five games and no doubt it staggered supporters.

Souths always looked to have a chance to take out this match but in the final analysis it would have been an injustice with Redcliffe scoring three tries to one by the Magpies.

Souths state centre Mal Meninga scored all his team's points with a try and five goals.

Redcliffe's tries were scored in the forwards by Terry Webb, Tighe and Trudgett.

First scorers Redcliffe No. 9, Souths No. 3. First try scorers the same.
Scores: Redcliffe 17 (T. Webb, V. Tighe, G. Trudgett tries; S. Bax 4 goals) d. Souths 13 (M. Meninga try; Meninga 5 goals).

1982

State League Semi-Final -
Easts 13 v Wests 6

McNally's boot the decider

EASTS did it the hard way when they downed Wests 13-6 in the first match at Lang Park last night.

Contrary to all expectations of a bright open match, this one was bogged down in some sloppy handling, but also some very good defence.

The try tally of two each was a better indication of the trend of play than the seemingly easy finishing score indicated.

Easts kicker Shane McNally kicked three goals from six attempts to go with a field goal by Greg Holben to give the Tigers their winning margin.

The match rarely reached the attacking heights expected from these two normally free-flowing teams. But there were some good attacking moves, and not the least the winning try, which came in the third minute of the final quarter. The try lifted the Tigers out of a boggy session against some fair defence.

Easts big prop Paul Khan made all the difference in the final quarter after a pretty sleepy early showing. His big break came in the third minute of the final quarter when he ripped through the defence to serve winger Brad Backer, who flew for the corner. But Backer found himself hemmed in and shot a pass inside which was eagerly accepted by Khan.

It was a good piece of attack and backing up by Khan, who deservedly scored the try to give McNally the chance to convert and make the score Easts 13-6.

But it is a pity we do not see more of Khan in this brilliant light.

It was not a match for stars, but Wests lock Norm Carr had a big one.

SCORES: Easts 13 (C. Heugh, P. Khan tries; S. McNally 3 goals, G. Holben f.g.) d. Wests 6 (P. McDonald, T. Watson tries). First scorers: Easts 6, Wests 12. First try: Easts 10, Wests 12.



EASTS second rower Cavil Heugh bursts through a gap pursued by Norm Carr (centre) and Rory Jackson at Lang Park last night.

1982

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - EASTS 23 v REDCLIFFE 15

EASTS 'NOT JUST A TEAM OF PRETTY FACES'

Tigers had that little bit extra

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

EASTS Tigers proved they were not just a team of pretty faces when they convincingly took out the inaugural Winfield State Rugby League grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

Easts beat 1981 Brisbane grand finalists Redcliffe 23-15 in a tense and exciting match, but almost without exception it was Easts all the way.

Easts' coach John Lang and president, Ted Verrenkamp can afford to have smiles on their faces this morning as they line up for the Brisbane premiership season which starts next Sunday.

They go into the premiership with a team which has been tried, and not found wanting, in all circumstances, certainly not yesterday in the tough grind of a big money final.

The comments of the two top Tigers are noteworthy

● **Lang:** "A lot of people said we were just a pretty side. I think you can now say we are a pretty good side."

● **Verrenkamp:** "Speed is hard to beat and we've got the speed . . . but we've got the defence and the attack as well."

Not even dejected Redcliffe supporters would have arguments against those statements. On the day, and arguably for some time to come, Easts will be a very hard side to beat.

While Redcliffe are one of the toughest sides in the state because of their up-the-guts strength and willing, physical approach to the game, they failed to get on top of, or even catch up with, the brilliance of Easts yesterday.

Each time Redcliffe looked like getting into a control situation, the Tigers pulled out a little bit of brilliance which took them back to safety.

Probably the man who did more for the Tigers than any other was second-rower Cavill Heugh.

Heugh is not the most physical player in the competition, but he works with a steady strength and guile which fairly won him the Volta Man of the Match $1300 prize.

Besides doing everything asked of him in general play, Heugh set up the first three of Easts four tries. This was after Redcliffe had rushed to a 5-0 lead in the first nine minutes.

Heugh floated a high pass to powerhouse winger Steve Stacey, who scored in the 14th minute.

And it was Heugh who made the original break two minutes later to send his other winger, Brad Backer, in for a sizzling try to confirm Easts have the two best wingers in the competition.

That gave Easts a 10-5 lead at quarter time, and that score remained at half-time after a dour, battering second quarter.

But in the first minute of the fourth quarter Heugh was again at the forefront with an excellent break in which he split the defence to send five-eighth Greg Holben away. Holben served centre Brett Tengdahl for the try of the match over a 60 metre charge.

That took Easts to an 18-10 lead, but the match was far from over. Redcliffe back-rower, Terry Webb, scored from a tap penalty and the try was converted with Redcliffe right back in it trailing 15-18.

But three minutes later Easts burst away again with a crashing run by prop Paul Khan, which set up a great try for the tireless Errol Slingsby.

It was the story of the match. Every time Redcliffe posed a threat, the Tigers had the ability to come back and move away.

While the match was close and exciting, Easts always seemed to have just one more card up the sleeve.

It was a team effort, but the efforts of players like Heugh and Holben were big factors.

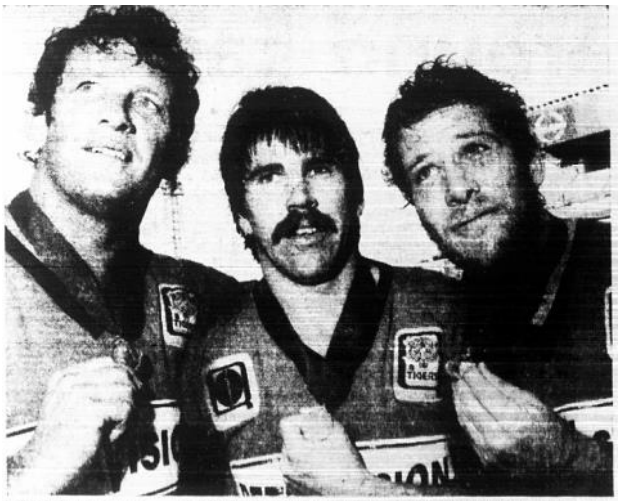
Holben is a much criticised player by supporters of other clubs, but he is still one of the most dominant players in Brisbane. His experience and influence on the trend of a game can be the deciding factor, and yesterday they were very much in evidence.

Redcliffe were down but far from beaten, as though there is some work to do in the way of leadership. Yesterday the Dolphins did not have a thinking, settling counterpart to Holben.

FINAL

EASTS 23 (Brett Tengdahl, Brad Backer, Steve Stacey, Errol Slingsby tries; Shane McNally 5 goals, Larry Brigginshaw field goal) defeated

REDCLIFFE 15 (Terry Webb 2, Steve Bleakley tries; Steve Bax 3 goals) at Lang Park



WINNERS can smile . . . Easts victorious Winfield State Rugby League front row (l. to r.), Paul Khan, Jeff Ashe and Shane McNally, showed off their winning medals at Lang Park



A TRY coming up for Easts as second rower, Cavill Heugh bursts through the tackles of Redcliffe prop, Peter Griffiths and two teammates, to send out the pass that led to a try by centre Brett Tengdahl. Easts won the Winfield State League final 23-15.



1982 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League State League Champions, Semi - Finalists. Front Row: *Ted Verrenkamp (President); Ray Kelly; Greg Suton; Larry Brigginshaw (Captain); John Lang (Coach); Shane McNally (Vice Capt).* ***Second Row:*** *Dr Stan Theodoros (Club Doctor); Mike Batch (Trainer); Mark Payne; Errol Slingsby; Lachlan Bogle; Brad Backer; Brett Tengdahl; Greg Holben; Brett LeMan; Edgar Eve (Strapper); Brian Smart (Sec); Cliff Green (Sel).* ***Back Row:*** *Belle Davis (Physiotherapist); Dr Nick Conomos (Club Doctor; Peter Lock (Manager); Zac Zarra; Michael Booth; Steve Stacey; Cavill Heugh; Max Sahl; Tony Stanton; John Sheppard (Sel); Kerry O'Regan (Physiotherapist).* ***Absent:*** *Jack Loth (Patron); Paul Khan; Keith Nellor; Ray Holman.*

1982

BRL: WYNNUM-MANLY

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	12	1	1	299	186	25
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	10	0	4	252	184	20
WYNNUM MANLY	9	0	5	215	194	18
REDCLIFFE	7	0	7	226	225	14
NORTHERN SUBURBS	5	0	9	228	263	10
BROTHERS	4	1	9	190	233	9
EASTERN SUBURBS	4	0	10	184	224	8
WESTERN SUBURBS	4	0	10	193	278	8

1982 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 1

Sun May 16
Valleys 19 def Wests 10
Souths 22 def Norths 9
Wynnum 10 def Brothers 8
Redcliffe 16 def Easts 10

Sun May 23
Souths 23 def Brothers 18
Wynnum-Manly 10 def Easts 8
Valleys 38 def Redcliffe 17
Norths 28 def Wests 17

Sun June 6
Norths 26 def Brothers 10
Wynnum-Manly 20 def Redcliffe 11
Valleys 20 def Souths 11
Easts 35 def Wests 9

Sun June 13
Wynnum-Manly 20 def Norths 16
Souths 20 def Redcliffe 9
Valleys 24 def Easts 10
Brothers 19 def Wests 16

Sun June 20
Valleys 25 def Norths 13
Souths 20 def Wynnum-Manly 3
Redcliffe 26 def Wests 12
Brothers 34 def Easts 10

Sun June 27
Valleys 23 def Wynnum 17
Redcliffe 23 def Brothers 8
Easts 15 def Norths 7
Souths 23 def Wests 21

Sun July 4
Easts 19 def Souths 6
Brothers 17 drew Valleys 17
Wynnum 22 def Wests 12
Redcliffe 25 def Norths 8

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 2

Sun July 11
Valleys 19 def Wests 13
Souths 25 def Norths 19
Brothers 13 def Wynnum 12
Redcliffe 10 def Easts 9

Sun July 18
Valleys 21 def Souths 15
(Woolies Trophy)

Brothers 24 def Norths 16
Wests 16 def Easts 12
Redcliffe 20 def Wynnum 7

Sun July 25
Redcliffe 16 def Brothers 0
Norths 19 def Easts 18
Souths 26 def Wests 0
Wynnum 23 def Valleys 11

Sun August 1
Wynnum 20 def Easts 12
Souths 16 def Brothers 13
Norths 26 def Wests 12
Valleys 29 def Redcliffe 20

Sun August 8
Wynnum 23 def Norths 7
Valleys 21 def Easts 2
Wests 11 def Brothers 3
Souths 19 def Redcliffe 8

Sun August 15
Wests 16 def Redcliffe 10
Valleys 14 def Norths 8
Wynnum 19 def Souths 8
Easts 17 def Brothers 16

Sun August 22
Valleys 18 def Brothers 12
Souths 16 def Easts 7
Wests 26 def Wynnum 9
Norths 29 def Redcliffe 13

BRL FINALS

Minor Semi-Final (Sun August 29)
Wynnum 35 def Redcliffe 0

Major Semi-Final (Sun September 5)
Souths 10 def Valleys 6

Preliminary Final (Sun September 12)
Wynnum 26 def Valleys 5

GRAND FINAL (Sun September 19)
Wynnum 17 def Souths 3

1982

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 35 v Redcliffe 0

QRL may ground a soaring Seagull

WYNNUM-MANLY Seagulls blasted their way into the Winfield Cup rugby league preliminary final yesterday but now face a major battle to hold one of yesterday's stars, winger Warren Green, next season.



By Lawrie Kavanagh

Green, who joined the Seagulls from Toowoomba after the State League earlier this year, scored 20 points in Wynnum-Manly's crushing 35-0 knockout semi-final win over Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday.

They now meet the losers of next Sunday's major semi between Valleys and Souths and on yesterday's brilliance could cause all sorts of headaches for either team.

But in the meantime they have their own worries with the Green case threatening to blow into a major row over the three-export limit on State League players from each country division.

Green, who scored two tries and kicked seven goals in the knockout win, is set to become the centre of the wrangle as there are already three former Toowoomba players' contracts lodged with the QRL, and his is not among them.

Toowoomba reached its export limit at the weekend when Easts signed two Downs youngsters, Col Lindenberg and Trevor Paterson.

Souths had already signed Test prop, Rohan Hancock, and all three contracts have been registered with the Queensland Rugby League, which has stipulated that the first three contracts lodged with the QRL from a country division would be recognised, closing the book on exports from that division.

Wynnum-Manly president, Arthur Lovell, said last night that Green was the first Toowoomba player signed by a Brisbane club after the State League and he was now a recognised Wynnum-Manly player.

He said the club was prepared to fight all the way to keep Green.

But QRL president, Ron McAuliffe, confirmed last night that Green came within the State League limit category and Wynnum-Manly should have regarded him as a State League import.

"Now that three contracts have been lodged with the QRL Green will have no alternative but to go back to Toowoomba to play next season. Not just for the State League but the whole season."

That news would have been bad enough before yesterday's match, but after Green's performance yesterday it will be crushing news for Wynnum fans.

Wynnum-Manly ended with seven tries and kept their line intact for the first time this season.

Redcliffe coach Artie Beetson appeared stunned after the loss but avoided questions about his future, as did his veteran captain, Ian "Bunny" Pearce.

Pearce had the sort of match I would rather not think about when recalling one of the game's true champions and gentlemen. He bombed a try early, let one in with a mishandled bomb and missed some vital tackles.

But then it would have been a nightmare for any fullback with the Seagulls firing the way they did with a 19-9 share of the scrums.

Redcliffe showed great promise with their fiery start, blasting the Seagull attack with jarring tackles for the first ten minutes.

Then the fear that had plagued Beetson all week, that Gene Miles would run amok if he was not watched like a hawk, became a reality.

In the 11th minute the bustling State centre slashed the Redcliffe defence with a withering 60 metre run to score under the posts.

Four minutes later Pearce made a mess of a bomb from Brian Walsh, the ball bounced into lock Shaun Johnson's hands and he trotted a couple metres to score.

Green converted both tries and Wynnum was up 10-0 after only 15 minutes.

Five minutes later it was 15-0 after a try and conversion from Green and nine minutes further on, in the 29th minute, is was 20-0 following a converted try by Colin Scott.

It was the same sad story for Redcliffe in the second half.

There were no bad players for Wynnum-Manly but the players to stand out were fullback Scott, winger Green, centre Miles, the halves Brian Walsh and Peter Dawes and forwards Rod Morris, Gary Seaton and Johnson.

For Redcliffe, forwards Wally Fullerton-Smith and Vic Tighe gave it everything but it was like trying to hold back a river in flood.



Wynnum-Manly fullback Colin Scott (1) is set to slam Redcliffe five-eighth Steve Bleakley into the Lang Park turf, much like the Seagulls did to the Dolphins overall yesterday.

(Knockout semi-finals)
WINFIELD CUP
WYNNUM-MANLY 35 d REDCLIFFE 0

Scorers — Wynnum-Manly: W Green 2, G Miles, S Johnson, C Scott, W Bullock, B French tries; W Green 7 goals. First scorers (and first try scorers): Wynnum-Manly 4, Redcliffe 12.

1982

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 10 v Valleys 6

Judiciary could decide premiers

SOUTHS moved into the Brisbane rugby league Winfield Cup grand final with a dramatic 10-6 win over Valleys after both teams had a man sent off Lang Park yesterday. The Diehards lost prop forward Greg Walker after only 30 seconds.

Nine minutes into the second half Souths lost captain Bruce Astill to an alleged kicking charge on a touch judge's report. It was the first time Astill had been dismissed in nine years of A grade football.

And the drama of this tension-packed encounter is far from over. Astill and Walker face the Brisbane Judiciary Committee tonight in hearings which could affect Sunday's preliminary final between Valleys and Wynnum-Manly, and the grand final the following week.

The irony of the Astill send-off could come on Tuesday night; the veteran Magpie skipper is a heavy tip to take out Queensland's premier best and fairest award, the Rothmans Gold Medal.

Astill, regarded as one of the finest examples of sportsmanship in Brisbane league, was still shaken by the send-off long after the game.

Astill said he believed he had been sent to the sinbin for a minor offence in a tackle, and did not discover, until he reached the dressing room, that he had been sent off on a kicking charge.

Valleys coach Ross Strudwick was critical of referee Eddie Ward's handling of the match, and said Ward had shown he should not be appointed to control the grand final. "He sent Walker off in the first minute because he lacked confidence in his own ability," Strudwick said.

In the Magpie dressing room, Souths coach Bob McCarthy admitted he had been surprised when Walker got his marching orders so early. "I thought he might have got 10 minutes in the sinbin for what he did, but not sent off," McCarthy said.

Walker has been charged with an alleged head tackle.

Ward's action in sending Walker off in only the second tackle of the match stunned the crowd, and probably put Souths in a no-win situation. If they won against 12 men, what had they achieved? And if they lost to 12, they could become a laughing stock.

But as so often happens in lopsided situations in rugby league, the affected team becomes a wounded, desperate foe that will not die easily. That was the case with Valleys.

They defended magnificently. Only for one brief period, midway through the first half, did they appear to have only 12 men in defence. The overloaded defence wavered for several tackles, and Souths went close to scoring.

In the 23rd minute there was a roar of disapproval from the big crowd when Ward ruled forward a pass from Ash Lumby to Mal Meninga, after Meninga crossed in the corner.

In this period, some Souths errors let the diminished defence re-group, and the Diehard spirit came through once again. Valleys came roaring back eight minutes before half-time with a fine try by Kangaroo second row prospect Bryan Nielbing, off a typical brilliant short pass from Wally Lewis.

It was the first try of the match, and Scott Czislowski converted. Added to an earlier field goal by Lewis, it put Valleys ahead 6-0, and at that stage they looked capable of causing an upset.

Meninga put the Magpies first points on the board with a goal three minutes from half-time.

There was another sensation in the third minute of the second half, when Meninga made a magnificent burst, shattering the defence, and with all the time in the world and the try line wide open, threw a forward pass to fullback Ken Spencer.

At this stage Valleys defence was hanging on, but clearly on the ropes and ready for a knockout. It came in the seventh minute, when clever halfback Brad Sully slipped through for Souths' first try, from a good run by prop Gary Grienke.

Meninga converted and Souths led for the first time, 7-6. It is worth noting here that it took Souths 47 minutes to put their first try on the board against 12 fierce defenders.

Three minutes after taking the lead, Astill was taking an early shower. And the drama continued four minutes later when a penalty goal attempt by Czislowski hit the upright and bounced back.

Meninga again featured in a dramatic episode, this time with 15 minutes to go when he dived for the line but grounded the ball only a whisker short.



SOUTHS rugby league semi-final star Brad Sully (with ball) was about to become the meat in a sandwich between the Lang Park turf and the shoulder of Valleys lock Robert Moore when caught by The Courier-Mail chief photographer Jim Fenwick yesterday. Valley second rower Bob Arnold (9) was ready to lend a hand while an unidentified Valleys defender hangs on to Sully's bootlaces. Souths won a dramatic match 10-6.

Souths wingers Gary Thompson and Wayne Challis put the lid on the match when they combined for a try in an effort which ironically started out as a defensive move. They were involved in cover defence on the grandstand wing when Valleys lost the ball.

Thompson scooped it up, made a break before passing to Challis, then backed up on the inside when Challis was caught near the corner, accepted the pass and scored a good try.

There were many top displays from both sides, but the forwards and inside backs of both teams were outstanding. Sully was one of the stars despite the fact he had had only one match back from a long injury spell.

McCarthy said Sully had completely justified his faith in the tough halfback.

(Major semi-finals)
WINFIELD CUP
SOUTHS 10 d VALLEYS 6

Scorers: Souths — B Sully, G Thompson tries; M Meninga 2 goals. Valleys: B Niebling try; S Czislowski goal; W Lewis field goal. First scorers: Souths 3, Valleys 6. First try scorers: Souths 7 Valleys 10.

1982

BRL Preliminary Final - Wynnum 26 v Valleys 5

Seagulls in their first grand final

THE Seagulls of Wynnum-Manly yesterday broke a 31-year drought when they entered their first Winfield Cup Brisbane Rugby League grand final with a dazzling 26-5 preliminary final win over Valleys at Lang Park.

And if the same circumstances prevail on Lang Park next Sunday, there is no reason why Wynnum-Manly cannot beat Souths to win their first premiership since entering A grade in 1951.

The required circumstances are to dominate scrum possession by a two to one majority as they did yesterday and a fortnight ago in the knockout semi-final, and to keep penalties down.

Yesterday's win gave the Seagulls a total score of 61 points for and five against in the last two matches, both under the pressure of finals. It also set the stage for a sell-out grand final because it was one of the most popular wins I have seen at Lang Park in recent years outside a State of Origin win to Queensland.

On the voices, yesterday's 20,000 crowd was about 80 percent Wynnum-Manly supporters and Souths can expect more of the same from next week's crowd.

The general attitude was "Welcome to a new face in the grand final."

According to coach Des Morris there was no special magic in Wynnum-Manly's dominance of the scrums although he admitted his front row of tight-head Rod Morris, hooker David Green and loose head Mark Zillman were the best around.

"We just listened to what the referee said," Morris said. "We invited Eddie Ward to training about six weeks ago to tell us what he wanted, we listened and we did what he told us to do. There is no secret in it."

Listening to the referee resulted in a 12-6 scrum win and only one scrum penalty, while Valleys incurred five.

And there is little doubt that those two factors were the basis on which the Seagulls built their victory, and could do so again next Sunday.

Valleys rarely saw the ball in the first 20 minutes and, in fact, had to wait 24 minutes before winning their first scrum. Wynnum-Manly had won five straight at that stage and had run in three great tries to lead 13-0.

As if lack of possession was not enough pressure for the Diehards, giant Seagull centre Gene Miles really poured it on with big runs and some brilliant line kicking with the aid of a strong northerly wind.

Wynnum's first three tries — by Terry Butler (who scored three top tries), in the fourth minute, Rod Morris in the 16th and Brian Walsh in the 21st minute — knocked the stuffing out of the Diehards. Three minutes before halftime Butler was in for his second try and the Seagulls led 19-2 at the break.

All the damage was done at that stage, although Valleys coach Ross Strudwick said he had hoped for a second half comeback. "But 10 minutes after half-time I knew the game was over," Strudwick said.

Strudwick made three changes just before half-time and another two, including replacement of State halfback Mark Murray, in the second half. It was a case of desperate measures for desperate situations.

Butler topped off his hat-trick with yet another excellent move in the 70th minute, while the other points came from five out of seven goals by Warren Green and a field goal from Colin Scott.

Valleys' only try came in the 67th minute, a strong one from winger Lindsay Klien. And while Valleys' lack of possession can be blamed for their low score, too much cannot be said for the fierce defence by Wynnum.

Wynnum-Manly opened the match with hammering defence, particularly on the dangerman, Test five-eighth Wally Lewis. In one early clash, four Wynnum defenders swarmed over Lewis, crashing him to the ground.

There was also fierce defence from Valleys, with tempers flaring into several wild brawls and many individual punch-ups. But they were not unexpected in such a pressure match and Ward is to be commended this week for not dismissing anyone.

Coach Morris summed up the victory when asked who was his man of the match. "There were 13 of them," he said with pride.

But one of the best was his five-eighth Brian Walsh, who had the best match I have seen from him. Unfortunately he was replaced late with an arm injury, and while the club doctor believes it is not serious, the extent of the injury will not be known until he has an X-ray today.

Second-rowers Brian Battese and Gary Seaton were others to stand out and halfback Peter Dawes made a big impression, particularly against such a highly rated man as Kangaroo prospect Murray.

Miles certainly gave his Kangaroo prospects a boost with his strength and brilliance in all aspects.

All in all, Morris has the Seagulls honed to razor's edge for the grand final, and if they are ever going to win, it will be this year.



Business as usual for Wynnum-Manly winger Terry Butler as he flies in for one of the three tries he scored at Lang Park yesterday. Valleys' captain Wally Lewis was the last-ditch defender, a role he figured prominently in. Pictures by JIM FENWICK



"It's a try, sir," Wynnum-Manly's Test prop Rod Morris seems to be telling referee Eddie Ward after he crashed through the tackles of Joe Bozzi (left) and Wally Lewis yesterday. Ward agreed.

WINFIELD CUP
(Preliminary finals)
First grade
WYNNUM-MANLY 26 d VALLEYS 5

Scorers — Wynnum-Manly: T Butler 3, R Morris, B Walsh tries; W Green 5 goals; C Scott field goal. Valleys: R Klien try; S Czislowski goal. First scorers: Wynnum-Manly 2, Valleys 1. First try scorers: Wynnum-Manly 2, Valleys 2.

1982

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 17 v SOUTHS 3

Gulls clinch title with late charge

A HOWLING sea of green and red tore down the fences at Lang Park yesterday to lionise the Wynnum-Manly Seagulls in their historic Brisbane rugby league premiership win yesterday.

Wynnum-Manly took out their first premiership in 31 years of A grade competition with a rousing 17-3 win over defending premiers Souths, before a capacity 36,000 crowd of mainly Seagulls supporters.

But the match was not as lopsided as the scores appear. It was only in the closing stages that the Seagulls got on top, with two converted tries in the last eight minutes.

Before that it was anyone's match, with Souths Magpies making raid after raid on Wynnum-Manly's tryline and the thin green and red line just hanging on.

Souths coach Bob McCarthy summed up that period — and the entire match — best in the disappointment of Souths' dressing room: "Our defence was great, but Wynnum-Manly's defence was magnificent. I said before this match defence would win it and that's the way it happened. Wynnun were the better side on the day and they won it with magnificent defence."

Souths spent the majority of the match in Wynnum-Manly's half, and had their chances to pull the match out of the bag. But each time a Magpie try was on, so was the defence — even if only by the tip of a finger in a jersey tail.

Wynnum-Manly probably won the match in the first 20 minutes of the second half when they withstood some withering attack on their door step. On one occasion Souths elusive young centre Gary Belcher was pulled down by a last ditch tackle in the mouth of Wynnum-Manly's posts.

The frustration of this dogged defence no doubt took the final sting out of Souths, and when brilliant young Seagull centre Brett French finished off a great backline move for a try with eight minutes to go, it was curtains for Souths.

It was one of the rare occasions since half-time, when Wynnum led 7-3 (one try each), that the Seagulls crossed the halfway mark in attack.

At that stage it was obvious the team to score next would probably win, and the rain was starting.

A long and high bomb went up in front of Souths' goal mouth and looked easy for fullback Ken Spencer, who had been as safe as a bank with some difficult fikes throughout.

Even Wynnum-Manly fans were jolted when Spencer bungled the take and Seagulls' five-eighth Brian Walsh grabbed possession.

From the following ruck the green and red attacking machine swung into action, with the ball whipping from half Peter Dawes to centre Gene Miles, to Walsh, and finally to French, who showed his class with a smooth run to the tryline.

Winger Warren Green, who passed his century of points for the two-round season with his four goals from four attempts yesterday, made no mistake and Wynnum-Manly led 12-3.

With only eight minutes remaining, that was the ball game. The Seagulls had only to close the game up to win. But they kept on attacking.

And one and a-half minutes from rugby league history, the hero of the match, Rod Morris, really put the boot in with a bursting run and a perfect inside pass to halfback Dawes, who raced in for the third and final try.

But probably the best try of the match came after only 10 minutes when winger Warren Green started a move on the main grandstand side, 20m out, and ended in a brilliant try for Terry Butler on the other wing.

Green ran infield and passed to Colin Scott. He got the move rolling when he twisted out of a tackle and shot a quick pass to French, who ran to the fullback and sent Butler on his way with all the room in the world.

Souths hit back in the 25th minute with an excellent try by one of the top players on the field, Ash Lumby.

Wynnum-Manly players also made some disastrous handling errors which coach Des Morris put down to grand final nerves. But if they lost possession at bad times they certainly made up for it with brilliant defence.

Overall, this grand final was a story of two well matched teams, with Wynnum-Manly able to give it a little more in defence. Both sets of players gave it a team effort, with few players standing out.

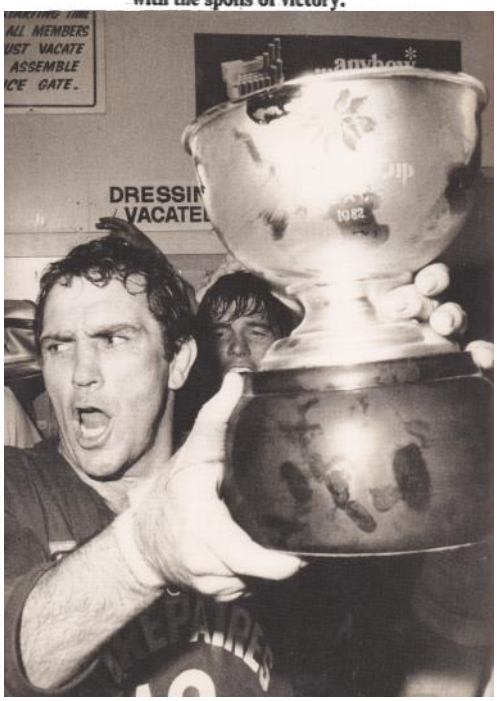
BELOW: "Make way, I'm coming through," big Wynnum-Manly prop Mark Zillman seems to be saying as he crashes through a tackle by Allan Power.



WINFIELD CUP
(Grand finals)
First grade
WYNNUM-MANLY 17 d SOUTHS 3

Scorers: Wynnum-Manly — T Butler, B French, P Dawes tries; W Green 4 goals. Souths — A Lumby try. First scorers (and first try scorers): Wynnum-Manly 2, Souths 10.

BELOW: Jubilant Seagulls captain, Rod Morris with the spoils of victory.



Seagulls support in full flight



ABOVE: Euphoric scenes at Lang Park.

1982

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 17 v SOUTHS 3



Wynnum Manly captain and international prop, Rod Morris, today leads his team to the club's first ever Grand Final. He's seen here leading the charge onto Lang Park last week. It was a charge that would last the entire 80 minutes.



Brett French is all smiles as he prepares to touchdown in the 1982 grand final. Wynnum won 17-3 to secure their first premiership since entering the competition in 1951.



Seagull Sunday!

SOUTHS may be one of Brisbane's most successful clubs in recent years, but for most of the 36,000 people at Lang Park for the Winfield Cup grand final two weeks ago, the Magpies could well have been invaders from outer space.

Wynnum-Manly had never before played in a Brisbane grand final, let alone won one.

Their fans, decked out in red and green everything — including hair and faces — drowned out their Souths counterparts at every opportunity before, during and after the history-making grand final.

The match was a true grand final — tough, fast and tight, until the final 10 minutes.

But it was the atmosphere that made the Brisbane decider something special this year.

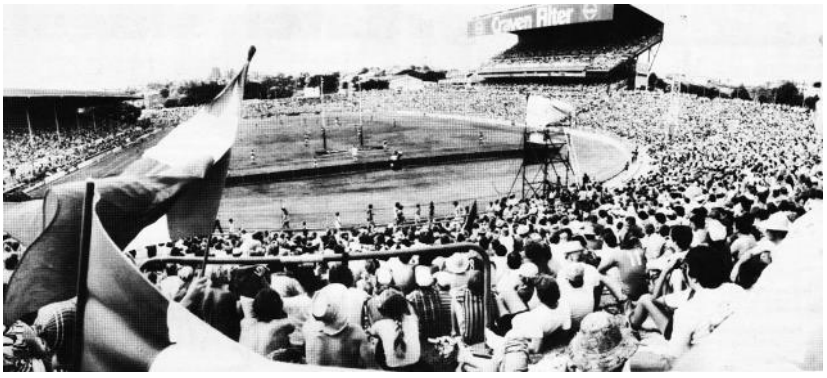
The razzmatazz before the match — with bands, dancing girls and a parade of the Winfield Cup — was spectacular.

In fact the atmosphere at the match rivalled the electricity generated by that historic first State of Origin clash at Lang Park in 1980.

—TONY DURKIN

WYNNUM-MANLY 17 SOUTHS 3





Above: The view of Grand Final day from the southern end.

Left: Wynnum players hold aloft the spoils of victory.

1982

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 17 v SOUTHS 3

Wynnum-Manly RLFC. BRL Premiers 1982

BACK ROW: P.Attel, W.Bullock, C.Scott, D.Jenner, W.Thomson, T.Butler, R.Duncan. THIRD ROW: G.Dowling (manager), B.Samuelsen, D.Green, G.Miles, R.Robertson (manager), B.French, T.Kambouris, B.Battese, L.Jones (conditioner). SECOND ROW: C.May (doctor), S.Johnson, R.Morris (captain), D.Morris (coach), G.Seaton, M.Zillman, A.Lovell (president). FRONT ROW: P.Sibley, B.Walsh, T.Saunders, W.Green, P.Dawes. INSET: Bruce Cory (strapper).



RESULTS

29 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 35 (W.Green 2, Miles, Johnson, Scott, Bullock, B.French tries; W.Green 7 goals) d. Redcliffe 0.
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, B.Walsh, P.Dawes, S.Johnson, B.Battese, G.Seaton, R.Morris (c), D.Green, M.Zillman. Reserve: W.Bullock. Coach: D.Morris.
Redcliffe: I.Pearce, L.Atoi, T.Benson, S.Cherry, J.Chapman, S.Bleakley, C.Part, T.Webb, V.Tighe, W.Fullerton-Smith, R.Poulsen, G.Adams, P.Griffiths. Coach: A.Beetson.
Reserves: C.Cherry, A. Kajewski, C.Mynott, R.Clarke.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

5 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Southern Suburbs 10 (Sully, Thompson tries; Meninga 2 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 6 (Niebling try; Czislowski goal; Lewis field goal).
Souths: K.Spencer, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, G.Belcher, W.Challis, B.Harry, B.Sully, B.Astill (c), A.Power, A.Lumby, A.Higgs, W.Johnstone, G.Greinke. Coach: B.McCarthy.
Valleys: S.Czislowski, R.Klein, D.Duncan, P.Fisher, V.Wieland, W.Lewis (c), M.Murray, R.Moore, B.Arnold, B.Niebling, G.Walker, T.Koorockin, A.McInnes. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

12 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 26 (Butler 3, Morris, Walsh tries; W.Green 5 goals, Scott field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 5 (Klein try; Czislowski goal).
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, B.Walsh, P.Dawes, S.Johnson, G.Seaton, B.Battese, M.Zillman, D.Green, R.Morris (c). Coach: D.Morris.
Valleys: S.Czislowski, R.Klein, D.Duncan, P.Fisher, V.Wieland, W.Lewis (c), M.Murray, R.Moore, B.Arnold, B.Niebling, J.Bozzi, T.Koorockin, A.McInnes. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 20,000.***

19 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum Manly 17 (Butler, French, Dawes tries; W.Green 4 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 3 (Lumby try).
Wynnum: C.Scott (c), T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, B.Walsh, P.Dawes, S.Johnson, G.Seaton, B.Battese, M.Zillman, D.Green, R.Morris (c). Coach: D.Morris.
Souths: K.Spencer, G.Thompson, M.Meninga, G.Belcher, W.Challis, B.Harry, B.Sully, A.Power, B.Tessman, A.Lumby, A.Higgs, W.Johnstone (c), G.Greinke. Coach: B.McCarthy.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 36,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Tony Currie (Wests).


SCANLENS
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GREG
CONESCU
NORTHERN SUBURBS
SCANLENS
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JOE
KILROY
NORTHERN SUBURBS
SCANLENS
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BRIAN
DUNNE
NORTHERN SUBURBS
SCANLENS
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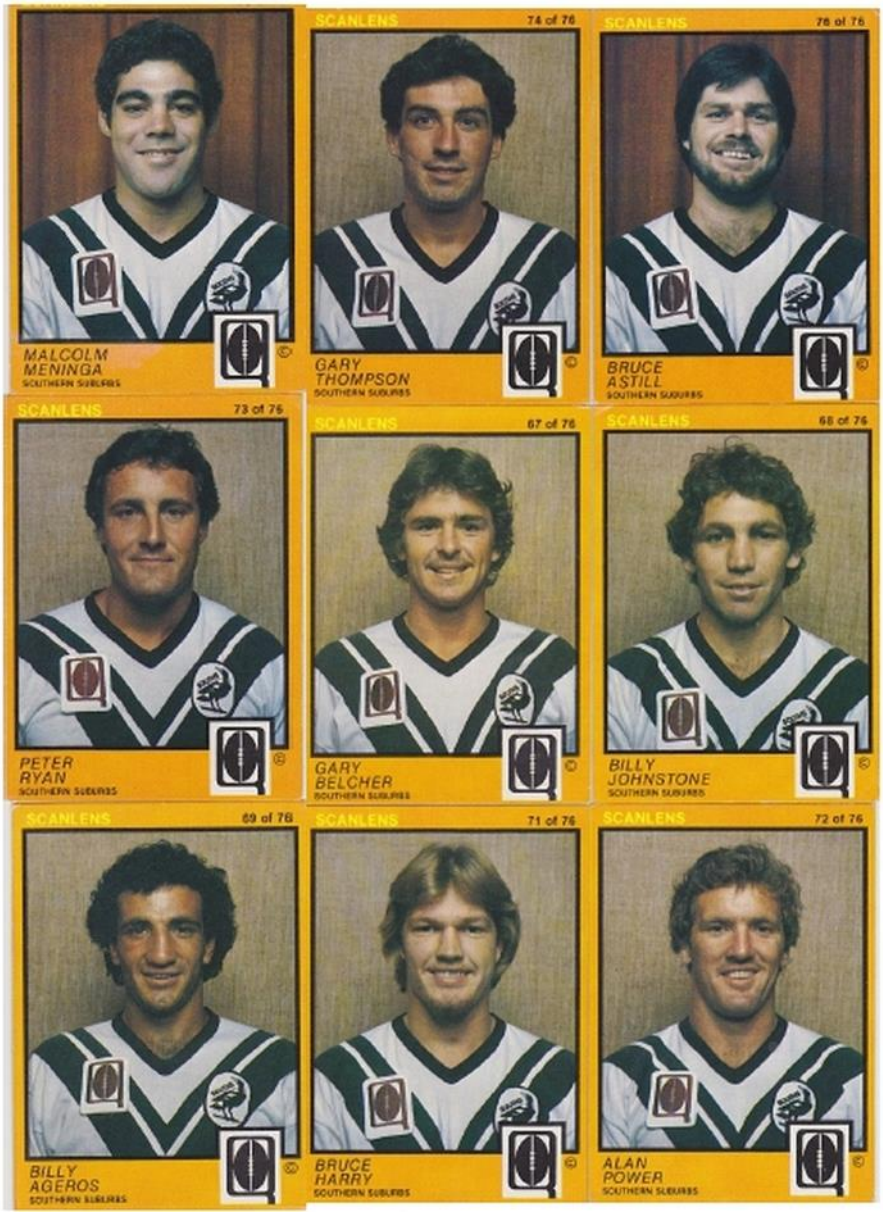
CAMPBELL
DEWS
NORTHERN SUBURBS


MALCOLM
MENINGA
SOUTHERN SUBURBS
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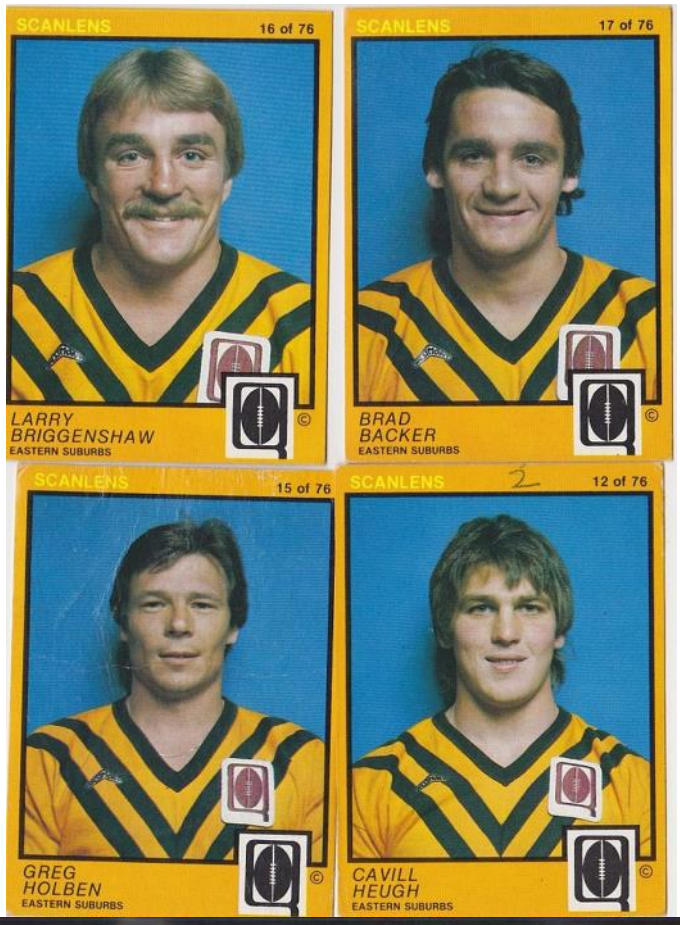
POWER
SOUTHERN SUBURBS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BRIGGENSHAW
EASTERN SUBURBS
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BRAD
BACKER
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TONY
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FORTITUDE VALLEY
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RUSSELL KLEIN
FORTITUDE VALLEY
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ROBERT KNIGHT
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SCANLENS
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MICK NEILL
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WALLY LEWIS
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BRYAN NIEBLING
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PETER AFFLECK
AVCO


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ROBERT GROGAN
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BOB KELLAWAY
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GREG SMITH
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TONY BYRNE
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PHIL HORTZ
PAST BROTHERS
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SHANE McERLEAN
PAST BROTHERS


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GENE MILES
WYNNUM-MANLY
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COLIN SCOTT
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MARK ZILLMAN
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BRETT FRENCH
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GREG DOWLING
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TERRY SAUNDERS
WYNNUM-MANLY
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DAVID GREEN


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STEVE BLEAKLEY
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SCANLENS
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VIC TIGHE
REDCLIFFE

1983

STATE LEAGUE: VALLEYS



1983 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

No semi finals were played in 1983 and the top two teams went straight into the grand final. In the grand final, Easts could not repeat their 1982 success and went down to Valleys. Like 1982, the country sides finished in the last 6 places on the table.

ROUND 1

Wests 54 defeated Wide Bay 0 at Kingaroy
Wynnum-Manly 40 defeated Central Qld 18 at Biloela
Norths 49 defeated North Qld 12 at Mackay
Brothers 52 defeated Gold Coast 22 at Southport
Valleys 45 defeated Toowoomba 8 at Toowoomba
Souths 56 defeated Ipswich 12 at Lang Park
Easts 38 defeated Redcliffe 6 at Lang Park

ROUND 2

Norths 24 defeated Wide Bay 8 at Nambour
Brothers 24 defeated Ipswich 2 at Ipswich
Valleys 40 defeated Central Qld 14 at Rockhampton
Redcliffe 22 defeated North Qld 14 at Ingham
Easts 50 defeated Gold Coast 12 at Southport
Wynnum-Manly 22 defeated Souths 20 at Lang Park
Wests 26 defeated Toowoomba 14 at Lang Park

ROUND 3

Redcliffe 21 defeated Wide Bay 4 at Dolphin Oval
Easts 44 defeated Ipswich 0 at Ipswich
Wests 26 defeated Central Qld 6 at Gladstone
Souths 32 defeated North Qld 16 at Ayr
Norths 20 defeated Toowoomba 6 at Warwick
Wynnum-Manly 30 defeated Gold Coast 29 at Lang Park
Valleys 30 defeated Brothers 14 at Lang Park

ROUND 4

Souths 48 defeated Wide Bay 6 at Bundaberg
Wynnum-Manly 28 defeated Ipswich 8 at Kougari Oval
Norths 34 defeated Central Qld 2 at Dysart
Valleys 42 defeated Gold Coast 12 at Southport
Redcliffe 46 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Dalby
Brothers 28 defeated North Qld 12 at Lang Park
Easts 14 defeated Wests 4 at Lang Park

ROUND 5

Brothers 28 defeated Wide Bay 12 at Gympie
Valleys 22 defeated Ipswich 12 at Ipswich
Easts 36 defeated North Qld 20 at Proserpine
Gold Coast 25 defeated Wests 20 at Gold Coast
Souths 42 defeated Toowoomba 4 at Toowoomba
Redcliffe 28 defeated Central Qld 8 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 14 defeated Norths 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 6

Easts 14 defeated Wide Bay 0 at Maryborough
Wynnum-Manly 28 defeated North Qld 0 at Innisfail
Toowoomba 6 defeated Brothers 4 at Roma
Wests 42 defeated Ipswich 0 at Neumann Oval
Valleys 11 defeated Redcliffe 8 at Neumann Oval

ROUND 7

Valleys 40 defeated Wide Bay 4 at Lang Park
Norths 19 defeated Brothers 12 at Lang Park
Ipswich 22 defeated Redcliffe 14 at Ipswich
Easts 68 defeated Central Qld 6 at Rockhampton
Wests 16 defeated North Qld 8 at Townsville
Souths 22 defeated Gold Coast 10 at Gold Coast
Toowoomba 28 defeated Wynnum-Manly 8 at Toowoomba

FINAL STANDINGS 1983

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
EASTS	7	7	-	0	288	48	14
VALLEYS	7	7	-	0	230	72	14
Wynnum-Manly	7	6	-	1	170	113	12
Souths*	6	5	-	1	220	70	11
Norths*	6	5	-	1	156	54	11
Wests	7	5	-	2	188	87	10
Brothers	7	4	-	3	162	109	8
Redcliffe	7	4	-	3	145	113	8
Toowoomba	7	2	-	5	82	191	4
Gold Coast*	6	1	-	5	110	216	3
Ipswich	7	1	-	6	56	230	2
Central Queensland*	6	0	-	6	54	236	1
North Queensland	7	0	-	7	82	211	0
Wide Bay	7	0	-	7	34	231	0

* Each received one point due to cancelled games.

GRAND FINAL

VALLEYS 21 (B.Johnson, Russell Klien, Wally Lewis, Terry Koorockin tries; D.Morris 2 goals, Wally Lewis field goal) defeated
EASTS 12 (Ray Kelly, Steve Stacey, Gavin Jones tries) at Lang Park

1983

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - VALLEYS 21 v EASTS 12

Champagne on Struddie after Diehards win

VALLEYS rugby league coach Ross Strudwick ordered champagne and declared a public holiday for his players today after the Diehards swept to a 21-12 Winfield State League win over titleholders Easts at Lang Park yesterday.

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

The scores were twice even before Valleys raced away in the closing stages for their four tries to three win. But Strudwick warned that his winning combination probably would be changed considerably for the Brisbane premiership, which starts next weekend.

He will start rebuilding the team because it probably is not physically tough enough to play and win consistently against good Brisbane club sides. The team did well in the State League because they had played country teams and not the more professional city outfits.

He said the backline in particular would be changed.

"We haven't even used our trump card, Darryl Duncan, yet," Strudwick said. "From here on we will start rebuilding for the premiership, and I wouldn't guarantee we will win our first fixture next Sunday. It will be a new game in which we will have to use new players."

But Strudwick promised to show this team what it felt like to win an important final. "They will be drinking champagne tomorrow. I want to give them a taste of success, to make them hungry for more of the same," he said.

The sponsors and the 9000 spectators yesterday could not have wished for a better final with some classic tries, great defence, strong refereeing from Mackay's Barry Gomersall — and not a punch thrown. It was a credit to rugby league.

There also was more clean, open football played than you would expect to see in any three matches, and with a minimum of stoppages because both teams were seldom caught out on the sixth tackle, using kicks to keep the ball in play.

At one nerve-tingling stage to end the first quarter Easts halfback Wayne Lindenberg put up three bombs in little over a minute but Valleys excellent defence held out.

There were some surprise performances from Valleys players, and the biggest was the outstanding form of prop Al McInnes. Big Al has not performed to his ability at Lang Park for some time, but yesterday he showed all his old drive in attack and defence.

His performance must have impressed Brisbane selectors who are looking for a reserve prop for the KB Cup match against North Sydney at Lang Park on Wednesday. At the other end of the weight scale, diminutive halfback Ross Henrick had a great match and deserved the club's best and fairest trophy.

Valleys five-eighth and captain Wally Lewis was the dominant force in the final, dictating play from the kickoff. His line and tactical kicking, as well as defence and attack, were faultless.

Replacement hooker Terry Koorockin, who came on for new boy Lawry Cavanagh at halftime, made a big difference to the Diehards' midfield attack and was the star of the second half. But Strudwick defended Cavanagh's A grade debut when he revealed that he was one of four Diehards who had flu shots just before the match. The others were Bob Arnold, Russell Klien and Scott Nicholls.

Arnold also was replaced after one of his best matches since joining Valleys.

The match featured several classic tries from both teams, but one of the best was a corner try from Valleys centre Ben Johnson, who followed through a perfect Henrick chip, took the ball on the full and crashed over in the corner.

Easts coach John Lang placed a lot of the blame for the loss on his own players' mistakes.

"We put a lot of pressure on ourselves with our mistake rate and we did not play well enough to win," he said. "Valleys would have been unlucky to have been beaten in this match."

Once again there were big matches from young forwards Gavin Jones, Trevor Paterson and Cavill Heugh with Trevor Cook, who replaced the injured Larry Brigginshaw, having an excellent match.

There must be some concern about big young prop Martin Bella fronting up to Wednesday's KB Cup match. He was not fit yesterday and was replaced late in the third quarter.





When Wally Lewis sets his mind to something there is little the opposition can do, as JIM FENWICK's pictures demonstrate. It started (above) with Lewis taking the ball from a ruck, and spearing through the wall of defence for a try (below).

STATE LEAGUE FINAL

VALLEYS 21 (B.Johnson, Russell Klien, Wally Lewis, Terry Koorockin tries; D.Morris 2 goals, Wally Lewis field goal) defeated
EASTS 12 (Ray Kelly, Steve Stacey, Gavin Jones tries) at Lang Park

1983

BRL: EASTS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REDCLIFFE	10	1	3	262	175	21
EASTERN SUBURBS	10	0	4	334	224	20
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	9	0	5	286	227	18
VALLEYS	7	1	6	214	214	15
WYNNUM MANLY	7	1	6	335	305	15
BROTHERS	4	1	9	192	297	9
NORTHERN SUBURBS	4	0	10	205	291	8
WESTERN SUBURBS	3	0	11	156	251	6

Results of the WINFIELD PREMIERSHIP 1983

	NORTHS	SOUTHS	EASTS	WESTS	BROTHERS	VALLEYS	W/MANLY	REDCLIFFE
1st Round NORTHS		L.24-40	L.20-46	L.2-8	L.4-30	W.22-12	L. 6-16	L.2-6
2nd Round		W.19-12	L.12-22	W.14-10	W.20-10	L.10-16	L.28-40	L.22-23
1st Round SOUTHS	W.40-24		W.16-8	W.30-2	W.33-4	L. 0-10	L.12-38	W.20-14
2nd Round	L.12-19		L.10-12	W.15-12	W.36-20	W.34-10	W.18-16	L.10-38
1st Round EASTS	W.46-20	L.8-16		W.19-12	W.24-10	W.22-16	W.51-16	L. 6-8
2nd Round	W.22-12	W.12-10		W.36-16	W.36-22	W.30-10	L. 8-32	L.14-24
1st Round WESTS	W. 8-2	L. 2-30	L.12-19		L. 6-14	L. 8-16	W.18-6	L. 6-12
2nd Round	L.10-14	L.12-15	L.16-36		L.12-14	L.14-22	W.30-22	L. 2-29
1st Round BROTHERS	W.30-4	L. 4-33	L.10-24	W.14-6		L. 0-28	D.12-12	W.24-12
2nd Round	L.10-20	L.20-36	L.22-36	W.14-12		L.12-20	L.20-38	L. 0-16
1st Round VALLEYS	L.12-22	W.10-0	L.16-22	W.16-8	W.28-0		W.24-10	L. 6-14
2nd Round	W.16-10	L.10-34	L.10-30	W.22-14	W.20-12		L.18-32	D. 6-6
1st Round W/MANLY	W.16-6	W.38-12	L.16-51	L. 6-18	D.12-12	L.10-24		W.45-28
2nd Round	W.40-28	L.16-18	W.32-8	L.22-30	W.38-20	W.32-18		L.12-32
1st Round REDCLIFFE	W.6-2	L.14-20	W.8-6	W.12-6	L.12-24	W.14-6	L.28-45	
2nd Round	W.23-22	W.38-10	W.24-14	W.29-2	W.16-0	D.6-6	W.32-12	

1983

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 30 v Souths 22

Diehards' charge gains momentum

THE Valley rugby league Diehards toughed it out for the second time in four days when they beat the odds and Souths 30-22 in the knock-out semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

It was a combination of the off-field psychological know-how of coach Ross Strudwick and the dazzling on-field brilliance of captain Wally Lewis which overcame the odds. Too much cannot be said for either man in Valleys' toe-in-the-door race for the premiership.

They now meet the losers of the major semi-final between Redcliffe and Easts in the preliminary final on Sunday week.

And after yesterday, I believe both teams in this Sunday's major semi will be very keen to avoid playing Valleys in the preliminary final. Valleys are hot and yesterday the premiership was definitely a strong possibility.

When Valleys were forced into a play-off against Wynnum-Manly last Wednesday night, it looked like curtains for the Diehards. Player for player, apart from blokes like Lewis, halfback Ross Henrick and forwards Bryan Niebling and Terry Koorockin, Valleys were outgunned by reigning premiers Wynnum-Manly.

But Valleys spoiled their way through the match with niggling tactics which upset less experienced players and the result was an upset.

If Souths had expected similar tactics yesterday, they would have been mistaken. Valleys mostly played it straight down the line. In fact, they were on the receiving end of some heavy treatment. Second-rower Bob Arnold had his nose broken (for the fifth time) from an elbow in back play and Lewis received a painful back injury in a questionable shoulder charge.

But overall it was Valleys all the way in this match, territorially at least.

Both Lewis and Strudwick said later they believed the match was lost when Souths captain and centre Bruce Astill charged towards the goal posts with four minutes to go. At that stage Valleys led 26-22, but still showed surprising fitness despite their heavy workload of the play-off.

CRUCIAL POINT

But when the Souths captain powered for the line and appeared to go over on the sixth tackle, Strudwick admitted his spirits slumped.

"If Astill had scored then or if it had been the fifth tackle I reckon we were gone. Our defence was spread and a try by Souths then could have won the match," Strudwick said. "But the defence held. I believe it was one of the best wins Valleys have had."

It somehow seemed natural that the main tackler who kept Astill just short of the line at that vital stage would be Lewis. He may not be Valleys entire team, but he certainly plugs up a few gaps along the way.

And I will repeat what I have written for some time about Wally Lewis. He is destined to become one of the great Australian players. When they talk of the immortals of rugby league in perhaps two decades, Lewis will be up there beside Gasnier and Raper.

Yesterday's effort, which earned the praise of friend and foe, was just one more small step along the way to that sporting immortality.

Apart from his organisational skills, Lewis added 10 points with a try and three goals, taking over the kicking role when fullback Darren Morris had missed with three successive attempts.

The big disappointment of the day was the Valley captain's Kangaroo teammate, Magpie Mal Meninga. He had one big run early but did not involve himself enough in attack after that. He did his share of tackling throughout, but his attack, which set England aflame on the Kangaroo tour, was flat.

To see Meninga pass the ball to supports when he had not even attempted to use his bulk and pace was a major disappointment. I am not saying Souths could have won this match had Meninga tried more individually in attack, but Souths supporters certainly would have gone home a lot happier in defeat had the big Test centre taken more on his shoulders in attack.

Whatever, Souths blew their chances of their fifth consecutive grand final with yesterday's defeat.

But it was an excellent match, anyone's match for the majority of the 80 minutes with the crowd of 11,500 enthralled during the second half.

Valleys' top players, apart from Lewis and Henrick, were Russell Klien and Mick Hickey in the backs and Koorockin, Greg Walker, Arnold and Niebling in the pack.

Souths' best were forwards Brad Tessmann and Eddie Muller and backs Chris Kealey, Astill and Wayne Challis.



ROSS STRUDWICK



BOB McCARTHY

"BUY Lewis and you'll never lose the competition." Souths rugby league coach Bob McCarthy told Magpies president Tony Testa after Valleys beat Souths at Lang Park yesterday.

WINFIELD CUP

VALLEYS 30 d SOUTHS 22

Scorers — Valleys: R Klien 2, T Koorookin, W Lewis, B Johnson, G Walker tries; Lewis 3 goals. Souths: E Muller, P Jackson, W Challis, B Astill tries; M Meninga 3 goals. First scorers (and first try scorers): Valleys 12, Souths 12.





SOUTHS captain Bruce Astill (right) charges for the line only metres away in an effort to score the try which could have grabbed victory for the Magpies in the rugby league knockout semi-final at Lang Park yesterday. But Astill was brought down in the tackle of Valleys winger Russell Klien (below) as Diehard skipper Wally Lewis comes in to assist.

1983

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 11 v Redcliffe 5

EASTS INTO FINAL

EASTS made it to the Winfield Cup Rugby League grand final in a fortnight with a narrow and mistake ridden 11-5 win over Redcliffe in the major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

While it was anyone's match to the very end it capped an outstanding day for the Tigers with their three teams moving straight into the C, Reserve and A Grade grand finals. The Reserve grade Tigers beat Souths 22-10 and the C graders downed Wests 32-6. But there was nothing certain about the A graders win until referee Eddie Ward blew the final whistle.

Easts coach John Lang admitted later he had already been planning for extra time, believing that 11-all could easily have been the score at the end of 80 minutes as Redcliffe poured on the pressure in the closing stages.

At that stage Redcliffe appeared capable of adding the necessary six points from a converted try at the death. But the Easts defence hung on, aided by a fair sprinkling of Redcliffe handling and passing errors.

The match finished with just one try each with Easts' Mr Reliable, Shane McNally, providing the winning margin — as he often does — kicking three goals from four attempts.

Ironically it was not the goal kicking which kept Redcliffe out of the match, rather their own lack of a talented general kicker, who could handle clearing kicks, line kicks, and above all the bombs to put Easts under pressure.

Easts generally were able to turn the match around with excellent clearing kicks and their bombs had Redcliffe in constant confusion. One excellent bomb from Easts halfback Larry Brigginshaw led to Easts only try and added just one more episode to the nightmare Redcliffe fullback Mark Forster went through in this match.

Forster was in the hot seat many times as the accurately placed bombs rained down, perfectly struck to allow Easts defence to charge through on Forster as he was about to take the ball.

The only one he missed came in the 61st minute when he did not have a chance to get near the ball as a cluster of Easts players charged through with Easts fullback Gavin Payne grabbing possession and diving to ground over the line for the try.

It was ironic that Payne should score the try from his opposite's misfortune because, compared to Forster, Payne had a picnic at fullback.

Not once was he put under pressure from Redcliffe's bombs although they put plenty of high kicks up. But all were badly judged, with Payne having all the time he needed to take them cleanly and initiate some splendid attack in return.

Redcliffe coach John Barber needs to take drastic action to iron out this kicking weakness before the team meets Valleys in the preliminary final at Lang Park this Sunday or he can kiss goodbye to grand final hopes.

Barber said he had two options, to bring in a new player or to work on what he already has. Probably he will bring in a new player, a man like Terry Webb who knows the kicking game.

But Barber will be loathe to drop any of yesterday's original 13 because he praised their general performance although disappointed with their mistakes.

One player who could go unless he shows a desire to lift his work rate could be prop Richie Poulsen who played only in bursts yesterday.

Certainly the man responsible for some of the mis-directed kicks, hooker Shane Bernardin, is sure of his position against Valleys because of his strong general performance.

Both teams made many handling errors and the game lost a lot of its appeal as a result.

But Lang blamed the mistakes on the pressure both teams put themselves under going into this vital match.

"And there were some big men clashing in both packs; that's where a lot of the loose ball came from," Lang said.

Certainly the defence from both teams was good with clean breaks down to a minimum. But the one which resulted in Redcliffe's try was worth seeing.

It was a great team effort in the 17th minute involving Bernardin, Col Part, Paul Khan, Mark Forster and Steve Cherry, with Mitch Brennan finishing strongly for the try. Redcliffe led 4-2 at that stage and went into halftime with the same score.

But McNally struck back three minutes into the second session to level the scores.

A field goal by Bernardin nine minutes later gave Redcliffe the 5-4 edge but in the 61st minute Payne dived in for the converted try and Easts led 10-5. Seven minutes from fulltime Trevor Paterson booted a field goal for the final 11-5 score.

Top players for Easts were Payne, wingers Brad Backer and Steve Stacey centre Bret Tengdahl, half Brigginshaw and forwards Paterson, Gavin Jones and Cavill Heugh.

Jones made some handling errors but also gave the Redcliffe defence plenty of headaches.

Best for Recliffe were Steve Cherry, Steve Bleakley and Col Part in the backs and Wally Fullerton Smith, Bernardin, John Boxsell and Paul Khan in the forwards.

EASTS 11 d REDCLIFFE 5

Scorers — Easts: G Payne try; S McNally 3 goals; L Brigginshaw field goal. Redcliffe: M Brennan try; S Bernardin field goal. First scorers: Easts 11, Redcliffe 4. First try scorers: Easts 1, Redcliffe 4.



EASTS fullback Gavin Payne leaps over Redcliffe lock Wally Fullerton Smith to recover a high kick into the Dolphins end zone and with the help of halfback Larry Brigginshaw was able to ground the ball for Easts try in the major rugby league semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.



THAT was close . . . or that's how it appeared to Easts coach John Lang yesterday.

1983

BRL Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 28 v Valleys 10

Dolphins on boil — Now for Easts

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

REDCLIFFE dominated a lack-lustre Brisbane rugby league preliminary final yesterday for a 28-10 win over Valleys to claim a grand final berth against Easts next Sunday.

Redcliffe never looked like losing after centre Steve Cherry snapped up the easiest of intercepts in the second minute of play to score a runaway 55m try.

The offending pass, from Diehard centre Mick Hickey, was perfectly aimed for his opposite and Cherry accepted the gift pass with an uninterrupted run to Valleys' tryline.

Valleys never really recovered from that shock try. Things went from bad to worse for the Diehards when diminutive Dolphin halfback Colin Part made mincemeat of the Diehards defence in the 20th minute with a fine individual try from dummy half.

That made the score 12-0 and gave Redcliffe total momemtum which kept rolling on throughout the match. It also set Valleys back on their heels and, even though they ran in two tries in the closing nine minutes, never recovered from the early mistakes and did not look a chance.

Coaches John Barber of Redcliffe and Valleys' Ross Strudwick gave widely varying versions of the match.

Barber claimed Redcliffe was the only team in the world to learn the secret of controlling the skill of Valleys' five-eighth and Australian vice-captain Wally Lewis. "We showed today we are the only team in the world who can handle him properly," Barber said.

"Lewis is a great footballer. I don't think I have seen any better. I would be the last one to downgrade him, but there is a way to play against him and Redcliffe has the knack."

Strudwick, at times almost shaking with rage after the match, made a long attack on referee Eddie Ward, who was later appointed to control this Sunday's grand final. Strudwick claimed Ward had a personal grudge against himself and Valleys hooker Terry Koorockin and had proved this by awarding penalties 10-3 against Valleys in the first half.

WARD DENIES GRUDGE

Ward later denied these claims. "It would be useless trying to referee if you had a grudge against anyone," he said.

Strudwick said also Ward had been a good referee but had "lost his cool". He compared him with a top footballer who was over the hill and that he should hang up his boots.

But the way Valleys played against the rock-solid defence of Redcliffe yesterday they would have been hard-pressed to win even with a staunch Diehard supporter in control of the whistle.

They made too many early mistakes — which Barber was quick to claim as errors forced on them by the strength of Redcliffe. That was true of some, but Valleys made several vital errors out of sheer stupidity.

The early intercept was a prime example. Valleys were looking dangerous deep in Redcliffe's territory — only to see a try scored by Redcliffe at the other end of the field almost in the flick of an eye.

Part's try from dummy half was an excellent individual effort, but it was scored through a wall of potential defenders who failed to tackle.

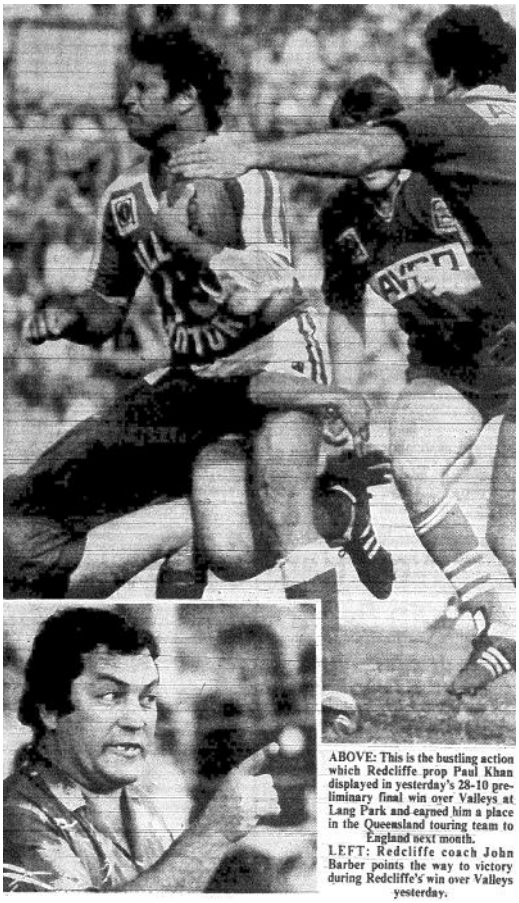
Midway through the second half Cherry was galloping in for his second runaway try, this time over 75m, after he and Dave Brown had toed through a long Lewis pass which failed to find its mark. That made it 22-0.

Then, in the 63rd minute, just two minutes after that try, Brown capitalised on yet another Valleys error when he easily picked up a spilled ball from Valleys' replacement fullback Geordie Lawrie, strolled a couple of paces and placed the ball for a four-pointer. Redcliffe led 26-0.

It was a very sad day for Valleys and the fans reflected the mood when a sea of Diehard supporters began streaming out of Lang Park early in the second half.

The match rarely reached top standard, but that was not unexpected from any final, especially when you have a team with such tight defence as Redcliffe. It was significant that Redcliffe kept their tryline intact for 63 minutes and it was broken only after Redcliffe had the match by the throat with a lead of 26 points.

Colin Part was one of the stars of the match with smart attack and excellent defence. Back-rowers John Boxsell and Wally Fullerton Smith had top games while five-eighth Steve Bleakley, centres Cherry and Mitch Brennan and fullback Mark Forster were in top form.



ABOVE: This is the bustling action which Redcliffe prop Paul Khan displayed in yesterday's 28-10 preliminary final win over Valleys at Lang Park and earned him a place in the Queensland touring team to England next month.

LEFT: Redcliffe coach John Barber points the way to victory during Redcliffe's win over Valleys yesterday.

WINFIELD CUP

PRELIMINARY FINALS

REDCLIFFE 28 d VALLEYS 10

Scorers — Redcliffe: S Cherry 2, C Part, D Brown tries; J Chapman 6 goals. Valleys: S Nicholls, B Johnson tries; P Mason goal. First scorers (and first try scorers): Redcliffe 3, Valleys 1.

1983

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v REDCLIFFE 6

Hail the mighty Tigers, but especially 'Lindy'

A TOUCH of class — the edge of brilliance that makes the difference between two otherwise equal teams — gave Easts the Winfield Cup rugby league grand final with a 14-6 win over Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday.

That classic edge was provided by mercurial five-eighth Wayne Lindenberg, a veteran at 28 yet looking like a colt on and off the field. He set up Easts' only tries — a galloping 80m combined effort scored by centre Brett Tengdhal in the 66th minute and 10 minutes later, after drawing the defence, he threw a classic pass to winger Brad Backer who raced 50m.

The Tigers led 14-0 and the Winfield Cup was definitely in Tiger territory for the 1983 season.

Lindenberg yesterday turned the clock back six years to the 1977 grand final when he single-handedly turned the tide Easts' way 17-13, again against Redcliffe.

A line from retired colleague Jack Reardon's report of that match could be used just as truthfully today: "Officials and supporters of both teams agreed that the match was won by a magnificent try two minutes after halftime by Easts brilliant halfback Wayne Lindenberg . . ."

HISTORY REPEATS

That was six years ago but the sentiments apply. Lindenberg did not score yesterday, he just engineered the tries through the vaunted Redcliffe defence and once again put his stamp on a Brisbane premiership.

Until Lindenberg cut loose it was anyone's game. Both teams cancelled each other out for 66 minutes with smothering defence and, at times, lack of imagination in attack.

Coach John Lang told his players at halftime that he believed Redcliffe's pack was getting on top and if they wanted to win they had better do something about it.

Lang, as usual, was not wrong. Redcliffe were right in the match despite lack of scrum possession and a penalty count against them. Several times Redcliffe players got to the tryline only to be turned back.

Five minutes from halftime, Redcliffe's strong centre Steve Cherry thought he scored from a Shane Bernardin bomb but referee Eddie Ward ruled it away.

Three minutes later Easts were back in the race with fullback Gavin Payne, one of the top players of the final, just missing a touchdown in similar circumstances to Cherry.

But Redcliffe were back at the other end of the field in a flash with a brilliant run from centre Mitch Brennan and Easts were under pressure when the halftime hooter sounded.

The crowd of 25,000 cheered the teams off at the break with Easts leading 2-0 from a Shane McNally goal just after kick-off. It was an exciting first half with flowing attack up and down the field.

But despite Lang's fears that his players were in danger of being ground under by the more experienced Dolphin forwards, I had the feeling at halftime that the match was not only wide open, but that the first try after halftime would decide the match.

The first half defence had been so tight it was obvious there would not be many tries scored in the second session. At that stage Redcliffe were doing most of the defending, being down 6-4 in scrums and behind 6-4 in penalties.

Redcliffe had the bit between their teeth, with halfback Colin Part just caught after a great run and Paul Khan also missing a try after playing the ball forward over the tryline. All that happened in the first four minutes after the resumption.

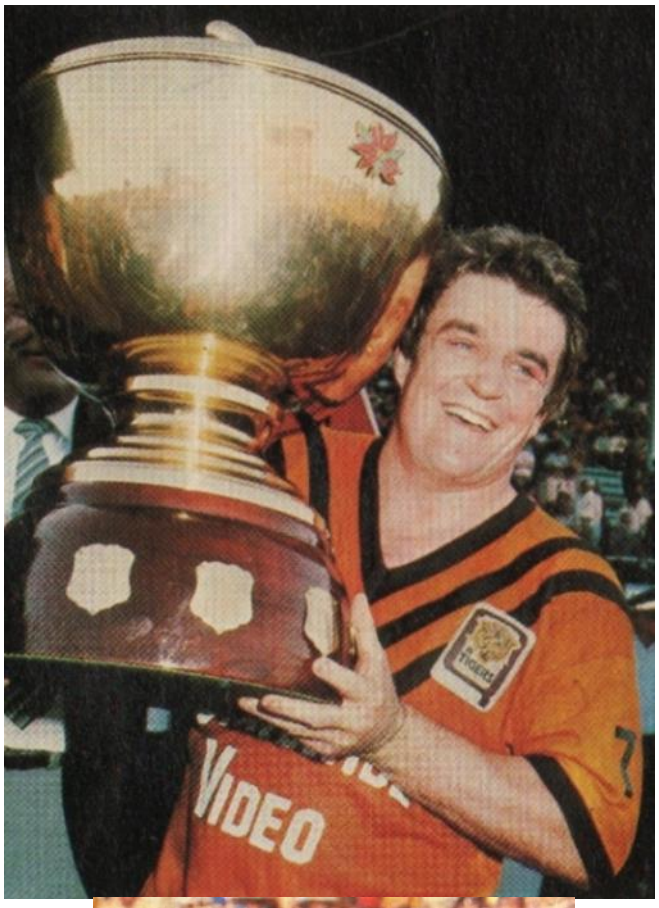
SAVING DIVES

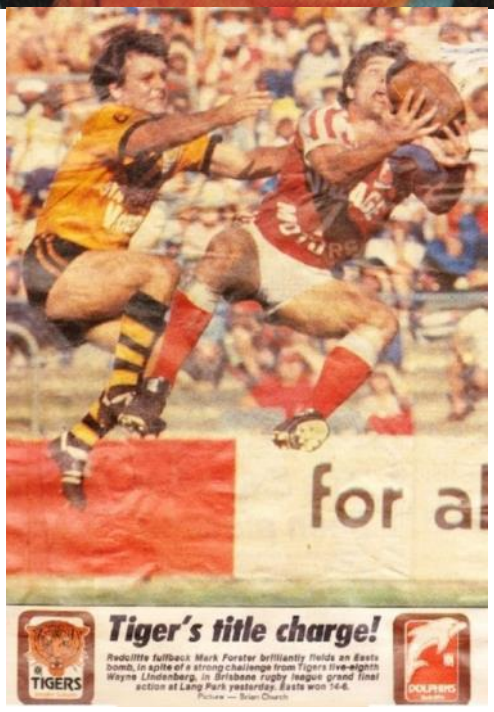
But after that Lang's halftime message appeared to seep through and Easts, with young second-rowers Trevor Paterson and Gavin Jones to the fore, turned the tables with Redcliffe's defence taxed to the last degree and showing signs of wilting.

Redcliffe defence came alive midway through the half when Jones made a magnificent dash for the corner to be brought down and out in equally magnificent cover-defending tackles of half Part and fullback Mark Forster.

It was classic football. There was almost an action replay of that incident at the opposite end of the field in the 65th minute when Redcliffe winger John Chapman, flying for the corner, was brought down in brilliant tackles by half Larry Briggenshaw and Payne.

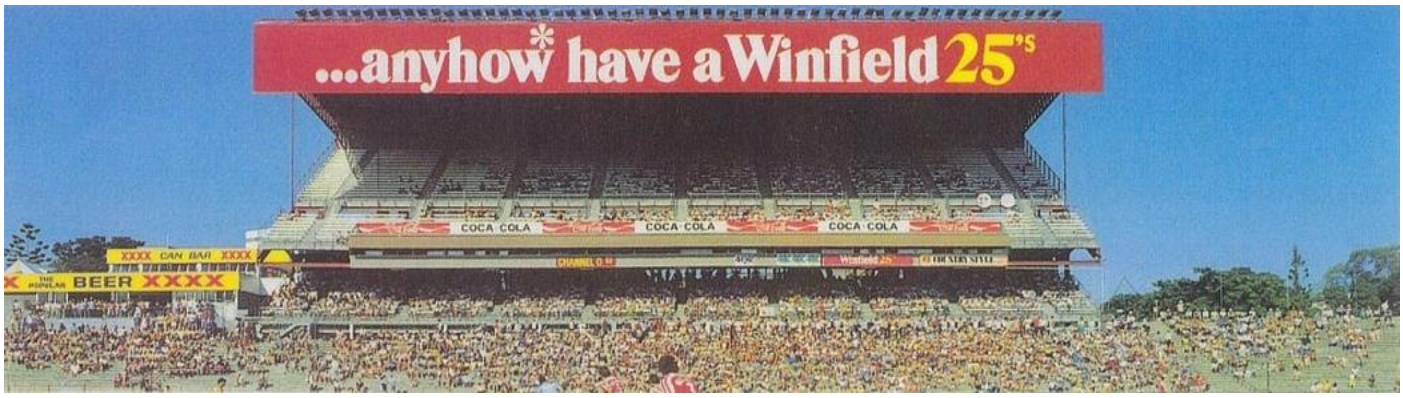
At that stage Easts were defending desperately with the score still 2-0. But then Lindenberg got the ball, clapped on a typical burst and served Tengdahl.





1983

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v REDCLIFFE 6





It's ours! Easts' Rothmans Medal winner, Trevor Paterson joyously holds the Brisbane premiership trophy aloft as an excited coach John Lang is surrounded by well-wishers.



Redcliffe halfback Colin Part tears away from five-eighth Wayne Lindenberg yesterday but Cavill Heugh (13) and Ray Kelly (4) were in the wings.



Secretary Brian Smart and Easts' coach Johnny Lang get ready to celebrate as the 1983 grand final draws to a close. The pair are two of the Tigers' proudest servants.



Smile boys! Winners are grinners as the Easts' pack hits the showers after the 1983 grand final. From left: Cavill Heugh, Trevor Paterson, Gavin Jones, Shane McNally, Brett Le Man and Max Sahl.

1983

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 14 v REDCLIFFE 6



EASTERN SUBURBS DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

FIRST GRADE TEAM – 1983

FRONT ROW (left to right): Lachlan Bogle, Ray Kelly, Larry Brigginshaw (Capt.) John Lang (Coach), Shane McNally, Steve Stacey, Trevor Paterson.
SECOND ROW (left to right): Brad Backer, Brett Tengdahl, Brett Leman, Mark McDonald, Gavin Payne, Trevor Cook, Wayne Lindenberg.
THIRD ROW (left to right): Martin Bella, Gavin Jones, Michael Booth, Luciano Nobile, Michael McLean, Cavill Heugh, Max Sahl.

▼ RESULTS

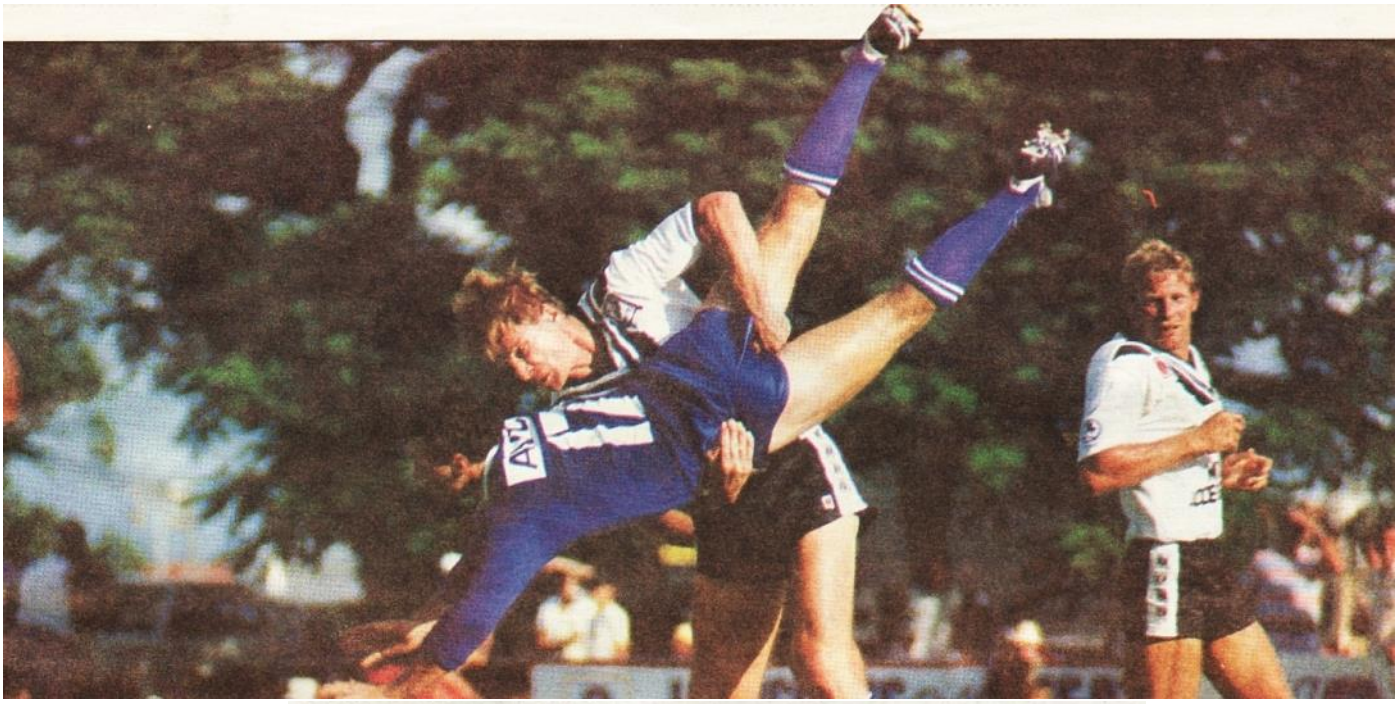
28 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Fortitude Valley 30 (Klein 2, Koorockin, Lewis, Johnson, Walker tries; Lewis 3 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 22 (Muller, Jackson, Challis, Astill tries; Meninga 3 goals).
Valleys: D.Morris, D.McConnell, B.Johnson, M.Hickey, R.Klein, W.Lewis (c), R.Henrick, R.Moore, B.Arnold, B.Niebling, G.Walker, T.Koorockin, A.McInnes. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Souths: G.Belcher, C.Kealey, B.Astill (c), P.Jackson, W.Challis, M.Meninga, B.Sully, A.Lumby, B.Lindner, B.Kellaway, B.Tessman, E.Muller, A.Higgs. Coach: R.McCarthy.
Referee: Harry Dearness. ***Crowd: 11,500.***

4 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 11 (Payne try; McNally 3 goals, Paterson field goal) d. Redcliffe 5 (Brennan try; Bernardin field goal).
Easts: G.Payne, S.Stacey, B.Tengdahl, R.Kelly, B.Backer, W.Lindenberg, L.Briggenshaw (c), B.Le Man, T.Paterson, G.Jones, S.McNally, M.Sahl, C.Heugh. Coach: J.Lang.
Redcliffe: M.Forster, D.Brown, M.Brennan (c), S.Cherry, J.Chapman, S.Bleakley, C.Part, W.Fullerton-Smith, J.Boxsell, V.Tighe, R.Poulsen, S.Bernardin, P.Khan. Reserve: M.Murray. Coach: J.Barber.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

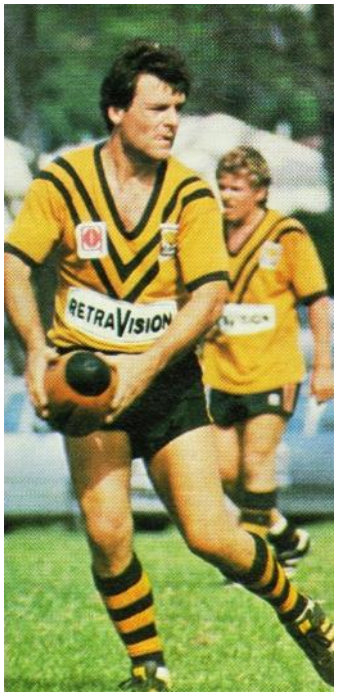
11 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 28 (Cherry 2, Part, Brown tries; Chapman 6 goals) d. Fortitude Valley 10 (Nicholls, Johnson tries; Mason goal).
Redcliffe: M.Forster, D.Brown, S.Cherry, M.Brennan (c), J.Chapman, S.Bleakley, C.Part, W.Fullerton-Smith, J.Boxsell, V.Tighe, R.Poulsen, S.Bernardin, P.Khan. Reserves: T.Webb, T.Benson. Coach: J.Barber.
Valleys: D.Morris, G.Lawrie, B.Johnson, M.Hickey, R.Klein, W.Lewis (c), R.Henrick, R.Moore, B.Arnold, B.Niebling, G.Walker, T.Koorockin, A.McInnes. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

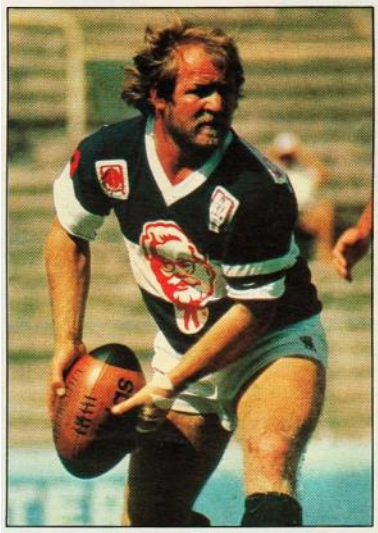
18 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Eastern Suburbs 14 (Tengdahl, Backer tries; McNally 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 6 (Cherry try; Chapman goal).
Easts: G.Payne, M.McDonald, B.Tengdahl, R.Kelly, B.Backer, W.Lindenberg, L.Briggenshaw (c), B.Le Man, T.Paterson, G.Jones, S.McNally, M.Sahl, C.Heugh. Reserve: L.Bogle. Coach: J.Lang.
Redcliffe: M.Forster, D.Brown, S.Cherry, M.Brennan (c), J.Chapman, S.Bleakley, C.Part, T.Benson, W.Fullerton-Smith, T.Webb, J.Boxsell, S.Bernardin, P.Khan. Reserve: A.Kajewski, M.Murray. Coach: J.Barber.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 25,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Trevor Paterson (Easts).



ABOVE: Souths Brisbane centre Hubie Abbott spectacularly upends a Valleys opponent in a 1984 pre-season match.





TOMMY

From Brisbane with love!

TOMMY RAUDONIKIS, the person Queenslanders most loved to hate in the '70s, has become a Banana bender.

By TONY DURKIN

To quote the little warrior: "Joh has accepted me, so I suppose I am one now."

In fact, when I spoke to Raudonikis last week at his home at The Grange — just 400 metres from Brothers' home ground, Corbett Park — Queensland's famous drink, Fourex, was laid on.

The Fourex, plus the continual reference to 'us', every time he spoke of Queensland, convinced me Tommy had been converted.

"I love it up here. You people really have a way of making newcomers feel welcome," he said.

And what a welcome to Queensland it has been for the man arguably Australia's most popular Rugby League player of the past decade.

Apart from his two jobs — one as captain-coach of Brothers, the other as a sales rep for PPA advertising — Tommy has become something of a multi-media personality in Brisbane.

He writes a weekly column — and a good one at that — for the Brisbane Telegraph and is a regular panelist on Brisbane's Rugby League station, Radio 4BC.

In fact, mention the word 'Tommy' in Brisbane Rugby League circles and there's no doubt about the subject.

But Tommy Raudonikis hasn't lived on glory since he arrived in Brisbane late last year. It's been an education in coaching, as well as an eye-opener.

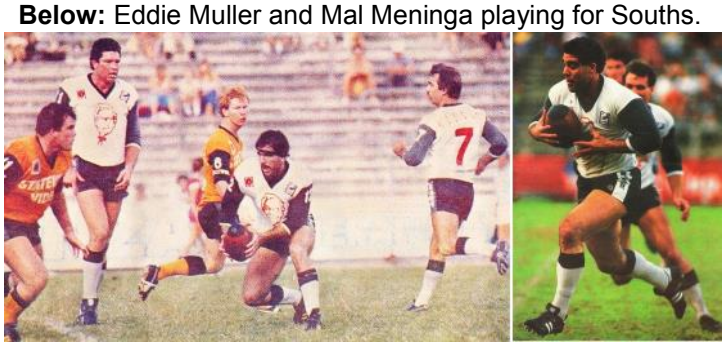
Left: Wayne Lindenberg. **Right:** BRL legends — Ross Strudwick, Tommy Raudonikis, Greg Oliphant and Barry Muir .



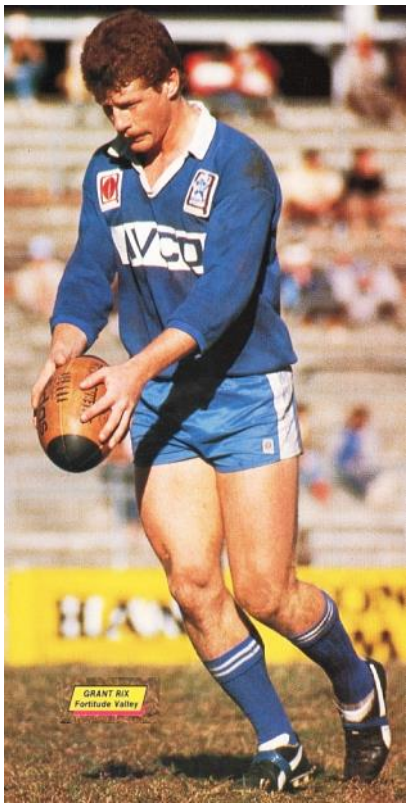
Below: Eddie Muller and Mal Meninga playing for Souths.



Souths' Phil Veivers feels the physical pressure of (from left) his brother Greg, brother-in-law Wayne and cousin Mick, prior to a recent match. But the youngster says he doesn't feel the mental pressure of living up to the deeds of his famous relations. BELOW: Veivers in action.







Above: Wally Lewis with Ross Henrick behind him.



Billy Johnstone will lead the Magpies today. Off to Cronulla - Sutherland next year it will be his last Brisbane club game for some time (if not forever). But win or lose, the responsibilities of captain and ball-winner make it a match he'll never forget.

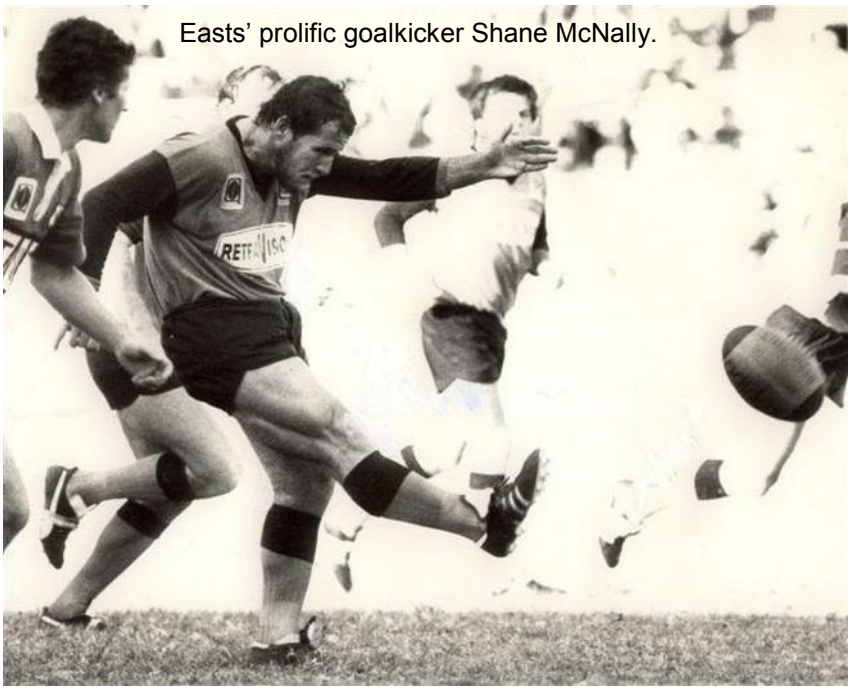


Above: Billy J and "Farmer".

Below: Scott Lewis, brother of Wally.



Easts' prolific goalkicker Shane McNally.



1984

STATE LEAGUE: WYNNUM-MANLY



1984 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Semi finals were re-introduced in 1984 and the number of rounds were reduced to 6. Country sides now played games against other country sides to give them a chance of doing well in the competition. North Queensland took advantage of this and became the first country side to make the semi-finals. However, they would be eliminated from the competition the mighty Wynnum-Manly outfit of that year. The Seagulls went on to account for Souths in the grand final.

ROUND 1 -April 4, 6, 8

April 4
Wests 14 defeated Easts 12 at Lang Park
April 6
Norths 10 defeated Ipswich 6 at Ipswich
April 8
Redcliffe 26 defeated Townsville 12 at Townsville
Souths 18 defeated Toowoomba 10 at Toowoomba
Wynnum-Manly 50 defeated Wide Bay 18 at Maryborough
Central Qld 8 defeated Gold Coast 4 at Lang Park
Valleys 10 defeated Brothers 8 at Lang Park

ROUND 2 -April 13, 15

April 13
Souths 11 defeated Redcliffe 8 at Lang Park
April 15
Wynnum-Manly 20 defeated Norths 6 at Lang Park
North Qld 26 defeated Ipswich 8 at Lang Park
Brothers 48 defeated Central Qld 6 at Biloela
Easts 42 defeated Gold Coast 4 at Southport
Toowoomba 42 defeated Wests 14 at Roma
Valleys 48 defeated Wide Bay 22 at Nambour

ROUND 3 -April 18, 22

April 18
Wests 6 defeated Brothers 4 at Lang Park
April 22
Toowoomba 76 defeated Wide Bay 4 at Lang Park
Souths 22 defeated Easts 10 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 46 defeated Ipswich 20 at Ipswich
Central Qld 21 defeated Norths 14 at Rockhampton
Wynnum-Manly 26 defeated Gold Coast 14 at Southport
North Qld 26 defeated Valleys 16 at Cairns

ROUND 4 -April 25, 27, 29

April 25
Valleys 34 defeated Norths 6 at Lang Park
April 27
Souths 50 defeated Ipswich 2 at Ipswich
April 29
North Qld 30 defeated Central Qld 12 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 26 defeated Easts 4 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 52 defeated Gold Coast 2 at Southport
Brothers 18 defeated Toowoomba 12 at Dalby
Wests 54 defeated Wide Bay 14 at Wondai

ROUND 5 -May 4, 6, 9

May 4
Ipswich 24 defeated Wests 16 at Ipswich
May 6
Souths 54 defeated Central Qld 0 at Moranbah
North Qld 42 defeated Norths 20 at Mount Isa
Easts 32 defeated Wide Bay 22 at Bundaberg
Toowoomba 26 defeated Gold Coast 18 at Lang Park
Valleys 9 defeated Redcliffe 8 at Lang Park
May 9
Wynnum-Manly 38 defeated Brothers 2 at Lang Park

ROUND 6 -May 9, 13

May 9
Souths 48 defeated Norths 2 at Lang Park
May 13
Wide Bay 22 defeated Ipswich 18 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 10 defeated Wests 6 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 46 defeated Central Qld 10 at Gladstone
Valleys 12 defeated Gold Coast 10 at Southport
Easts 23 defeated Toowoomba 12 at Toowoomba
North Qld 36 defeated Brothers 16 at Mackay

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
SOUTHS	6	6	-	0	203	32	12
WYNNUM-MANLY	6	6	-	0	206	54	12
NORTH QLD	6	5	-	1	172	96	10
VALLEYS	6	5	-	1	129	80	10
Redcliffe	6	4	-	2	150	60	8
Toowoomba	6	3	-	3	178	95	6
Wests	6	3	-	3	110	106	6
Easts	6	3	-	3	123	100	6
Brothers	6	2	-	4	96	108	2
Central Queensland	6	2	-	4	57	196	4
Ipswich	6	1	-	5	76	170	2
Norths	6	1	-	5	59	171	2
Wide Bay	6	1	-	5	102	278	2
Gold Coast	6	0	-	6	52	186	0

SEMI FINALS -May 20

WYNNUM-MANLY 22 (Terry Butler 2, David Green, Brett French tries; Warren Green 3 goals) defeated **NORTH QLD 0** at Lang Park

SOUTHS 17 (Mal Meninga, Bob Lindner, Bob Kellaway tries; Phil Veivers 2 goals, Gary Belcher field goal) defeated **VALLEYS 2** (Scott Czislowski goal) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL -May 23

WYNNUM-MANLY 21 (Gene Miles 2, David Green tries; Warren Green 4 goals, Wally Lewis field goal) defeated **SOUTHS 10** (Gary Belcher 2 tries; Mal Meninga goal) at Lang Park

1984

State League Semi-Final -
Wynnum-Manly 22 v North Queensland 0

Ref blows the whistle on Wynnum's revelry

WYNNUM-MANLY rugby league coach Des Morris and his captain David Green should have been smiling yesterday.

The Seagulls whitewashed North Queensland 22-0 in the first Winfield State League semi-final at Lang Park but neither Morris nor Green could raise so much as a grin after the match.

The only reason for the lack of joy in the post-match Wynnum camp was the performance of referee Brian Grant, a newcomer to Queensland who had impressed everybody with some of his early form.

"I just can't believe it was the same referee," Green said. "I had huge wraps on him but he could not have been more inconsistent out there today."

Morris, who had sought a halftime conference with Grant, was even more scathing: "He reminds me of Sydney players who have come to Brisbane over the years . . . disappointing in the long run."

Grant's performance over-shadowed all else in the lacklustre semi-final that Wynnum never looked like losing. In the match he:

- Awarded 12 scrum penalties — eight to NQ and four to Wynnum.
- Twice sent Green to the sin bin for repeated scrum infringements.
- Penalised NQ for a line-ball forward pass and later allowed a blatant Wynnum forward pass to go unchecked.
- Sent three other players — Paul Laffin and Frank Baker of North Queensland and Greg Dowling of Wynnum — to the sin bin.

Morris had asked dressing-room stewards at halftime whether he could discuss scrum rulings with Grant.

"The stewards told me there would be no problem but when they checked it out with the referee he said he wouldn't talk to me," he said. "He was totally inconsistent with his scrum rulings. Both hookers had their feet



MARLINS prop forward Frank Baker on the burst against Wynnum-Manly at Lang Park yesterday.

across the scrum but he only sent Greenie to the sin bin. The rules are quite clear, but how are we going to know who is the best hooker in the state if the referees don't police the rules."

Green and Dowling said they had been delighted when Grant was appointed to control the semi-final but had changed their minds early in the game.

"He really looked the goods in the first few games he had up here but he slipped up badly today," Green said.

Dowling said: "I couldn't have been happier when I heard he had the game because I thought he would let the game flow but he did the opposite out there today."

Attacking flair missing

Refereeing controversy aside, the match never reached the heights that the attacking records of both teams promised.

Marlins coach Will Cordwell was disappointed that his team did not get a chance to display its attacking flair.

"We were certainly not disgraced and the 22-0 scoreline did not do us justice," Cordwell said. "The wet weather didn't help us but we still did not recover quickly enough and Wynnum took full advantage. We probably learned more from that game than we did from all the others this year and I think it will stand the players in good stead next year."

Cordwell would not commit himself about whether he would apply for the Marlins coaching job next year except to say he would be "involved in some way".

He confirmed he would be putting another submission to the NQ Division detailing the pluses and minuses of this year's State League campaign and that he hoped the administrators in the North would "take note".

Wynnum took charge late in the second quarter when centre Brett French scored their second try to give them a 12-0 lead at the break. Cordwell later conceded that he would have been happy with a 0-8 deficit at halftime but 0-12 had made the Marlins task "that much harder".

But the Seagulls did not put the issue beyond doubt until the final quarter when classy winger Terry Butler crossed for two tries — the first from a magical break by fullback Colin Scott and the second from good lead-up work by centre Gene Miles and prop Gary Coyne.

Marlins prop Frank Baker played almost a lone hand against the Wynnum forwards and had an intriguing running battle with State of Origin hopeful Dowling before both were banished to the sin bin.

Apart from Baker and second-rower Jim Cowell, the NQ forwards were disapointing.

Wynnum got tremendous service from Dowling, Coyne, lock Brian Walsh, prop Tony Kajewski and second-rower Mal Green as well as Miles and Scott in the backline. Scott's form must have impressed the Queensland selectors but they would not have been very happy with the slight injury to skipper Wally Lewis, who finished with a strained neck after being felled in back play.

WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS

WYNNUM-MANLY 22 d NORTH QUEENSLAND 0

Scorers — Wynnum-Manly: T Butler 2, D Green, B French tries; W Green 3 goals. First scorers: Wynnum-Manly 5, North Queensland 12. First try scorers: Wynnum-Manly 12, North Queensland 12.

1984

State League Semi-Final -
Souths 17 v Valleys 2

Souths pair catch selector's eye

Big men wrap up rivals

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

Souths forwards Bob Lindner and Bob Kellaway must have made state selectors sit up and take notice with their tremendous efforts in the Magpies' 17-2 win over Valleys in the Winfield State League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Kellaway, bitterly disappointed at being overlooked in the Brisbane side named for the recent National Panasonic Cup, turned in his best effort at Lang Park with an all-round performance but featuring mainly attacking bursts which played a major part in the defeat of a grimly defending Diehard bunch.

Another performance like that in the Winfield final against Wynnum-Manly on Wednesday night and he must force selectors to rethink his representative position. Kellaway is not a newcomer to the game but, with form like yesterday's, he cannot be completely overlooked.

It is a different situation with the 21-year-old Lindner. Even considering the magnificent position Queensland is in with back-rowers of the calibre of Wally Fullerton Smith, Lindner is a standout and definitely on his way to the top. He will be wearing green and gold in the near future.

Yesterday he showed all the class needed to get to the top, with great defence, excellent attack and a touch of genius when it comes to individual thinking and initiative.

It was his big original burst which led to the try of the match, and Souths' first try, in the 26th minute when Valleys' defence looked unbeatable.

Lindner burst down the grandstand side before sending fullback Gary Belcher away. From there the ball went to Mal Meninga, inside to hooker Eddie Muller and back once again to Meninga who showed glimpses of his blockbusting power to crash over.

It was Lindner's back-up when the going was still extremely tough late in the third quarter which took Souths to an 8-2 lead.

Winger Phil Veivers showed class when he got his hands to a high kick from teammate Brad Sully close to Valleys' tryline. Veivers realised he probably would not hold the ball but found Lindner steaming through in an unmarked position and simply hit the ball on to Lindner. The young forward did the rest.

Valleys generally turned in a strong performance but halfback Ross Henrick was outstanding for the amount of work he got through and the number of big forwards he brought down.

There were big defensive games from forwards Ziggy Strasser, Keith Neller and John Tapp, with Neller the only Diehard able to make a clean break against the tight defence.

The match featured a staggering amount of kicking — 42 kicks by each side, according to one set of statistics — and the game was played that way because Valleys coach Ross Strudwick believed that was his team's best chance and Souths' coach Wayne Bennett went out to play Strudwick at his own game.

A measure of Souths' defence in recent weeks can be gained by the knowledge that yesterday was the fourth straight match the Magpies have held opposition teams tryless.

Scrums went to Souths 12-9 and penalties to Valleys 8-7.



CLASH of the fair-haired boys of rugby league when Souths second rower Ash Lunmby (left) met Valleys prop Keith Neller in the Winfield State League semi-final won by the Magpies 17-2 at Lang Park yesterday.

SOUTHS 17 d VALLEYS 2

Scorers — Souths: M Meninga, B Lindner, B Kellaway tries; P Veivers 2 goals; G Belcher field goal. Valleys: S Czislowski goal. First scorers: Souths 3, Valleys 1. First try scorers: Souths 3, Valleys 12.

1984

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - WYNNUM-MANLY 21 v SOUTHS 10

Chapter ends for Souths

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

WYNNUM-MANLY closed the chapter on Souths' unbeaten run with a magnificent display of defence to win the Winfield State League final at Lang Park last night.

Wynnum took out the final with a 21-10 win over the Magpies, who had won their 13 previous matches and had not had their line crossed in the previous four matches.

It was a victory thoroughly deserved but which could have fallen through if the defence had not put up such a magnificent display.

Souths came so very near turning the tables with two amazingly simple tries from bombs to get to a win situation with Wynnum-Manly leading 16-10 until the last five minutes.

Souths made many smashing raids on the Wynnum-Manly line at that stage but could not penetrate.

There were some classic displays from Wynnum's players, particularly giant centre Gene Miles, five-eighth Wally Lewis and all the forwards.

It was without a doubt the best defensive display of the season and it needed to be because Souths — and all credit to them and coach Wayne Bennett — at no stage went into their shells.

They threw the ball about at every opportunity and there as some scintillating attack from centre Peter Jackson, fullback Gary Belcher, winger Phil Veivers and forwards Bob Lindner, Bob Kellaway and Eddie Muller.

Wynnum's try in the 15th minute — which came from an excellent extra man move by fullback Colin Scott and a quick short pass to Miles who scored it was a classic piece of football.

Souths replied in the 31st minute from what started as an ordinary up-and-under from Veivers. He was caught in an impossible position on the grandstand side after a long pass went astray so he simply booted the ball infield.

The bounce went forward, with Belcher streaming on to it to carry wrong-footed defenders over the tryline. It was a try against the run of play, but it was vital four points.

Miles set the stage for a shock 16-4 three-quarter time lead with a pile-driving try from dummy half in the 49th minute.

Although Wynnum had some desperate moments late in the third quarter when Souths hammered at their line, the honors again went to the Seagulls for their brilliant defensive effort.

There was not a man who let the team down

WYNNUM-MANLY 21 (G Miles 2, D Green tries; W Green 4 goals, W Lewis fg) d SOUTHS 10 (G Belcher 2 tries; M Meninga goal).



WYNNUM-MANLY prop Tony Kajewski is caught by the Souths cover defence of prop Bob Kellaway (No 11) and replacement forward Richo Hill in the State League final at Lang Park last night.



Wynnum-Manly: Back Row; Brian Walsh, Wayne Bullock, Mark Zillman, Tony Kajewski, Colin Scott, Ian French, Terry Butler.
Middle Row: Brad Morgan, Gary Coyne, Brian Naylor, Arthur Alexander (Trainer), Brett French, Gene Miles, Peter Dawes.
Front Row: Bruce Cory (Physio), Warren Green, Wally Lewis, David Green (Captain), Greg Dowling, Des Morris (Coach).

1984

BRL: WYNNUM-MANLY

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WYNNUM MANLY	18	0	3	524	280	36
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	14	1	6	479	279	27
VALLEYS	12	0	9	313	338	24
REDCLIFFE	10	1	10	400	315	21
BROTHERS	10	1	10	372	355	21
EASTERN SUBURBS	8	3	10	368	407	19
WESTERN SUBURBS	5	0	16	212	417	10
NORTHERN SUBURBS	3	2	16	278	555	8

1984 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

Points from some games in the Woolies pre-season and State League counted towards the BRL points ladder and those games were effectively Round 1 games for the BRL premiership.

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 2

Sun May 27
Redcliffe 37 def Norths 4 (Bishop Park)
Wests 18 def Wynnum 2 (Purtell Park)
Easts 35 def Brothers 12 (Langlands Park)
Valleys 20 def Souths 16 (Lang Park)

Sun June 3
Souths 32 def Wests 0 (Davies Park)
Wynnum 32 def Valleys 20 (Lang Park)
Brothers 30 def Norths 22 (Corbett Park)
Redcliffe 16 drew Easts 16 (Dolphin Oval)

Sun June 10
Valleys 14 def Wests 12 (Neumann Oval)
Brothers 12 def Redcliffe 10 (Dolphin Oval)
Wynnum 24 def Souths 12 (Lang Park)
Easts 32 def Norths 14 (Bishop Park)

Sun June 17
Easts 9 def Valleys 4 (Langlands Park)
Brothers 17 def Souths 10 (Corbett Park)
Wynnum 12 def Redcliffe 4 (Kougari Oval)
Wests 34 def Norths 12 (Purtell Park)

Sun June 24
Valleys 16 def Brothers 8 (Corbett Park)
Easts 28 def Wests 0 (Lang Park)
Wynnum 22 def Norths 16 (Bishop Park)
Souths 26 def Redcliffe 18 (Davies Park)

Sun July 1
Wynnum 36 def Brothers 14 (Kougari Oval)
Souths 24 def Easts 16 (Lang Park)
Valleys 26 def Norths (Neumann Oval)
Redcliffe 32 def Wests 0 (Dolphin Oval)

Sun July 8
Brothers 22 def Wests 14 (Corbett Park)
Wynnum 40 def Easts 8 (Langlands Park)
Norths 20 drew Souths 20 (Bishop Park)
Redcliffe 32 def Valleys 14 (Lang Park)

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 3

Sun July 15
Norths 10 def Redcliffe 8 (Dolphin Oval)
Wynnum 55 def Wests 12 (Kougari Oval)
Brothers 14 drew Easts 14 (Corbett Park)
Valleys 14 def Souths 12 (Neumann Oval)

Sun July 22 (Woolies Trophy - Lang Park)
Wynnum 34 v Souths 12

Sun July 29
Souths 10 def Wests 8 (Purtell Park)
Wynnum 26 def Valleys 4 (Kougari Oval)
Brothers 22 def Norths 12 (Bishop Park)
Easts 34 v Redcliffe 26 (Langlands Park)

Sun August 5
Valleys 24 def Wests 12 (Purtell Park)
Brothers 40 def Redcliffe 36 (Lang Park)
Easts 22 drew Norths 22 (Langlands Park)

Sun August 12
Easts 22 def Valleys 14 (Lang Park)
Souths 14 v Brothers 8 (Davies Park)
Wynnum 24 def Redcliffe 16 (Dolphin Oval)
Norths 22 def Wests 4 (Bishop Park)

Sun August 19
Brothers 32 def Valleys 4 (Neumann Oval)
Easts 16 def Wests 10 (Lang Park)
Norths 34 def Wynnum 28 (Lang Park)
Redcliffe 22 def Souths 16 (Dolphin Oval)

Sun August 26
Wynnum 28 def Brothers 22 (Lang Park)
Souths 46 def Easts 16 (Davies Park)
Valleys 30 def Norths 12 (Bishop Park)
Redcliffe 36 def Wests 10 (Purtell Park)

Sun September 2
Brothers 20 def Wests 4 (Purtell Park)
Wynnum 20 def Easts 16 (Kougari Oval)
Souths 34 def Norths 12 (Davies Park)
Redcliffe 24 def Valleys 16 (Dolphin Oval)

BRL FINALS

Minor Semi-Final (Sun September 9 - Lang Park)
Valleys 18 def Redcliffe

Major Semi-Final (Sun September 16 - Lang Park)
Wynnum 46 def Souths 22

Preliminary Final (Sat September 22 – Lang Park)
Souths 14 def Valleys 8

GRAND FINAL (Sun September 30 – Lang Park)
Wynnum 42 def Souths 8

1984

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 18 v Redcliffe 16

Rix stars in Valleys win

ROSS STRUDWICK, the intense, controversial, outspoken Valleys rugby league coach, yesterday guided his Diehards against the odds into the Winfield Cup preliminary final with an 18-16 win over favorites Redcliffe at Lang Park.

Even opposition coach John Barber had unstinting praise for the coach they call "The Rat" and tipped Strudwick would lead Valleys to the grand final.

The Valleys players shed the blood and lost the sweat in winning yesterday, but the victory undoubtedly had the Strudwick brand stamped indelibly on it. His use of brilliant teenager Grant Rix at five-eighth after a five-week stint at centre was the cornerstone of the victory.

It was a positional change that came to Strudwick in the dead of night. "I woke up about midnight on Friday night and decided to make the change," he said.

The move involved switching lock John Tapp to centre, moving Rix back to five-eighth, promoting veteran prop Al McInnes into the pack and rearranging the forwards.

"When I woke I knew what had to be done and I wrote it down," Strudwick said. "In the morning there it was. I always keep a notebook by the bed because I get most of my ideas for business and football at night."

But that was not all. Strudwick had trainer Brian Canavan put the players through two sprints on field before the kick-off while the Redcliffe players and referee David Manson cooled their heels waiting for the match to begin. It was vintage Strudwick gamesmanship but the form of Rix was not.

The former Allora boy, 19 last weekend, was the star of the match and stamped himself as potentially the best footballer this town has seen since Wally Lewis was a teenager. Strudwick, who guided the early senior career of Lewis and now has Rix on his hands, refused to compare them. "They are different footballers," he said.

That may be so but Rix played a look-alike Lewis role in this match, scoring two tries and setting up the third for centre Peter White with a great break and a brilliantly judged kick that White gathered near the posts. Rix also booted three goals for 14 points.

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

People who had written off the Diehards as a team of willing defenders with no attack had obviously forgotten about Rix. And maybe if Strudwick had not made his positional change, they could have been right because the youngster had been in indifferent form recently in the centres. But yesterday he was all positive, with his kicking, his thinking, his positioning indeed a carbon copy of a younger Lewis.

Tapp, who spent the first 23 minutes in the centres before moving back to lock, had an exceptional match in all aspects but particularly with his withering defence. He had great support from Bob Arnold and Keith Neller. But that could apply to all the Diehard forwards, in fact the entire team.

Fierce defence was a feature and Valleys' kicking game, from halfback Ross Henrick and Rix, made sure the first half was spent almost entirely in Redcliffe's territory. It had the Dolphins on the back move from the outset and when Valleys went into halftime leading 12-0 Redcliffe faced an uphill battle.

But as Barber pointed out, Redcliffe had the guts to kick back twice from being 12 points behind to almost pull out the match in the last 10 minutes, when they closed the gap to the final two points.

From a dour start the match developed into an exciting second half.

Tempers flared many times and the match erupted into an all-in brawl after four minutes. Second-rower Wally Fullerton Smith received two spells in the sin-bin and Valleys Bob Arnold copped one 10-minute spell there.

There were many changes for injuries, with young fullback Scott Czislowski going to hospital for x-rays for a right arm injury that proved negative. Czislowski said last night he hoped to be fit for the preliminary final on Saturday week.

In that match, Valleys will play the losers of Sunday's major semi-final between Wynnum-Manly and Souths. The winners of the major semi-final advance to the grand final at Lang Park on September 30.



REDCLIFFE prop Richie Poulsen is well wrapped up in the tackles of Valleys centres John Tapp (left) and Peter White (No 3) as he tries to power his way through the Diehard defence in yesterday's rugby league knock-out semi-final.



WINFIELD CUP
KNOCKOUT SEMI-FINAL
VALLEYS 18 d REDCLIFFE 16

Scorers — Valleys: G Rix 2, P White tries; G Rix 3 goals. Redcliffe: C Part, W Fullerton Smith, T Benson tries; Benson 2 goals. First scorers and first try scorers — Valleys 3, Redcliffe 7.

1984

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wynnum 46 v Souths 22

Wally's Gulls cope with 12

WYNNUM-MANLY rocketed into an unbackable price for the Winfield Cup rugby league premiership when they thrashed Souths 46-22 with 12 men yesterday.

The sensational major semi-final, before 13,500 fans at Lang Park, reaffirmed Wally Lewis as a football juggernaut and gave hope for mere mortals when a prop plugger such as Tony Kajewski could rise above himself to



THE odd man out in Wynnum-Manly's major semi-final win over Souths at Lang Park yesterday was fullback Colin Scott. Scott was sent off after 18 minutes for an alleged head high tackle.

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

approach Lewis as the man of the match.

The Seagulls raced to a 10-0 lead at a point a minute after the kick-off. But the boom appeared to have been lowered on their hopes in the 18th minute when former Test fullback Colin Scott was sent off for an alledged head high tackle on winger Phil Veivers.

Scott said it was the first time he had been sent off in his career, and the incident was out of character with the man who has built a reputation as a straight player. Veivers was shaken but not injured in the tackle but Scott will appear before the Brisbane Division judiciary tonight.

RATTLED

The sending off rattled the Seagulls for a period in which they appeared incapable of holding brilliant attack from Souths.

The Magpies turned on flowing moves, with outstanding individual performances and not the least, one withering run by normal stop-gap centre Hubie Abbott when he splattered the defence in a long run of power, speed and aggression to lay the foundations for Souths first try by Bob Lindner.

That try, in the 26th minute, made it 10-10 and, as coach Des Morris said, it was a time for looking down the barrel of a gun with one man short.

Five minutes later Souths cocked that gun when second rower Ash Lumby flew in for a great try off a short pass from halfback Brad Sully and the Magpies hit the front for the first time, 16-10.

It was a bewildering time for Wynnum, adjusting to the man-short situation, and many other teams would have come unstuck — that is if they did not have a Wally Lewis.

Someone said recently that Lewis was one of the few people who can take a match by the throat and shake it. He did it yesterday. Coach Morris said it was Lewis at his Wynnum club best and Australian selector Jack Reardon said it was Lewis at his best overall.

Besides scoring three tries when the pressure was on in the second half, Lewis set up tries for Terry Butler and Ian French, and kicked the bomb from which Gary Coyne scored. In other words, he scored or had a hand in six of Wynnum's nine tries. He also did some heavyweight defence.

I believe his best effort of the day was the try he made for excellent winger Terry Butler. With the score 16-16 a minute before halftime, Lewis got the ball from a scrum and set himself in that go-it-alone stride Lang Park loves to screech for in a State of Origin match when the home team is in absolute need of a try.

Having breezed through the front-on defence, Lewis leaned back on the cover, waited until Butler was within range and spun out the perfect pass from an awkward position. Butler scuttled to the corner a minute before the bell and Wynnum went into the break 20-16 leaders.

That was the start of the plucking of the Magpies.

BIG QUESTION

The big question now is whether Magpie coach Wayne Bennett can lift his team out of the ruins of yesterday's thrashing by 12 men. Souths will find it difficult to comeback when they face a confident Valleys outfit in the preliminary final on Saturday night, with the winner to meet the Seagulls in the grand final on Sunday week.

"We would like another crack at Wynnum-Manly," Bennett said.

But that may be an impossible dream after yesterday's ill-fated performance. In fact, Valleys will find themselves favorites for the preliminary final.



KING Wally Lewis reigned over Lang Park again yesterday. The Wynnum-Manly five-eighth is pictured scoring one of his three tries while centre team-mate Brett French flies over the top after backing up. Lewis had a hand in three other tries. The Seagulls scored nine tries although they played one man short for 62 minutes after fullback Colin Scott was sent off. Wynnum, advancing to the grand final on Sunday week, will start outright favorites whoever they meet. Souths must defeat Valleys in the preliminary final at Lang Park on Saturday evening to get a second crack at Wynnum.

WINFIELD CUP
MAJOR SEMI-FINALS
WYNNUM-MANLY 46 d SOUTHS 22

Scorers — Wynnum-Manly: W Lewis 3, G Coyne, T Butler, B French, W Green, T Kajewski, I French tries; G Coyne 4, C Scott goals. Souths: G Belcher, B Lindner, A Lumby tries; M Meninga 4, P Vevers tries. First scorers: Wynnum-Manly 3, Souths 3. First try scorers: Wynnum-Manly 3, Souths 8.



1984

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 14 v Valleys 8

Souths down Valleys in final

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

SOUTHS defeated Valleys 14-8 last night to enter the Brisbane Rugby League Winfield Cup grand final in what appears to be a meeting with football death against Wynnum-Manly at Lang Park today week.

Souths, led with power and determination by Test centre Mal Meninga, were too strong overall for the Diehards and deserved their three try to one victory.

But they will have to produce more than they did last night to be any show against the brilliant Seagull combination in the grand final.

Souths looked a determined lot last night against an equally determined Valley combination but next week they are up against Wally Lewis and the big boys of Brisbane Rugby League.

There was a plus and a minus for the Magpies in last night's victory.

The plus undoubtedly was Meninga who had his best club game I have seen from him.

CRASHING ATTACK

It was not just his crashing attack and punishing defence but also his kicking game which had Valleys pinned in their territory for a lot of the time.

Meninga and his co-centre Hubie Abbott were outstanding.

Abbott had his best game with an excellent try the highlight and some strong defence overall. It redeemed for him one foolish act during an all in brawl which errupted after only 14 minutes.

The big minus for Souths club was the way it thumbed its nose at the public with a complete shambles of announcing their team. With South's coach Wayne Bennett facing so many injury problems it was understandable that he should not announce his team until the last minute.

But when it was announced over the Lang Park PA system seconds before the teams ran on it was only a semblence of the actual team. The public address system announced that Bob Lindner would be replaced by Lloyd Clark.

But when the teams ran on Clark was not even in the lineup and three other changes had been made with Wayne Halverson coming on at five-eighth, Gary Grienke coming on at lock and Mark Maskell in at prop. This ploy was a disgrace to rugby league and made a complete joke of the fans.

Thanks to some fine kicking by five-eighth Peter Coyne, centre Grant Rix and halfback Ross Henrick, Valleys spent long periods in Souths territory but rarely looked capable of breaking the defence.

Their only try came in the 27th minute when Coyne held up a pass to send Scott Czislowski away to serve an inside pass to John Tapp who scored wide out. Rix converted from the sideline and it was 6-6.

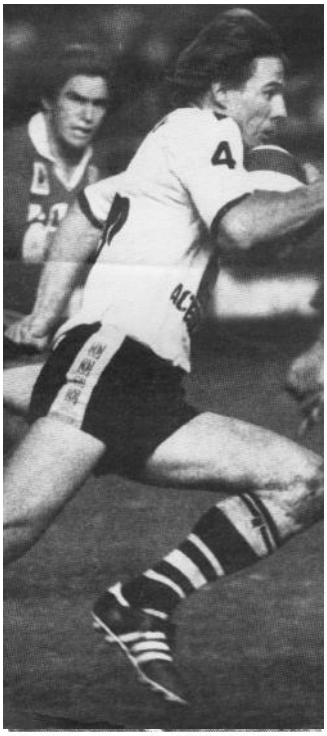
Souths first try came from a great run by Abbott who brushed through some weak defence after good leadup work by Halverson, one of South's best players. At this stage it was surprising that Strudwick had not replaced his centre Peter White who was limping badly from an early knock.

Abbott easily moved around White to begin his race to the line.

Three minutes from half time Souths grabbed the lead once again when accomplished winger Phil Veivers scored the first of his two tries from a nice run by fullback Gary Belcher and Souths went into the break 10-6.

First scorers (and first try scorers): Souths 4, Valleys 8.

Scores: Souths 14 (P Vievers 2, H Abbott tries; Meninga goal) d Valleys 8 (J Tapp try; G Rix 2 goals).

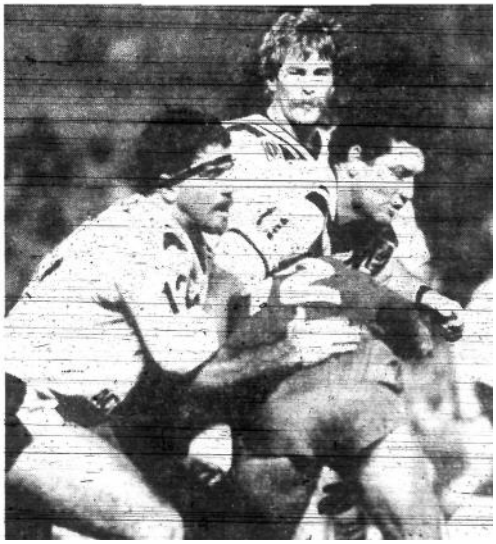


ABOVE: Souths centre Hubie Abbott leaves the Valleys defence in his wake as he races away for a try in the preliminary final at Lang Park last night. BELOW: Second-rower Kelvin Kerr looks around for support as his progress is stopped by a Valleys defender.





ABOVE: Big Mal Meninga defies the attentions of a Valleys player to get his pass away and put Souths on the attack. BELOW: Souths hooker Eddie Muller and prop Bob Kellaway combine to halt Valleys hooker Glen Workman.



1984

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8

Seagulls lauded as Brisbane's best ever

By Lawrie Kavanagh

THE Wynnum-Manly Seagulls ran in a record Brisbane rugby league grand final score when they beat Souths 42-8 in the Winfield Cup at Lang Park yesterday.

There is no yardstick by which to measure the greatness of a rugby league team but this Seagull outfit is the best club side I have seen in Brisbane. It is the most dominant in memory and the grand final record eight tries to one score makes that an undisputable fact.

When you hear officials and players from clubs not involved in the grand final thanking their lucky stars that it was Souths on the receiving end and not their team, it is confirmation that these Seagulls are special.

HIGH PRAISE

Souths coach Wayne Bennett, academically the most highly qualified coach in the state, said as much later when he admitted: "I did not think they were that good. I kept watching the clock hoping the time would go more quickly."

In the other dressing-room, with champagne spraying everyone, the state's most successful coach, Des Morris, as reserved as ever, put his stamp of approval on this team's greatness when he said after deliberation: "I don't think I have coached a better side."

Morris has now won four premierships out of five grand finals, two as captain-coach of Easts and two as coach of Wynnum. In taking out yesterday's grand final in such style, Morris must surely now have convinced the people in power that he is the logical choice to succeed Artie Beetson as coach of the Queensland State of Origin team.

He is keen to get the job but Morris is not the kind of man to promote himself or lobby any position, and he should not have to.

Yesterday's one-sided match may have disappointed many fans but on entertainment value it was tops, with classic tries and great individual performances, not the least an outstanding game for the losers from fullback Gary Belcher.

But the same could not be said for many of his team-mates.

Of course the rugby league king was involved from start to finish. Australian captain and Seagull vice-captain Wally Lewis took a firm grip on the match from the outset and never lost control.

He punched holes in the Magpie defence when they were needed and put team-mates through gaps he had created. He also knocked Magpies down as if they were hit by a 12 gauge shotgun . . . both barrels.

A sign in the crowd said: "Wally walks on H2O." He hasn't risen to that height yet, but he is not far off.

The player most Wynnum officials lauded was replacement fullback Brian Walsh, who plays anywhere from second-row to fullback and yesterday he slotted into the No 1 position as if he had been there all his life.

Test centre Gene Miles, who probably should not have played with the rib cartilage damage he carried into the match, did the Seagulls proud. Later a patch of skin under his heart looked like a pin cushion from the pain killing needles he received before the match and at halftime.

His co-centre Brett Walsh was probably the most dashing player on field with withering pace. But his brother Ian, at lock, was just as damaging with his brute strength and must be a show for state football next year.

In the second-row, Test player Greg Dowling was overpowering but so was captain hooker David Green, the rest of the pack and the rest of the team.

TOP DEFENCE

The fact that Souths were held tryless until the 78th minute points to 13 players doing their job in defence, and they had some torrid times at that in the first 20 minutes when Souths spent long periods in their territory with the wind at their backs.

But class shows through and the Seagulls always looked to have the capability to strike back with just too many excellent players in too many vital positions for the Magpies to contain.

While this grand final was a no-contest from late in the first half, it still was excellent entertainment with some great tries.

It is fair to say that referee David Manson was seldom seen. He made an impressive grand final debut. Scrums and penalties finished seven all.



POWER personified — Australian captain Wally Lewis crashes into the Souths' defence during the opening minutes of the Brisbane rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday. Lewis played a major role in Wynnum-Manly's 42-8 win.

Another one on the chin

By BARRY DICK

"ALL you can do is keep watching the clock and hope that it gets to fulltime quickly." . . . that was Souths rugby league coach Wayne Bennett's only answer to Wynnum-Manly's total domination of yesterday's Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park.

"There was nothing we could have done to stop them," he said. "I suppose the only consolation we can take is that we were certainly the second best team in Brisbane in 1984."

The Magpies coach took his second grand final thrashing on the chin and gave credit to Wynnum without reservation. Bennett's only other grand final appearance as a coach was in 1979 when he coached Souths to a then record 0-26 loss to Valleys.

"I haven't had the best of luck with my opponents in grand finals — the Valleys team in 1979 was rated one of the best club teams ever seen in Brisbane and this Wynnum team is now rated even better," Bennett said.

"We have proven since day one this season that we were the second best team in the competition . . . we weren't lucky to be in the grand final and we didn't play that badly in the first half.

"I suppose it is pretty terrifying to think what Wynnum-Manly might have done to one of the other teams when you consider we were clearly the No 2 side."

In the Wynnum dressing-room, champagne flowed, or was sprayed, liberally and an hour after the match many players had not even thought of showering.

Seagulls captain David Green did not hesitate to rate his team the "greatest".

"The boys did a fantastic job out there today," he said. "I didn't think Souths played all that badly in the first half, but we just kept taking everything they dished up to us and throwing it straight back at them.

"This is the best team I have ever seen, let alone been part of.



WAYNE BENNETT . . . "Souths the second best."



GREAT TRY . . . Wynnum-Manly's international forward Greg Dowling hurls himself over the tryline beside the goalpost to ground the ball for the third Seagulls' try in yesterday's Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park. Dowling was tackled short of the line and toed the ball forward, catching the Souths defence by suprise.

VITAL STATISTICS

THE SCORERS

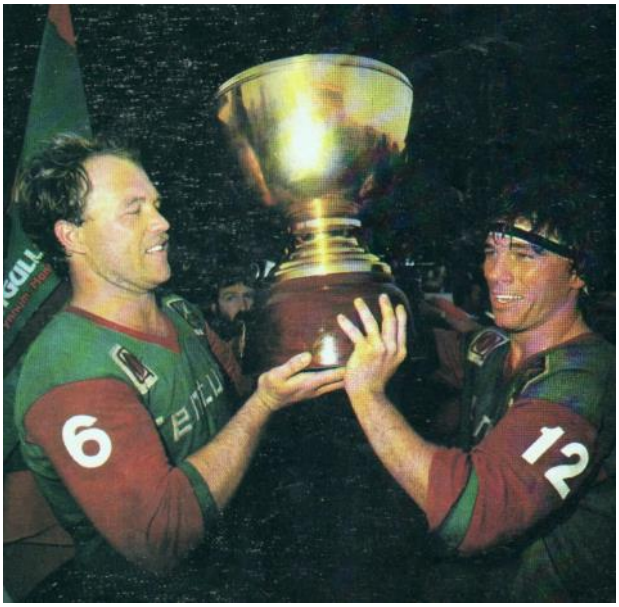
Wynnum 42 (D. Green 2, W. Green, B. Walsh, G. Dowling, B. French, G. Miles, W. Lewis tries; W. Green 5 goals) beat Souths 8 (H. Abbott try; M. Meninga 2 goals).
Scrums: Souths 8-7.
Penalties: Souths 8-7.

WHEN THEY SCORED

11 min: Wynnum 4-0 (W. Green try)
21 min: Wynnum 4-2 (Meninga goal)
27 min: Wynnum 10-2 (D. Green try, W. Green goal)
35 min: Wynnum 16-2 (Dowling try, W. Green goal)
43 min: Wynnum 20-2 (Walsh try)
52 min: Wynnum 24-2 (French try)
56 min: Wynnum 30-2 (Miles try)
67 min: Wynnum 36-2 (D. Green try, W. Green goal)
70 min: Wynnum 42-2 (Lewis try, W. Green goal)
79 min: Wynnum 42-8 (Abbott try, Meninga goal)

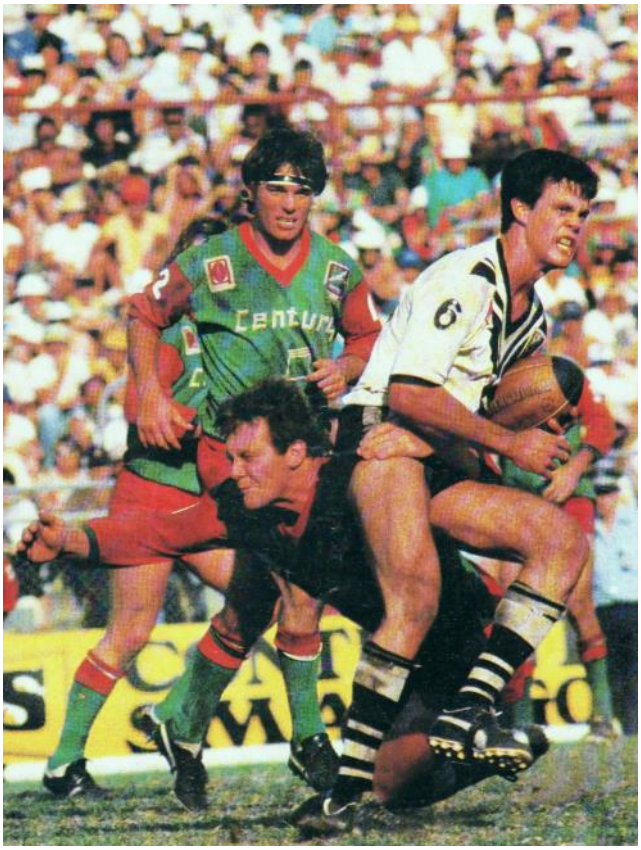
1984

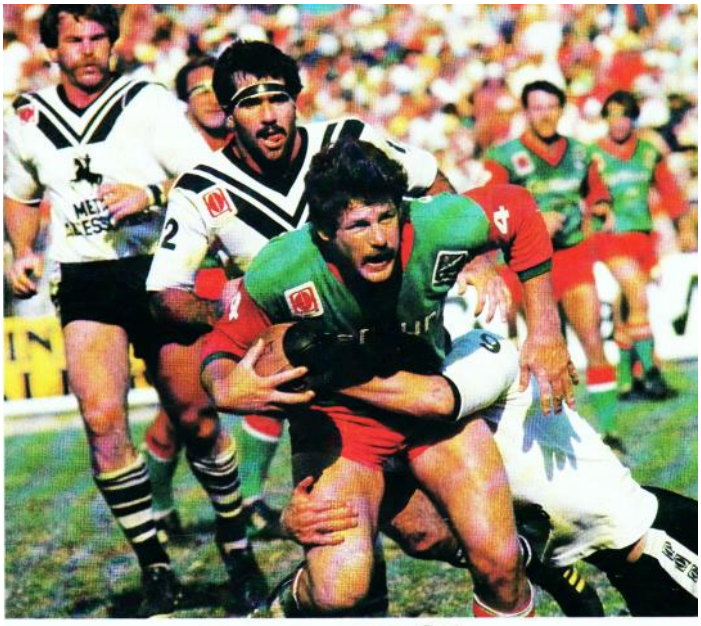
BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8











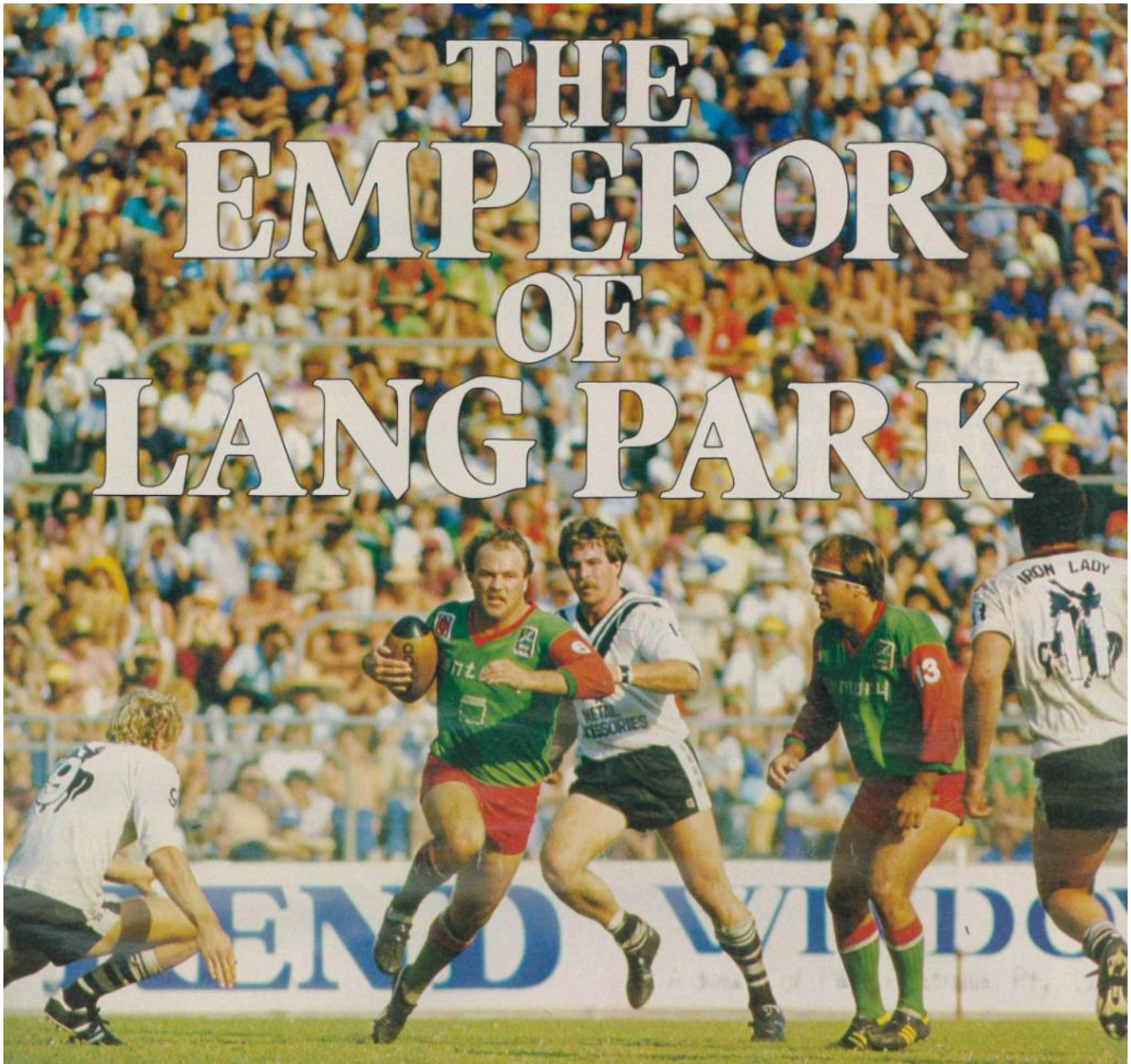




1984

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8

THE EMPEROR OF LANG PARK



By IAN HEADS

'WALLY walks on H_2O . . . and Mal' read the sign paraded around Lang Park by a bunch of fans early last Sunday afternoon. After a shatteringly one-sided Brisbane grand final the fans had no reason whatsoever to change the message.

The Emperor of Lang Park — Wally Lewis — had done it again.

With Wally the kingpin Wynnum-Manly wiped out Mal Meninga's Souths 42-8 — dealing out one of the two greatest thrashings in the history of the premierships, Sydney or Brisbane.

Only Easts' (Sydney) destruction of St George in 1975, 38-nil, had provided a wider grand final margin.

To the fans it was more a case of bathing in champagne as the Australian — but not the Wynnum — captain held court in the Seagulls dressing room.

Fun-loving officials and players chased each other around the room, fizzing bottles of bubbly.

Several pressmen showed astonishing footwork as they dodged the spray.

Everyone tossed Wally the question: "How did today's win rate in comparison with all the other things you achieved in 1984?"

"As satisfying as anything else," declared Wally . . . maybe more so.

"The premiership is the thing you bust your backside working for right through the year."

And the future? "I'm going to have a holiday, do the things that I like doing."

The $64 question: Where will Wally be doing his thing when the football season kicks of in '85 remained unanswered.

Lewis, rated by QRL president Ron McAuliffe last week as a sporting cult figure on par with Bradman, ended his contract with Wynnum last Sunday afternoon.

Rumors about his future club abound. But Wally isn't saying, just yet.

The Brisbane grand final was played on a magnificent spring day. Shorts and thongs were the dress requirements, and yellow Fourex cans littered the ground like daisies.

The BRL made no attempt to match the pizazz of the Sydney grand final promotion. Fourteen girls dressed as Fourex cans did a disco routine.

Then a troupe of Winfield girls marched on carrying the club flags. Not a parachute jumper or rock star to be seen.

But the seething, noisy crowd did their bit, particularly in the crazy events of the halftime break, when masochistic flag-wavers dashed onto the ground, there to be crunched by the waiting constabulary.

The game too was vastly different to the knife-edge Sydney grand final.

The movement of the ball was freer, the defence looser. In Sydney there were two tries totalling just one pass (from Sterling to Cronin).

In Brisbane there were nine tries, and a hundred passes . . . at least. Not one try came from a bomb.

Big Mal and his Souths boys came on like lions, and went out like lambs.

And throughout the day the Emperor of Lang Park was in his element.

In a first class team in which men like Gene Miles, Greg Dowling, Brett French, Terry Butler, Brian Walsh and Mal Green played absolutely splendidly, he was the 'gun'.

His passes tormented the Souths backs, his front-on defence was thunderous.

"He reads your mind . . . he's a genius," declared Souths centre Hubie Abbott later.

For Wynnum's excellent coach, Des Morris, it was another triumph.

"You could never expect a score like that," declared Morris in an interview in the showers, where the main precipitation came from champagne, not H_2O.

Nearby Brisbane's highly respected league scribe Lawrie Kavanagh rated Wynnum the best club team he had seen. Don Furner, a keen observer, reckoned though they would only finish half way up the Sydney ladder, and after such heresy may never be allowed back across the border.

Morris was cautiously supportive of his team when popped the question. "I'm not saying we'd beat the top Sydney teams . . . but we wouldn't be overawed," he said.

Souths' Wayne Bennett couldn't hide his disappointment. "There's no way we weren't ready for them," he said, "but they were just too good."

Outside the rooms adoring Wynnum fans, several with hair dyed red and green, waited to acclaim their heroes. They loved 'em all.

But Emperor Wally was the man they really wanted to see.

Queensland sport may never have had a home-grown hero quite like him — and grand final day 1984 did nothing but add to the growing realisation that he is one of the very greatest Rugby League players Australia has produced.

1984

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8

'WYNNUM WOULD BEAT BULLDOGS' — WILLEY

WYNNUM-MANLY's record-smashing win in last Sunday's Brisbane grand final has sparked a blazing controversy over the quality of the Seagulls.

By TONY DURKIN

As he left Lang Park Canberra coach Don Furner declared that Wynnum wouldn't make the semi-finals in Sydney.

"They'd beat a few sides in Sydney — but they'd be no better than a middle of the ladder team," said Furner.

South Sydney's Ron Willey, another spectator at the 42-8 annihilation of Souths, disagreed strongly.

Willey rated Wynnum capable of beating the Sydney premiers, Canterbury.

"I honestly think they could do it. I think some of their top players are better," he said.

An ex-Australian and 1984 Cronulla coach Terry Fearnley declared he would 'come out of retirement' to coach Wynnum if they ever joined the Sydney premiership.

"The Wynnum side I saw last Sunday would make the Sydney semi-finals, I'm sure of that," said Fearnley.

In Brisbane many keen judges rated the Seagulls as the best Brisbane club side ever.

And their power-packed display has led to a cry for a 'Champion of Champions' match — Sydney premiers v Brisbane premiers in future seasons.

Here's how the Sydney experts saw Wynnum's performance last Sunday:

RON WILLEY

"IF Canterbury and Wynnum played a 'Champion of Champions' match this coming weekend, there wouldn't be a struck match between the sides.

"I've given this matter plenty of thought since the weekend and I honestly think Wynnum could beat the Sydney premiers. I think some of their top players are better.

"Wally Lewis is the best player going around at the moment and I don't think there's anyone in Sydney better than Gene Miles. And Greg Dowling is as good as any forward in Sydney.

"From all indications, both Canterbury and Wynnum will again be the respective premiers next season, so maybe some bright promoter will organise a match. I know I'd be there to see it."

TERRY FEARNLEY

"THE Wynnum side I saw last Sunday would make the Sydney semi-finals, I'm sure of that. But, of course, a lot would depend on their back-up strength.

"Frankly, I'd love to see a match between the Brisbane and Sydney premiers. It is a great promotional idea.

"Canterbury's defence would certainly be much, much stronger than the defence Souths had last Sunday, but that doesn't mean Wynnum still wouldn't be able to break it.

"How could anyone write off a team with Wally Lewis, Gene Miles and Greg Dowling in it?"

DON FURNER

"WYNNUM are a good team up here, but they'd only finish halfway up the ladder in Sydney.

"They've got lots of good players, but they still wouldn't make the Sydney five."

STEVE MORTIMER

"FIRSTLY, let me say that anyone who played against Souths last Sunday would have looked a million dollars. I was very disappointed in their display.

"But that's not taking anything away from Wynnum. Their attack was terrific and with players of the calibre of Lewis, Miles and Dowling, they'd stretch any Sydney side they played. Maybe though, the defence of Sydney's top sides would be a bit much.

"It's impossible to say whether they'd make the Sydney five. Things like depth, which is most important, would come into consideration then.

"But on a one-off basis, like the mid-week cup for instance, Wynnum would certainly be competitive."



The Wynnum players leave no doubt who is No. 1 after blitzing Souths in Brisbane last Sunday.

LAURIE FREIER:

"IF both teams were playing under the same intensity week in, week out, a match between Wynnum and Canterbury would be competitive.

"And on a one-off situation, it would also be a contest.

"But Wynnum would find the tremendous defence of teams like Canterbury very hard to break and in a match like this, defence would be the key.

"A 'Champion of Champions' match could be well worthwhile, providing there was some incentive for the players."

Super League 'a must' — McAuliffe

A SUPER LEAGUE, involving 12 teams from New South Wales and Queensland, may be introduced during 1988, Australia's bi-centennial year.

By TONY DURKIN

QRL chairman Ron McAuliffe, who is totally convinced a Super League must be introduced, said the sooner "meaningful discussions" on the subject were held, the better.

"From my point of view, the thoughts are preliminary at this stage," he said.

"It has yet to be discussed with the NSW league and the ARL. But it will happen, I've no doubt about that."

When pressed for a probable starting date, McAuliffe immediately ruled out next year and 1986.

"Next year is far too soon, and '86 is a Kangaroo tour year," he said.

"What about 1988, the bi-centennial year? Something like this could be regarded as an innovation by a very progressive sporting organisation like the ARL.

"And it won't hurt us to have a beacon on the hill at which to aim."

McAuliffe was also non-committal about the number of teams which would take part in such a competition, but he thought 12 would be an ideal number.

And he suggested two divisions, with a relegation and promotion system.

"But if there are 12, it won't necessarily mean eight from Sydney and four from Brisbane," he said.

"And it won't necessarily be one single club. The way I see it, there is going to be much ground sharing and club sharing in the future.

"In fact, I can foresee club amalgamations in both Brisbane and Sydney."

McAuliffe said centres such as Newcastle, Canberra, Wollongong, Tweed Heads and North Queensland could play an extremely important role in the conduct of a Super League.

"Look at the brilliant facilities of Seagulls at Tweed Heads. It would be folly not to utilise them," he said.

The QRL chief says there are a number of factors behind his thoughts on a Super League, none more important than the interest it would create in the code.

"But the inevitability of ground sharing and club sharing, and the introduction of Aussatt (national satellite), will only heighten this type of a competition," he said.

1984

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8



BACK ROW: Wayne Bullock, Tony Kajewski, Arthur Alexander (trainer), Roy Robertson (manager), Gene Miles, Mark Zillman. THIRD ROW: Ernie Stevenson (selector), Warren Green, Ian French, Brad Backer, Brett French, Tony Jemmont, Mal Green, Peter Wright, Fred Stevenson (selector). SECOND ROW: Peter Dawes, Peter Sibley, Brad Morgan, Bruce Cory (secretary), Dr.C.May (club doctor), Gary Coyne, Brian Naylor, Brian Walsh. FIRST ROW: Greg Dowling, Brian Phillips (president), David Green (captain), Des Morris (coach), Wally Lewis, Peter McKenna (club sponsor), Terry Butler. ABSENT: Colin Scott.

RESULTS

9 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Fortitude Valley 18 (Rix 2, White tries; Rix 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 16 (Part, Fullerton-Smith, Benson tries; Benson 2 goals).
Valleys: S.Czislowski, P.Coyne, P.White, J.Tapp, B.King, G.Rix, R.Henrick, B.Arnold, R.Moore, K.Neller, A.McInnes, G.Workman, M.Hickey. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Redcliffe: D.Holder, J.Ribot, C.Kealey, M.Brennan, S.Cherry, M.Murray, C.Part, S.Bleakley, W.Fullerton-Smith, T.Benson, B.Niebling, D.Trewhella, R.Poulsen. Reserves: D.Kirby, A.Lennan, M.Murrell. Coach: J.Barber.
Referee: David Manson.

16 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 46 (Lewis 3, Coyne, Butler, B.French, W.Green, Kajewski, I.French tries; Coyne 4, Scott goals) d. Southern Suburbs 22 (Belcher, Lindner, Lumby tries; Meninga 4, Veivers goals).
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, W.Lewis, P.Dawes, B.Walsh, I.French, G.Dowling, T.Kajewski, D.Green (c), G.Coyne. Coach: D.Morris.
Souths: G.Belcher, P.Veivers, M.Meninga (c), H.Abbott, P.Jackson, B.Harry, B.Sully, B.Lindner, A.Lumby, K.Kerr, B.Kellaway, E.Muller, D.Gibson. Coach: W.Bennett.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 13,500.***

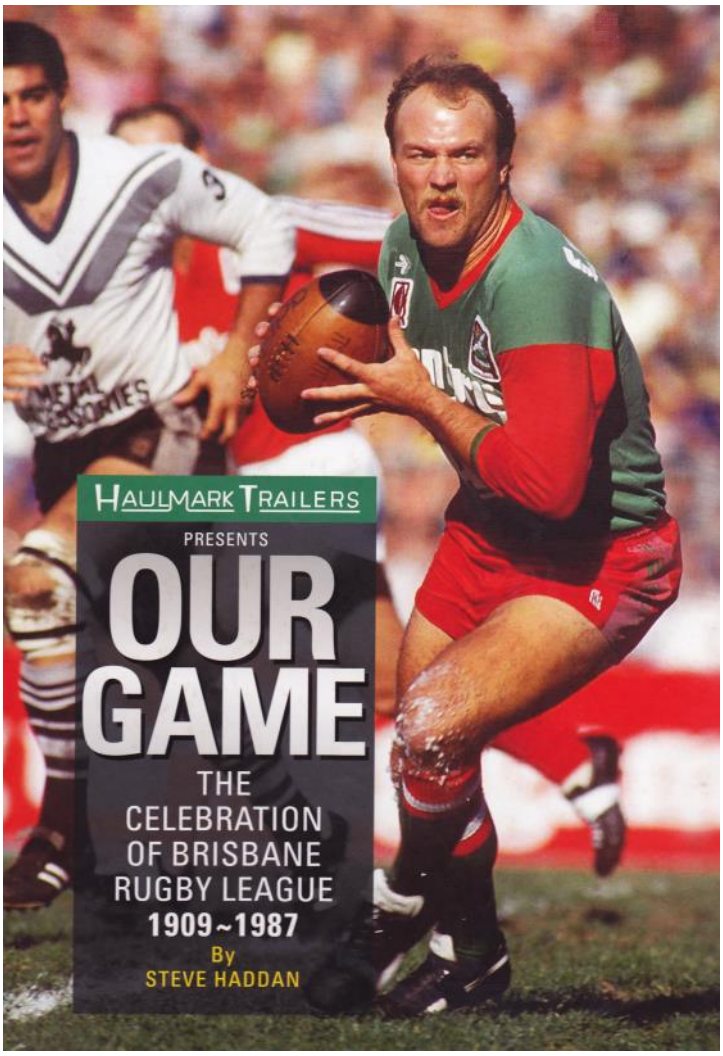
22 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL LANG PARK

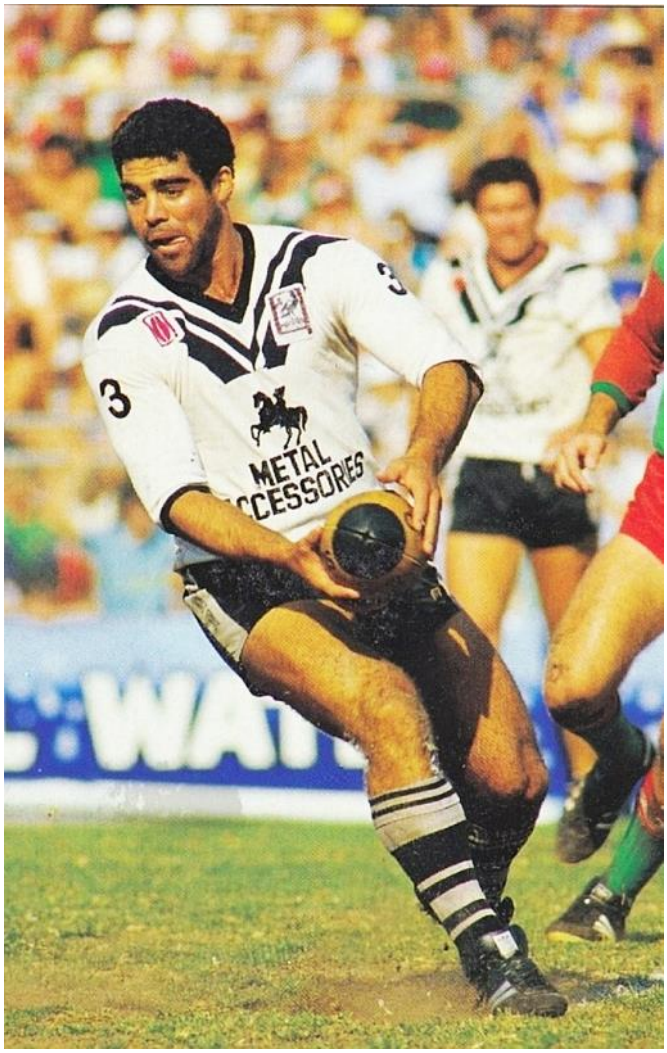
Southern Suburbs 14 (Veivers 2, Abbott tries; Meninga goal) d. Fortitude Valley 8 (Tapp try; Rix 2 goals).
Souths: G.Belcher, P.Veivers, M.Meninga(c), H.Abbott, P.Jackson, W.Halverson, B.Sully, G.Greinke, A.Lumby, K.Kerr, B.Kellaway, E.Muller, M.Meskell. Coach: W.Bennett.
Valleys: S.Czislowski, G.Lawrie, P.White, G.Rix, B.King, P.Coyne, R.Henrick, J.Tapp, B.Arnold, R.Moore (c), K.Neller, G.Workman, M.Hickey. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Referee: David Manson.

30 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 42 (D.Green 2, W.Green, Walsh, B.French, Miles, Lewis, Dowling tries; W.Green 5 goals) d. Southern Suburbs 8 (Abbott try; Meninga 2 goals).
Wynnum: B.Walsh, W.Green, B.French, G.Miles, T.Butler, W.Lewis, P.Dawes, I.French, M.Green, G.Dowling, T.Kajewski, D.Green (c), G.Coyne. Coach: D.Morris.
Souths: G.Belcher, P.Veivers, M.Meninga (c), H.Abbott, P.Jackson, W.Halverson, B.Sully, B.Lindner, A.Lumby, K.Kerr, B.Kellaway, E.Muller, G.Greinke. Reserve: M.Meskell. Coach: W.Bennett.
Referee: David Manson. ***Crowd: 25,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Cavill Heugh (Easts).





Icons of the Brisbane Rugby League competition in the 1980's—Wally Lewis, Mal Meninga and Gene Miles.





Above: Peter Jackson and his fellow Magpie centre, Mal Meninga enjoy a well-earned break after a game.




NANDA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QRX
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AVCO


11
ALPHA MICRO
11


VILLAGE
8
MOTORS


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1985

STATE LEAGUE: WYNNUM-MANLY

1985 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Wynnum-Manly won their second straight State League title by comfortably defeating Brothers in the grand final.

ROUND 1

Souths 10 defeated Brothers 0 at Lang Park
Wide Bay 26 defeated Gold Coast 22 at Lang Park
Norths 10 defeated Wests 2 at Lang Park
Toowoomba 18 defeated Valleys 16 at Toowoomba
Wynnum-Manly 22 defeated Ipswich 8 at Ipswich
Easts 34 defeated North Qld 18 at Townsville
Redcliffe 28 defeated Central Qld 16 at Rockhampton

ROUND 2

Wynnum-Manly 18 defeated Valleys 14 at Lang Park
Brothers 32 defeated Ipswich 8 at Ipswich
Toowoomba 38 defeated North Qld 16 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 6 defeated Norths 2 at Lang Park
Souths 40 defeated Wide Bay 10 at Maryborough
Gold Coast 14 defeated Wests 6 at Carrara Stadium
Easts 58 defeated Central Qld 18 at Biloela

ROUND 3

Easts 14 defeated Valleys 10 at Lang Park
Central Qld 24 defeated Ipswich 18 at Lang Park
Souths 34 defeated Wests 10 at Lang Park
Norths 23 defeated Gold Coast 16 at Carrara Stadium
Redcliffe 34 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Roma
Wynnum-Manly 36 defeated North Qld 6 at Mackay
Wide Bay 17 defeated Brothers 16 at Bundaberg

ROUND 4

Wynnum-Manly 36 defeated Redcliffe 6 at Lang Park
Valleys 30 defeated Ipswich 2 at Gatton
Wide Bay 42 defeated Central Qld 18 at Lang Park
Brothers 45 defeated Easts 18 at Lang Park
Souths 24 defeated Gold Coast 17 at Carrara Stadium
Norths 20 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Dalby
Wests 27 defeated North Qld 16 at Cairns

ROUND 5

Brothers 16 defeated Norths 8 at Lang Park
Ipswich 16 defeated Easts 12 at Ipswich
North Qld 26 defeated Gold Coast 4 at Lang Park
Souths 3 defeated Valleys 2 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 30 defeated Toowoomba 10 at Charleville
Wide Bay 19 defeated Redcliffe 16 at Nambour
Wests 15 defeated Central Qld 6 at Barcaldine

ROUND 6

Wynnum-Manly 38 defeated Wests 10 at Lang Park
Toowoomba 34 defeated Ipswich 10 at Lang Park
Easts 20 defeated Redcliffe 4 at Lang Park
Brothers 32 defeated Gold Coast 20 at Carrara Stadium
Souths 26 defeated North Qld 12 at Ayr
Norths 28 defeated Wide Bay 6 at Gympie
Valleys 50 defeated Central Qld 24 at Emerald

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
WYNNUM-MANLY	6	6	-	0	174	52	12
REDCLIFFE	6	5	-	1	148	80	10
VALLEYS	6	5	-	1	117	52	10
IPSWICH	6	5	-	1	154	96	10
Souths	6	3	-	3	120	84	6
Brothers	6	3	-	3	94	112	6
Norths	6	3	-	3	76	95	6
Wests	6	2	1	3	75	89	5
Wide Bay	6	2	1	3	82	154	5
Easts	6	2	-	4	114	112	4
Toowoomba	6	2	-	4	86	106	4
North Queensland	6	1	-	5	76	139	2
Gold Coast	6	1	-	5	97	170	2
Central Queensland	6	1	-	5	110	188	2

SEMI FINALS

WYNNUM-MANLY 40 (Brett French 2, Bob Lindner 2, Terry Butler 2, Wally Lewis, Warren Green tries; Warren Green 2, Colin Scott 2 goals) defeated
EASTS 6 (Mark McDonald try; Mark Wilkes goal) at Lang Park

BROTHERS 28 (Robert Grogan, Henry Foster, Ray Baumber, Pat Shepherdson tries; Pat Shepherdson 6 goals) defeated
SOUTHS 16 (G Thompson, Gary French, Brad Sully tries; Gary French 2 goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL

WYNNUM-MANLY 16 (Warren Green 2, Terry Butler tries; Warren Green 2 goals) defeated
BROTHERS 0 at Lang Park

1985

State League Semi-Final -
Wynnum-Manly 40 v Easts 6

Seagulls set to pick up $47,000

WINFIELD State League champions Wynnum-Manly stormed into the final of the 1985 competition with a professional demolition of Easts by 40-6 in the semi-finals at Lang Park yesterday.

The Seagulls virtually wrote their name on a cheque for $47,000 which they will receive if they win the final after coming through the six State League rounds and the semi-finals undefeated.

There were few rugby league supporters last night who could not see them winning their second consecutive State League, and even final opposition coach Ross Strudwick admitted Brothers could not beat them on Wednesday.

Strudwick's main hope in the final is that Brothers can reduce the margin of 32-10 which Wynnum beat them in the Wootles final on March 31.

The Seagulls only concern for the final is that they may be without tireless prop Gary Coyne, who left the field right on three-quarter time yesterday with a badly wrenched knee. But they will lose nothing in experience with Tony Kajewski waiting to fill the gap.

Critics were divided on the outcome of yesterday's match, with some predicting a close encounter and others forecasting a runaway win for Wynnum. Unfortunately for the Tigers it was a runaway.

The Seagulls, thanks to a magnificent third quarter when they scored four tries in a 10-minute burst, romped home in brilliant fashion and could have passed the half-century in points had they not bombed three scoring opportunities in the final minutes.

Easts coach Wayne Lindenberg was left to ponder what might have been after his men were disallowed an early try when five-eighth Mark Wilkes went in between the posts after Colin Scott and Wally Lewis made a "right mess" of a Larry Brigginshaw bomb. Referee Barry Gomersall was right on the spot to rule Wilkes had bounced the ball, a ruling Wilkes disputed.

Lindenberg claimed Easts should have led 12-4 at halftime instead of trailing 6-8, but if there is one thing that lights a fuse under Wynnum it is a challenge, and there was enough of a challenge that they had been held to only two tries by halftime.

The first came in the second minute when Easts dropped the ball along their backs, Brett French swooped on it, and within three or four passes Lewis was over in the corner.

Lewis was sent to the sin-bin for five minutes towards the end of the term for allegedly stomping on an opponent in a ruck and Wilkes landed the resulting penalty to reduce the score to 4-2.

Easts appeared to be getting on top in the second period and hit the front after only four minutes when winger Mark McDonald won the race to touch down after Brigginshaw had placed a neat grubber into the in-goal area.

They was a strong chance to score three minutes later when non-stop lock Brett Man burst through the centre for a 50m gain, but Wynnum's defence rallied and Brigginshaw's kick on the sixth tackle went dead.

Wynnum's amazing recovery rate was evident in the 29th minute when centre Brian Walsh raced through to gather a Lewis clearing kick and Bob Lindner broke two tackles before popping up a neat pass for Brett French to score, and Wynnum led 8-6 at halftime.

Easts had put themselves under a lot of pressure in the second period when they gave away possession with a lot of dropped ball. But in the 10 minutes immediately after the break they had no ball to spill. It was all Wynnum, and no one could have guessed the havoc they were to unleash.

From the kick-off Warren Green almost scored in the corner after a long break by French, but the ball was whisked across the width of the field for Linder to cross in the far corner. Green converted from the touchline for 14-6.

French featured again five minutes later when he took a short pass from Walsh, broke clear and gave the final pass to Terry Butler.

Warren Green was over within two minutes after a sensational passing burst with Mal Green handling twice and Greg Dowling, Gary Coyne and Scott prominent. And within another three minutes French was in for his second try

THE DETAILS

WYNNUM-MANLY.....40
EASTS.....6

Scorers — Wynnum: B French 2, Lindner 2, Butler 2, Lewis, W Green tries; W Green 2, C Scott 2 goals. Easts: McDonald try; Wilkes goal. First scorers: Wynnum 6 (Lewis), Easts 6 (Wilkes).

When they scored

2min: Wynnum 4-0 (W Lewis try). 16min: Wynnum 4-2 (M Wilkes goal). 24min: Easts 6-4 (M McDonald try). 29min: Wynnum 8-6 (B French try). 41min: Wynnum 14-6 (B Lindner try; W Green goal). 46min: Wynnum 18-6 (T Butler try). 48min: Wynnum 24-6 (W Green try; W Green goal). 51min: Wynnum 28-6 (B French try). 71min: Wynnum 34-6 (T Butler try; C Scott goal). 76min: Wynnum 40-6 (B Lindner try; C Scott goal).

Scrums: Wynnum 9-6. Penalties: 10-10



CENTRE Brett French beats the last-ditch tackle of Easts lock Brett Le Man to score for Wynnum-Manly in the State League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.



HOW about that? . . . French is congratulated on his 50m scoring effort by team-mates Brian Walsh (left) and Terry Butler.

1985

State League Semi-Final -
Brothers 28 v Souths 16

Semi win heaven-sent

SOUTHS/BROTHERS

BARRY DICK

SCHEMING Brothers rugby league coach Ross Strudwick enlisted some outside help before plotting Souths downfall in the second Winfield State League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Strudwick was concerned about weather conditions — and more particularly whether it would rain and what effect the rain might have on the strong breeze — so he phoned the Queensland Rugby League to see if officials had checked the weather reports.

"I figured the QRL would want to know if it was going to rain because of the crowd," Strudwick said. "Then I asked five or six blokes who have been around Brisbane for years to see what they reckoned. All of them said the wind would drop and change direction and it would rain heavily."

In the end the late weather predictions became yet another winning move in Strudwick's ever-increasing list of winning ploys. The information he got proved precise almost to the letter and Brothers ran with a strong wind at their backs in the first half and had a lesser breeze at their backs in the second half.

It also started pouring just after halftime and the floodlights were switched on to give the year's biggest crowd — around 15,000 — a chance to see the action.

With everything in their favor Brothers still struggled to beat a determined Souths 28-16 with the match-sealing try coming just two minutes from the end when replacement forward Ray Baumber scored from a Pat Shepherdson bomb.

Souths coach Wayne Bennett sprung the biggest surprise of the day when he used Test centre Mal Meninga, back in town just four days after an off-season stint with English club St Helen's, in the second-row from the start.

"I have been very happy with our centres, it was Mal's first game back and he was really keen and we haven't had back-rowers who can really break the line so I thought it might be a good idea for Mal to be in the forwards," Bennett said.

Meninga made several characteristic charging runs out wide and from his powerful exhibition on a losing side there should not be too many worries about him causing New South Wales a few headaches in the first State of Origin match on May 28.

As usual Strudwick gave nothing away. When asked whether he was caught unawares by Meninga's switch to the forwards he said: "Did he play in the second-row? I wondered why he was always near the ball."

The match also marked the full rugby league first grade debut for former Australian rugby union breakaway Chris Roche who did enough to suggest he will not concede his back-row position easily.

With his first touch of the ball Roche split the Souths defence brilliantly and got a good pass away and when Meninga made his first long run it was Roche who brought him tumbling down with a low tackle.

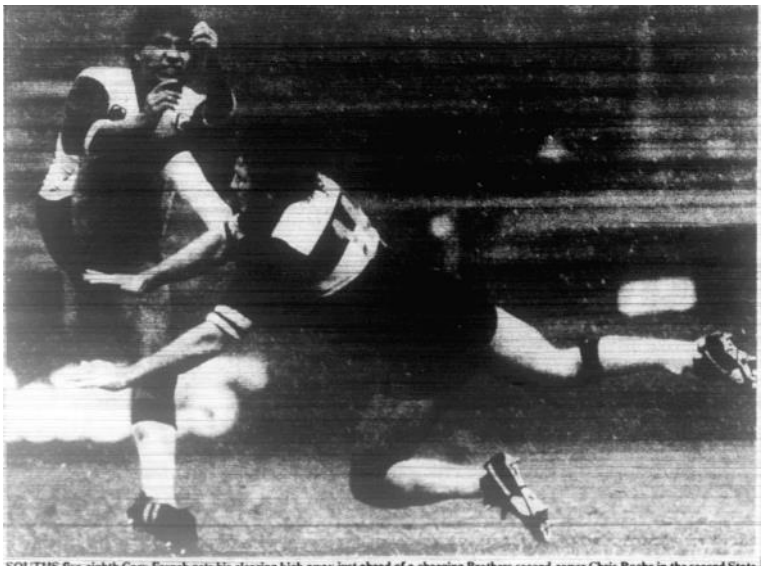
Roche might have been a little too slow to play the ball when he was tackled and he perhaps spent a little too much time with his hands on his knees gathering his breath but he is, after all, a novice to the professional game and it was his first attempt at 80-minute league.

Certainly Strudwick was impressed: "I really didn't think he would see the game out because he's only been playing slower-paced reserve grade games over 70 minutes but he was still going at the end."

Shepherdson, a sometimes-maligned footballer because of his lack of true pace, contributed 16 points to the Brothers cause with a try and six goals from as many attempts to once again underline his value.

Youngster David Bourke, who came into the Souths side when regular fullback Gary Belcher was ruled out late last week because of concussion, was all-but impeccable under the high ball and there was plenty of it from Shepherdson and Henry Foster. The fact that he had the ball jolted from his arms to allow Baumber's late try did not detract from his overall performance.

Brothers took full advantage of a slackening off in the Souths defence at the end of three of the four quarters to score three telling tries.



SOUTHS five-eighth Gary French gets his clearing kick away just ahead of a charging Brothers second-rower Chris Roche in the second State League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.



MAL MENINGA shaved off his beard for his return to Lang Park yesterday when he played second-row for Souths.

THE DETAILS

BROTHERS.....28
SOUTHS.....16
Scorers— Brothers: Grogan, Shepherdson, Foster, Baumber tries; Shepherdson 6 goals. Souths: Thompson, French, Sully tries; French 2 goals. First scorers: Brothers 6 (Shepherdson), Souths 6 (French)
When they scored:
2 min: Brothers 2-0 (Shepherdson goal)
12 min: Souths 6-2 (French try, goal)
22 min: Souths 6-4 (Shepherdson goal)
27 min: Brothers 10-6 (Foster try, Shepherdson goal)
38 min: Brothers 16-6 (Grogan try, Shepherdson goal)
42 min: Brothers 16-12 (Thompson try, French goal)
58 min: Brothers 22-12 (Shepherdson try, goal)
67 min: Brothers 22-16 (Sully try)
78 min: Brothers 28-16 (Baumber try, Shepherdson goal)
Scrums: 7-all. Penalties: Brothers 13-8

1985

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - WYNNUM-MANLY 16 v BROTHERS 0

Seagulls crush Brothers

By BARRY DICK

WYNNUM-MANLY are Queensland rugby league State champions again after brushing aside the challenge from Brothers in the Winfield State League final at Lang Park last night.

The 16-0 victory gave Wynnum-Manly the second leg of what could be an unprecedented triple crown. Earlier this season they won the Woolies pre-season title and now they will go all-out to win the Winfield Cup Brisbane premiership.

It was Brothers' third loss to Wynnum this year — 0-8 in the first round, 10-32 in the Woolies final and 0-16 last night — and Brothers coach Ross Strudwick's concern that there is no way to beat the Seagulls just might be correct.

For going through the State League competition undefeated Wynnum-Manly collected $47,000 in prizemoney — money which the club desperately needs to ease a dicey financial situation. Brothers also come out of the competition pretty well, collecting $33,000 of the sponsor's money.

The final was of a high quality and it was a shame more people were not at Lang Park to witness Wynnum's triumph but obviously many fans were kept at home by the late — 8.30pm — start and the live television coverage.

Brilliant lock Bob Lindner, Wynnum's prize 1985 recruit, was the star of the night with some superb attack and stinging defence. Lindner understandably took time to settle into his new club at the start of this season but he is proving to be a more than handy buy for the premiers now.

Referee Barry Gomersall, as always the centre of attention, stunned the crowd when he sent four players — Greg Dowling and Terry Butler of Wynnum and Jim Heery and Gary Smith of Brothers — to the sin bin for five minutes late in the first quarter.

Dowling and Heery were involved in a two-man scuffle after a scrum and Butler merely stood by to ensure that Dowling was not outnumbered. When Smith moved in to help Heery, Butler became involved.

Stragely enough Gomersall, who had followed the play instead of worrying about the brawl, did not take a touch judge's report on the incident, simply directing the four players to the dressing room.

While the quartet was 'spelling' Wynnum-Manly notched the first try of the match. Lindner weaved his way into a gap before he gave winger Warren Green a clear passage to the tryline with a gem of a pass.

Brothers were unlucky not to score early in the second quarter when Gomersall disallowed a try by Brothers hooker Trevor Bailey.

Fullback Colin Scott sent a shudder through Wynnum-Manly and Queensland coach Des Morris when he went down injured early in the third quarter, but he must have only jarred his knee because he was back playing as strongly as ever soon after.

He was down injured again in the final quarter when he leapt high to take a bomb and this time Morris quickly removed him from the fray. Brad Morgan went on in his place.

Lindner laid the groundwork for Wynnum's second try, in the third quarter, when he made a scorching run down the right touchline before getting a good pass to second rower Ian French, who put Butler away.

Former international rugby union breakaway Chris Roche, playing in the second row for Brothers, produced an amazing piece of cover defence to almost stop the try after initially tripping over. He was replaced immediately after the try. Scores:

Wynnum-Manly 16 (W Green 2 T Butler tries; W Green 2 goals) d Brothers 0. First scorers and first try scorers: Wynnum-Manly 5, Brothers 12.

Trades and Labor Cup (under-18): Ipswich 22 d Wide Bay 0.



BROTHERS winger Joe Kilroy is airborne as he is wrapped up by a Wynnum-Manly defender at Lang Park in the State League final last night.

1985

BRL: SOUTHS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Suburbs	21	15	0	6	415	246	30
Past Brothers	21	15	0	6	438	291	30
Wynnum-Manly	21	15	0	6	468	349	30
Fortitude Valley	21	10	2	9	390	324	22
Eastern Suburbs	21	10	0	11	391	421	20
Redcliffe	21	8	0	13	320	327	16
Norths	21	7	0	14	296	421	14
Wests	21	2	2	17	257	598	6

1985 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

Points from some games in the Woolies pre-season and State League counted towards the BRL points ladder and those games were effectively Round 1 games for the BRL premiership.

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 2

WEEK ENDING 26 MAY

Easts	v	Wynnum Manly	Langlands Park . . . 18-26
Valleys	v	Redcliffe	Neuman Oval 26-10
Wests	v	Brothers	Purtell Park 18-26
Norths	v	Souths	Bishop Park 8-26

WEEK ENDING 2 JUNE

Norths	v	Easts	Bishop Park 10-12
Wests	v	Valleys	Purtell Park 20-20
Recliffe	v	Brothers	Dolphin Oval 22-18
Wynnum Manly	v	Souths	Lang Park 26-12

WEEK ENDING 9 JUNE

Valleys	v	Norths	Neumann Oval . . . 36- 4
Souths	v	Easts	Davies Park 12-28
Redcliffe	v	Wests	Dolphin Oval 32- 8
Brothers	v	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park 48-12

WEEK ENDING 16 JUNE

Wynnum Manly	v	Norths	Kougari Oval 14- 8
Redcliffe	v	Souths	Dolphin Oval 30- 8
Easts	v	Wests	Langlands Park . . . 38-18
Valleys	v	Brothers	Lang Park 24-22

WEEK ENDING 23 JUNE

Souths	v	Valleys	Lang Park 16-14
Norths	v	Wests	Bishop Park 30-14
Wynnum Manly	v	Redcliffe	Kougari Oval 23-16
Easts	v	Brothers	Langlands Park . . . 26-28

WEEK ENDING 30 JUNE

Redcliffe	v	Norths	Dolphin Oval 16-22
Valleys	v	Easts	Neumann Oval . . . 20-22
Brothers	v	Souths	Lang Park 8-20
Wests	v	Wynnum Manly	Purtell Park 28-30

WEEK ENDING 7 JULY

Norths	v	Brothers	Bishop Park 16-30
Wests	v	Souths	Purtell Park 8-34
Easts	v	Redcliffe	Lang Park 7-0
Valleys	v	Wynnum Manly	Neumann Oval 18-4

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 3

WEEK ENDING 14 JULY

Wynnum Manly	v	Easts	Kougari Oval 27-16
Redcliffe	v	Valleys	Dolphin Oval 14-20
Brothers	v	Wests	Corbett Park 40-13
Souths	v	Norths	Davies Park 16-18

WEEK ENDING 21 JULY

Easts	v	Norths	Langlands Park . . . 24- 0
Valleys	v	Wests	Neumann Oval . . . 18-18
Brothers	v	Redcliffe	Corbett Park 16-12
Souths	v	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park 44- 6

WEEK ENDING 28 JULY

Norths	v	Valleys	Bishop Park 14-32
Easts	v	Souths	Langlands Park . . . 12-52
Wests	v	Redcliffe	Purtell Park 6-40
Wynnum Manly	v	Brothers	Lang Park 6-12

WEEK ENDING 4 AUGUST

Norths	v	Wynnum Manly	Bishop Park 14-30
Souths	v	Redcliffe	Davies Park 14- 4
Wests	v	Easts	Purtell Park 30-28
Brothers	v	Fortitude Valley	Lang Park 30-12

WEEK ENDING 11 AUGUST

Valleys	v	Souths	Lang Park 10-26
Wests	v	Norths	Purtell Park 14-21
Redcliffe	v	Wynnum Manly	Dolphin Oval 20-18
Brothers	v	Easts	Corbett Park 20-16

WEEK ENDING 18 AUGUST

Norths	v	Redcliffe	Bishop Park 13-20
Easts	v	Valleys	Langlands Park . . . 10-22
Souths	v	Brothers	Lang Park 14- 6
Wynnum Manly	v	Wests	Kougari Oval 40-12

WEEK ENDING 25 AUGUST

Brothers	v	Norths	Corbett Park 18-16
Souths	v	Wests	Davies Park 25- 4
Redcliffe	v	Easts	Lang Park 16-18
Wynnum Manly	v	Valleys	Kougari Oval 32-10

1985

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 25 v Valleys 22

Gutsy Diehards take Seagulls to the wire

WYNNUM-MANLY VALLEYS

BARRY DICK

VALLEYS bowed out of the Brisbane rugby league premiership race at Lang Park yesterday but in doing so the 1985 Diehards lifted themselves into the ranks of some of the gutsiest teams produced by Brisbane's most tradition-conscious club.

Defending premiers Wynnum-Manly ended Valleys Winfield Cup hopes with a heart-stopping 25-22 win in the knockout semi-final but it was the young Valleys side which emerged with much of the glory usually afforded to winners.

Nobody really questioned Valleys coach Peter McWhirter's assessment that the better team had lost on the day. At least one very good league judge was heard to inquire immediately about the odds about Valleys winning the 1986 title.

Diehards officials were understandably bitter about the loss — although it was a shame their bitterness overflowed to unwarranted criticisms of referee David Manson — when they should have been rejoicing about the abundant talent that will be at McWhirter's disposal next year.

Manson did not have one of his better games with the whistle but it would be pointless to say he influenced the result. A couple of tight decisions went against Valleys but they also benefited from one or two other doubtful rulings.

Perhaps what hurt the Valleys camp most of all was that the match was won for Wynnum by one of Valleys' favorite sons, Wally Lewis.

The Australian captain, son of the Valleys reserve grade coach Jim Lewis and part of a family steeped in Valleys tradition, was the sole reason Wynnum survived the battle.

Lewis' cover defence halted countless Valleys attacking raids and stopped at least three probable tries. On the other side of the ledger, Lewis scored two superb tries and kicked a telling field goal.

There was high drama galore as Wynnum grimly held on to a two-point lead in the breathtaking closing stages. The countdown went something like this:

• 5min 26sec left on the clock: Wynnum lock Ian French has the ball jolted from his arms as he dives for the match-scaling try.

• 3.23: Wynnum's Test forward Greg Dowling is crunched in a great tackle by replacement Valleys forward Bob Arnold. Wynnum trainer Bruce Cory calls for a stretcher and there is a long delay as Dowling is carried off with a rib injury.

• 3.05: Manson awards Wynnum a scrum penalty and the groan from the Valleys camp can be heard all round the ground.

• 2.22: Wynnum halfback Peter Dawes loses the ball on the second of six tackles and it is the Seagulls turn to groan.

• 1.59: Another scrum penalty, this time to Valleys and the Diehards have their chance.

• 1.17: Valleys centre Peter Coyne tries a desperate chip kick. Lewis mops up and immediately turns defence into attack.

• 0.31: Lewis lands his field goal and Valleys are left with no time to mount a last-ditch attack.

All that came after Valleys had staged a remarkable comeback to bring the game, and the crowd, to life at 24-22 with 14 minutes remaining.

At one stage of the first half Wynnum-Manly, running into the wind, led 18-2 and it appeared Valleys were in for an almighty shellacking. The Seagulls had piled on 18 points in six minutes and although there was an element of fluke about their first two tries (both were scored by Dowling from Lewis bombs) it still looked curtains for Valleys.

But if Wynnum thought they could shake the Diehards that easily they were in for a surprise because by half-time Valleys had clawed their way back to 12-18 and I thought they had by far the better of the second half.

Five of the eight tries scored came from kicks so it would be fair to say the bounce of the ball favored Wynnum.

Major semi-final teams Souths and Brothers watched the match from the scoreboard hill — for a time they were seated less than 20 metres apart — and they probably went away secure in the knowledge that Wynnum would have to improve markedly to retain their title.

THE DETAILS

WYNNUM-MANLY 25
VALLEYS 22
SCORERS.— Wynnum-Manly: Lewis 2, Dowling 2 tries; W Green 4 goals; Lewis field goal. Valleys: Rix, Boys, McCabe, Kiss tries; Booth 3 goals. First scorers: Wynnum 10 (Dowling), Valleys 1 (Booth).





AUSTRALIAN rugby league prop Greg Dowling had quite a day at Lang Park yesterday, experiencing many of football's "highs" and "lows" in the space of 77 minutes.

Dowling scored two early tries for Wynnum and was the centre of celebrations for his team-mates *(above)* after notching his second, but he injured his knee soon after *(left)* and late in the match he was carried off on a stretcher with a painful rib injury.

Dowling's wife Rhonda was in the Lang Park medical room to console the rugged forward *(right)* but he is faced with the prospect of missing the preliminary final on Sunday week.

Wynnum-Manly officials last night were hoping that Dowling's injury was nothing worse than bad bruising but he will have X-rays today to ensure the ribs are not broken.

Wynnum also lost prop Tony Kajewski early in the match with an wrist injury — coach Des Morris originally feared Kajewski's arm might be broken but a preliminary check revealed only bad bruising — so the club's forward depth could be stretched to the limit.

To make matters worse for the Seagulls, skipper David Green was ill at halftime and was unusually quiet as Valleys mounted their comeback in the second half.





WYNNUM-MANLY'S champion rugby league centre Gene Miles was back on Lang Park for the first time in 1985 in the knockout semi-final against Valleys yesterday, and he got a good "feel" of the ground when caught in this classic low tackle.

1985

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 14 v Brothers 8

Magpies claw their way into grand final

SOUTHS BROTHERS

BARRY DICK

A MEMORABLE defensive display by Brothers was not enough to prevent Souths from clawing their way into the Brisbane rugby league grand final for the sixth time in seven years after a dogged major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

Souths won the match 14-8, giving them an "easy" passage to the Winfield Cup decider on Sunday week and banishing Brothers to a sudden-death preliminary final encounter with premiers Wynnum-Manly next week.

Brothers coach Ross Strudwick will hardly relish the thought of having to beat Wynnum to earn another tilt at Souths. It will be his fifth preliminary final in the last six years and his 0-4 record so far would not inspire him with confidence.

The Magpies thoroughly deserve their week's break, although they were only marginally the better side in yesterday's defence-orientated match.

It was a little disappointing to watch two sides boasting as many outstanding attacking players as Souths and Brothers concentrating so heavily on defence, but that's what finals' football is all about. Perhaps that is the lesson Souths have learned from four losing grand final appearances since 1979.

Certainly Souths must now be regarded as warm favorites to clinch the title. They are through to the grand final and it is left to Brothers or Wynnum to come up with ways to crack what has become an almost impenetrable defensive line.

Brothers' only chance — if they get another chance — would appear to be to throw caution to the wind and revert to the attacking brand of football they play best.

Centre Tim Dwyer showed that the Souths defence can be split when he charged through a narrow gap midway through the second half for the 50-metre gain. If more of the Brothers players had been prepared to run on to the ball with a full head of steam behind them Souths might have been under more pressure.

As it was, Brothers plugged away up the middle where Souths are strongest — which played right into the hands of "hardheads" like Chris Phelan, John Elias and Norm Carr.

Brothers' tactical kicking also left a lot to be desired when compared with Souths and as a result they contributed to the pressure they found themselves under for much of the match.

However, one should not be too harsh on the Brethren. They were forced to tackle so much in the first half, when Souths had an absolute mortgage on possession, that there was probably little gas left in the attacking tank in the second session.

Souths displayed the sort of toughness premiers are made of. If they produce the same ruggedness in a fortnight's time it will take something special to beat them.

Bearded hooker Eddie Muller emerged as one of the real heroes for Souths with a solid all-round display. In a match which featured plenty of great defence in the middle of the rucks, Muller was able to make ground almost every time he darted from dummy half.

It came as no great surprise when one of his forays from dummy half produced Souths' first try three minutes before halftime. He had given fair notice of his intentions with several sharp bursts before.

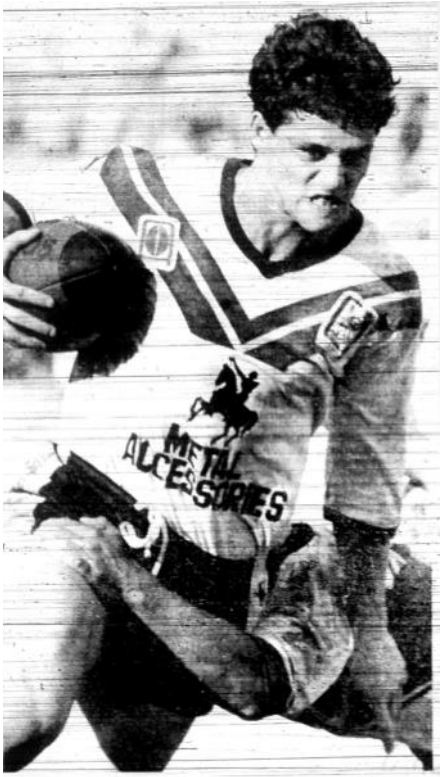
Souths' second try, 12 minutes from the end, came as something of a bonus. Winger Paul Wallace touched down after accepting an overhead pass from centre Peter Jackson. Only two minutes before the pair had combined for an abortive attempt when Jackson served an unmarked Wallace with a difficult pass.

Brothers fans might have felt "robbed" by one decision from referee Eddie Ward 32 minutes into the first half. Ward was about to award halfback Henry Foster a try from a Greg Smith bomb but after checking quickly with his touch judge he ruled a knock-on.

It was a marginal decision, but TV replays appeared to confirm there had been a knock-on so there was no real cause for complaint.



A TYPICAL example of the constructive work of Souths hooker Eddie Muller in yesterday's major rugby league semi-final. Here he is caught by his opposite, Trevor Bailey, but manages to keep his arms free to keep the attack moving.



GRITTY determination etched on his face, Souths rugby league centre Peter Jackson attempts to break through a tackle by Brothers halfback Henry Foster in yesterday's major semi-final at Lang Park.



CLASSIC rugby league action from Lang Park as Brothers centre Rob Grogan is caught in a perfect low tackle by Souths Eddie Muller, but manages to unload.

THE DETAILS

SOUTHS 14
BROTHERS.....8

SCORERS.— Souths: Muller, Wallace tries; French 3 goals. Brothers: McErlean try; Dwyer 2 goals.

First scorers: Souths 6 (French), Brothers 5 (McErlean).

1985

BRL Preliminary Final - Wynnum 35 v Brothers 16

Skipper leads 'Green Machine' to the final

WYNNUM-MANLY/BROTHERS

BARRY DICK

A HAT-TRICK of tries by skipper David Green and a magnificent performance by under-rated front-rower Gary Coyne at Lang Park yesterday helped Wynnum-Manly continue their march towards their second consecutive Brisbane rugby league Winfield Cup.

Wynnum disdainfully fended off Brothers' challenge in the preliminary final, scoring 25 points to nil in the second half to win 35-16 and earn the right to play Souths in the grand final next Sunday.

It will be the second Souths-Wynnum grand final in two years and the third in four years — but this time Souths might even start slight favorites despite Wynnum's impressive form yesterday.

Green's three tries capped a fine captain's game and were highlighted by his first — an absolute gem of quick-thinking when he took a tap from a penalty five metres from the line.

"I had my hand up to indicate a kick for goal when I noticed that Henry (Foster) had his back turned so I said to the referee 'I'll take a tap' and he said 'go ahead' and I did," Green said later.

Coyne thrived on the added workload caused by the absence of regular front-row partner Tony Kajewski. He was taking the ball up with the same gusto at fulltime as when the match started. It was a memorable performance from a player who doesn't always get the plaudits he deserves.

The Wynnum victory prevented what would have been a clean sweep of Souths-Brothers grand finals next week from under-21s to first grade and added another chapter to Brothers coach Ross Strudwick's preliminary final hoodoo — he has now lost five of the last six.

Strudwick would have been kicking himself especially hard after Brothers "blew" their 16-10 half-time advantage because one of his well-known ploys backfired horribly when the Brethren were forced to play the final 15 minutes of the match with 12 men.

Strudwick pulled a late switch before the game, sending on Bligh Davidson for Gary Smith in the second row and Mark Zillman for Trevor Smith in the frontrow in an attempt to capitalise on what he thought would be a weakness in Wynnum's forward pack.

Twenty minutes into the match Davidson and Zillman made way for the Smiths and the move appeared certain to succeed when the Brethren scored three tries before half-time to convert a 2-10 deficit into a 16-10 lead.

But things went haywire in the second half when Strudwick needed to replace Greg Smith and Brett Ferguson, using up his quota of four replacements before Gary Smith finally succumbed to a knee injury.

In the end all the comings and goings for Brothers probably did not affect the result — Wynnum were just too classy in the second half and in blitzing Brothers so convincingly the Seagulls sounded a clear note of warning to Souths.

The Magpies would have had no worries about the prospect of playing Wynnum in the grand final on the basis of yesterday's first half when the Seagulls dropped the ball no less than seven times on the first tackle and were guilty of the most fundamental of errors.

But when the "Green Machine" started firing on all cylinders in the second half it was really something to watch and with their confidence rocketing the Seagulls even had the audacity to refuse a possible two points from a penalty at 14-16 to go for a try.

The decision was vindicated when Test five-eighth Wally Lewis produced one of his specials — a crashing effort close to the ruck — and all of a sudden Wynnum were in front . . . where they stayed.

WINFIELD CUP

PRELIMINARY FINALS

WYNNUM-MANLY 35 BROTHERS 16

Scorers — Wynnum-Manly: D Green 3, T Butler, W Lewis, I French, G Coyne tries, W Green 3 goals, G Miles field goal. Brothers: T Bailey, T Smith, C Roche tries; T Dwyer 2 goals. First scorers: Brothers 4, Wynnum-Manly 12. First try scorers: Wynnum-Manly 12, Brothers 12.



PERHAPS the most deserved try of yesterday's Brisbane rugby league preliminary final at Lang Park — Wynnum-Manly prop Gary Coyne stretches out in Brothers fullback Joe Kilroy's tackle to score the Seagulls' second try — Picture: *Jim Fenwick*.

1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8

LEAGUE FINAL '85 WYNNUM versus SOUTHS

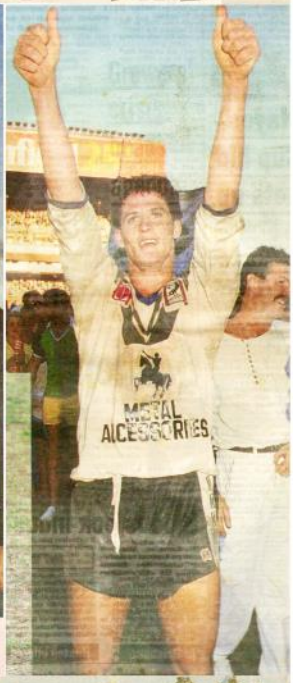


Souths skipper Norm Carr had to work overtime to score his team's only try. Stopped short by a Wally Lewis ankle tap he got up, got going and carried Terry Butler over the line.

Sweet revenge







It's Souths — hail to the champs!

SOUTHS are the new Brisbane rugby league champions after tackling big match specialists Wynnum-Manly out of the Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

The Magpies earned their victory lap with a magnificent defensive effort and the mere fact that they were able to win the grand final 10-8 without scoring a point in the second half spoke volumes for their commitment to a pre-set match plan.

Souths could not have hoped to match Wynnum-Manly in a free-flowing attacking game, so the players devoted themselves to nullifying the Seagulls attack — and reaped the reward.

To say that they were helped slightly by referee David Manson's unwillingness to police the five-metre rule would be churlish.

Champions do not deserve to have their triumph tarnished by sour grapes about a referee's performance and the Wynnum camp

SOUTHS-WYNNUM

BARRY DICK

was not about to whinge about Manson.

Seagulls coach Des Morris was quick to give credit where it was due. "We were beaten by a better team on the day," he said.

In capturing their first premiership since 1981, the Magpies wiped memories of last year's grand final disaster when they were on the wrong end of a record margin against Wynnum.

They also prevented what would have been an historic clean sweep by Wynnum, who were chasing the third leg of an unprecedented triple crown after earlier winning the Woolies and Winfield State League championships.

And the Magpies did it in style, picking up the under-21 and third grade titles on the way — with the only sad note on the day coming in reserve grade where Brothers finished on top of Souths.

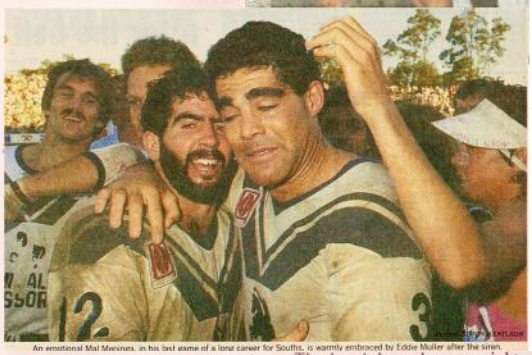
Rugby league purists would have been enthralled by the contest between two evenly-match sides and, if sections of the 31,000 strong crowd walked away disappointed that they did not see more attack, they were hard to please.

There was more than enough action to satisfy the hungriest of appetites and the defence was as good as any seen at Lang Park, at club level at least, for a couple of seasons.

Despite reassurances from Souths coach Wayne Bennett that he was not nervous at any stage, "there must have been some palpitations on the Magpies bench when the Seagulls began mounting desperate attack in the closing stages.

Forever the innovators, Wynnum tried everything to crack the defence in the final 10 minutes but they were thwarted by Souths' bravery and their own mistakes.

In the end the Seagulls paid the ultimate price for some basic handling errors.



An emotional Mal Meninga, in his last game of a long career for Souths, is warmly embraced by Eddie Muller after the siren.

Brisbane did not see the best of Wynnum in the last couple of months, but that was to be expected when one considered the tragic injury toll at Kougari Oval with quality players such as Bob Lindner, Brian Walsh, Mal Green and Tony Kajewski falling by the wayside.

And the sorry tale continued yesterday when Queensland fullback Colin Scott played as a passenger for 49 minutes after tearing rib cartilages in an early tackle.

It was perhaps fitting that Souths' "war horse" skipper Norm Carr, a player written off by many at the start of the season, should score the first of the only two tries in the grand final.

The breakthrough came eight minutes before halftime when Carr, using sheer determination and brute strength, forced his way over following a great run by man-of-the-match John Elias.

That gave Souths a 10-2 lead at the turnaround, although they withstood a pounding from Wynnum in the last five minutes of the half to earn their halftime lead.

Carr said later he had made no definite decision about whether to play again next year. "I'll see how I feel in a couple of months," he said.

Souths defence did not crack until the 68th minute of the match when replacement Wynnum forward Craig Adams used the sort of determination that Carr had shown earlier to crash over near the posts.

RUGBY LEAGUE

WINFIELD CUP

GRAND FINALS

SOUTHS 10 WYNNUM-MANLY 8

Scorers — Souths: N Carr try; G Smith 3 goals. Wynnum-Manly: C Adams try; W Green 2 goals. First scorers: Souths 6, Wynnum-Manly 5. First try scorers: Souths 8, Wynnum-Manly 8.

RESERVE GRADE

BROTHERS 22 SOUTHS 16

Scorers — Brothers: S McCarthy, B Davidson, J Tapp, S Carter tries; B Harry 3 goals. Souths: M Clarkson, G Parker tries; B Leaso 4 goals.

THIRD GRADE

SOUTHS 18 BROTHERS 12

Scorers — Souths: W Wilson, C Donovan, P Bergin tries; D Jones 2, B Tickner goals. Brothers: V O'Brien, M Crowther tries; L Newman 2 goals.

UNDER 21

SOUTHS 21 BROTHERS 14

Scorers — Souths: P Marchant, S Hamilton, T Waddups, C White tries; W Adams 2 goals, J Gilbert field goal. Brothers: M Gander, P McGraw, R Sullivan tries; K McMaster goal.

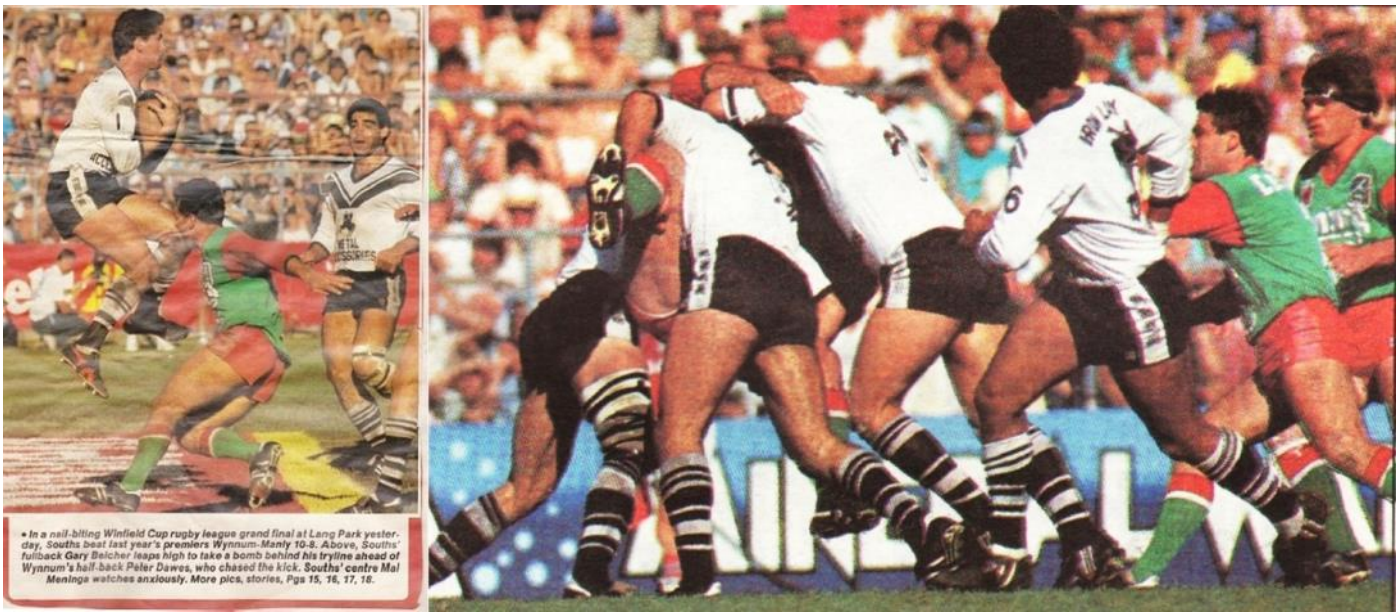






1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8



• In a nail-biting Winfield Cup rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday, Souths beat last year's premiers Wynnum-Manly 10-8. Above, Souths' fullback Gary Belcher leaps high to take a bomb behind his tryline ahead of Wynnum's half-back Peter Dawes, who chased the kick. Souths' centre Mal Meninga watches anxiously. More pics, stories, Pgs 15, 16, 17, 18.





Above: The John Elias break and the Norm Carr try that followed it in the 1985 Grand Final.



Souths centre Mal Meninga breaks away from Wynnum's defence.

SOUTHS ERASE BAD MEMORIES

SOUTHS, Brisbane, made it an astonishing comeback when they trumped favorites Wynnum 10-8 in the grand final.

The previous year Wynnum had whipped the Magpies 42-8.

The grand final was a triumph for Wayne Bennett's coaching, and for the determination, will to win and dogged defence of Souths.

Skipper Norm Carr scored the Souths try, and Craig Adams the one for Wynnum.



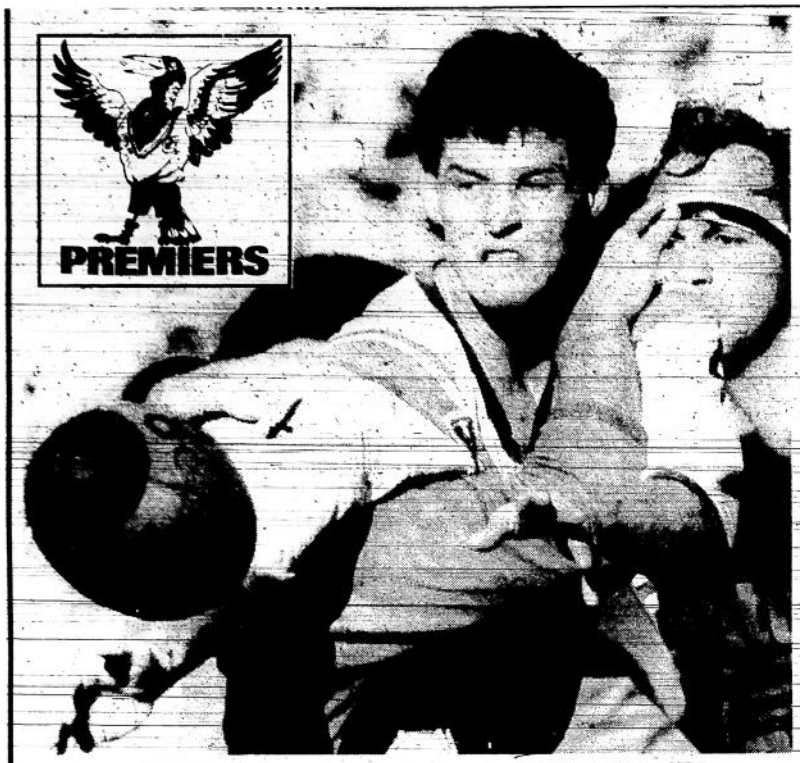
Wally Lewis launches himself at Souths' fullback Gary Belcher.

1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8

PREMIERS

The grand final action in pictures



ABOVE: Centre Peter Jackson was one of Souths' most effective players yesterday. Here he gets his pass away despite the attentions of Ian French (left) and Gary Coyne.



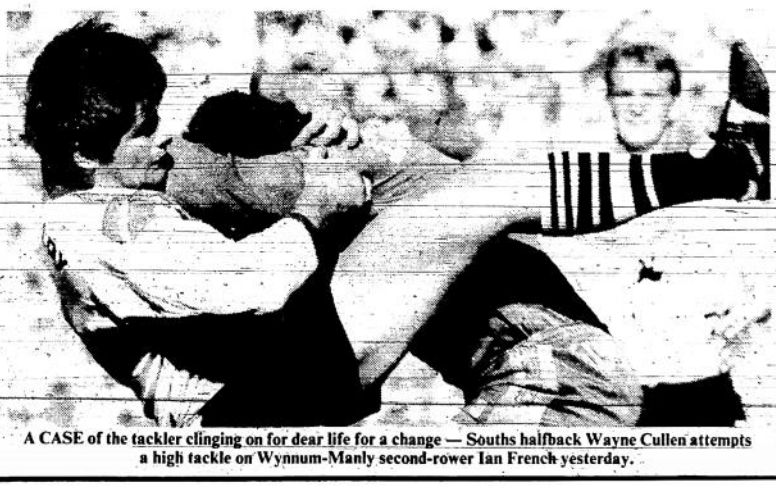
ELUSIVE Souths five-eighth Gary French sets up an attacking move with a well-balanced pass.

RIGHT: On the defensive this time — Souths five-eighth Gary French grabs Seagulls winger Terry Butler by one leg yesterday.



BELOW: Wally Lewis launches himself into a tackle on Souths fullback Gary Belcher.





A CASE of the tackler clinging on for dear life for a change — Souths halfback Wayne Cullen attempts a high tackle on Wynnum-Manly second-rower Ian French yesterday.

1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8

1985 Brisbane Grand Final

Sunday September 22, 1985

SOUTHERN SUBURBS
Coach: Wayne Benett

Gary Belcher
Ken Gittens
Peter Jackson
Mal Meninga
Paul Wallace
Gary French
Wayne Cullen
Norm Carr (c)
Scott Tronc
John Elias
Chris Phelan
Eddie Muller
Mark Meskell

Reserve: David Bourke

WYNNUM - MANLY
Coach: Des Morris

Colin Scott
Terry Butler
Brett French
Gene Miles
Warren Green
Wally Lewis
Peter Dawes
Craig Farrugia
Ian French
Tony Jemmott
Greg Dowling
David Green (c)
Gary Coyne

Reserves: Brad Backer, Darryl Jenner

SOUTHERN SUBURBS 10 (Norm Carr try: Gary French 3 goals) beat **WYNNUM - MANLY 8** (Craig Adams try: Warren Green 2 goals) at Lang Park. Scrums 12-9 Penalties Souths 8-6.

WHEN THEY SCORED: 4 min: Souths 2-0 (French goal) 14min 2 all (Green goal) 23 min:Souths 4-2 (French goal) 32 min: Souths 10 - 2 (Carr try; French goal) 68 minSouths 10-8 (Adams try; Green goal)

MAN OF THE MATCH : John Elias (Souths)

DO YOU REMEMBER ?:

Magpies second rower, Scott Tronc copping heaps from the Wynnum defence for admitting in Rugby League Week that his favourite movie of all time was "Sound Of Music".

Big Mark Meskell leaving the wild celebrations at Souths to eat a meal at the Pancake Manor and watch the movie "Back to the Future".

The critics who tipped Wynnum to do the victory lap.

Former Magpies and Australian skipper, Greg Veivers celebrating the grand final win by turning 35.

Skipper, Norm Carr also leaving early to watch the Canterbury-Parramatta preliminary final from Sydney.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAGPIE - MAL MENINGA

At Southern Suburbs anyone who has worn the Club's battle colours is considered someone special. An achiever. But in Mal Meninga there stands a man who has given future generations something to live up to.

In their book, "Laurie and Clyde, Young Guns of Rugby League", Canberra stars, Laurie Daley and Brad Clyde describe their former captain as a true champion and great ambassador for Rugby League. And who at Davies Park dare disagree?

The rise and rise of Malcolm Norman Meninga was, and still is something all Souths fans take great pride in.

After cutting his teeth in the famous black and white Souths' jumper they watched as Meninga graduated through the ranks to represent the Canberra Raiders, Queensland and Australia with distinction. His barnstorming running style made him one of Rugby Leagues most explosive players, and he became a man spectators from Sydney to St Helens clamoured to see. Apart from his obvious class and skills, Meninga was also blessed with mountains of courage, a trait the Bundaberg born centre had tested time and again. To take his place in the '85 Grand Final Meninga inspired his team mates by taking a painkilling needle for a hairline fracture of the kneecap, and in the late 80's had his mettle tested when broken arms threatened to end his career. Big Mal refused to surrender and by the time he retired after leading the Australian team on its triumphant tour through Great Britain and France in 1994, Meninga had achieved enough to be regarded as one of the game's all time greats.

He bowed out of Rugby League with a swag of Origin, Club and Test records to sit alongside the premiership medals he won at Souths and Canberra.

For Wayne Bennett, who coached Mal at the Magpies after first spotting him at the Brisbane Police Academy in 1977, there is a special reason to embrace Meninga's many achievements.

"If you ask me what gave me the greatest pride, it's the person Mal turned out to be. I always knew he'd be a great footballer, that was God given, but that's only half the story. I see how he developed personality and character, got tougher as he got older, yet remained the same person as 10 or 15 years ago. He never thought of himself as bigger than the game or bigger than anyone else. Fans see their champions on the field and that is their only vision. When you are close to them you know some of them are dunces off the field, fools in their private lives, full of themselves and think they are above the game and everyone else - Not Mal Meninga"

1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8

1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8



1985

BRL GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8



Southen Suburbs RLFC

BRL Premiers 1985

BACK ROW: R.Emmanuel (strapper), G.Prior (strapper), P.Jennings (strapper), K.Ragh (trainer), J.Elder (manager), W.Gardiner (assistant coach). THIRD ROW: E.Muller, M.Meskell, C.Phelan, S.Tronc, K.Gittens, H.Abbott, G.Greinke, A.Lumby. SECOND ROW: G.Belcher, M.Meninga, W.Bennett (coach), N.Carr (captain), J.Elias, P.Jackson, G.Thompson. FRONT ROW: G.French, D.Bourke, P.Wallace, W.Cullen.

▼ RESULTS

1 SEPTEMBER MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 25 (Lewis 2, Dowling 2 tries: W.Green 4 goals, Lewis field goal) d. Fortitude Valley 22 (Rix, Boys, McCabe, Kiss tries; Booth 3 goals).
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, W.Lewis, P.Dawes, I.French, T.Jemmott, G.Dowling, T.Kajewski, D.Green (c), G.Coyne. Reserve: C.Adams. Coach: D.Morris.
Valleys: M.Booth, S.Boys, P.Coyne, G.Rix, L.Kiss, M.Wilson, D.Wood, M.Hohn, P.McCabe, K.Neller, S.Kelly, P.Fitzgerald, G.Walker. Reserve: B.Arnold. Coach: P.McWhirter.
Referee: David Manson.

8 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Southern Suburbs 14 (Muller, Wallace tries; French 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 8 (McErlean try; Dwyer 2 goals).
Souths: G.Belcher, K.Gittens, M.Meninga (c), P.Jackson, P.Wallace, G.French, W.Cullen, N.Carr, J.Elias, S.Tronc, C.Phelan, E.Muller, M.Meskell. Coach: W.Bennett.
Brothers: J.Kilroy, R.Klein, R.Grogan, T.Dwyer, S.McErlean, Greg Smith, H.Foster, D.Stains, C.Roche, Gary Smith, B.Ferguson, T.Bailey, T.Smith. Reserves: B.Davidson, S.Carter. Coach: R.Strudwick
Referee: Eddie Ward.

15 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 35 (D.Green 3, Butler, Lewis, I.French, Coyne tries; W.Green 3 goals, Miles field goal) d. Past Brothers 16 (Bailey, T.Smith, Roche tries; Dwyer 2 goals).
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, W.Lewis, P.Dawes, C.Farrugia, T.Jemmott, I.French, G.Dowling, D.Green (c), G.Coyne. Coach: D.Morris.
Brothers: J.Kilroy, R.Klein, R.Grogan, T.Dwyer, S.McErlean, Greg Smith, H.Foster, D.Stains, C.Roche, B.Davidson, B.Ferguson, T.Bailey, M.Zillman. Reserves; T.Smith, Gary Smith. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

22 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Southern Suburbs 10 (Carr try; G.Smith 3 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 8 (C.Adams try; W.Green 2 goals).
Souths: G.Belcher, K.Gittens, M.Meninga, P.Jackson, P.Wallace, G.French, W.Cullen, N.Carr(c), J.Elias, S.Tronc, M.Meskell, E.Muller, C.Phelan. Reserve: D.Bourke. Coach: W.Bennett.
Wynnum: C.Scott, T.Butler, B.French, G.Miles, W.Green, W.Lewis, P.Dawes, C.Farrugia, T.Jemmott, I.French, G.Dowling, D.Green (c), G.Coyne. Reserves: C.Adams, B.Morgan. Coach: D.Morris
Referee: David Manson. ***Crowd: 31,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Ian French (Wynnum-Manly).

1986

STATE LEAGUE: WYNNUM-MANLY

1986 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Wynnum-Manly continued their dominance of the State League by belting Redcliffe in the grand final. It was the Seagulls third straight title.

ROUND 1 -April 1, 5, 6

April 1
Souths 22 defeated Easts 6 at Lang Park
April 5
Redcliffe 10 defeated Wests 8 at Dolphin Oval
Ipswich 32 defeated Central Qld 26 at Dysart
April 6
Norths 26 defeated Gold Coast 16 at Southport
Valleys 9 defeated Toowoomba 8 at Toowoomba
Wide Bay 10 defeated North Qld 8 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 20 defeated Brothers 8 at Lang Park

ROUND 2 -April 8, 12, 13

April 8
Ipswich 21 defeated Wests 12 at Lang Park
April 12
Easts 22 defeated Norths 2 at Gatton
April 13
Wynnum-Manly 44 defeated Wide Bay 12 at Gympie
Toowoomba 28 defeated Souths 16 at Dalby
Brothers 26 defeated North Qld 12 at Proserpine
Central Qld 28 defeated Gold Coast 18 at Lang Park
Valleys 20 defeated Redcliffe 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 3 -April 15, 18, 20

April 15
Valleys 20 defeated Brothers 6 at Lang Park
April 18
Ipswich 31 defeated Norths 12 at Ipswich
April 20
Wide Bay 24 defeated Easts 22 at Nambour
Redcliffe 30 defeated Central Qld 24 at Gladstone
Wests 17 defeated North Qld 8 at Townsville
Gold Coast 37 defeated Toowoomba 24 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 12 defeated Souths 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 4 -April 22, 25, 27

April 22
Wynnum-Manly 40 defeated Easts 14 at Lang Park
April 25
Valleys 22 defeated Wests 8 at Caloundra
Toowoomba 14 defeated Norths 10 at Toowoomba
April 27
Souths 24 defeated Wide Bay 6 at Bundaberg
Ipswich 30 defeated Gold Coast 14 at Southport
North Qld 30 defeated Central Qld 8 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 40 defeated Brothers 6 at Lang Park

ROUND 5 -April 29, May 4

April 29
Norths 16 defeated Souths 6 at Lang Park
May 4
Easts 40 defeated Gold Coast 10 at Southport
Brothers 8 defeated Toowoomba 6 at Roma
Wynnum-Manly 36 defeated Central Qld 6 at Rockhampton
Valleys 40 defeated North Qld 10 at Mount Isa
Wide Bay 16 drew with Wests 16 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 26 defeated Ipswich 14 at Lang Park

ROUND 6 -May 6, 11

May 6
Norths 10 defeated Valleys 6 at Lang Park
May 11
Wynnum-Manly 22 defeated Gold Coast 2 at Southport
Brothers 40 defeated Wide Bay 14 at Maryborough
Souths 42 defeated Central Qld 18 at Biloela
Redcliffe 32 defeated North Qld 8 at Innisfail
Ipswich 26 defeated Toowoomba 6 at Lang Park
Wests 14 defeated Easts 12 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
WYNNUM-MANLY	6	6	-	0	174	52	12
REDCLIFFE	6	5	-	1	148	80	10
VALLEYS	6	5	-	1	117	52	10
IPSWICH	6	5	-	1	154	96	10
Souths	6	3	-	3	120	84	6
Brothers	6	3	-	3	94	112	6
Norths	6	3	-	3	76	95	6
Wests	6	2	1	3	75	89	5
Wide Bay	6	2	1	3	82	154	5
Easts	6	2	-	4	114	112	4
Toowoomba	6	2	-	4	86	106	4
North Queensland	6	1	-	5	76	133	2
Gold Coast	6	1	-	5	97	170	2
Central Queensland	6	1	-	5	110	198	2

SEMI FINALS -May 18

WYNNUM-MANLY 36 (Gene Miles 3, Scott Lewis 2, Bob Lindner, John Turner tries; Colin Scott 3, Gene Miles goals) defeated
IPSWICH 2 (Pat Shepherdson goal) at Lang Park

REDCLIFFE 26 (R Tew 2, Brett Rolls, Greg Conescu, Mick Webb tries; Trevor Benson 3 goals) defeated
VALLEYS 18 (Scott Czislowski, Mark Hohn, David Wood tries; Michael Booth 3 goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL -May 20

WYNNUM-MANLY 46 (Gene Miles 2, Peter Dawes 2, Wally Lewis, Greg Dowling, Brian Naylor, Ian French, Bob Lindner tries; Colin Scott 3, Greg Anders 2 goals) defeated
REDCLIFFE 10 (Mick Webb try; Trevor Benson 3 goals) at Lang Park.

1986

State League Semi-Final -
Wynnum-Manly 36 v Ipswich 2

Miles puts it all together

TEST centre Gene Miles exploded into top form with a hat-trick of tries in Wynnum-Manly's 36-2 whitewash of Ipswich in the Winfield State League semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

WYNNUM-IPSWICH

JACK CRAIG

It was a timely return to form for Miles, who admitted he had started to feel the pressure from southern critics but said his game yesterday had given him a lot more confidence than in recent months.

Miles ran with all his old determination and made some damaging hits in defence which gave his confidence a great boost on the eve of State of Origin selection. There is no doubt Miles will now be among the first picked tomorrow night and in his rightful place at centre.

"I was very pleased to make a couple of early breaks and set up my outside runners for a change," Miles said. "Today gave me a lot of confidence but it's still up to me to put my best foot forward from here."

It was not only Miles who was in good form yesterday. The Seagulls were at their magical best with that touch of flair that has stamped them as a champion club side.

State coach Wayne Bennett said Wynnum had played like they did in 1984 when they were tabbed the best club side in Brisbane and when they won the grand final against Souths by a record margin.

Wynnum were certainly in the mood yesterday to throw the ball around and it was encouraging for coach Wally Lewis that everything they attempted came off.

"If we hadn't controlled the ball so well we may have been in a lot of trouble," Lewis said. "But everything clicked."

They tore Ipswich apart with sensational attack from the third minute when Scott Lewis went in for the first of his two tries.

Fullback Colin Scott also had a blinder with his forays into the attack and had a hand in four of Wynnum's seven tries. It was more than enough to repel any challenge to his state selection and another similar display next week would guarantee him Test recall.

In a game which featured snappy ball work, Wally Lewis again came up with two of the most talked-of passes in lock Bob Lindner's 57th minute try. Lewis sent Colin Scott into the open by holding up a short pass for the charging fullback then backed up to send a long pass to Lindner at his top.

THE DETAILS

WYNNUM 36
IPSWICH 2
Scorers.— Wynnum: Miles 3, S Lewis 2, Lindner, Turner tries; Scott 3, Miles goals. Ipswich: Shepherdson goal.
First scorers: Wynnum 2 (S Lewis), Ipswich 6 (Shepherdson).



ABOVE: Murrell is unable to move immediately after the tackle. He resumed playing but was replaced and taken to Royal Brisbane Hospital, where he was held overnight for observation. The luckless Murrell, who has a long history of injury, will be the only change tonight when Wynnum name their side for the final.



WYNNUM-MANLY'S Greg Dowling manages to get his pass away despite being airborne in the tackle of Glenn Haggarth and another Ipswich defender yesterday.



Wynnum-Manly winger Mick Murrell appears to twist his neck as he is sandwiched between Ipswich defenders Rod Briggs (left) and Glenn Wegener in yesterday's State League semi-final at Lang Park.

1986

State League Semi-Final -
Redcliffe 26 v Valleys 18

Redcliffe give Seagulls grim warning

VALLEYS coach Peter McWhirter forecast an end to Wynnum-Manly's three-month winning streak in tomorrow night's Winfield State League final after Redcliffe's front-row power strong-armed his Diehards out of the semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

VALLEYS-REDCLIFFE

PAUL MALONE

THE DETAILS

REDCLIFFE 26
VALLEYS.....18
Scorers.— Redcliffe: Tew 2, Rolls, Conescu, Webb tries; Benson 3 goals. Valleys: Czislowski, Wood, Hohn tries; Booth 3 goals.
First scorers: Redcliffe 3 (Rolls), Valleys 1 (Booth).

Redcliffe, the only team to inflict a 1986 defeat on a Wynnum team which has gone on to compile a 13-win string since that February loss at Kougari Oval, showed the qualities to make them "the team most likely" in their 26-18 defeat of Valleys yesterday.

The Dolphins restrained their error count in a fashion which suggests they could take advantage of the mistakes which come from Wynnum's all-out attacking philosophy, while props Mick Webb and Bryan Niebling and hooker Greg Conescu asserted their authority to take a match which had five lead changes.

McWhirter considered the result more a Valleys loss than a Redcliffe win, but considers Wynnum anything but unbeatable in the State League final.

"I think Redcliffe will win," he said. "If you look at both games today, and take into account who they played, my estimation is that Redcliffe will win."

Redcliffe's preparation for the semi-final was not improved by the injury-forced withdrawals of fullback Greg Donnelly and lock Steve Bleakley, which coach Darryl Van de Velde said came yesterday morning.

The merit of the win was further enhanced when Test second-rower Wally Fullerton Smith retired after 24 minutes with a damaged ankle.

With nothing of the fanfare accompanying the Seagulls charge, a record of 10 wins from 12 matches this season has been compiled by the Dolphins through mostly methodical football. For every blistering attacking performance — such as the one which sank Brothers 40-6 in late April — there are three or four others illustrating a desire to give their statisticians an easy day.

Redcliffe made only two handling mistakes in the first half to turn with a 10-6 lead and shook off a Valleys challenge with two tries in four minutes by five-eighth Robbie Tew midway through the second session.

Trailing 10-12 only three minutes after the break, when a flick of concentration allowed Valleys second-rower Mark Hohn to toe ahead at the play-the-ball and score, Redcliffe edged back in the lead 14-12 after 55 minutes. Webb, who ran the ball with the aggression he usually reserves for his three or four weekly shoulder charges, kicked out of some close-to-the-line defence one pass off the ruck.

The momentum of the match did turn on a try from a forward pass, the last ball from halfback Mark Murray in Tew's first try four minutes later which moved Redcliffe out to a 20-12 lead. But the Dolphins left no doubts as to their superiority on the day when the red-haired pivot again astutely picked his target to run off in the 63rd minute.

Murray used Niebling as a decoy runner inside Valleys' quarter to choose second receiver Webb, who stood in a tackle to send Tew over uncontested for a 26-12 margin.

McWhirter said his team, which will be re-inforced by the return of Grant Rix from a knee injury for Sunday's premiership match against Wynnum, disputed that Redcliffe's big men had taken charge.

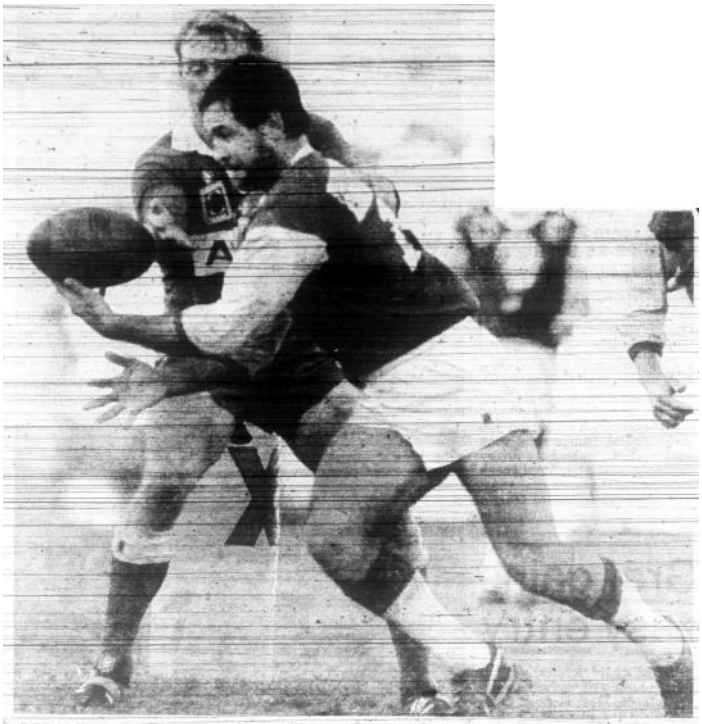
"We could have scored a try by (replacement) Brian Hanson that would have made it 16, possibly 18-10," he said. "They were as powerful as we wanted them to be. We just simply beat ourselves."

There were consolation prizes for the Diehards. Hohn turned in a fine second half against a Redcliffe team over-run in the previous meeting of the two teams last month.

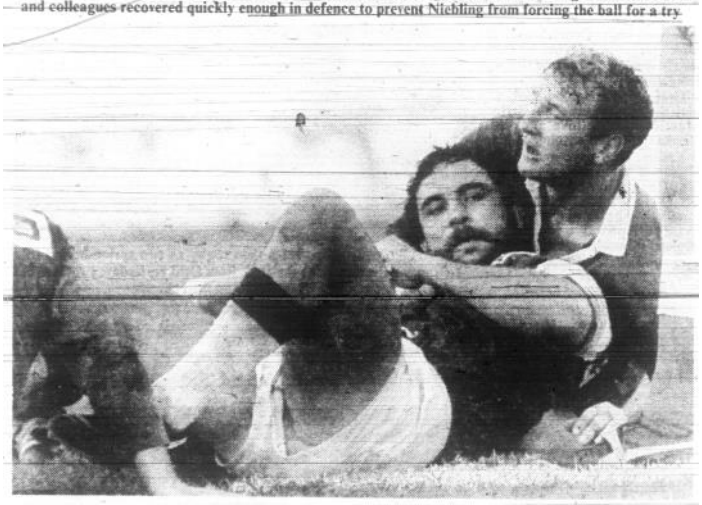
In the words of McWhirter, who does not hand accolades to his players as readily as some coaches: "Gavin Allen continued to show that if he is not the best ball-playing forward in Brisbane, I'm not here".

Van de Velde does not expect Fullerton Smith's defence to be available against Wynnum, but hopes Donnelly and Bleakley will come through tonight's training session. "We will be taking 17 fit players," Van de Velde said.

"Our main objective is September 21 (grand final day) and we won't be taking any risks. But if we can keep our mistakes to a minimum we are a chance."



REDCLIFFE forward Bryan Niebling gains fingertip control of a Trevor Benson bomb in Valleys in-goal ahead of Diehards skipper Michael Booth in the State League semi-final at Lang Park. But Booth and colleagues recovered quickly enough in defence to prevent Niebling from forcing the ball for a try.



1986

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - WYNNUM-MANLY 46 v REDCLIFFE 10

Nine-try onslaught shatters Dolphins

By PAUL MALONE

A DOMINANT Wynnum-Manly recalled the controversial talking point of two years ago with a 46-10 demolition of Redcliffe in the Winfield State League final at Lang Park last night.

Wynnum's waves of attack destroyed Redcliffe's defence to cross nine times, giving first-season captain-coach Wally Lewis two titles from as many competitions.

Wynnum shook off the challenge of a strong Redcliffe side with such style, and punished them with such ruthlessness that those who saw them claim a winners' cheque of $47,500 might again be thinking of awarding them the accolade widely given in 1984 the best club team in Australia.

Centre Gene Miles was at his damaging best and representatives Colin Scott and Lewis were outstanding, along with halfback Peter Dawes and Mal Green.

Wynnum now enter their danger period, with representative players missing four of the next seven premiership fixtures. But the way in which replacements Peter Sinclair and Darryl Jenner set up the final two tries gives cause for optimism the late season fade of 1985 will not recur.

Redcliffe's defence in the opening 15 minutes were fearsome. It was a matter of whether the Dolphins could sustain the effort, especially as they had a more physical match than did Wynnum two days earlier.

They could not — the Wynnum All-Stars scored three fine tries in 13 minutes from midway in the first half to go to the break 20-10.

To complicate Redcliffe's chances of recovery, prop Bryan Niebling retired at halftime with a bruised arm.

Wynnum ran in five tries, and although the Dolphins' defence was a parody of what it has been in recent matches, the Seagulls' attack was phenomenal.

The Dolphins suffered an appalling lapse of concentration to allow Lewis to power over from dummy-half after four minutes. The Test skipper trying such a play from dummy-half at close range was hardly novel, but it was good enough for a 6-2 lead.

Redcliffe replied with a try from a bomb by new lock Duncan Weier to nudge ahead 8-6 after nine minutes, but their defence let them down as the Seagulls' running game developed.

Miles ran from dummy-half inside Redcliffe's quarter to send Dowling over with a cleverly-delayed pass for a 10-8 lead after 23 minutes and the QRL could have passed out the winners' medallions six minutes later after a brilliant team try covering 50m.

There was plenty of feeling early in the second half. State of Origin teammates Greg Conescu and Dowling roughed it up until they remembered Tuesday night. Dowling and second-rower Mal Green drove Redcliffe's replacement Dave Brown more than 5m into in-goal.

SCORES: Wynnum-Manly 46 (G Miles 2, P Dawes 2, W Lewis, G Dowling, B Naylor, I French, R Lindner, tries; C Scott 3, G Anders 2 goals) d Redcliffe 10 (M Webb try; T Benson 3 goals). First scorers: Wynnum 6, Redcliffe 4. First tryscorers: Wynnum 6, Redcliffe 11.



Picture: KIM STRETEN

QUEENSLAND State of Origin lock Bob Lindner on the boil for Wynnum-Manly in the Winfield State League final against Redcliffe at Lang Park last night. Wynnum won 46-10 and Lindner was later named in the Queensland team to play NSW on Tuesday night.



1986

BRL: WYNNUM-MANLY

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	Pts
Wynnum-Manly	16	13	3	0	2	385	185	30
Redcliffe	16	13	3	0	2	365	175	30
Past Brothers	16	10	6	0	2	332	231	24
Fortitude Valley	16	10	6	0	2	309	212	24
Northern Suburbs	16	8	8	0	2	222	255	20
Southern Suburbs	16	6	10	0	2	236	331	16
Eastern Suburbs	16	5	11	0	2	217	382	14
Ipswich	16	4	12	0	2	234	391	12
Western Suburbs	16	3	13	0	2	214	352	10

1986 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 1

MARCH 30

Wests	v	Brothers	Purtell Park 12-26
Redcliffe	v	Souths	Dolphin Oval 11- 6
Ipswich	v	Easts	Ipswich 14-20
Norths	v	Wynnum Manly	Bishop Park..... 6-26
Valleys	v	Bye	

MAY 25

Wests	v	Norths	Purtell Park 6-26
Souths	v	Ipswich	Davies Park 20-28
Redcliffe	v	Bye	
Wynnum Manly	v	Valleys	Lang Park 12-20
Brothers	v	Easts	Langlands Park ... 14-12

JUNE 1

Norths	v	Brothers	Bishop Park..... 2-36
Ipswich	v	Wynnum Manly	Ipswich 18-34
Easts	v	Redcliffe	Langlands Park ... 22-14
Valleys	v	Souths	Lang Park 42- 6
Wests	v	Bye	

JUNE 8

Norths	v	Bye	
Brothers	v	Ipswich	Corbett Park 36- 8
Wests	v	Souths	Purtell Park 40-14
Redcliffe	v	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park 36-16
Valleys	v	Easts	Neumann Oval ... 20- 6

JUNE 15

Wynnum Manly	v	Wests	Kougari Oval 22- 0
Norths	v	Redcliffe	Bishop Park..... 6-17
Easts	v	Bye	
Souths	v	Brothers	Lang Park 19-12
Ipswich	v	Valleys	Ipswich 2-12

Also included as part of Round 1 of the BRL premiership were the State League round games between Brisbane clubs.

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 2

JUNE 22

Wests	v	Easts	Lang Park 22-15
Brothers	v	Wynnum Manly	Corbett Park 14-22
Norths	v	Souths	Bishop Park..... 16-17
Ipswich	v	Bye	
Valleys	v	Redcliffe	Neumann Oval ... 12-22

JUNE 29

Norths	v	Easts	Bishop Park..... 28- 4
Souths	v	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park 0-20
Brothers	v	Bye	
Wests	v	Valleys	Purtell Park 16-22
Redcliffe	v	Ipswich	Dolphin Oval 28- 0

JULY 6

Valleys	v	Brothers	Neumann Oval ... 17-22
Wests	v	Redcliffe	Purtell Park 8-36
Easts	v	Souths	Langlands Park ... 30-24
Wynnum Manly	v	Bye	
Ipswich	v	Norths	Lang Park 4-23

JULY 13

WOOLIES TROPHY FINAL (Lang Park) Wynnum Manly 20 d. Valleys 4

JULY 20

Wests	v	Ipswich	Purtell Park 16-28
Souths	v	Bye	
Norths	v	Valleys	Bishop Park..... 24-12
Wynnum Manly	v	Easts	Kougari Oval 46-12
Redcliffe	v	Brothers	Dolphin Oval 17-14

JULY 27

Souths	v	Redcliffe	Davies Park 12-32
Brothers	v	Wests	Corbett Park 18- 6
Valleys	v	Bye	
Ipswich	v	Easts	Langlands Park ... 14-16
Wynnum Manly	v	Norths	Lang Park 2- 9

AUGUST 3

Norths	v	Wests	Bishop Park..... 18-14
Ipswich	v	Souths	Ipswich 18-20
Redcliffe	v	Bye	
Valleys	v	Wynnum Manly	Neumann Oval ... 6-24
Easts	v	Brothers	Lang Park 0-40

AUGUST 10

Redcliffe	v	Easts	Dolphin Oval 42-14
Wynnum Manly	v	Ipswich	Kougari Oval 46-14
Souths	v	Valleys	Davies Park 22-18
Wests	v	Bye	
Brothers	v	Norths	Lang Park 28-14

AUGUST 17

Wynnum Manly	v	Redcliffe	Lang Park 7-0
Ipswich	v	Brothers	Ipswich 12-34
Souths	v	Wests	Davies Park 28-14
Easts	v	Valleys	Langlands Park ... 12-26
Norths	v	Bye	

AUGUST 24

Wests	v	Wynnum Manly	Purtell Park 18-36
Redcliffe	v	Norths	Lang Park 24-10
Easts	v	Bye	
Valleys	v	Ipswich	Neumann Oval ... 34-10
Brothers	v	Souths	Corbett Park 18-10

1986

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 10 v Valleys 8

IT'S THAT JINX TIME AGAIN FOR STRUDDY

ROSS STRUDWICK will have to overcome his preliminary final jinx if Brothers are to go on to their first Brisbane rugby league premiership since 1968.

Five times in the past six years Strudwick-coached teams have reached the preliminary final and been denied a grand final berth.

The bitter disappointment of those losses, four with Valleys and one with Brothers, will wear with Strudwick like a hair shirt despite the euphoria of yesterday's 10-8 defeat of Valleys in the Winfield Cup minor semi-final at Lang Park.

As Brothers prepare for Sunday week's preliminary final — he expects to oppose Redcliffe — he will be ready for the constant reminder of those premature exits. His defence mechanism will be his 1979 title with Valleys, a much-used history lesson for anyone he senses is calling him a loser.

That Brothers are there at all is a tribute to a defensive line that yielded only once to a Valleys side which dominated field positions and one moment when Joe Kilroy justified his slipping status as one of Brisbane football's few bankable players.

In a match where both teams had every opportunity to win and lose, Valleys perished on their unwillingness to try something different with the ball when opportunity bashed their door in.

In comparison, Brothers did not have a full book of available set plays either. But the amount of tackling the Brethren had to do might have been an alibi for their contribution to a match where safety-first football — one pass off the ruck and kick the ball after five tackles — reigned supreme.

"We probably didn't capitalise on the opportunities we provided ourselves," Valleys coach Peter McWhirter said. "When we got into their quarter we attempted to keep them there and do something with the next set of six tackles.

"It was one of those games where I thought we probably had the better of the game for 80 percent of it and when we got to the lead with six minutes to go it was justice. From then to the end of the match there was a lack of urgency and we really paid the price in the hardest possible way."

Kilroy made a part payment for two less-than-inspirational years in Brothers colors when he sparked the winning try, a 90m effort finished by centre Robert Grogan for a 10-8 lead two minutes from the siren.

Strudwick was a study in dejection, leaning on the reserves shelter in what seemed resignation, when Brothers built their season-saving try.

When Grogan stumbled into the in-goal area after being ankle-tapped by Valleys winger Bennett King, the emotional introvert became the emotional extrovert, punching the air in triumph and relief.

It was a cruel blow for Valleys, who had taken their only lead of the match after 71 minutes when lock Gavin Allen, the best on ground because he was the only player to threaten a break when he had possession, nosed the Dichards ahead 8-6 with a solo try from 15m.

After Allen scored, Strudwick gave his team a sideline roasting from behind a fence near Brothers' in-goal area until asked by an official to return to the sideline.

"I was given permission to speak to the side from the fence but I got there too late," Strudwick said. "I had finished speaking when the official approached me. He told me I could speak only from the sideline fence — a fence is a fence as far as I am concerned."

Allen, considered by one Brothers player to be over-rated, proved conclusively that he is not, with a defence-shredding performance. Combined with a good workrate in defence, he did not deserve to finish the year then.

Sydney's Easts have asked permission to negotiate with the 21-year-old from Cairns, but he said he had yet to been offered a contract.

The country boy will return to his brother's prawn trawler happy with his first Brisbane season: "I think it has been a lot to do with the way Peter has handled the side and made me feel so comfortable."

What his Brothers opposite Dan Stains lacked in talent in comparison, he almost made up for in endeavor. Valleys' Ziggy Strasser and Mark Hohn and Brothers' Steve Carter and Trevor Bailey were others to shine in a match which might not have risen to any great standard, but was a true contest.



VALLEYS skipper Keith Neller is airborne in an attempt to stop Brothers lock Dan Stains during yesterday's thrilling Winfield Cup rugby league knockout semi-final at Lang Park. *Picture: JIM FENWICK.*

Valleys reluctance to make use of the many opportunies they had in Brothers quarter probably came from their desire not to make mistakes in semi-final football.

With two minor semi-final losses in succession, this still young team should not make the same error next time.

As for Brothers, there have to be serious doubts about their ability to go any further in the competition.

Just ask Ross Strudwick.

THE DETAILS

BROTHERS.....10
VALLEYS.....8
Scorers.— Brothers: Stains, Grogan tries; Bailey goal. Valleys: Allen try; Booth 2 goals.
First scorers: Brothers 8 (Stains), Valleys 1 (Booth).

1986

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wynnum 26 v Redcliffe 6

DOWLING BOOKS ROO TOUR SPOT

WYNNUM-MANLY prop Greg Dowling confirmed his booking for the Kangaroo tour when he headed a powerful forwards' performance in the Seagulls' 26-6 clubbing of Redcliffe in yesterday's Winfield Cup major semi-final.

Senior Queensland selector Bert Quinn left Lang Park with no doubts about Dowling's claims after the 27-year-old prop had run the ball with determination and tackled with ferocity in his best showing since returning from the sternum injury that made him unavailable for this winter's Test series against New Zealand.

Dowling, who will fly to Canberra today to discuss terms for next season with the Raiders, probably needed only fitness to be sure of selection in a season when Test-class props are as rare as kind words about the Brisbane premiership. But he returned to near his best anyway.

"On his performance today he has to make the side," Quinn said.

After the adverse reaction to his exchange with Kiwi Kevin Tamati on the Lang Park sidelines last year Dowling said he did not want to play for Australia again.

Now he has changed his mind, and the English props he encountered earlier this year in his club stint with Wigan will be less than enthusiastic.

"I'm as keen as ever," Dowling said. "I was probably like a spoilt kid and I have grown up a bit. Over there (England) all they were talking about were the 1982 Kangaroos and I would love to be part of it, especially after missing the Tests against the Kiwis."

Dowling deflected praise to his team-mates, particularly second-rower Mal Green.

"I thought I went all right but nothing to write home about," Dowling said. "It is hard to gauge how well you have played in this team because there are so many good players."

There are too many good players in this Wynnum team for the good of Redcliffe and Brothers, the teams who will contest Sunday's preliminary final for the right to make a doomed challenge to the Seagulls in the September 21 grand final.

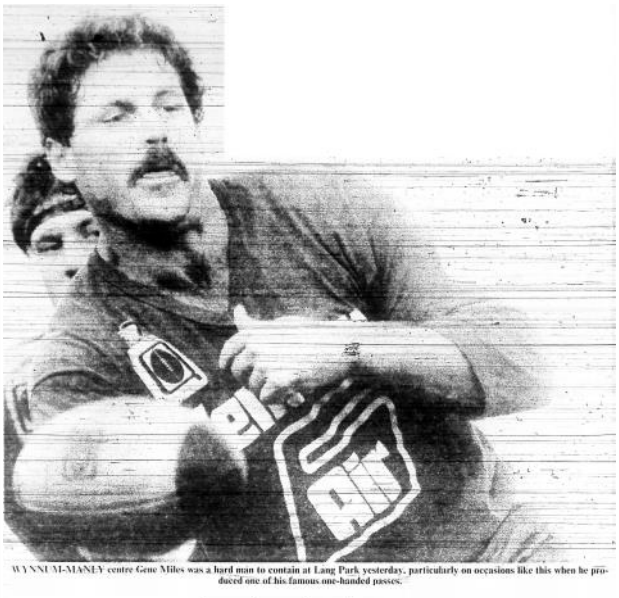
Wynnum were too skilful for Redcliffe yesterday and, despite Dolphins coach Darryl Van de Velde's Churchillian words, it is difficult to envisage a different result if his team gets past the rested Brothers.

"We have lost the fight; we haven't lost the battle," Van de Velde said. "We had a lot of opportunities in the first 20 minutes. We should have scored two tries. We had the numbers, but the last pass went astray or we forced the pass when we shouldn't have. That surprised me."

"We're still a big chance. They won't play any better."

Van de Velde admitted he was disturbed by the lack of attack mounted against the Wynnum defensive line, which had kept Redcliffe scoreless for 153 minutes in the past two meetings before lock Steve Bleakley took advantage of a dropped ball when the Seagulls led 26-0.

When Redcliffe had possession in Wynnum's quarter late in the first half, trailing 0-12, the Dolphins rucked the ball five times and grubbered over the dead-ball line on the sixth tackle when a wide move might have seen them score. It was disappointing stuff for those who would like to see a competitive semi-final series.



WYNNUM-MANLY centre Gene Miles was a hard man to contain at Lang Park yesterday, particularly on occasions like this when he produced one of his famous one-handed passes.

Wynnum, on the other hand, tried their luck Wally Lewis ran as far without a "pit-stop" as most could remember in a 40m solo try after 18 minutes and Gene Miles left two tryline Redcliffe defenders without a prayer six minutes later when he ran on to a clever pass from prop Darryl Jenner.

As Redcliffe struggled to dent the Wynnum defence, with only Test forward Bryan Niebling wanting to run the ball with force, Wynnum swung the ball, with two second-half tries coming from backline sweeps.

The way fullback Colin Scott laid on two tries for winger Scott Nicholls with improvised passes must have impressed attendant Penrith coach Tim Sheens.

Statistically, the Redcliffe effort was a 13-point worse performance than their gritty 0-7 loss to Wynnum on August 17. Where one match lent some hope of a real contest on grand final day, the other, with Wynnum doing almost as they pleased, gave none at all.

THE DETAILS

WYNNUM 26
REDCLIFFE 6
Scorers.— Wynnum: Nicholls 2, Lewis, Miles, Lindner tries; Scott 3 goals. Redcliffe: Bleakley try, Rolls goal.
First scorers: Wynnum 6 (Lewis), Redcliffe 8 (Bleakley).

1986

BRL Preliminary Final - Brothers 14 v Redcliffe 2

BROTHERS BREAK FINALS DROUGHT

A DEFENSIVE effort which gave some small reason for hope moved Brothers into their first rugby league grand final since 1974 at Lang Park yesterday.

Brothers' 14-2 defeat of Redcliffe in a drab Winfield Cup preliminary final was founded on the brand of defensive attention which might almost control the all-action Wynnum-Manly attack in Sunday's grand final.

The Brethren front line had only fleeting moments of difficulty with an attack which had trouble getting out of its own way, but coach Ross Strudwick, perhaps in a bid to reduce the expectation which comes when a club has gone 18 years without a first-grade premiership, said there would have to be improvement to handcuff Wynnum.

Brothers will hope to build some inter-club momentum by winning the reserve grade and colts grand finals, but it is doubtful whether team spirit can cover the advantage in ability which Wally Lewis' all-stars command.

Wynnum have won all three previous meeting this season and will remain at comical odds for their third championship in five years.

Yesterday's swarming performance by Brothers' backline, to go with the expected forceful defence by their pack, remains a wild card, a straw of hope for a real grand final if Wynnum are not at their best.

Lock Dan Stains was energetic to the end despite two sickening knocks in the first 25 minutes, second-rower Gary Smith returned to his best non-stop form with Sydney scouts in attendance, and prop Steve Carter was prominent in the middle of the ruck.

If anything defeated the first line, halfback Greg Smith was clinical in cover defence, saving two tries when a Redcliffe score might have given the dispirited baysiders some confidence.

Redcliffe coach Darryl Van de Velde was first to admit Brothers did not need to contain much to give Strudwick his first preliminary final win in six attempts, but sounded the warning to Wynnum that all is not won.

"Everyone is a chance in a grand final," he said. "The only certainty in this life is death. If Brothers swarm over Wynnum and put pressure on them, they can win."

Van de Velde admits his future with the club is unclear. He is likely to be nominated for re-appointment at tomorrow night's executive meeting of the club, but his intention to ask for a three-year appointment is certain to meet with a rejection.

The first-season Dolphins coach was protective of his team's attack, citing the statistic that only Wynnum scored more tries before the semi-finals. But the fact remains that, when the Dolphins most needed offence, they scored one try in two semi-finals — and that came from a Wynnum dropped ball.

Redcliffe conceded possession 24 times yesterday and Brothers' contribution of 19 handling errors made for one of the poorest-standard finals matches in memory.

Redcliffe played like a team sapped of confidence and strength and it will not be any consolation for forwards Bryan Niebling and Greg Conescu that they were added to the Kangaroo train-on squad after both turned in matches below the standard expected of them.

Sidelined team-mate Wally Fullerton Smith, who will consult a specialist about his broken thumb this week, was also named, subject to the Queensland hopefuls' fitness test tomorrow week.

Greg Smith temporarily lifted a poor crowd of about 8000 out of its apathy after 11 minutes when he beat two defenders at the scrumbase and sent five-eighth Peter Gill over for a 6-0 lead. There was a questionable knock-on decision against Redcliffe half Colin Part previously.

The final lurched from one handling bungle to the next until seven minutes from the break, when three copybook passes from Greg Smith, Carter and centre Robert Grogan saw Jeff Burns cross for 10-0.

It was an orthodox backline move, but in the context of what went previously, it was the Book of Revelations.

Greg Smith defused two of the more threatening Redcliffe moves with tackles on Gordon Barwick and Niebling, and the only other moment of anxiety for Brothers fans came when Grogan spilt the ball on halfway.

But Redcliffe centre Trevor Benson was run down from behind by winger Joe Kilroy, who is expected to be available to play on Sunday despite being replaced after 58 minutes with a corked thigh.

Kilroy's replacement, John Tapp, put the match away six minutes into his appearance when he scored off a pass from Gill.

Brothers, the club champions, now have a chance of winning premierships in four grades, with the firsts, reserves and colts attempting to emulate the third grade's title win on Saturday.

It was a sad contrast to the Dolphins, who had teams in the major semi-final in all three senior grades, none of which will make the trek from the peninsula this Sunday.



BROTHERS' fiery prop Steve Carter is crunched in a two-man Redcliffe tackle involving prop Mick Webb (top) and halfback Colin Part in yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park. *Picture: JIM FENWICK*



REDCLIFFE had one happy winner at Lang Park. Second-rower Bryan Niebling was presented with his great prize as The Courier-Mail/Singapore Airlines player of the year. With Niebling at the presentation is The Courier-Mail's Day Editor, Mr Terry Quinn (left) and Singapore Airlines Queensland manager Mr Don Slingo.

THE DETAILS

BROTHERS.....14
REDCLIFFE 2
Scorers.— Brothers: Gill, Burns, Tapp tries; Bailey goal. Redcliffe: Keogh goal.
First scorers: Brothers 6 (Gill), Redcliffe 9 (Keogh).

1986

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 14 v BROTHERS 6

SEAGULLS BATTLE WAY INTO LEAGUE HISTORY

A WYNNUM-MANLY team playing in fear of not living up to their immense potential yesterday won their niche in Brisbane rugby league history in a demolition derby-style Winfield Cup grand final.

Two desperate Wynnum tries in the last 12 minutes wrenched a long-awaited premiership from Brothers and ensured that Wynnum could not be cast as that most unfortunate of sportsmen — the 364-day' marvels who fail to put it together on the day that matters.

After enjoying what he rated the sweetest moment of his career, Wynnum captain-coach Wally Lewis admitted he had personally rubbed salt in the still-open wound caused by last year's grand final defeat during the six weeks prior to yesterday's 14-6 defeat of the courageous Brothers at Lang Park.

Lewis' repetitive message was that the club's restrictive budget meant that the All-Star Seagulls would be dismantled over the off-season and that this was a swansong for the era had to be the club's third championship in five years.

"I made the statement six weeks ago which we played Redcliffe and beat them 7-0," Lewis said in a champagne-scented dressing-room. "At the end of that game, I said this is the last time that this team will be playing together.

"It's a great team, one of the best to play in Brisbane. I mentioned it again at halftime of this game and when we got back to 6-6 I mentioned it again: 'This is the last time let's do it.'"

Brothers ferocious forward defence in the first half rattled Wynnum, just as Souths did on the way to an upset win in the 1985 grand final.

But with a 10-3 penalty count ending the cause, Wynnum had one for the road by regaining some of the ball control which made them one of Australian league's outstanding teams in the eighties.

The cool heads of Wynnum's internationals won the day, with Lewis and Test men Greg Dowling and Gene Miles rucking the ball out of danger in the closing minutes.

Bidding against the odds for their first premiership in 18 years, Brothers' frontline pummelled the Wynnum runners in the first session until they did not want to run any more.

The 6-4 halftime lead to Brothers could have been anything, with the underdogs being a pass away from scoring three or four times. The 10-minute break gave Lewis time to have his say and re-group the team. Without that, Wynnum probably would not have been able to halt Brothers' momentum.

Fiery prop Steve Carter — the one forward who did not have to change his hairstyle in a Mean Machine-type team haircut on Saturday — put the scissors to Wynnum's forward reputation with crunching defence and energetic ball-running.

Lock Dan Stains, unfortunately lost to Sydney's Cronulla-Sutherland for next year, and the rest of the Brothers pack ensured that, for the first time in the season, Wynnum were on the back foot.

Wynnum began comfortably enough to led 4-0 after nine minutes through two Colin Scott goals.

But Brothers already had served notice that that was not to be any procession, by Carter's wrenching tackle on his opposite Dowling. In only the fourth tackle of the match, Carter earned his first caution, in the company of Wynnum halfback Peter Dawes and winger Scott Lewis, from a 12-man brawl.

The Brethren's sounder control of the ball allowed them sufficient territorial advantage to breach Wynnum's defence with five-eighth Peter Gill's 24th minute try. Wynnum lost possession in their own quarter twice and Gill managed to get inside centre Miles and step fullback Colin Scott for a 6-4 lead.

The torrid Brothers defence had the side-effect of weakening Wynnum's ruck defence. For the rest of the half, Brothers made easy metres by taking the ball to the middle of the field, even in Wynnum's quarter. But the last, try-making pass was shut down.

It was to the credit of the Wynnum forwards that they managed to come back so defiantly.

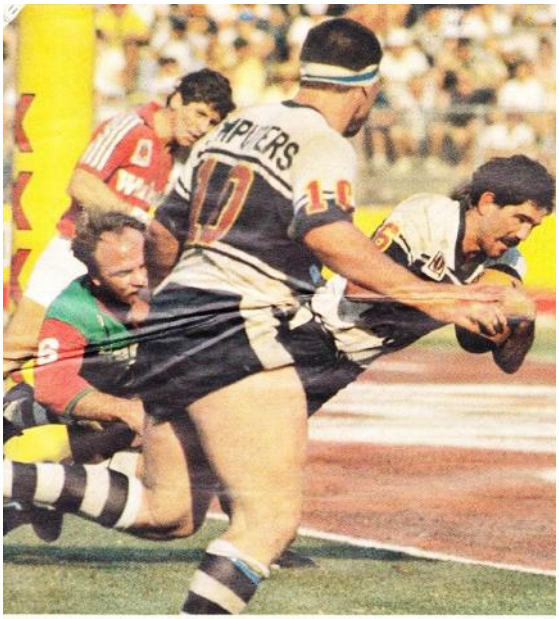
Dowling made effective ground, as did the Wynnum back-rowers, and the momentum slowly turned.

But Brothers' resilience against what seemed a mountain of possession still had the match alive at 6-6 until Lewis fed Ian French on Brothers' quarter. A two-man tackle knocked the ball loose but Lewis swooped and slammed the ball down in the tackle of fullback Clinton Mohr.

Wynnum made no mistakes with the ball until the sealing try by replacement winger Phil Attel five minutes from time. Green gathered a ball which had gone loose after a charge by prop Darryl Jenner, drew two men and put Attel over uncontested in the corner for 14-6.

THE DETAILS

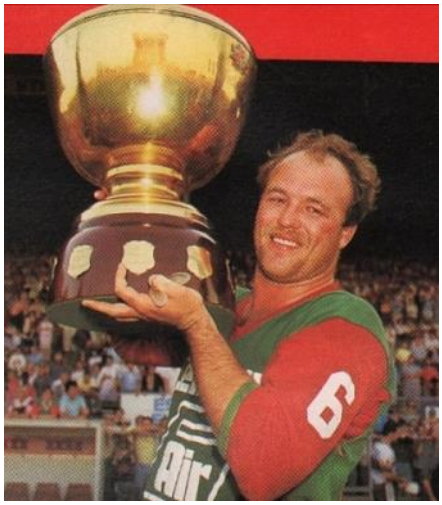
WYNNUM 14
BROTHERS.....6
Scorers. — Wynnum: W Lewis, Attel tries; Scott 3 goals. Brothers: Gill try; Bailey goal.
First scorers: Wynnum 1 (Scott), Brothers 6 (Gill).



In one of the toughest Brisbane rugby league grand finals in years, underdogs Brothers led at half time with this try from five-eighth Peter Gill. Here, Wynnum captain Wally Lewis goes low, with Gary Smith backing up Gill, and referee Eddie Ward on the spot. Wynnum fought back to score two tries in the second half to seal the Winfield Cup.









1986

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 14 v BROTHERS 6

VICTORY SO SWEET FOR LEWIS



Wynnum-Manly reckon they all had a hand in their grand final victory as they do a 'Three Musketeers' in the dressing room after the game yesterday.

But Struddy sour!

WYNNUM-Manly's battle-weary Wally Lewis savored the finest moment of his rugby league career — and Ross Strudwick hailed beaten Brothers as "winners" of the Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

By BERNIE PRAMBERG

The Seagulls took their third premiership in five years with a torrid 14-6 win over a gutsy Brothers side, whose ferocious performance silenced the critics.

And Wynnum became the first Brisbane club to complete the "grand-slam" of all four major titles in a single Brisbane season.

"That's probably the most satisfying performance of my career — especially as we had to do it the hard way and come from behind," Lewis said.

"Only champions finish like that.

"The feeling's sweet because we were in a no-win situation.

"All the pre-publicity had us as absolute certainties but the blokes on the paddock didn't believe that.

"We knew they weren't going to be easy and anybody who wasn't here missed a damn good game of football."

Brothers, who went into the final as rank outsiders, won the absolute respect of the 25,000 crowd with a tremendously courageous performance.

But irrepressible coach Strudwick added a tinge of controversy when he slammed referee Eddie Ward's performance.

"We did everything possible to win but were beaten by an outside force — the referee," Strudwick said.

"As far as I'm concerned, we won and I'll be having a victory drink with the players tomorrow."

Strudwick, as unpredictable as ever, gathered his downcast players seconds after the full-time siren and paraded them with upraised arms as the "champions".

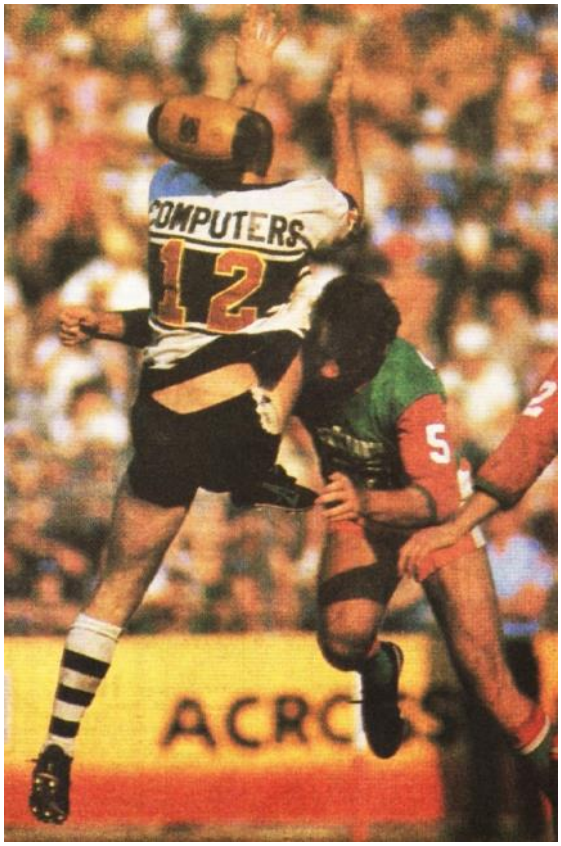


Brothers' Steve Carter . . . gutsy performance.



"That looks good," captain-coach Wally Lewis appears to be telling teammate Greg Dowling, who is wearing part of the Winfield Cup after the 1986 grand final win over Brothers. Behind the pair are (left) Mal Green and Wally's brother Scott.





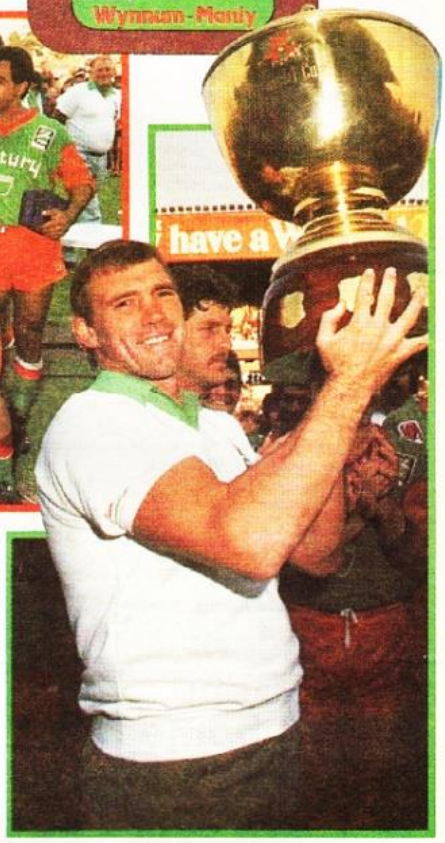


1986

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 14 v BROTHERS 6

The last flight of the SEAGULL





ABOVE: Wynnum, 1984 premiers, after their crushing grand final win over Souths. RIGHT: Des Morris, the coach who helped make Wynnum great. BELOW: Wally Lewis, Queensland premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen and current Wynnum president David Green with the 1984 premiership trophy.

By TONY DURKIN

THIS Sunday's grand final at Lang Park, with its overtones of nostalgia, and sense of history, can be billed as only one thing: 'The last flight of the Seagull'.

Because that's what it is.

Sunday's game will be the final appearance of what is arguably Brisbane's best modern-day Rugby League team. The old gang at Wynnum is breaking up.

Even if the prospect of what is shaping as a one-sided premiership decider doesn't grab the fans, then this should: Lewis, Miles, Dowling, Scott, Lindner and French — together for the last time.

Wynnum, like so many successful clubs, are a team the fans either love or hate. There's no in-between feelings with the Seagulls. And it's odds-on that fans of the other seven Brisbane clubs will be hoping like hell the high-flying Seagulls get knocked off their perch this weekend.

But there is one major reason Wynnum — as a club — are despised by the fans. Brisbane league people believe they shouldn't have been helped out of their financial strife last season in the manner they were and certainly don't feel they should be allowed to field such a star-studded outfit.

And strange as it may seen, that view is shared by Wynnum president David Green. He looks forward to this Sunday's grand final with more trepidation than any of the previous three, in which *he* played.

Not that the young president is nervous. Why, he thinks the Seagulls are bigger certainties than ever before.

"It's just that I feel a bit guilty. We can't afford the best team in Brisbane, and we don't deserve it," he said.

"But don't think that is going to worry us on Sunday. We'll enjoy the spoils of victory, and just for a little time I'll put the club's financial worries in the background."

And what worries they are. A monthly bill of $7300 has to be met to repay the $450,000 the club borrowed late last year to prevent it from sinking.

That, says David Green, is something the club may never recover from.

"Sure, we'll win premierships again. And we'll have many more proud days on the playing field," he said.

"But we'll carry the stigma of last year's financial fiasco with us forever and a day. People don't forget things like that, and you can't blame them, either."

Green, who is a Wynnum junior and played first grade for the club from 1978 until last year's grand final, looks back on the past half dozen years with mixed reactions and emotion.

"As a player, I couldn't have imagined anything better. We played in three grand finals and won two premierships. And I was lucky enough to captain one of those winning sides," he said.

"But as a Wynnum person and a supporter of the club, I am totally embarrassed about what went on off the field."

And Green pulls no punches as to the reason Wynnum found themselves in such strife.

"A couple of people with big egos, who needed to be winners and be surrounded by winners, went overboard with the chequebook. It's as simple as that," he said.

"The success has been fantastic, both for the image of the club and our supporters. But the price has been a very, very heavy one for us to pay."

Green, though, tempers his criticism of what he describes as "outrageous spending" with an aside that the club now has a feeling of success about it.

"They say not all is bad, and if any good has come from the previous mismanagement of the club then it's the fact that Wynnum players and supporters have felt what it's like to be winners," he said.

"And I tell you what, in my day as a junior and early on in first grade, that was a feeling we never had. Wynnum were always regarded as the losers. We were the poor relations of the Brisbane comp, there's no doubt about that."

Now, though, the worm has turned. And Green says Wynnum have a team which is simply too good for the Brisbane competition.

"Even though we didn't win the Winfield Cup last year, we *were* the best team in Brisbane. And we were the year before that and we are this year," he said.

"That's why we've taken the steps we have. While we couldn't possibly afford to keep all our big names for next season anyway, even if we could, I'm sure my committee would have taken steps to make the competition more even than it is.

"The situation which has arisen by Wynnum's strength in recent years has been harmful to the competition. And that worried me, even as a player."

Green's belief that Wynnum have in recent years fielded Brisbane's best club team is shared by one of the code's most astute judges, former Kangaroo vice-captain and ex-journalist Jack Reardon.

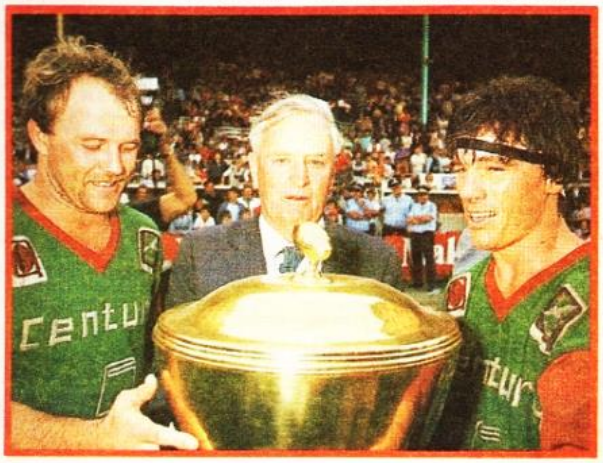
The now-retired Australian selector, whose memory goes back to 1935, when he first started playing in Brisbane, says the Wynnum machine of the '80s could well be Brisbane's best-ever side.

"I've seen some wonderful sides — Norths, Valleys, Brothers, Easts and Souths have all achieved success with mighty teams over the years — but I doubt whether any had as many great players as this current Wynnum team," he said.

"Lewis is one of the best players the game has produced — probably *the* best; Miles isn't far behind, and Scott and Dowling are both internationals. And even though Lindner and French aren't internationals, in my opinion, they are better than many who have worn the green and gold.

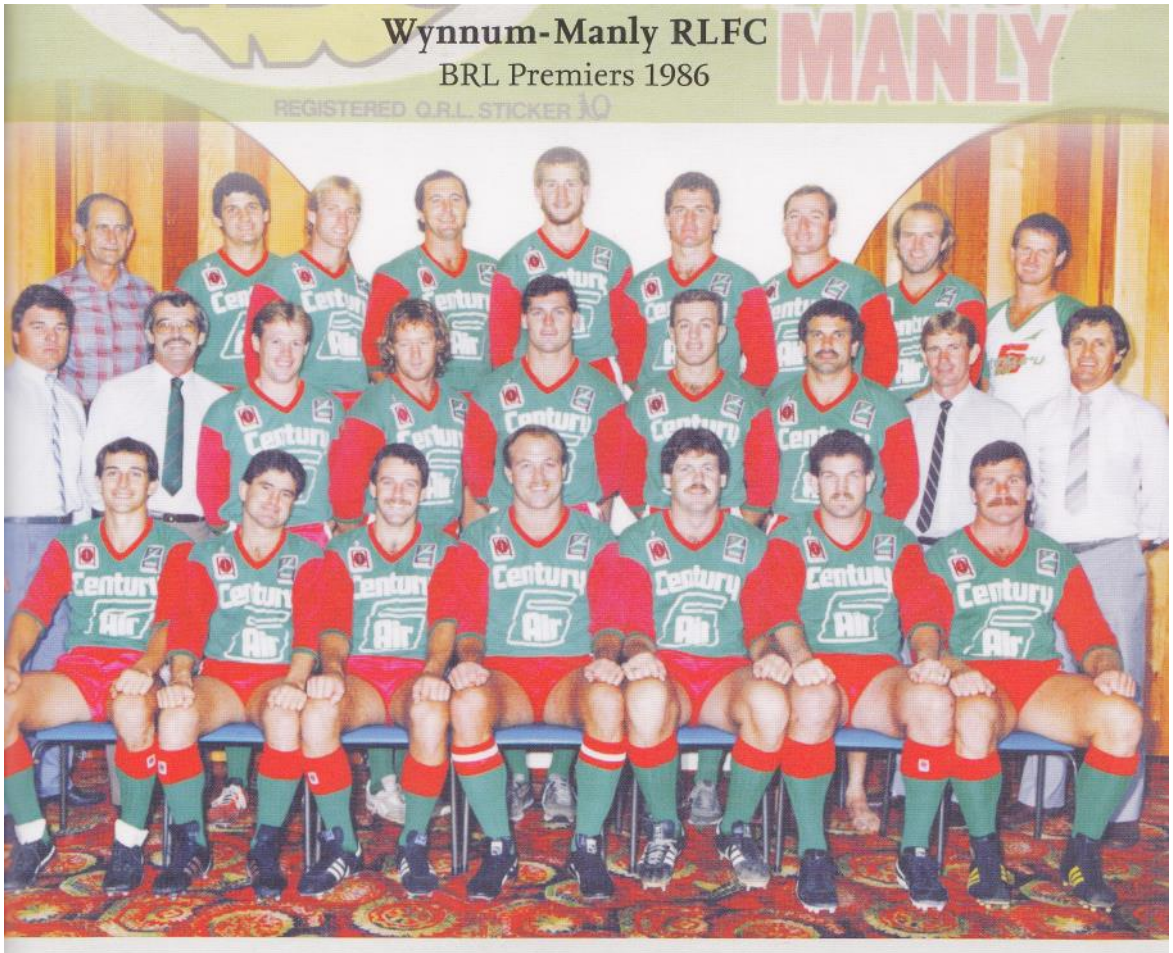
"Taking everything into consideration, I'd say this is close to the best Brisbane club side I've seen, if it's not the best."

The end of an era then, according to Jack Reardon. And the end of a mistake, according to David Green.



1986

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 14 v BROTHERS 6



BACK ROW: J.Lewis (manager), R.Raiteri, C.Adams, D.Jenner, A.Tessman, I.French, G.Anders, B.Naylor, B.Bell (assistant manager). SECOND ROW: D.Green (president), B.Cory (strapper), M.Murrell, M.Green, R.Lindner, S.Nicholls, C.Scott, J.Ryan (trainer), B.Pedler (secretary). FRONT ROW: S.Lewis, C.Farrugia, P.Dawes, W.Lewis (captain-coach), G.Miles, G.Dowling, J.Turner.

RESULTS

31 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 10 (Stains, Grogan tries; Bailey goal) d. Fortitude Valley 8 (Allen try; Booth 2 goals)
Brothers: C.Mohr, V.O'Brien, R.Grogan, J.Tapp, R.Klein, P.Gill, Greg Smith, D.Stains, S.McErlean, Gary Smith, R.Baumber, T.Bailey (c), S.Carter. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Valleys: M.Booth, C.Marshall, B.Tengdahl, G.Rix, B.King, M.Wilson, D.Wood, G.Allen, Z.Strasser, M.Hohn, K.Neller, R.Herring, G.Walker. Coach: P.McWhirter.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

7 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum-Manly 26 (Nicholls 2, Lewis, Miles, Lindner tries; Scott 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 6 (Bleakley try; Rolls goal).
Wynnum: C.Scott, S.Nicholls, B.Naylor, G.Miles, S.Lewis, W.Lewis (c/c), P.Dawes, B.Lindner, I.French, M.Green, D.Jenner, C.Farrugia, G.Dowling.
Redcliffe: D.Holder, R.Thorne, T.Benson, B.Rolls, G.Barwick, R.Tew (c), C.Part, S.Bleakley, W.Fullerton-Smith, J.Cowell, B.Niebling, G.Conescu, M.Webb. Reserve: R.Ovens. Coach: D.Van De Velde.
Referee: Ian Irwin.

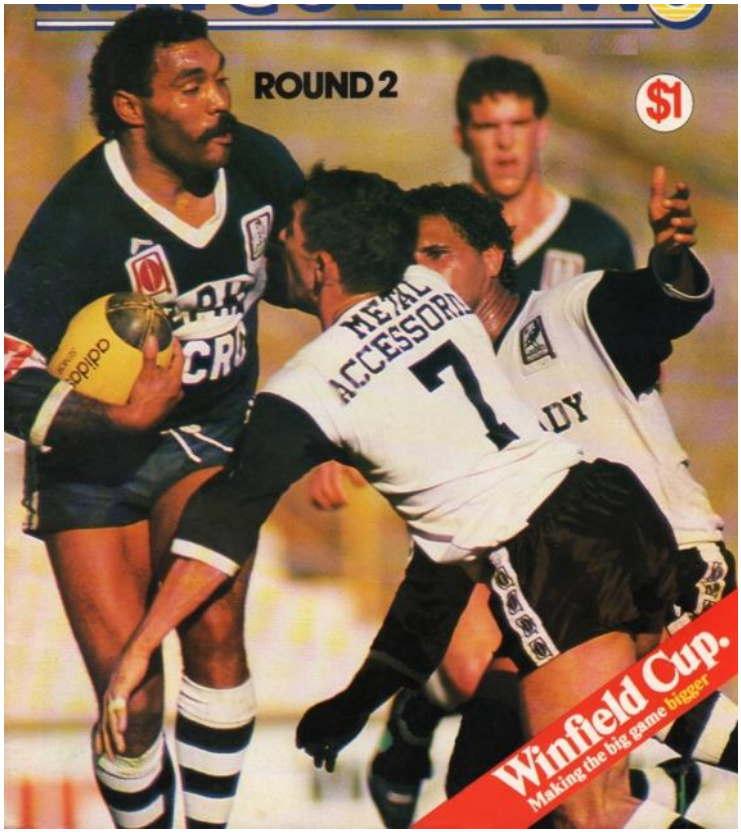
14 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK

Past Brothers 14 (Gill, Burns, Tapp tries; Bailey goal) d. Redcliffe 2 (Keogh goal).
Brothers: C.Mohr, V.O'Brien, R.Grogan, J.Burns, J.Kilroy, P.Gill, Greg Smith, D.Stains, S.McErlean, Gary Smith, R.Baumber, T.Bailey (c), S.Carter. Reserve: J.Tapp. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Redcliffe: D.Holder, R.Thorne, T.Benson, B.Rolls, G.Barwick, R.Tew (c), C.Part, S.Bleakley, R.Keogh, J.Cowell, B.Niebling, G.Conescu, M.Webb. Reserves: S.Cherry, J.Richards. Coach: D.Van De Velde.
Referee: David Manson. ***Crowd: 8,000.***

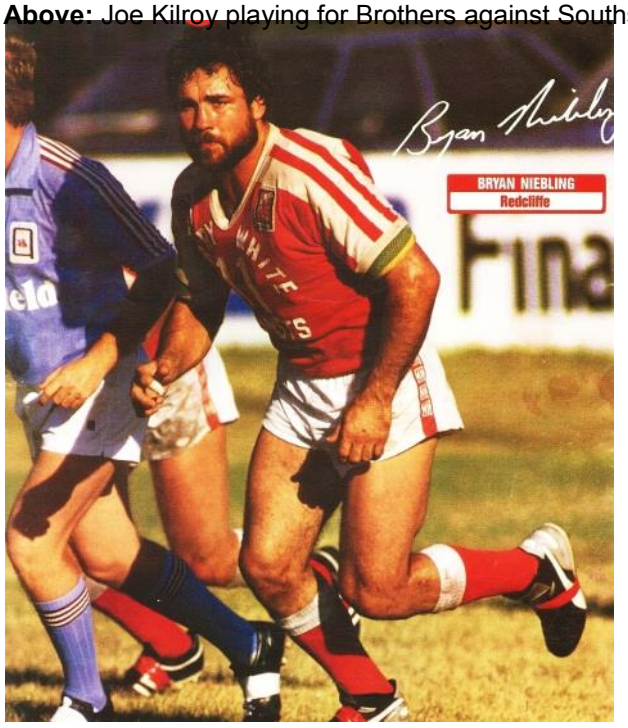
21 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK

Wynnum Manly 14 (Lewis, Attell tries; Scott 3 goals) d. Past Brothers 6 (Gill try; Bailey goal).
Wynnum: C.Scott, S.Lewis, B.Naylor, G.Miles, S.Nicholls, W.Lewis (c/c), P.Dawes, B.Lindner, I.French, M.Green, D.Jenner, C.Farrugia, G.Dowling. Reserve: P.Attell.
Brothers: C.Mohr, V.O'Brien, R.Grogan, J.Tapp, J.Burns, P.Gill, Greg Smith, D.Stains, S.McErlean, Gary Smith, R.Baumber, T.Bailey, S.Carter. Coach R.Strudwick.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 25,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Tie - Bryan Niebling (Redcliffe) and Scott Tronc (Souths)

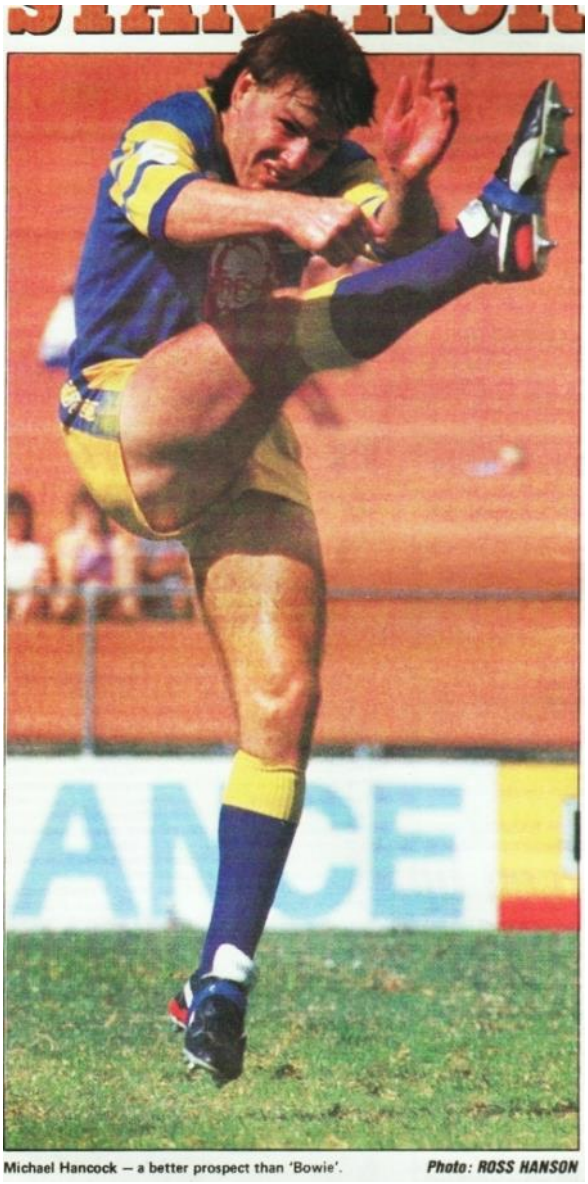


Above: Joe Kilroy playing for Brothers against Souths.





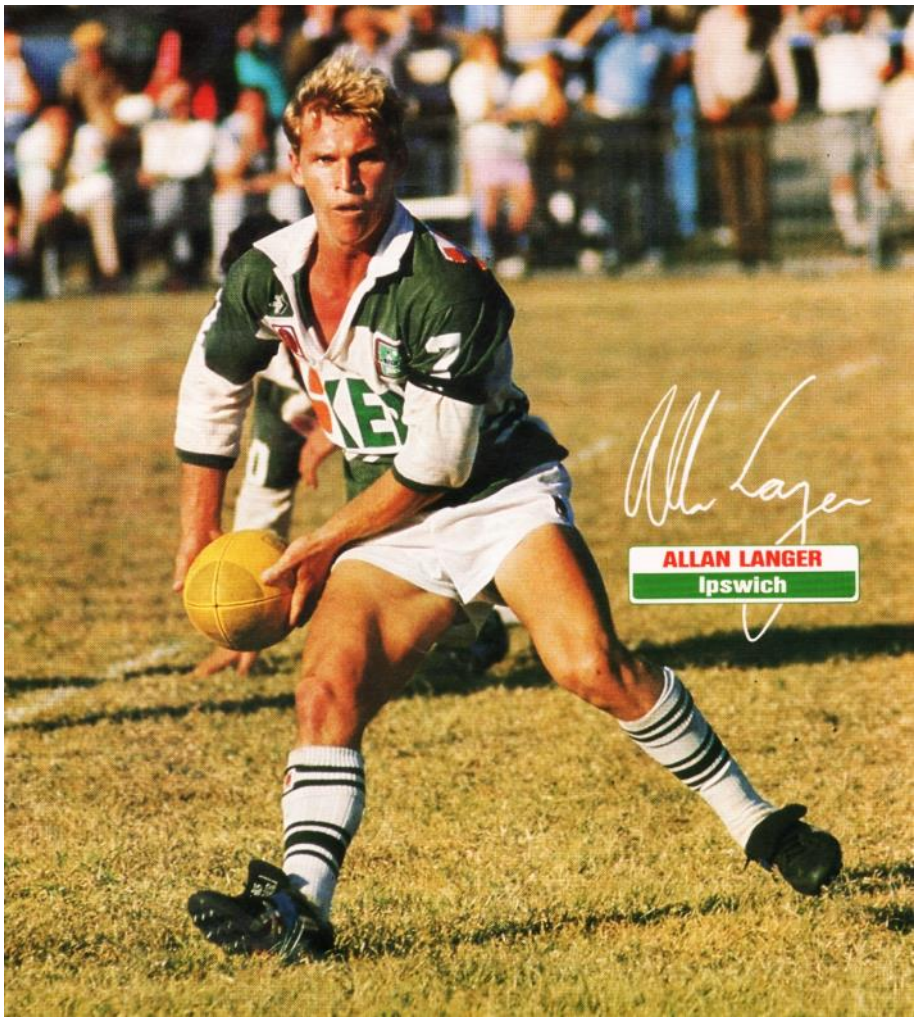
A young Trevor Gillmeister breaks through with Campbell Dews in support.



Michael Hancock — a better prospect than 'Bowie'. *Photo: ROSS HANSON*

Below: Peter Coyne, one of Valleys' star players during their triple premiership years of 1988-90.





Below: Kerrod Walters playing for Ipswich.



1987

STATE LEAGUE: WYNNUM-MANLY

1987 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Wynnum-Manly humiliated the luckless Redcliffe in the grand final yet again in claiming the 1987 State League title. It continued the amazing run of the Seagulls, in this competition, by winning their fourth straight title.

ROUND 1

Souths 12 defeated Gold Coast 11 at Southport
Toowoomba 40 defeated North Qld 10 at Lang Park
Seagulls-Diehards 16 defeated Wide Bay 12 at Gympie
Wynnum-Manly 24 defeated Redcliffe 20 at Lang Park
Easts 14 defeated Central Qld 6 at Blackwater
Ipswich 24 defeated Brothers 12 at Ipswich
Norths 22 defeated Wests 8 at Lang Park

ROUND 2

Seagulls-Diehards 38 defeated Easts 6 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 16 defeated Wests 4 at Kougari Oval
Ipswich 48 defeated North Qld 4 at Ayr
Norths 18 defeated Central Qld 4 at Gladstone
Toowoomba 41 defeated Redcliffe 10 at Roma
Gold Coast 21 defeated Wide Bay 6 at Lang Park
Brothers 28 defeated Souths 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 3

Ipswich 16 defeated Souths 0 at Lang Park
Brothers 16 defeated Easts 8 at Langlands Park
Toowoomba 12 defeated Gold Coast 8 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 40 defeated Seagulls-Diehards 24 at Lang Park
Wide Bay 12 drew with Wests 12 at Bundaberg
Redcliffe 58 defeated Central Qld 6 at Rockhampton
Norths 32 defeated North Qld 12 at Ingham

ROUND 4

Brothers 20 defeated Norths 2 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 32 defeated Souths 8 at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum-Manly 34 defeated North Qld 8 at Townsville
Toowoomba 36 defeated Easts 10 at Toowoomba
Gold Coast 14 defeated Wests 4 at Southport
Central Qld 26 defeated Wide Bay 20 at Lang Park
Seagulls-Diehards 29 defeated Ipswich 14 at Lang Park

ROUND 5

Redcliffe 32 defeated Easts 6 at Lang Park
Brothers 30 defeated Gold Coast 2 at Southport
Norths 26 defeated Wide Bay 24 at Maroochydore
Souths 28 defeated North Qld 12 at Cairns
Seagulls-Diehards 28 defeated Toowoomba 12 at Toowoomba
Central Qld 22 defeated Wests 20 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 22 defeated Ipswich 16 at Lang Park

ROUND 6

Souths 16 defeated Wests 4 at Lang Park
Gold Coast 17 defeated Seagulls-Diehards 16 at Southport
Toowoomba 13 defeated Wynnum-Manly 10 at Toowoomba
Brothers 54 defeated Central Qld 6 at Biloela
Wide Bay 12 defeated Ipswich 8 at Maryborough
North Qld 30 defeated Easts 22 at Lang Park
Redcliffe 36 defeated Norths 8 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
BROTHERS	6	5	-	1	160	52	10
TOOWOOMBA	6	5	-	1	154	76	10
WYNNUM-MANLY	6	5	-	1	146	85	10
REDCLIFFE	6	4	-	2	198	93	8
Seagulls-Diehards	6	4	-	2	151	101	8
Norths	6	4	-	2	106	104	8
Ipswich	6	3	-	3	126	79	6
Gold Coast	6	3	-	3	73	80	6
Souths	6	3	-	3	74	103	6
Central Queensland	6	2	-	4	70	164	4
Wide Bay	6	1	1	4	86	109	3
Easts	6	1	-	5	66	158	2
North Queensland	6	1	-	5	76	204	2
Wests	6	-	1	5	52	102	1

SEMI FINALS

WYNNUM-MANLY 30 (Colin Scott, Peter Sinclair, Brian Coyne, Scott Nicholls, Darren Petrie tries; Colin Scott 5 goals) defeated
TOOWOOMBA 8 (R Clevin try; T Land 2 goals) at Lang Park

REDCLIFFE 16 (Steve Bleakley, Ashley Tupaea tries; Trevor Benson 4 goals) defeated
BROTHERS 6 (Jeff Burns try; Tony Rea goal) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL

WYNNUM-MANLY 36 (Peter Sinclair 2, Gene Miles 2, Scott Lewis 2, Colin Scott tries; Colin Scott 4 goals) defeated
REDCLIFFE 14 (Jeff Doyle, G Barwick, David Brown tries; Trevor Benson goal) at Lang Park

1987

State League Semi-Final -
Wynnum-Manly 30 v Toowoomba 8

Whoa! Gulls pull up the Clydesdales

By PAUL MALONE

WYNNUM-MANLY closed down the Toowoomba road show at Lang Park last night when they moved to the brink of their fourth successive Winfield State League championship.

With Wynnum captain-coach Wally Lewis giving the last pass for three tries and hoisting the bomb for another, the Seagulls booked a final showdown against Redcliffe with a 30-8 semi-final defeat of the Clydesdales.

Tomorrow's WSL final, for a total purse of $44,000, is a rematch of last year's runaway decider, won 46-10 by Wynnum.

It was the perfect reply to Toowoomba's 13-10 ambush of Wynnum at Athletic Oval, as the country champions' homespun style of football failed to control the Brisbane premiers' speed and precision with the ball.

The Clydesdales' steady momentum through the WSL ground to a halt when Wynnum posted two tries in the opening 10 minutes. A 12-point lead in such heavy conditions was never going to be regathered.

Toowoomba did not recover from the one-two punch orchestrated by Lewis. From a scrum won against the head by rookie hooker Darren Petrie, the Downsmen ran out of scrumbase defence after quick passes by halfback Peter Dawes and Lewis saw Colin Scott cross.

Toowoomba could not answer what now amounts to a shock tactic — Lewis running with the ball — as the Test skipper raced 30m after the defence had assumed he would pass. Peter Sinclair, with a fine nose for a try, was there and Wynnum led 12-0 after 10 minutes.



PETER SINCLAIR . . . try hungry.

Sinclair's backing up makes him Brisbane's answer to the try-hungry Kangaroo Terry Lamb and he should have tied up the Brisbane Maroons' lock spot for Wednesday night's Winfield Super Challenge.

To add to his offensive recommendations, Sinclair's workrate has been outstanding this year.

Anyone seeing Toowoomba for the the first time would have wondered what the big deal was, but three minutes later they knew. With the ceiling falling in, they had the character to try something and put on possibly the try of the State League.

Five-eighth John Clancy, one of Toowoomba's best through the WSL, angled a chip which hit winger Rob Clevin right on the "Colonel" of his jersey at full pace for a marvellous try.

Unfortunately, it amounted to little more than a postscript to Toowoomba's year. The loss of lock Paul McDonald, concussed in his previous two matches, after only 29 minutes did not help.

WYNNUM-MANLY 30 (C Scott, P Sinclair, B Coyne, S Nicholls, D Petrie tries; Scott 5 goals) d TOOWOOMBA 8 (R Clevin try). First scorers: Wynnum 1, Toowoomba 2.

1987

State League Semi-Final -
Redcliffe 16 v Brothers 6

Dolphins' win defies all critics

By ROBERT CRADDOCK

TINY Redcliffe halfback James Sandy turned terror-tackler last night to keep alive the Dolphins Winfield State League comeback.

A month ago, Redcliffe were rated 100-1 shots of making the State League semi-finals after their 41-10 drubbing by Toowoomba.

On last night's effort at Lang Park, they will take a power of beating in Sunday's final of the state-wide rugby league competition.

Their 16-6 defeat of Brothers last night shot down the predictions of most critics. They also dashed Brothers' hopes of claiming Brisbane rugby league's triple crown: the Woolies Trophy, the State League and the Winfield Cup.

The only concern to come out of the match for the Dolphins was a shoulder injury to Test second-rower Bryan Niebling. He was replaced in the 35th minute after play was halted for four minutes while he received on-field treatment.

"When it happened I couldn't feel a thing in my shoulder and I think I might have pinched a nerve in my neck," Niebling said. "Then it came good for a while. I will see a physiotherapist tomorrow and see what he says, but unfortunately it hasn't got much time to come good."

Sandy, best known as a brilliant attacking player, turned in one of the best performances of his career last night. His tackling was so ferocious that he speared Brothers fullback Clinton Mohr into the turf. On many occasions he drove his tiny shoulder in kamikaze fashion into the Brothers' runners.

"James asked me recently whether there was any part of his game I was unhappy with," coach Darryl Van de Velde said. "I said his defence. His reply was that he would never be able to pull off the big hits that Mark Murray used to, but he would do his best."

Brothers stunned the crowd by electing not to attempt what appeared gift penalty goals early in the second half when they trailed 10-6.

Coach Ross Strudwick defended the decision. "It would have been the right decision had they spun the ball wide," Strudwick said. "They only had to pass the ball twice and they would have been unmarked, but instead they barged it up the middle.

"Redcliffe's defence was good, but we played like hacks. If we played as we could have we would have defeated them by 20 points."

Redcliffe made all the running in the first 20 minutes but it was Brothers who crossed first when Jeff Burns completed a back line movement that involved Robert Grogan and Clinton Mohr.

Replacement second rower Ashley Tupaea put the Dolphins in front when he sprinted 15 metres to score two minutes before halftime after Steve Bleakley switched play to create space up the middle.

After dominating play for most of the game, it would have been unjust had Redcliffe lost but the Dolphins were not safely out of reach until Bleakley crossed with 23 seconds on the clock after a break from replacement Greg Donnelly.

REDCLIFFE 16 (S Bleakley, A Tupaea tries; T Benson 4 goals) d BROTHERS 6 (J Burns try; T Rea goal). First scorers: Redcliffe 6, Brothers 4. First try scorers: Redcliffe 11, Brothers 4.



REDCLIFFE forward Bryan Niebling grasps at Brothers fullback Clinton Mohr in last night's Winfield State League semi-final at Lang Park. The Dolphins won 16-6.

1987

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - WYNNUM-MANLY 36 v REDCLIFFE 14

LEWIS ANGRY OVER BITING ALLEGATION BY A DOLPHIN

WALLY LEWIS angrily denied allegations of biting made against him as Wynnum-Manly swept to their fourth straight Winfield State League title at Lang Park yesterday.

Rugged Redcliffe second-rower Jim Cowell, sent off by controversial referee Barry Gomersall after two sin-bin offences, accused Lewis of biting his hand in the match-turning incident of Wynnum's 36-14 grand final romp.

Heated scenes greeted Cowell's subsequent suspension for three weeks by a QRL judiciary, making the former North Queenslander the first player in WSL history to be outed.

Cowell was expelled for five minutes after he disputed a penalty awarded against him for an infringment in a tackle on Lewis.

Gomersall later confirmed Cowell claimed he had been bitten by Lewis. "He had a bit to say about it, but what I can't see I can't rule on," Gomersall said.

Sent to the sin-bin again for 10 minutes a minute after halftime for a head-high tackle on Wynnum prop Darryl Jenner, Cowell had only just returned when Gomersall dismissed him on a charge of attacking the head of Seagulls replacement John Turner.

Lewis, holder of a WSL winner's medal for a fifth successive season — he won one with Valleys in 1983 — hotly disputed the Redcliffe camp's claims. "I had a mouthguard in," he said.

Redcliffe coach Darryl Van de Velde blasted Cowell's suspension by the match judiciary comprising QRL chairman Bill Hunter and senior club officials David Green (Wynnum) and John Abbott (Redcliffe).

A furious Van de Velde told Hunter the decision was "weak" in light of the reprimand handed to Norths prop Gordon Reid after being found guilty of attacking the head of a Wests player on April 3.

Van de Velde said Cowell would appeal against the suspension, which encompasses two Winfield Cup matches, but the QRL does not allow appeals against suspensions incurred in WSL play.

Redcliffe officials also made unofficial complaints that Gomersall had "sledged" two Dolphins players during the match. Gomersall refused to comment.

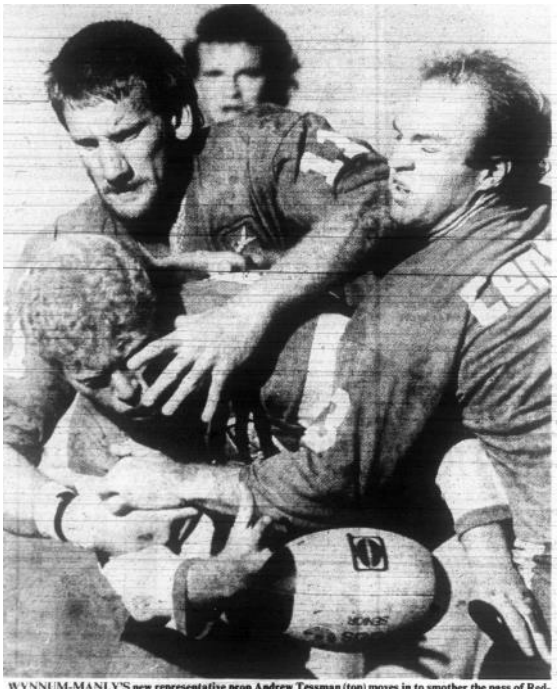
But the Test referee answered criticisms that Cowell's actions did not warrant a send-off. "I advised Redcliffe captain Bryan Niebling after the first two sin-bin trips that, had he another caution, he would be put in the showers," Gomersall said.

Redcliffe's collapse — so reminiscent of their 46-10 hammering by Wynnum in the corresponding match 12 months before — began when Wynnum scored two tries for an 8-0 lead from the ninth-minute of Cowell's first offence.

But the extent of the Dolphins' demise to a 4-24 halftime deficit meant there could be no alibis.

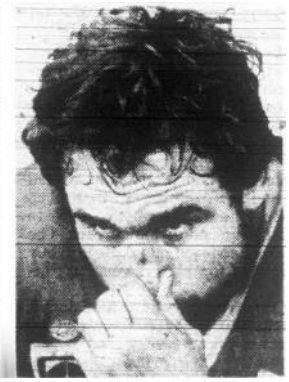
Lewis was man of the match, but lock Peter Sinclair, prop Andrew Tessman and centre Gene Miles also stood out in a Wynnum team which punished Redcliffe's defensive frailties.

WYNNUM-MANLY 36 (P Sinclair 2, S Lewis 2, G Miles 2, C Scott tries; Scott 4 goals) d REDCLIFFE 14 (J Doyle, G Barwick, D Brown tries; T Benson goal). First scorers: Wynnum 1, Redcliffe 5.



WYNNUM-MANLY'S new representative prop Andrew Tessman (top) moves in to smother the pass of Redcliffe second-rower Ashley Tupaea in the Seagulls' 36-14 Winfield State League final win at Lang Park yesterday. Seagulls centre Brian Naylor is equally determined.





LET'S play pick the winner. Wynnum-Manly prop Darryl Jenner (left) and Redcliffe skipper Bryan Niebling contemplate the meaning of life on the sidelines during yesterday's Winfield State League decider staged at Lang Park.

1987

BRL: BROTHERS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	Pts
Past Brothers	16	13	3	0	2	442	227	30
Northern Suburbs	16	12	3	1	2	340	249	29
Redcliffe	16	11	5	0	2	404	262	26
Wynnum-Manly	16	11	5	0	2	354	226	26
Southern Suburbs	16	8	7	1	2	311	310	21
Ipswich	16	8	8	0	2	325	315	20
Seagulls-Diehards	16	6	10	0	2	373	304	16
Western Suburbs	16	1	15	0	2	164	462	6
Eastern Suburbs	16	1	15	0	2	185	543	6

1987 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

MARCH 1

Souths	v	Norths*	Davies Park.....28-18
Brothers*	v	Easts	Corbett Park.....44-10
Wynnum-Manly*	v	Seagulls/Diehards	Kougari Oval.....22-12
Redcliffe*	v	Wests	Dolphin Oval.....14-11
Ipswich	v	Bye	

MARCH 8

Easts	v	Souths*	Langlands Park.....16-28
Wests	v	Ipswich*	Purtell Park 8-30
Brothers*	v	Wynnum Manly	Corbett Park.....26-22
Redcliffe	v	Norths*	Dolphin Oval.....26-38
Seagulls/Diehards	v	Bye	

MARCH 15

Norths*	v	Wests	Bishop Park..... 20-6
Souths	v	Wynnum Manly*	Davies Park..... 6-20
Easts	v	Redcliffe*	Langlands Park.....10-38
Ipswich*	v	Seagulls/Diehards	Ipswich 16-10
Brothers	v	Bye	

MARCH 22

Norths*	v	Ipswich	Bishop Park.....22-16
Wests	v	Easts*	Purtell Park 8-10
Seagulls/Diehards	v	Brothers*	Neumann Oval 12-26
Wynnum Manly	v	Redcliffe	Kougari Oval..... 24-0
Souths	v	Bye	

MAY 24

Bye	v	Redcliffe	
Seagulls/Diehards*	v	Souths	Neuman Oval.....31-10
Easts	v	Norths*	Lang Park.....22-18
Ipswich	v	Brothers*	Lang Park.....22-10
Wynnum Manly*	v	Wests	Kougari Oval..... 39-8

MAY 31

Wests	v	Bye	
Easts	v	Ipswich*	Lang Park.....28-12
Souths*	v	Brothers	Davies Park.....30-26
Redcliffe*	v	Seagulls/Diehards	Lang Park.....22-10
Norths*	v	Wynnum Manly	Bishop Park..... 2-8

JUNE 7

Bye	v	Norths	
Seagulls/Diehards*	v	Wests	Lang Park.....48-10
Ipswich	v	Souths*	Ipswich 18-14
Wynnum Manly*	v	Easts	Langlands Park..... 32-4
Brothers	v	Redcliffe*	Lang Park.....32-10

JUNE 14

Easts	v	Bye	
Norths*	v	Seagulls/Diehards	Lang Park.....19-12
Wynnum Manly*	v	Ipswich	Lang Park.....26-10
Redcliffe*	v	Souths	Dolphin Oval.....23-12
Wests	v	Brothers*	Purtell Park 40-4

JUNE 21

Bye	v	Wynnum Manly	
Ipswich*	v	Redcliffe	Ipswich 14-0
Souths*	v	Wests	Lang Park..... 40-6
Seagulls/Diehards*	v	Easts	Neuman Oval..... 56-4
Brothers*	v	Norths	Lang Park..... 14-6

JUNE 28

Bye	v	Ipswich	
Redcliffe*	v	Wests	Dolphin Oval..... 50-6
Souths	v	Norths	Davies Park 8-8
Seagulls/Diehards*	v	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park.....23-14
Brothers*	v	Easts	Corbett Park 54-4

JULY 5

Bye	v	Seagulls/Diehards	
Ipswich*	v	Wests	Ipswich 38-24
Wynnum Manly*	v	Brothers	Lang Park.....24-20
Souths*	v	Easts	Langlands Park.....58-18
Redcliffe*	v	Norths	Bishop Park.....36-18

JULY 12

Brothers	v	Bye	
Seagulls/Diehards	v	Ipswich*	Lang Park.....26-24
Redcliffe*	v	Easts	Dolphin Oval..... 34-4
Wests	v	Norths*	Purtell Park 28-12
Souths*	v	Wynnum Manly	Kougari Oval.....19-14

JULY 19

Bye	v	Souths	
Seagulls/Diehards	v	Brothers	Corbett Park.....28-19
Easts	v	Wests	Langlands Park..... 7-5
Ipswich	v	Norths	Bishop Park.....15-11
Wynnum Manly	v	Redcliffe	Lang Park.....15-10

JULY 26

Redcliffe	v	Bye	
Brothers*	v	Ipswich	Lang Park..... 36-8
Wests	v	Wynnum Manly*	Purtell Park 24-14
Souths*	v	Seagulls/Diehards	Davies Park 24-18
Norths*	v	Easts	Bishop Park.....40-10

AUGUST 2

Bye	v	Wests	
Wynnum Manly	v	Norths*	Lang Park.....22-12
Ipswich*	v	Easts	North Ipswich 42-20
Seagulls/Diehards*	v	Redcliffe	Neumann Oval.....31-28
Brothers*	v	Souths	Corbett Park 24-0

AUGUST 9

Norths	v	Bye	
Easts	v	Wynnum Manly*	Kougari Oval.....14-24
Souths	v	Ipswich*	Davies Park 8-10
Wests	v	Valleys*	Neumann Oval..... 6-24
Redcliffe	v	Brothers*	Lang Park.....10-22

AUGUST 16

Bye	v	Easts	
Seagulls/Diehards	v	Norths*	Neumann Oval.....20-18
Brothers*	v	Wests	Corbett Park.....26-22
Ipswich	v	Wynnum Manly*	Lang Park.....34-18
Souths	v	Redcliffe*	Dolphin Oval..... 42-6

AUGUST 23

Wynnum Manly	v	Bye	
Norths	v	Brothers*	Lang Park.....24-14
Wests	v	Souths*	Purtell Park 26-12
Easts	v	Seagulls/Diehards*	Langlands Park.....28-26
Redcliffe*	v	Ipswich	Ipswich 36-34

1987

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Redcliffe 30 v Wynnum 7

DYNAMITE DOLPHINS DISPEL DOUBTS

REDCLIFFE angrily demolished the framework of Wynnum-Manly's golden era to put paid to two of the unrelenting questions surrounding their Winfield Cup charge at Lang Park yesterday.

By PAUL MALONE

Brisbane's perennial semi-final lepers stripped their bogey team of the premiership with a 30-7 knockout semi-final win which dispelled doubts about their ability to withstand end-of-season pressure.

Semi-final pressure is traditionally as deadly to Redcliffe as Kryptonite is to Superman, but this year's school of Dolphins showed composure and flair to sober the Norths and Brothers teams blocking their way to the title.

Redcliffe proved all the points they had wanted to make, especially with their camp irate at comments by a leading rugby league official at the State of Origin dinner last Friday night that Wynnum would be a preferable winner because of their crowd-drawing power.

Queensland forwards Bryan Niebling and Greg Conescu relayed the information which the Dolphins used as a motivational tool — just another low blow at a club which has had 22 years' bad luck since their last grand final win.

"It made us that much more keen," Niebling said. "Everybody was putting us down, saying we were not going to beat them. We came out and proved them all wrong. We bustled Wynnum all the way."

As good as the Dolphins were yesterday, there were no revelations from a premiership point of view. Redcliffe were always good enough to beat any team on their day, but the question of their consistency is something which will only be resolved by the events of the next three weeks.

With Redcliffe in remarkable offensive form, Wynnum's prospects of seeing out the Wally Lewis-Gene Miles years with a fourth championship in six years were smashed by halftime.

In a stunning series of raids, the Dolphins bombarded Wynnum's line with the sort of attack which must frustrate coach Darryl Van de Velde. That Redcliffe can play with this flair makes it all the more inexplicable that they throw in some of the more uneventful football played in Brisbane as well.

The opening for the four-try first-half was carved by their most potent individual runner James Sandy, but the little man had the luxury of playing behind a pack which dominated.

Hooker Greg Conescu was overlooked in favor of Sandy, Niebling, second-rower Ashley Tupaea and prop Dave Brown when the best player accolades were being handed around, but Conescu's contribution with a broken hand was critical.

Sandy set Wynnum on their heels after eight minutes when he beat his opposite Doug Belford all ends up and sent Tupaea over. When a sparkling individual effort put the Dolphins up 12-1, Sandy had put Wynnum in the precarious position of having to throw caution to the wind in a semi-final.

With captain-coach Lewis finding it hard to make his mark, the Seagulls panicked and their already large error rate ballooned. Wynnum made 22 handling errors to Redcliffe's 12 mistakes and they kicked only 11 times to the Dolphins' 19. Robbed of Lewis as a kicker by his knee problem, they used five kickers without ever knowing which one to go to.

The deck was further stacked against Wynnum when Miles aggravated an ankle injury on halftime. He took little part in the rest of proceedings and will go for precautionary x-rays today.

Redcliffe responded to the demands exacted by a Wynnum try to close to 24-7 and a well-crafted try to Steve Bleakley gave the try-hungry Dolphins skipper his second double in as many Sundays.

The red-and-green machine, tabbed a couple of years ago the best club side in Australia, had been given a brutal curtain fall. Sports luminaries are regularly the subject of a square-up by fate for favors bestowed at the end of their careers. Wynnum paid for their success in much the same way as did Don Bradman and Graeme Langlands.

REDCLIFFE 30 (S Bleakley 2, A Tupaea, J Sandy, R Teevan tries; T Benson 5 goals) d WYNNUM 7 (A Tessman try; B Samuelson goal, A Jemmott field goal). First scorers: Redcliffe 10, Wynnum 9.



HIS broken hand heavily bandaged, Redcliffe hooker Greg Conescu pulls in a pass during the Dolphins' first half romp in the knockout semi-final at Lang Park.



RELIEF in a sea of despair for Wynnum-Manly as forward Andrew Tessman plunges through the tackle of Redcliffe match-winner James Sandy for the Seagulls' only try at Lang Park.

1987

BRL Major Semi-Final - Brothers 25 v Norths 16

SUPERB FIGHTBACK BY ERRATIC BROTHERS

BROTHERS came to grips with their biggest danger in the Winfield Cup — themselves — to stage a stirring comeback win in the major semi-final at Lang Park yesterday.

The unpredictable rugby league premiership favorites barely snapped out of an alarming show of error and complacency in time to mount a three-try burst in 13 minutes which snatched a 25-16 decision over Norths.

Norths led 16-6 only 20 minutes away from the end of a 13-match losing streak against Brothers begun in 1983 when the Brethren pressed the "on" switch and booked a place in Sunday week's grand final.

Brothers' defence, a pale imitation of their successful harrassing game, had been stretched by Norths' enthusiastic running and their own fallibility, occasionally shown this season and the biggest barrier to Ross Strudwick's team being one of Brisbane's greatest club sides.

The 3-1 on favorites were in prodigious trouble. And still they put their house in enough order to win a semi-final from 10 points down. It takes a good side.

"We got behind the line after Brett Kelso's try and gave ourselves a real bagging," skipper Trevor Bailey said as a relieved Brothers dressing-room regathered their emotions. "The way we were playing, we were kidding. That try after halftime was more of a boost for us than it was for them, even though it put them ahead 16-6.

"We're not going to think we're certainties after this. But it does show the amount of character in the team."

Sparked into action by disgust at the way they were playing, Brothers grafted back into the match and finally the attacking game which has tormented every club defence in Brisbane gained results.

Winger Joe Kilroy's solo barge from a penalty tap brought Brothers back to 16-12, and three minutes later, five-eighth Peter Gill switched play at the scrum base inside Norths' quarter and sent fullback Clinton Mohr powering through for a 18-16 score reversal.

Seven minutes from time, Brothers moved within one match of their first title in 19 years with a 60m team try begun by a Bailey dummy-half sneak down the narrowest of blind sides and completed six passes later by halfback Greg Smith. Under semi-final pressure, it was a champion try.

To steal a tennis line, Brothers' success had come from playing the big points superbly. Lock Brett Le Man, Gill, Mohr and centre Robert Grogan had most reason to celebrate.

With Irish luck combining with Le Man's most vigorous match this season, Brothers had managed to be as close as 10-6 at halftime through a long-range intercept try by Kilroy.

Norths had been a powerhouse in the first half, with Test prop Greg Dowling slicing Brothers' ruck with two ominous charges.

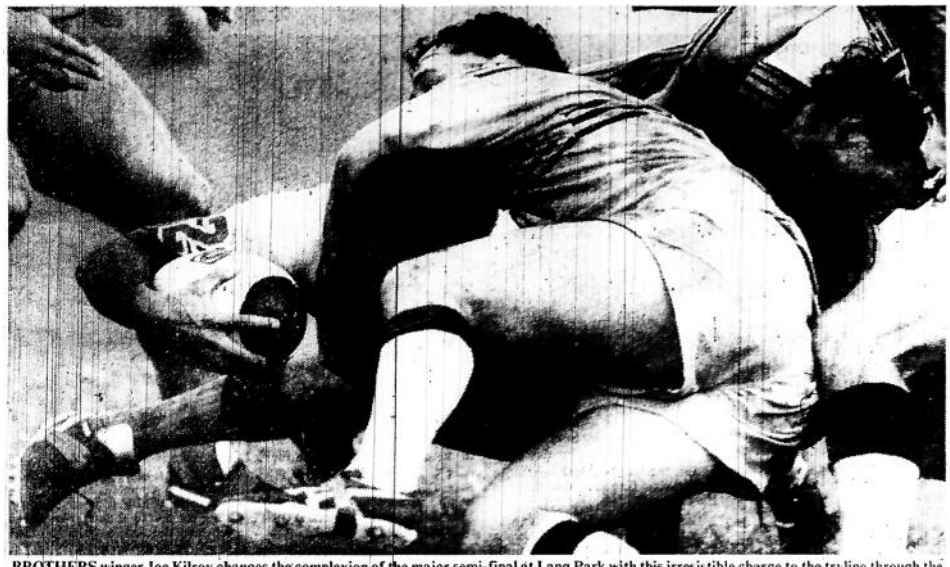
Halfback Geoff Bagnall's individual brilliance deserved a better fate and the defence of lock Kieran Jackson and centres Kelso and Steve Rosolen was part of the reason why Brothers were unable to make their aniticipated breaks outside.

Norths will do well to repeat their intensity in Sunday's preliminary final against the powerful Redcliffe, flushed with the confidence of their 30-7 cuffing of Wynnum-Manly.

But if the Devils do make their first grand final since 1980, their remarkable run of outs against Brothers will take even more surpassing by coach Greg Oliphant.

Brothers could name their grand final team this week and Strudwick indicated there would be few, if any, changes. Prop Steve Carter was plainly dissatisfied with his replacement in favor of Eric Kennedy's greater mobility, but it would be a major surprise if Carter is dropped.

BROTHERS 25 (J Kilroy 2, C Mohr, Greg Smith tries; A Rea 4 goals, field goal) d NORTHS 16 (S McMahon, B Kelso tries; G Harvey 3, M Booth goals). First scorers: Brothers 2, Norths 5.



BROTHERS winger Joe Kilroy changes the complexion of the major semi-final at Lang Park with this irresistible charge to the tryline through the tackles of Norths forwards Darryl Duncan and Paul McCabe.

Kilroy does it again . . .

BROTHERS' two-try hero Joe Kilroy will know today if injury will again deny him his first grand final start since 1980.

The unpredictable Kilroy switched on the play-off magic to score the try which turned the major semi-final against Norths, but three minutes later he was forced to leave the field with an injured knee.

Kilroy was glumly contemplating a repetition of last year's grand final lead-up when he lost his wing spot to John Tapp because of an injured back.

"I can't support myself moving sideways and I'll be dirty if it happens again," he said. "I love the end of season stuff. They are the games that count."

Brothers medical officer Dr Peter Friss said Kilroy had damaged the medial ligament of his left knee and also strained a muscle near it. "It will be 24 hours before we know how he is," Dr Friss said.

Kilroy's second try provided the inspiration Brothers needed when they lagged 6-16 with 20 minutes to go. Still bobbling from the incident which saw Norths prop Greg Dowling urgently wave on assistance, the winger used his strength from a tap to torpedo Norths' defence.

1987

BRL Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 24 v Norths 18

WIN WISER DOLPHINS THANK NORTHS

REDCLIFFE'S Test rugby league forward Bryan Niebling yesterday thanked Norths for doing the Dolphins a premiership favor with their brave, unsuccessful late charge in the Winfield Cup preliminary final at Lang Park.

By PAUL MALONE

Niebling, vastly relieved that Norths' frantic scramble had fallen a whisker short as a tired Redcliffe fell into Sunday's grand final with a 24-16 win, believes the Dolphins could not have won the premiership decider against Brothers without it.

Lang Park became a cauldron of controversy after Norths had stretched Redcliffe to breaking point after trailing 6-24 with 11 minutes remaining.

Norths could have taken the match into extra time if two incidents had both been reversed:

- When Brisbane's leading points-scorer Guy Harvey missed a simple conversion which would have cut the lead to 24-18 with seven minutes remaining.
- When referee Eddie Ward did not award a penalty try against Redcliffe two minutes from time when Dolphins centre Rohan Teevan intentionally held down his Norths opposite Trevor Cook with a try offering.

Niebling said Redcliffe, without a close match in more than a month, had been toughened and wisened by the close scrape.

"After going so well against Wynnum-Manly I think we got to the lead and thought we had done all the hard work," Niebling said. "The blokes realise the grand final is 80 minutes long. That hard game in the heat also stands us in good stead physically.

"Those two things you have to have right in the grand final."

Ward angered the Norths camp with his decision not to award a penalty try against Teevan for preventing Cook from playing the ball on Redcliffe's line, an action from which Teevan was sin-binned until the siren. Only one other defender had retreated from Cook's intercept of a Niebling pass 80m upfield.

It was a ruling no referee would want to make, but it effectively snuffed out Norths' season and confirmed the grand final opposition which Brothers coach Ross Strudwick has been dreading.

Before slowing to a walk, Redcliffe had shown the methodicial and strong forward play Strudwick has long regarded as the only barrier to Brothers' first premiership since 1968.

Second-rower Bob Keogh, best afield, followed through his pack colleagues to a three-try performance which caps a month of sterling form.

The Dolphins pack showed great urgency, with second-rower Steve Cherry doing a fine stopping job on Norths prop Greg Dowling in the first half before the Test prop led Norths' late rally from the front.

When cautious Redcliffe coach Darryl Van de Velde threw aside the cloak and dagger surrounding his selections, Ashley Tupaea was a surprise fresh reserve, but the decision paid off for the Dolphins.

By contrast, Norths coach Greg Oliphant did not have similar success with his gamble to start Neil Wharton at five-eighth in his fourth first grade match of the year. The Devils were more threatening when Craig Grauf, who will have x-rays today on a suspected broken jaw, and Cook entered the match.

Oliphant also chanced Paul McCabe's corked thigh but he badly missed the running game of prop Billy Dart, who was restricted to being Oliphant's radio communications man.

McCabe tried hard but he missed a tackle in Keogh's first try and threw the intercept pass which tireless Redcliffe hooker Greg Conescu turned into a 12-0 lead after 17 minutes.

With halfback Geoff Bagnall under lock-and-key in attack, Norths did well to be as close as 6-12 at halftime. In his first touch after replacing Redcliffe fullback Greg Donnelly, Brett Rolls grassed a Bagnall bomb and Dowling powered over.

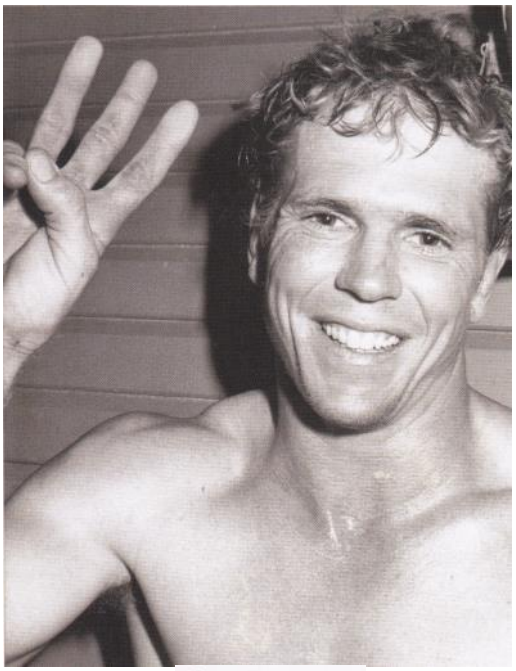
Redcliffe barely held on when challenged by two Norths tries in four minutes by Cook and Bagnall to close to 16-24, but the message had been driven home for Van de Velde as he sets about the most important week of his coaching career.

Any such momentary defensive lapses in the grand final will be more efficiently punished by Brothers. Grand finals are won most often by individual skills beating defences, and so Brothers should remount the Brisbane throne on Sunday.

REDCLIFFE 24 (R Keogh 3, R Teevan tries; T Benson 3, Keogh goals) d NORTHS 16 (G Dowling, G Bagnall, T Cook tries; G Harvey 2 goals). First scorers: Redcliffe 9, Norths 13.



REDCLIFFE'S hat-trick hero Bob Keogh lands the first blow of his greatest day with the first try of the Dolphins' preliminary final win over Norths at Lang Park. Devils centre Steve Rosolen (left) finds the going tough in defence.



Above: Journeyman North Queensland second-rower Bob Keogh celebrates his three tries after Redcliffe's 24-16 win over Norths in the 1987 preliminary final.

1987

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 26 v REDCLIFFE 8

CHAMPAGNE DAY – HOW SWEET IT IS!

BROTHERS, the club with a glittering present but an uncertain future, last night drank their first rugby league premiership champagne since 1968 like there was no tomorrow.

Their 26-8 Winfield Cup grand final defeat of Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday — forced by unshakeable team confidence — shrouded the question which will take weeks, perhaps months, to answer: what of next season?

The Brethrens' financial position could lose further ground over summer with the usual loss of football-connected trade at the Corbett Park club and there is a long way to travel before it is sure that yesterday's triumph was not one for the road.

But no-one involved with Brisbane's new premiers could care about anything other than the long-awaited celebration to come after the Brothers speed machine ran away with the premiership.

"It makes it worthwhile to those who have hung in over the last 12 months. It's some recompense for what they've put in trying to survive," senior official Frank Dolan said in an emotional Brothers room.

"We've had that many kicks in the teeth, to get a pat on the back is great. But tomorrow we start again. We're on top at the moment and I hope we stay there."

Brothers, the premiership favorites for most of the year, produced a picture-perfect grand final which obliterated the nightmare of last year's 14-6 defeat by Wynnum-Manly.

COMPOSURE

Like a champion heavyweight, Brothers absorbed Redcliffe's best shots in the early rounds and played havoc as their opponents realised their strengths were having no effect on the Brethrens' composure.

Redcliffe, cruelly denied a title for the sixth successive grand final since their lone 1965 success, had the advantage in field position for the first 20 minutes and threw their all at Brothers.

With the Irish pack holding firm under the pressure that ground down Wynnum and Norths in Redcliffe's past two finals matches, Brothers came back for more — or should that be Mohr? — with three tries which gift-wrapped the title at 14-0 at halftime.

Brothers took extraordinary risks with the ball, hurling it around in their own quarter. Such is the confidence this team had in each other!

Fullback Clinton Mohr's attack became the talk of the ground, but his flair had its source in the performance of the Brothers pack, which was expected to have its hands full with the big, experienced Redcliffe six.

FRONT LINE

Backrowers Tony Rea, who made the last pass for two tries, scored another and defended admirably, and Brett LeMan were joined by prop Steve Carter and hooker Trevor Bailey in the front line of the resistance.

Carter, the hero of last September, lent credence to his own claims that he is a big-match player by turning in a strong first half in which he cleverly slipped the ball for the first try to Bailey after 13 minutes.

The electric Mohr made two handling errors in the opening 10 minutes but soon gathered his composure sufficiently to made his Redcliffe rivals look nailed down in comparison.

It was his pace which split the Dolphins' defence from a clearing kick and sparked a brilliant 60m team try to winger Joe Kilroy for an 8-0 lead. When an Ashley Tupaea pass strayed one minute before the break and Rea quick-handed another long-range try to winger Mark Coyne, Redcliffe were in great trouble.

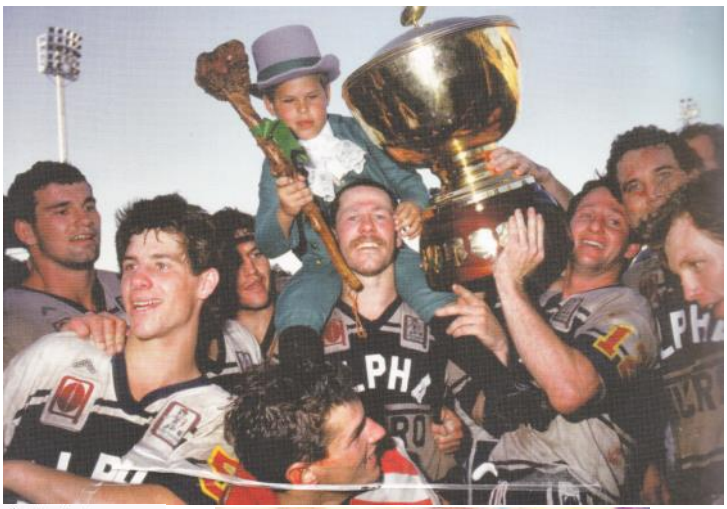
The Baysiders needed the first try of the second half, but Brothers bolted the door with a Rea try from a Bailey bomb. The 20-2 lead set the scene for what amounted to a muddling 30-minute lap of honor spiced only by a Mohr solo try remarkable for its explosive pace when Redcliffe had closed to 12 points.

Redcliffe, who paid particularly heavily for makeshift winger Steve Cherry's lack of mobility, were completely overrun. Keogh and hooker Greg Conescu were the best for the Dolphins and halfback James Sandy over-used his individual talents because nothing else was going on around him.

There were two sobering points when the dust had settled. One was that the Brothers era had ended before it had really started and that none of the premiership side will be fronting for the Brisbane Broncos next season.

BROTHERS 26 (T Bailey, J Kilroy, M Coyne, A Rea, C Mohr tries; Rea 3 goals) d REDCLIFFE 8 (J Sandy try; R Keogh 2 goals). First scorers: Brothers 12, Redcliffe 9.





A celebration to remember. Brothers are 1987 premiers and a Leprechaun has dropped in for the party. From left: Jim Stafford, Mark Coyne, Gary Smith, Clinton Mohr (front), Brad Jacobs (leprechaun), Steve Carter, Trevor Bailey, Brett Le Man and Jeff Burns.

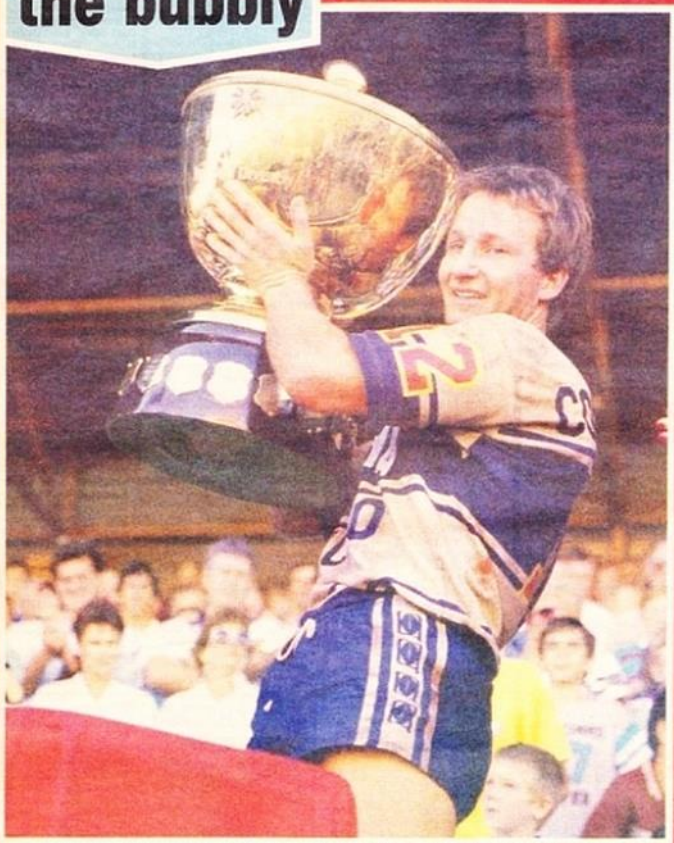


ABOVE: Brothers skipper Trevor Bailey embraces Steve Carter after scoring an early try.

1987

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 26 v REDCLIFFE 8

Brothers break out the bubbly



A jubilant Brothers skipper Trevor Bailey clutches the Winfield Cup at Lang Park yesterday.

BROTHERS Rugby League Club last night pushed aside their financial woes and broke out the bubbly after outclassing Redcliffe 26-8 to take premiership honors.

The win gave the coach Ross Strudwick's Brethren – in receivership with debts of more than $3 million – their first premiership success since 1968.

It was just the tonic for Brothers, who atoned in convincing style for losing last season's grand final to Wynnum-Manly.

They were never in trouble yesterday, leading 14-0 at half-time before going right on with the job in the second half.

The Brethren scored five tries to one.

Brothers also captured the reserve-grade grand final for the third successive season, beating Souths 16-1.

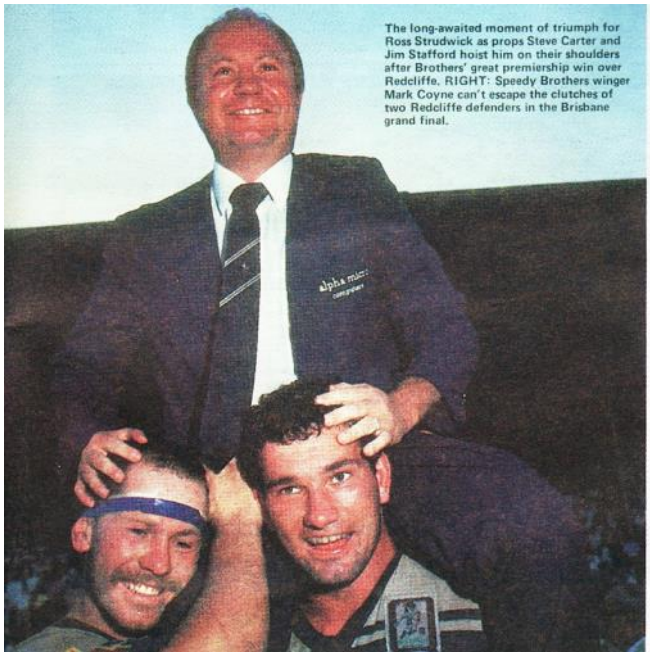
Apart from yesterday's two grand final wins, the club also clinched the Woolies Trophy and club championship this season to give loyal supporters cause to forget the financial wrangle and celebrate.

● For more grand final news, see Back Page and our football liftout.

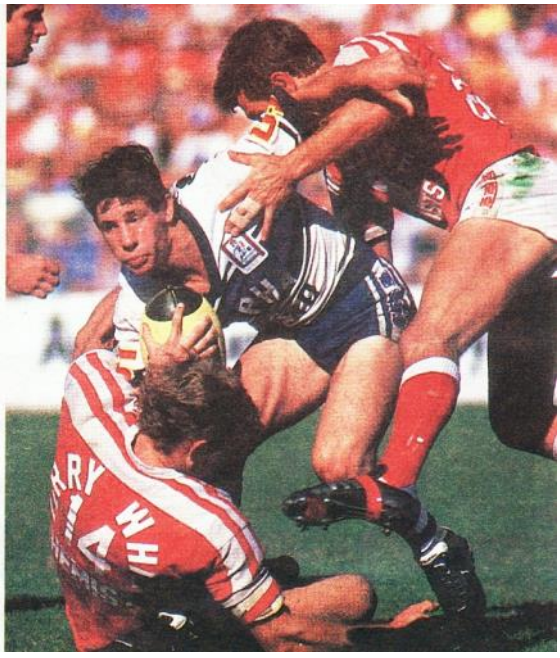


■ Brothers' rugby league prop Steve Carter said he was in a mean and hungry mood before yesterday's Winfield Cup Grand Final at Lang Park and he proved it with some fearsome charges into the Redcliffe defence. This one resulted in Brothers' first try, despite the tackle of Redcliffe's former Test hooker Greg Conescu. Carter unloaded the ball and skipper Trevor Bailey was there to accept and race 25 metres for a try. Brothers went on to win 26-8.





The long-awaited moment of triumph for Ross Strudwick as props Steve Carter and Jim Stafford hoist him on their shoulders after Brothers' great premiership win over Redcliffe. RIGHT: Speedy Brothers winger Mark Coyne can't escape the clutches of two Redcliffe defenders in the Brisbane grand final.



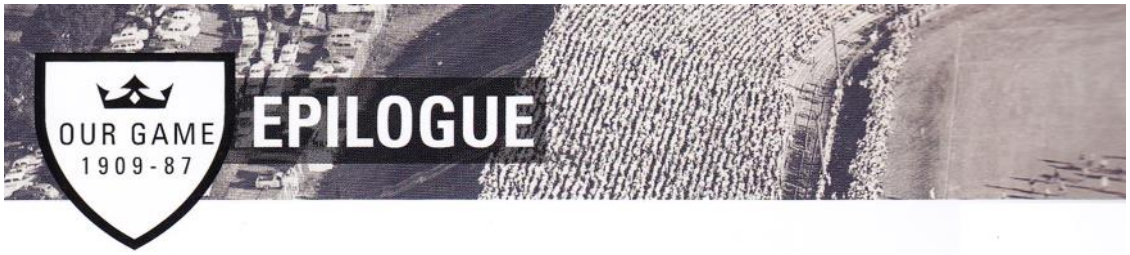
1987

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 26 v REDCLIFFE 8





BROTHERS skipper Trevor Bailey acknowledges the cheers of the fans as he is chaired by prop Jim Stafford and reserve forward Eric Kennedy on a lap of honor after their 26-8 grand final win over Redcliffe at Lang Park yesterday. *PICTURE: Stuart Riley.*



Change is never easy. It comes at a heavy cost. Friendships disintegrate. Change has been rugby league's constant companion since the game was first played.

It is convenient to blame the Brisbane Broncos for the demise of Brisbane's traditional club competition. There are those who feel the collapse of proud clubs like Brothers, Valleys and Wests was their doing, who blame the most successful NRL club of the last 30 years for dismantling a much-loved status quo.

Buffeted by an annual exodus of players to Sydney, dwindling crowds and revenue, soaring costs, poor facilities, clumsy decision making, and rival sports poised to challenge the incumbent, rugby league in Brisbane had hit the wall.

"I think everyone agrees something has to be done," said QRL managing director Ross Livermore, in August 1986, when Redcliffe coach Darryl Van de Velde kick-started the furious bidding war to field a local team in the New South Wales Rugby League.

"I coached Easts in 1988," says Des Morris. "What we lost were longtime supporters, who now cheered for the Broncos. It took us years to get back on track. Every club suddenly became a feeder club.

"It was inevitable, it is what it is and they've done well."

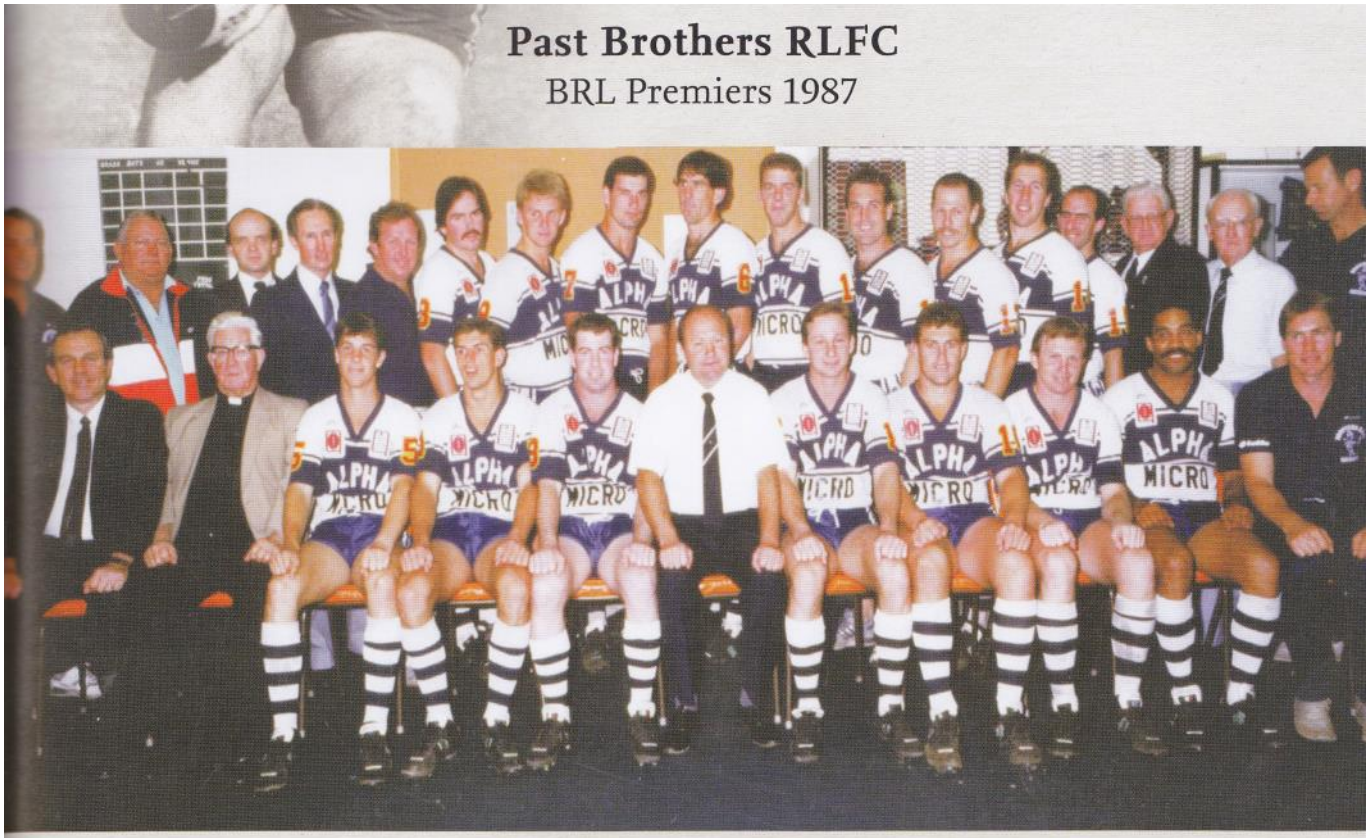
"People can argue about whether the Broncos should or shouldn't have happened but the fact is they happened," says former ARL chairman John McDonald, who sat on the Broncos' board. "Some of the local clubs hadn't been performing, so new ideas took over and the Broncos were born.

"Origin changed everything. It made interstate matches competitive. The players could now represent Queensland playing for Sydney clubs. Everything improved. Look at the game now on all levels. The Queensland Cup is now a stepping stone for the National Rugby League."

The success of the Broncos must in no way diminish the deeds of those who laid the foundation or those who have made the Queensland Cup the robust competition it has become. However, the game we see today, at all levels, is what it is because of the pioneering action of progressive and astute thinkers and doers who dreamed of a bigger and better way of doing rugby league and then ran with it, decade after decade. It's for that reason, that the modern game, in Brisbane and beyond, has never been stronger.

1987

BRL GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 26 v REDCLIFFE 8



BACK ROW: J.Steele (asst. manager), J.Johnson (strapper), Dr P.Friis, J.McErlean (selector), J.Coppleman (strapper), R.Grogan, T.Rea, J.Stafford, P.Gill, E.Kennedy, B.Le Man, S.Carter, G.Vernon, S.McErlean, M.Long (selector), R.Healy (selector), I.Clyde (manager). FRONT ROW: F.Dolan (president), Rev. Br. Schofield (patron), M.Coyne, C.Mohr, Greg Smith, R.Strudwick (coach), T.Bailey (captain), Gary Smith, J.Burns, J.Kilroy, R.Moore (trainer).

RESULTS

30 AUGUST MINOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 30 (Bleakley 2, Tupaea, Sandy, Teevan tries; Benson 5 goals) d. Wynnum-Manly 7 (Tessman try; Samuelson goal, Jemmott field goal).
Redcliffe: G.Donnelly, R.Thorne, R.Teevan, S.Cherry, S.Knuth, T.Benson, J.Sandy, S.Bleakley (c), R.Keogh, A.Tupaea, D.Brown, G.Conescu, B.Niebling. Reserves: J.Boxsell, C.Powell. Coach: D.Van de Velde.
Wynnum: C.Scott, S.Nicholls, B.Naylor, G.Miles, S.Lewis, B.Samuelson, D.Belford, W.Lewis (c/c), A.Jemmott, A.Tessman, J.Turner, D.Petrie, D.Jenner.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

6 SEPTEMBER MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 25 (Kilroy 2, Mohr, Greg Smith tries; Rea 4 goals, field goal) d. Northern Suburbs 16 (McMahon, Kelso tries; Harvey 3, Booth goals).
Brothers: C.Mohr, J.Kilroy, R.Grogan, J.Burns, M.Coyne, P.Gill, Greg Smith, B.Le Man, A.Rea, Gary Smith, S.Carter, T.Bailey, J.Stafford. Reserve: E.Kennedy. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Norths: M.Booth, S.McMahon, S.Rosolen, B.Kelso, G.Harvey, C.Grauf (c), G.Bagnall, K.Jackson, P.McCabe, D.Duncan, W.Dart, D.Gerrard, G.Dowling. Coach: G.Oliphant.
Referee: Ian Irwin.

13 SEPTEMBER PRELIMINARY FINAL
LANG PARK
Redcliffe 24 (Keogh 3, Teevan tries; Benson 3, Keogh goals) d. Northern Suburbs 16 (Dowling, Bagnall Cook tries; Harvey 2 goals).
Redcliffe: G.Donnelly, S.Knuth, R.Teevan, R.Thorne, J.Doyle, T.Benson, J.Sandy, S.Bleakley (c), R.Keogh, S.Cherry, B.Niebling, G.Conescu, D.Brown. Reserves: B.Rolls, J.Cowell, S.Howard. Coach: D.Van de Velde.
Norths: M.Booth, S.McMahon, B.Kelso, S.Rosolen, G.Harvey, N.Wharton, G.Bagnall, K.Jackson, P.McCabe, D.Duncan, G.Reid, D.Gerrard, G.Dowling. Reserve: T.Cook, C.Grauf. Coach: G.Oliphant.
Referee: Eddie Ward.

20 SEPTEMBER GRAND FINAL
LANG PARK
Past Brothers 26 (Bailey, Kilroy, Coyne, Rea, Mohr tries; Rea 3 goals) d. Redcliffe 8 (Sandy try; Keogh 2 goals).
Brothers: C.Mohr, J.Kilroy, R.Grogan, J.Burns, M.Coyne, P.Gill, Greg Smith, B.Le Man, A.Rea, Gary Smith, S.Carter, T.Bailey, J.Stafford. Reserves: E.Kennedy, S.McErlean, G. Vernon. Coach: R.Strudwick.
Redcliffe: G.Donnelly, S.Knuth, R.Teevan, B.Rolls, S.Cherry, T.Benson, J.Sandy, S.Bleakley (c), R.Keogh, A.Tupaea, B.Niebling, G.Conescu, D.Brown. Reserves: R.Thorne, J.Cowell, G.Barwick. Coach: D.Van de Velde.
Referee: Eddie Ward. ***Crowd: 25,000.***

Rothmans Medal: Gene Miles (Wynnum).

1988

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

When the Brisbane Broncos and the Gold Coast Giants entered the NSWRL competition in 1988 it marked a point of no return for the Brisbane Rugby League competition. The BRL went from being a top tier to a second tier competition much to the disappointment of many diehard Queensland rugby league fans.

With the entry of the Brisbane Broncos all the top national talent would now be in the NSWRL competition. A player could no longer be picked straight from any BRL club to play for Queensland or Australia like you could in the years before the Broncos came along. From now you had to play in the "Sydney" competition to ever be picked for Queensland or Australia.

The Brisbane Broncos needed the agreement of the BRL and the BRL clubs to enter into the NSWRL. When a meeting involving the Broncos and BRL delegates to vote on the issue was held the initial vote was 6-4 against. Their issues of key concern for BRL clubs were potential loss of sponsorship, dwindling attendances and a mass exodus of players. Gary Balkin was convincing as the next day they voted 10-0 to put a team into the Sydney competition.

Jack Gallaway in his book "The Brisbane Broncos – The Team to Beat" (p.17-19) wrote that the Broncos promised the BRL a 30% share of profits and that this ongoing annual return was a deciding factor in why the Broncos were chosen ahead of the Norwood-McKay consortium that was reported to have been favourites and had offered a one-off lumpsum of $2 million to the BRL. There is some controversy over what became of this agreement.

The BRL clubs saw very little of such promised money and most of the BRL clubs had to survive on very minimal revenue. Interest in the competition and attendances at BRL club games plummeted as the Broncos took centre stage and the BRL went from a top tier to a second tier competition.

Following some public comments by QRL officials against the Broncos the Broncos negotiated with the NSWRL to dispense with the 30% ownership clause of the QRL with the Broncos. I have no issue with the Broncos wanting to break that ownership clause, though personally I am disappointed the Broncos did not stick with the principle of financial support for the BRL clubs in spite of the behaviour of some officials. Had they directly deposited to the clubs the 30% of profits promised when the BRL gave them the green light to enter the NSWRL it most likely would have prevented the demise of clubs such as Valleys, Brothers and Wests and improved the fortunes of poorer clubs such as Souths and Norths.

Financially the fortunes for clubs such as Easts, Redcliffe and Wynnum improved considerably when poker machines were allowed in Queensland clubs from 1992. Redcliffe, in particular, would become a powerhouse club after winning their second premiership in 1994, winning all three grades (only the second team after Souths in 1945 to do it) and they would repeat that feat two more times in the Queensland Cup era which they would dominate.

Initially it would be Valleys who would dominate the post-Broncos BRL competition completing a hat-trick from 1988 to 1990. Easts would win their most recent premiership in 1991 before Wests completed a double in 1992 and 1993 with the return of Tony Currie in his final playing years. In 1994 Redcliffe won their first premiership since 1965.

In 1995 Wynnum Manly won against Easts in an entertaining grand final which saw them win the last BRL premiership before the QRL boldly took the step to expand the competition to a statewide premiership in 1996 with the Queensland Cup.

In 1996 a new era began with the Queensland Cup involving both Brisbane and country teams took over from the BRL premiership just involving the Brisbane clubs. The QRL, though, were still keen to keep the tradition of crowning a club BRL premiers. They scheduled an additional and separate finals series for the Brisbane premiership title with all 9 Brisbane clubs (minus Valleys who had dropped out) based on where they placed on the Queensland Cup ladder. The top 7 Brisbane clubs played in the separate BRL final series for 1997.

Due to a lack of public interest after the 1997 BRL Grand Final was played between the same two teams that played in the Queensland Cup Grand Final (Redcliffe and Easts) the separate BRL final series was scrapped. There was an overkill of final games for both the Queensland Cup and BRL in 1996 and 1997 and a better option became a missed opportunity. A more sensible option (which could still be used today) is to play just a BRL Grand Final (and maybe a preliminary final) ONLY if a country team wins the Queensland Cup.

1988

STATE LEAGUE: VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS

1988 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Logan City, having been admitted into the Brisbane Rugby League in 1988, made their debut in the State League. The country teams became more competitive with the 'weakening' of the Brisbane competition due to introduction of Brisbane and Gold Coast teams into the NSWRL. However, two Brisbane sides still made the grand final with Seagulls-Diehards taking out the title with a large win over Easts.

Brisbane Rugby League matches between Brothers & Wynnum and Easts & Logan City constituted a round of the Winfield State League. Because there were 15 teams in 1988, Wests were allotted a bye and 2 competition points.

ALLOTTED BRL MATCHES

Easts 40 defeated Logan City 0
Brothers 12 defeated Wynnum-Manly 4

ROUND 1

Wests 6 drew with Brothers 6 at Lang Park
North Qld 22 defeated Norths 16 at Townsville
Central Qld 42 defeated Wynnum-Manly 16 at Rockhampton
Toowoomba 33 defeated Redcliffe 14 at Charleville
Ipswich 24 defeated Logan City 6 at Lang Park
Seagulls-Diehards 24 defeated Wide Bay 14 at Maryborough
Souths 8 defeated Gold Coast 6 at Southport

ROUND 2

Wynnum-Manly 12 defeated Souths 4 at Lang Park
Toowoomba 22 defeated Norths 4 at Toowoomba
Easts 22 defeated Wide Bay 4 at Nambour
Brothers 48 defeated Gold Coast 14 at Southport
Wests 16 defeated Central Qld 6 at Gladstone
North Qld 34 defeated Ipswich 30 at Ingham
Seagulls-Diehards 25 defeated Redcliffe 24 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
EASTS	5	5	-	0	112	32	10
SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS	5	5	-	0	153	82	10
TOOWOOMBA	5	5	-	0	117	56	10
NORTH QLD	5	4	-	1	94	110	8
Brothers	6	3	1	1	134	80	7
Wide Bay	5	3	-	2	128	82	6
Ipswich	5	3	-	2	138	94	6
Wests	5	2	1	2	36	48	5
Redcliffe	5	2	-	3	128	118	4
Wynnum-Manly	5	2	-	3	68	72	4
Souths	5	1	-	4	58	94	2
Central Queensland	5	1	-	4	94	132	2
Gold Coast	5	1	-	4	80	166	2
Norths	5	0	-	5	42	120	0
Logan City	5	0	-	5	32	150	0

ROUND 3

Easts 10 defeated Norths 8 at Lang Park
North Qld 18 defeated Souths 10 at Mackay
Toowoomba 28 defeated Wests 8 at Dalby
Wide Bay 40 defeated Logan City 6 at Gympie
Gold Coast 36 defeated Redcliffe 32 at Southport
Seagulls-Diehards 40 defeated Central Qld 14 at Emerald
Ipswich 32 defeated Brothers 20 at Lang Park

ROUND 4

Redcliffe 30 defeated Logan City 6 at Lang Park
Toowoomba 14 defeated Wynnum-Manly 12 at Toowoomba
Wide Bay 42 defeated Norths 14 at Bundaberg
Ipswich 34 defeated Gold Coast 14 at Southport
Easts 32 defeated Central Qld 14 at Rockhampton
Brothers 48 defeated North Qld 4 at Mount Isa
Seagulls-Diehards 30 defeated Souths 20 at Lang Park

ROUND 5

Wynnum-Manly 24 defeated Norths 0 at Lang Park
Toowoomba 20 defeated Ipswich 18 at Toowoomba
Wide Bay 28 defeated Souths 16 at Murgon
Seagulls-Diehards 34 defeated Gold Coast 10 at Southport
Redcliffe 28 defeated Central Qld 18 at Biloela
North Qld 16 defeated Logan City 14 at Bowen
Easts 8 defeated Wests 6 at Lang Park

SEMI FINALS

EASTS 20 (Mark McDonald 3, Darren Smith tries; T Cook, J Butler goals) defeated
NORTH QLD 12 (S Turia, T Greenwood tries; P Worth 2 goals) at Lang Park

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS 28 (Bill Holmes, Brett Daunt, Peter Shields, Ziggy Strasser, R Pearce tries; Steve Hegarty 4 goals) defeated
TOOWOOMBA 20 (W Smith, L Blake, S Stower tries; P Dwyer 4 goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS 26 (Kelly Egan, Shane Buckley, Tony Catton tries; Steve Hegarty 7 goals) defeated
EASTS 10 (Mark McDonald, D Harrison tries; J Butler goal) at Lang Park

1988

State League Semi-Finals -
Easts 20 v North Queensland 12 and
Valleys-Tweed 26 v Toowoomba 20

McDonald's hat-trick has Easts in final

A THREE-TRY performance by winger Mark McDonald last night gave Easts the chance to take the Winfield State League for the first time in six years.

Inaugural winners of the state-wide competition in 1982, the Tigers won the right to contest tomorrow's final when they outlasted North Queensland 20-12 at Lang Park.

Flashy finisher McDonald proved the game-breaker by scoring the final three tries of the match in 11 minutes. McDonald's first try — the best of the match — was a brilliant individual effort in which he twice chip-kicked and regained.

After taking a pass near halfway McDonald chipped over the first line of defence and regathered after forcing a passage between two NQ defenders. He again put boot to ball when confronted by winger John Curry who spilt the ball on his own line, enabling McDonald to touch down.

At that point Easts trailed 10-2 but four minutes later the Tigers were in front after McDonald followed long-striding centre Greg Eastment through space out wide to take the final pass.

Five minutes from time McDonald again reaped the rewards of his superb positional play when he was given a clear passage to the line by Trevor Cook to give the Tigers their eight-point winning buffer.

By ROBERT CRADDOCK

The frustration of losing a match that seemed ripe for the taking took its toll on NQ centre Josh Geia who sparked an altercation with an Easts player in the dying minutes. Geia was later hooted from the ground and he walked to the sheds without shaking hands with the opposition.

In progressing to the final Easts maintained their undefeated State League record, the platform of which was a magnificent defence. In their six wins the Tigers have conceded just 44 points — an average of just more than seven per match.

A win tomorrow would provide the first addition to the Tigers trophy cabinet since John Lang's '83 side won the premiership.

NQ's loss came despite an outstanding performance from Queensland country halfback John Filosi who sparked most of his side's best attack.

The strapping teenager has been described as one of the brightest halfback prospects produced in the far north this decade and it seems only a matter of time before his services are sought by a Brisbane or Sydney club.

EASTS 20 (M McDonald 3, D Smith tries; T Cook, J Butler goals) d NQ 12 (G Turia, T Greenwood tries; P Worth 2 goals)

Diehards beat whistle

DIEHARDS survived a whistle-whipping from controversial referee Barry Comersall to snatch a 28-20 Winfield State League victory from Toowoomba last night.

The Woolies winners can move within one step of the Queensland club treble in tomorrow's WSL final against Easts at Lang Park.

Diehards were reduced to 11 men midway through the first half and took 63 minutes to notch their first penalty to Toowoomba's nine.

But in a fine attacking match, Toowoomba tired noticeably after leading 26-12 with 27 minutes to play.

Queensland Country captain Michael Cook led Toowoomba with great resource, supported by halfback Wayne Smith and centre Laurie Blake, but Diehards' superior pace and condition told.

DIEHARDS 28 (W Holmes, B Daunt, P Shields, Z Strasser, R Pearce tries; S Hagarty 4 goals) d TOOWOOMBA 20 (W Smith, L Blake, S Stower tries; P Dwyer 4 goals). First scorers: Diehards 12, Toowoomba 13.



EASTS prop Allan Bell comes to an abrupt halt courtesy of North Queensland prop Peter Griffiths last night as Maclins second-rower Dallas Dalley prepares to clean up at Lang Park.

1988

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS 26 v EASTS 20

Diehards on way to league's big treble

By JACK CRAIG

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS gained the second jewel of the Brisbane rugby league crown when they took out the Winfield State League with a 26-10 victory over Easts at Lang Park yesterday.

The Woolies champions are now favorites to win the Winfield Cup leg of the 1988 rugby league treble.

But coach Ross Henrick warned there was a long way to go and said: "Anything can happen in this competition with the clubs as close as they are. We can't take any team lightly."

Henrick this week will have to psych up his players for another tilt with Easts when the premiership resumes next weekend.

Henrick, who has silenced the sceptics with his no-nonsense type of football, said one of the reasons for the club's success was that the Diehard spirit was back in the club.

And club secretary Rod Boult said the combination of a popular coach, and talented players capable of working to a plan was the reason club spirit had been re-kindled.

Easts coach Des Morris was disappointed with the result but not his team's performance. "I have no complaints considering the lack of experience we have at the moment, but hopefully we will build on that during the premiership matches," Morris said.

Easts inexperience was noticeable by their lack of variation in attack when they were in Diehard territory for most of the first half. While there was plenty of razzle-dazzle out in the open, the Tigers were unable to ram home their advantage close to the line.

One exception was early in the second half when five-eighth Steve Dowden and winger Mark McDonald combined to put fullback Darryl Harrison in for a try that tied the scores at 10-10.

McDonald, who scored a hat-trick in Friday night's semi-final against Toowoomba, had earlier scored his ninth WSL try when the Diehards could not control a Craig McAlpine grubber kick into the in-goal area and the flying Tiger was there to mop up.

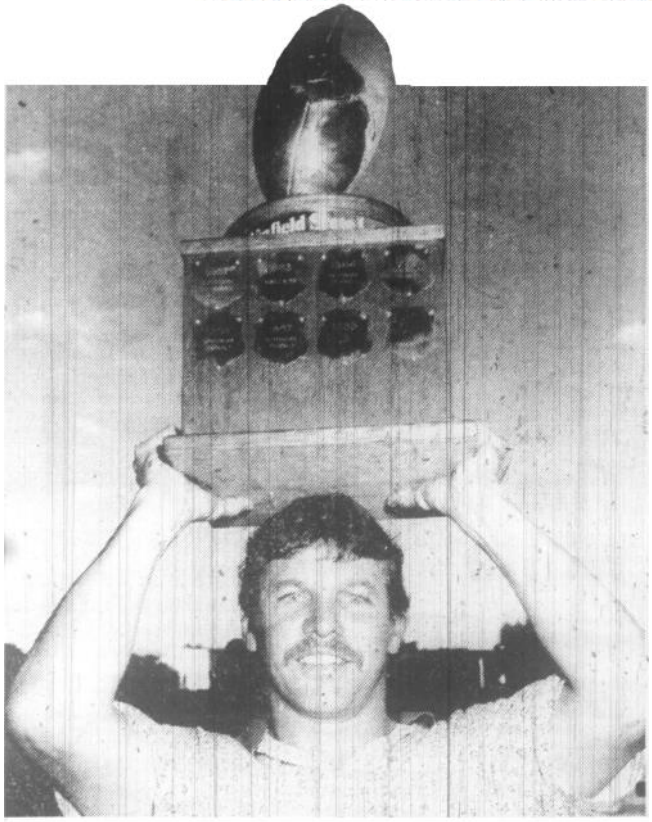
At that stage the Tigers had scored two tries to the Diehards one — that a great effort when young centre Kelly Egan dragged two defenders over the line after a 30m run set up by Bill Holmes and Steve Hegarty.

Diehards broke the 10-10 deadlock when centre Peter Coyne stood up the defence and sent a deft pass to winger Shane Buckley to score out wide. Halfback Tony Catton put the icing on the win when he booted through a dropped pass and regathered to score only three minutes from the end.

Hegarty landed seven goals from eight attempts including a conversion from the sideline and a penalty from halfway on the fulltime siren.

His goal-kicking and all-round play were factors in his gaining selection in the City team to play Country in the State of Origin trials at Lang Park on Wednesday night.

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS 26 (Kelly Egan, Shane Buckley, Tony Catton tries; Steve Hegarty 7 goals) defeated **EASTS 10** (Mark McDonald, D Harrison tries; J Butler goal) at Lang Park



SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS coach Ross Henrick with the Winfield State League trophy after yesterday's 26-10 grand final win over Easts at Lang Park.



EXPERIENCED second-rower Ziggy Strasser was one of the Seagulls-Diehards stars in their Winfield State League grand final win over Easts yesterday. But this time he was well contained by Tigers defenders including rival second-rower Ian Stains.

1988

BRL: VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTHS	18	13	-	5	358	314	26
DIEHARDS	18	11	1	6	431	322	23
IPSWICH	18	11	1	6	365	275	23
EASTS	18	10	1	7	394	277	21
BROTHERS	18	9	2	7	263	244	20
NORTHS	18	9	1	8	317	277	19
WESTS	18	9	1	8	240	287	19
REDCLIFFE	18	8	-	10	306	276	16
WYNNUM	18	4	-	14	230	409	8
LOGAN CITY	18	2	1	15	202	425	5

1988 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

Points from State League games between Brisbane clubs (3 games per team) counted towards the BRL points ladder and were a part of Round 1 of the BRL premiership.

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 1

May 14/15
Valleys-Tweed 22 def Easts
Brothers 13 def Logan City 6
Wests 16 def Norths 8
Souths 25 def Ipswich 18
Redcliffe 15 def Wynnum 8

May 21/22
Norths 18 def Souths 8
Brothers 16 def Wests 6
Valleys-Tweed 38 def Wynnum 14
Ipswich 30 def Logan City 10
Easts 24 def Redcliffe 20

May 28/29
Norths 23 def Ipswich 16
Brothers 12 def Easts 10
Souths 24 def Wynnum 20
Wests 10 def Logan City 8
Valleys-Tweed 18 def Redcliffe 12

June 4/5
Norths 16 def Easts 8
Wynnum 14 def Wests 12
Souths 22 def Redcliffe 18
Ipswich 16 def Brothers 6
Logan City v Valleys-Tweed
(postponed due to bad weather)

June 11/12
Valleys-Tweed 40 def Souths 16
Wynnum 22 def Easts 20
Ipswich 30 def Wests 12
Brothers 34 def Norths 14
Redcliffe 20 def Logan City 10

June 18/19
Logan City 14 def Souths 12
Norths 36 def Wynnum 16
Redcliffe 18 def Ipswich 8
Easts 21 def Wests 20
Brothers 30 def Valleys-Tweed 2

WINFIELD CUP ROUND 2

June 25/26
Norths 20 def Logan City 6
Souths 25 def Easts 14
Ipswich 26 def Valleys-Tweed 23
Wests 16 def Redcliffe 12
Wynnum 18 def Brothers 12

July 2/3
Ipswich 10 def Brothers 8
Wests 14 def Wynnum 12
Valleys-Tweed 32 def Logan City 8
Souths 14 def Redcliffe 8
Easts 34 def Norths 24

July 9/10
Easts 12 drew Ipswich 12
Norths 18 def Redcliffe 4
Brothers 30 def Souths 6
Wynnum 24 def Logan City 18
Valleys-Tweed 25 def Wests 16

July 16/17
Redcliffe 18 def Wynnum 12
Brothers 20 def Logan City 6
Easts 24 def Valleys-Tweed 20
Souths 20 def Ipswich 16
Wests 14 def Norths 8

July 23/24
Souths 20 def Norths 14
Wests 8 def Brothers 6
Valleys-Tweed 26 def Wynnum 12
Ipswich 14 def Logan City 10
Easts 18 def Redcliffe 10

July 30/31
Easts 40 def Brothers 0
Valleys-Tweed 27 def Redcliffe 22
Wests 12 drew Logan City 12
Souths 34 def Wynnum 8
Ipswich 24 def Norths 8

August 6/7
Valleys-Tweed 16 def Norths 14
(Woolies Trophy)

Souths 10 def Wests 8
Brothers 12 def Redcliffe 6
Ipswich 32 def Wynnum 14
Easts 24 def Logan City 18

August 13/14
Wests 20 def Ipswich 12
Souths 22 def Valleys-Tweed 10
Norths 14 drew Brothers 14
Easts 22 def Wynnum 10
Redcliffe 54 def Logan City 16

August 17 (Postponed game)
Valleys-Tweed 48 def Logan City 10

August 20/21
Easts 33 def Wests 24
Brothers 18 drew Valleys-Tweed 18
Ipswich 33 def Redcliffe 20
Souths 26 def Logan City 24
Norths 18 def Wynnum 16

BRL FINALS

Minor Semi-Final (Sun August 28)
Ipswich 11 def Easts 10

Minor Semi-Final (Sun September 4)
Valleys-Tweed Heads 25 def Souths 14

Preliminary Final (Sat September 10)
Ipswich 20 def. Souths 6

GRAND FINAL (Sun September 18)
Valleys-Tweed Heads 17 def Ipswich 14

1988

1988 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

In 1988 the Logan City Scorpions based out of Meakin Park in Slacks Creek, entered the BRL competition. The country teams became more competitive in the State League at the start of the season with the 'weakening' of the BRL clubs due to introduction of Brisbane and Gold Coast into the NSWRL. Toowoomba won all 5 of their games against the BRL sides and North Queensland won 4 out of 5. Easts Tigers and the Seagulls-Diehards were also undefeated beating those country sides in the semis before the Seagulls-Diehards won the final 26-10.

Valleys had formed a brief joint venture with the Tweed Heads Seagulls in 1987 that only lasted until the end of 1988. With Tweed Heads being so close to Brisbane and poker machines illegal in Queensland until 1992 the Tweed Heads Seagulls were the richest club in Australia for a time.

Souths had a brief resurgence finishing the BRL competition as minor premiers, 3 points ahead of Valleys. Souths bowed out in straight sets in the finals, first, losing to Valleys 25-14 and then being beaten by the Ipswich Jets 20-16 who qualified for their first grand final in their 3rd season “back” in the BRL (they won in 1910). The Seagulls-Diehards, beat Ipswich in an exciting grand final 17-14.

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Ipswich 11 v Easts 10



WHEN halfbacks Nick Muir (Easts) and Ray Ovens (Easts) came to grips after the first scrum of yesterday's rugby league semi-final it might have been best to leave them alone . . .

Ovens runs hot as Jets stop Tigers

By STEVE RICKETTS

EASTS rugby league coach Des Morris cursed Ipswich half Ray Ovens after yesterday's nail-biting Winfield Cup knockout semi-final at Lang Park — and it was not only because Ovens kicked the winning field goal.

"The little ..... was everywhere," Morris said after the Tigers' courageous premiership challenge ended with a 10-11 loss to Ipswich.

Whenever Easts made a break or tried a chip kick, Ovens was there to tidy up. With the ball, he was a constant menace, although he was inclined to be selfish.

His field goal, a wobbly 20m effort 15 minutes from fulltime, put the Jets in front for the first time and ultimately proved the difference.

Easts looked set for a big win when they led 10-0 after 23 minutes, thanks to tries by winger Mark McDonald (17th. min) and centre Trevor Cook (23rd).

According to Morris, the Tigers lost the game in the period immediately after their second try.

"We got back into their half, but instead of settling down and doing the positive things that had won us seven of our past eight games, we threw the ball anywhere," Morris said.

"Ipswich got back into the match 11 minutes from halftime when 19-year-old five-eighth Craig Spark ran on to a long pass from hooker Steve Parcell and put centre Ken Robertson over near the posts.

Parcell, a son of former Test prop Gary, won seven scrums against the feed to Easts' one.

"I've always played lock and second row before this year," Parcell said. "We've spent a lot of time on the scrums in recent weeks and I've also had some good advice from former Queensland hooker Dennis Jackwitz."

Trailing 6-10 at halftime, Ipswich coach Tom Raudonikis played his "trump card" — Bronco forward Andrew Walters.

Walters, named in the starting line-up, sat on the bench for the first 40 minutes, while Combined Brisbane prop Dean Ponting took the sting out of the Easts' tacklers.

When Walters got his chance, he found the open spaces, but suffered from a lack of support.

His uncanny ability to unload the ball in tackles helped create the try which tied the scores. Held just five metres from Easts' tryline, Walters flicked a pass to winger Errol Hunter. Hunter, cornered as he fanned wide, threw an amazing inside pass to centre Ross Williams who powered his way over in the tackle of second-rower David Patterson.

Ovens' field goal came three minutes later and for the final 15 minutes of the match, play see-sawed from one end of the field to the other, but there was a lack of class in the finishing.

Raudonikis rated second-rower Brett Kaatz, five-eighth Craig Spark and prop Pat O'Doherty as his best.

KNOCK-OUT SEMI FINALS

A GRADE

IPSWICH 11 d EASTS 10

Scorers — Ipswich: K Robertson, R Williams tries; E Hunter goal, R Ovens field goal. Easts: M McDonald, T Cook tries; C Hastings goal. First scorers (and first try scorers): Easts 2, Ipswich 4.



BUT big men thought they should take sides and Easts second-rower Ian Stains let rugged Ipswich prop Pat O'Doherty know that he considered Muir to be in the right . . .

1988

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys-Tweed 25 v Souths 14

It's back to the basics for Souths

By JACK CRAIG

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS are through to their first Brisbane Winfield Cup rugby league grand final in nine seasons following a 25-14 win over Souths in yesterday's major semi-final at Lang Park.

For Souths, it may be a blessing in disguise, for they would never have won a grand final on yesterday's performance.

"Our mistake rate went through the roof," coach Geoff Naylor said. "You could not win a premiership with that, but we have another chance of getting to the grand final."

Naylor's main concern in the run up to Saturday night's preliminary final against Ipswich is to drill his team on the need to eliminate simple errors. "It has taken us a long time to get here, but we have to start all over again on Tuesday," he said.

"We can't worry about how Ipswich are going to play the game, we have to get our game on the track . . . we were never on it today."

Their journey got off to a bad start yesterday when experienced prop Bob Kellaway went down in the first minute of play with an ankle injury and eventually had to be replaced after only 20 minutes.

"That disrupted us a bit, but it was not responsible for the simple errors," said Naylor.

Just as Kellaway was leaving the field, the Diehards came out of their own 20 minutes of fumbling and bumbling to put their first try on the board through halfback Brett Daunt.

Daunt had been limping around on his injured ankle for about 10 minutes and he too looked certain to be replaced, but he ran on to an inside pass from prop Shane Kelly to outpace everyone over 30m and give Steve Hegarty the first of four easy conversions.

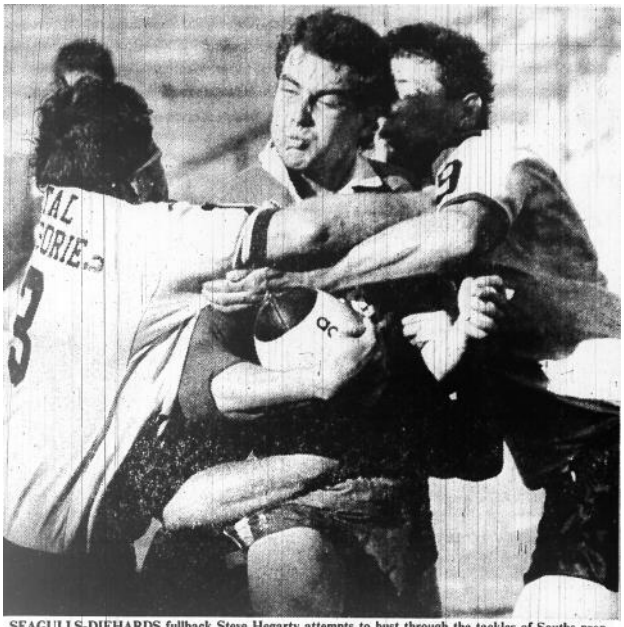
Daunt went in beside the posts and Hegarty was to do the same eight minutes later when Bill Holmes won a scrum against the feed and the fullback chimed in to give the Magpie defence little chance and it was 12-2 to the Diehards at halftime.

Souths centre Mark Harrigan, who had been dropped from the run-on side for missing training on Saturday morning, was a 47th minute substitute for Steve Renouf and in the 48th minute he scored Souths' first try when put through a gap 35m out by prop Brent Vincent.

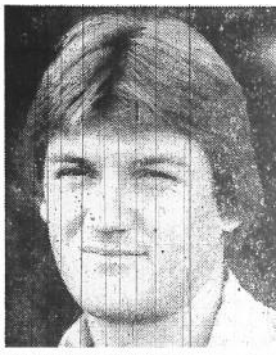
But the Diehards showed their championship qualities by coming right back with another four-pointer near the posts by hard-working lock Wayne Cullen.

Souths were still a chance when hooker John Little dived through three tackles to score from dummy half, but the Diehards immediately put the game in their keeping when prop Greg Walker ran straight to score under the posts again.

Running straight was the name of the Diehard game and no-one did it more effectively than prop Shane Kelly, who ran the ball up at least 20 times during the match and made good ground each time. Walker and second-rower Richard Boys also kept Souths back-pedalling with their strong running, while Cullen, Ziggy Strasser and hooker Bill Homes led the Diehard defensive effort.



SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS fullback Steve Hegarty attempts to bust through the tackles of Souths prop Brett Vincent, second-rower Scott Jennings and another unidentified team-mate yesterday.



GEOFF NAYLOR . . . must eliminate simple errors.

WINFIELD CUP

MAJOR SEMI-FINALS

A GRADE

DIEHARDS 25 d SOUTHS 14

Scorers — Diehards: B Daunt, S Hegarty, W Cullen tries, G Walker tries; S Hegarty 4 goals, P Coyne field goal. Souths: M Harrigan, J Little tries; B Leaso 3 goals. First scorers: Souths 10, Diehards 7. First try scorers: Diehards 7, Souths 4.

1988

BRL Preliminary Final - Ipswich 20 v Souths 6

Ipswich Jets fly into Brisbane grand final

By STEVE RICKETTS

THE Ipswich Jets are through to the Winfield Cup rugby league grand final in only their third season in the Brisbane premiership.

The Jets will meet the Seagulls-Diehards next Sunday as a result of last night's 20-6, two tries to one win over Souths in the preliminary final at Lang Park.

It took the Jets 70 minutes to score their first try of the match, through winger Tony Waddups

But Ipswich had led from the first minute when winger Errol Hunter kicked a penalty goal. It was the first of six goals from seven shots for Hunter.

The Jets led 6-0 after just eight minutes through the boot of Hunter and some blatant offside play by Souths.

At halftime the Jets were in front 8-0 but their grip on the match was decidedly precarious with 28 minutes remaining when Souths fullback Darren Jones scored magnificent try.

Jones dummied his way past two cover defenders after a long break by replacement back Brett Heyman.

But Heyman finished the villain of the night for Souths by failing to take advantage of his supports when tries looked certain.

The 27-year-old Army officer replaced winger Floyd Hill who was flattened in back play early in the match. Hill later returned to the sideline with his arm in a sling.

The match was marred by handling errors and the Diehards' favoritism must have firmed even more as a result of the inept play.

Ipswich should have gone to a 14-0 lead early in the second half when hooker Steve Parcell was ruled held up over the line by referee Ian Irwin.

Television replays indicated thst Parcell had got the ball down. The Jets finally crossed for a four pointer in the 70th minute when Ross Williams made a fine break on the outer side of the ground. The ball moved quickly across the field to Waddups who scored in the corner.

The last pass for that try was thrown by Andrew Walters who also handled twice in the Jets final try scored by lock Brett Kaatz.

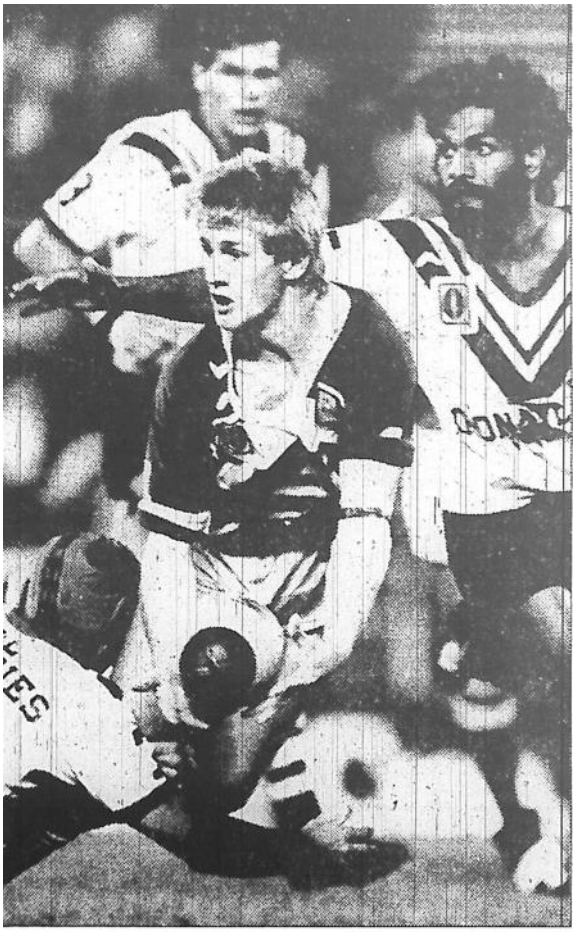
Walters, originally named as a reserve, started the match with Dean Ponting going to the bench.

Ponting got his chance nine minutes into the second half when Darren Wolens was replaced injured.

The Brisbane Division's decision to play the final on the the Saturday night to avoid a clash with the live telecast of the Sydney grand final proved a failure with barely 2000 fans turning up.

Most of them were Ipswich supporters and with a bit of promotion the grand final might just draw a healthy five figure crowd.

Ipswich 20 (T Waddups, B Kaatz tries, E Hunter 6 goals) d Souths 6(D Jones try; A Scaysbrook goal). Scrums: Souths 7-5. Penalties: 11-11.



Ipswich centre Ken Robertson looks to unload as he is tackled by Souths halfback Mark Clarkson and winger Floyd

Below: Channel 9 commentators—Chris Bombolas, Alan Thomas and Rod "Mr T" Tiley.







1988

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS-TWEED 17 v IPSWICH 14

Valleys up in classic encounter

By STEVE RICKETTS

THE low profile 1988 Brisbane rugby league season finished on the highest possible note with a classic grand final at Lang Park yesterday between the Seagull-Diehards and the Ipswich Jets.

The Diehards, without a premiership for nine years, got home 17-14 after withstanding a courageous late charge by the Jets.

The Winfield Cup, presented to Diehards skipper Peter Coyne by the Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Bowen, is the crowning glory to a remarkable 1988 for Brisbane's oldest and proudest club.

The Diehards had already won the Woolies pre-season competition, the Winfield State League and the Woolies Trophy final.

The season was a triumph for former state half Ross Henrick in his debut as a first grade coach. He revealed yesterday that the club had offered him the position again next year and he was likely to accept.

Odds-on favorites for the premiership, the Diehards were matched in the try scoring department yesterday, but nothing could be taken away from their win.

Playing in front of a pro-Ipswich crowd of about 12,000, the Diehards elected to run against the strong wind in the first half and they did well to hold the confident Jets to 4-10 at the break.

Ipswich's skill level was exceptional and the passing and support play was a credit to coach Tom Raudonikis who proved he is not just a blood-and-guts man.

The match was not without incident — in fact there was an all-in brawl in the opening minute. But free-flowing football was the feature.

The Diehards did all the early attacking, but Ipswich got first points through a 45m penalty goal by winger Errol Hunter in the ninth minute.

It was to be his only success from five shots.

In the 13th minute Ipswich scored the first try of the match when second-rower Dean Ponting crossed wide out after some magnificent handling inside the Diehards 22m area.

Ponting, named as a reserve, started in the pack ahead of Andrew Walters and vindicated Raudonikis' decision by featuring strongly in the next try scored by half Ray Ovens in the 24th minute.

Ipswich led 10-0 and their recovery in defence when the Diehards did find open spaces was first class.

It took a fine individual effort by winger Shane Buckley in the 31st minute to get the Diehards on the scoreboard. Buckley capitalised on a handling error by Ipswich prop Pat O'Doherty and bumped off Ovens' tackle to score in the corner.

The Diehards' other winger Peter Shields, described by coach Ross Henrick as his best back, crossed 10 minutes into the second half to level the scores at 10-10.

Second-rower Ziggy Strasser and five-eighth Coyne combined to put centre Kelly Egan away and Egan threw the final pass to Shields who crashed over in Ovens' tackle.

Egan said it was the third and last time he handled the ball in the match, a tribute to Ipswich's tactics of turning play inside.

With their attack largely confined to midfield, the Diehards forwards had to be at their best and in the second half they accepted the challenge.

Fullback Steve Hegarty put the Diehards in front for the first time in the match 14 minutes into the second half with a penalty goal, but just three minutes later it was prop Shane Kelly who gave the favorites the breathing space they needed when he outmuscled four defenders to score.

Hegarty missed the conversion and field goal specialist Brett Daunt went hunting for a one-pointer. He failed with his first snap 14 minutes from time, but succeeded with his second seven minutes later.

The fans started to leave the ground when Ipswich made the type of mistakes associated with a beaten side, but the Jets were far from finished.

Centre Ken Robertson scored a great try after being put in the clear by five-eighth Craig Spark.

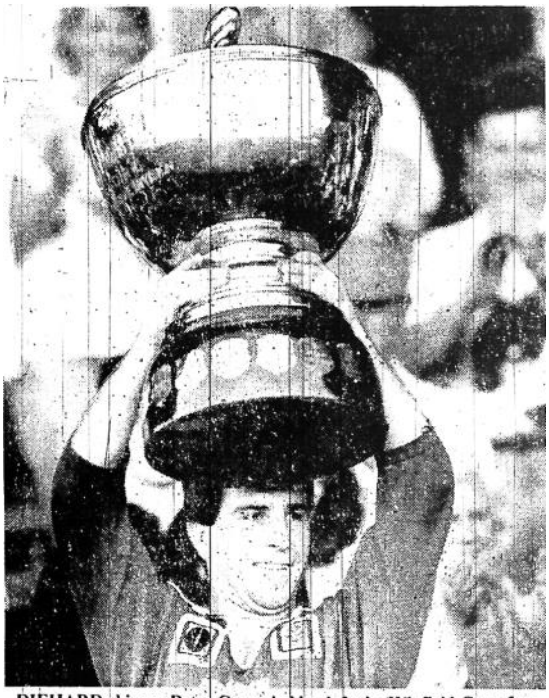
WINFIELD CUP

GRAND FINALS

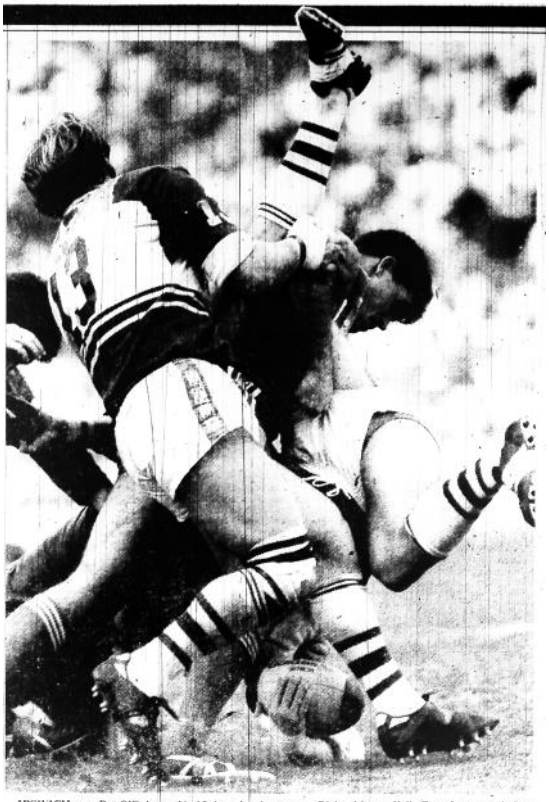
A GRADE

SEAGULLS-DIEHARDS 17 d IPSWICH 14

Scorers — Diehards: S Buckley, P Shields, S Kelly tries; S Hegarty 2 goals, B Daunt field goal. Ipswich: D Ponting, R Ovens, K Robertson tries; E Hunter goal. First scorers: Ipswich 2, Diehards 2. First try scorers: Ipswich 10, Diehards 2.



DIEHARD skipper Peter Coyne holds aloft the Winfield Cup after their 17-14 win over Ipswich in yesterday's grand final at Lang Park.



IPSWICH prop Pat O'Doherty (No 13) is on hand to prevent Diehard centre Kelly Egan from completing this spear tackle on his Jets team-mate in the Winfield Cup grand final action at Lang Park yesterday.

1988

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS-TWEED 17 v IPSWICH 14

Seagulls/Diehards Rugby League Football Club

First Grade — 1988

PREMIERS — STATE LEAGUE WINNERS — WOOLIES TROPHY AND PRE-SEASON WINNERS

POINTS FOR: 811 — POINTS AGAINST: 518 (32 games played)



Back Row (l to r): K. OVERELL (Treasurer), G. WORKMAN (Trainer), R. PEARCE, K. EGAN, T. FULLER, T. CREEVEY (First Aid), D. MOORE (Selector), C. WEST (Co-Manager).

Third Row (l to r): BOB REED (Gear Steward), W. CULLEN (Vice-Captain), T. CATTON, B. HOLMES, S. BOYS, L. WILLIAMS, BILL REED (Gear Steward), K. BIFFIN (Vice-President).

Second Row (l to r): R. BOULT (Secretary), N. BUCHESTER (Manager), P. FITZGERALD, D. PITT, G. WALKER, S. HEGARTY, D. SPILLMAN, R. HENRICK (Coach).

Front Row (l to r): S. BUCKLEY, P. SHIELDS, Z. STRASSER, B. FIEN (President), P. COYNE (Captain), B. DAUNT, R. BOYS. RANALD SIMMONDS STUDIO

1988 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 11 def. Easts 10
Major Semi-Final: Valleys-Tweed Heads 25 def. Souths 14
Preliminary Final: Ipswich 20 def. Souths 6

1988 BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS 17 (Tries: S. Buckley, P. Shields, S. Kelly, Goals: S. Hegarty 2, Field Goal: B. Daunt) def. IPSWICH 14 (Tries: D. Ponting, R. Ovens, K. Robertson, Goal: E. Hunter)

1989

STATE LEAGUE: EASTS

1989 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Gold Coast did not field a side in 1989 and 1990. Central Queensland became the first country side to make the grand final but lost the match to Easts.

ROUND 1 -March 3-5

Brothers 19 defeated Wynnum-Manly 16 at Lang Park
North Qld 26 defeated Redcliffe 10 at Ayr
Valleys 37 defeated Wide Bay 16 at Wondai
Wests 22 defeated Souths 18 at Lang Park
Norths 7 defeated Logan City 4 at Bishop Park
Easts 10 defeated Toowoomba 6 at Toowoomba
Ipswich 33 defeated Central Qld 18 at Blackwater

ROUND 2 -March 10-12

Valleys 44 defeated Redcliffe 8 at Lang Park
Easts 22 defeated Souths 12 at Langlands Park
Toowoomba 34 defeated Wests 6 at Toowoomba
Logan City 30 defeated North Qld 26 at Cairns
Ipswich 27 defeated Norths 24 at Lang Park
Wynnum-Manly 26 defeated Wide Bay 20 at Maryborough
Central Qld 46 defeated Brothers 24 at Rockhampton

ROUND 3 -March 17-19

Wynnum-Manly 16 defeated Logan City 4 at Lang Park
Wests 18 defeated Ipswich 10 at Ipswich
Central Qld 30 defeated Easts 24 at Gladstone
Valleys 22 defeated North Qld 12 at Townsville
Wide Bay 28 defeated Norths 6 at Gympie
Toowoomba 20 defeated Souths 4 at Dalby
Redcliffe 26 defeated Brothers 4 at Lang Park

ROUND 4 -March 23-26

Souths 26 defeated Logan City 4 at Lang Park
Valleys 25 defeated Norths 8 at Neumann Oval
Toowoomba 22 defeated Ipswich 10 at St George
Central Qld 48 defeated Wests 16 at Rockhampton
Wynnum-Manly 26 defeated North Qld 16 at Ingham
Wide Bay 18 drew with Redcliffe 18 at Gayndah
Easts 16 defeated Brothers 12 at Lang Park

ROUND 5 -March 31 - April 2

Valleys 14 defeated Ipswich 4 at Neumann Oval
Toowoomba 16 defeated Brothers 10 at Roma
Redcliffe 23 defeated Wynnum-Manly 22 at Neumann Oval
Wide Bay 30 defeated Logan City 12 at Bribie Island
Central Qld 20 defeated Souths 6 at Gladstone
Easts 14 defeated Wests 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 6 -April 7-9

Wests 22 defeated Logan City 12 at Purtell Park
Souths 26 defeated Brothers 10 at Davies Park
Central Qld 32 defeated Redcliffe 16 at Biloela
Ipswich 39 defeated Wide Bay 20 at Bundaberg
North Qld 24 defeated Easts 18 at Collinsville
Toowoomba 22 defeated Valleys 4 at Toowoomba
Norths 8 defeated Wynnum-Manly 4 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	6	5	-	1	146	70	10
TOOWOOMBA	6	5	-	1	120	44	10
CENTRAL QLD	6	5	-	1	194	119	10
EASTS	6	4	-	2	104	94	8
WYNNUM	6	3	-	3	110	90	6
IPSWICH	6	3	-	3	123	116	6
NORTH QLD	6	2	1	3	104	106	5
WIDE BAY	6	2	1	3	53	88	5
REDCLIFFE	6	2	1	3	101	146	5
SOUTHS	6	2	-	4	92	98	4
LOGAN CITY	6	1	-	5	66	127	2
BROTHERS	6	1	-	5	79	146	2

SEMI FINALS -April 13

CENTRAL QLD 32 (Greg Upkett, Paul White, C Curren, Russell Miller, P McCaffery tries; C Walker 6 goals) defeated
TOOWOOMBA 18 (C Patch, T Cook, J Clancy tries; P Dwyer 3 goals) at Lang Park

EASTS 14 (Rod West, C Hastings tries; S Wilkes 2, C Hastings goals) defeated
VALLEYS 8 (Steve Hegarty 4 goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL -April 16

EASTS 30 (M Quinn 2, Bruce Crosby, Nick Muir, Rod West, P Sinclair tries; Gavin Payne 3 goals) defeated
CENTRAL QLD 4 (P Elmore try) at Lang Park

1989

State League Semi-Final -
Central Queensland 32 v Toowoomba 18

Capras run hot to seal final berth

THE Capras created rugby league history last night when they became the first country team to reach the final of the Winfield State League.

The Central Queenslanders beat Toowoomba 32-18 in an exciting semi-final at Lang Park to go into Sunday's play-off against Easts, who downed title-holders Valleys 14-8.

Central Queensland showed why they were the top scorers in the competiton with some exciting football, scoring five tries that delighted the small crowd.

Their clash with the Tigers should be a classic, with both teams favoring free-flowing football.

However, Easts will have to control the ball better than they have in the past few weeks or face another trouncing from this exciting country side.

Ably led by five-eighth Paul McCaffery, the Capras threw the ball around with abandon, and belied the Clydesdales' reputation as the best defensive team in the state.

Central scored five great tries.

Toowoomba's Lang Park hoodoo persisted. They have reached the semi-finals in the past three years, only to miss out each time.

Coach Greg Platz will be campaigning for the semi-finals to be played in a country area next year, for there is every possibility Toowoomba can again reach the play-offs.

On their form last night they are capable of beating any team in the league, but they could not handle the brilliance of the Capras.

Toowoomba took an early 6-0 lead with a penalty by Peter Dwyer and a good team try finished by Craig Patch in the 18th minute.

But the Capras hit their straps with three great tries to go to the break leading 18-8.

The first came from a piece of individual brilliance by halfback Greg Upkett, who chipped ahead and forced the ball when Toowoomba fullback Greg Quinn failed to knock it dead.

The Capras were in again, with halfback Paul McCaffery and centre Peter White creating an opening for co-centre Paul White, who gave the defence no chance in a 15m dash.

Russell Miller showed why he is the most exciting winger in the state with a withering run along the line to set up a try for Charles Curran, who took the final pass from co-prop Lloyd House.

Miller scored a popular try in the second half when he recovered a McCaffery bomb, beat fullback Quinn effortlessly, then beat three more defenders in-goal to score under the crossbar.

McCaffery put the icing on the cake for the Capras when he finished off an excellent movement which started in their own half.

The Capras have halfback Upkett and prop House in doubt for Sunday. Upkett has a shoulder injury and House had his nose badly smashed late in the game.

Replacement back Kevin Blakey has a suspected broken leg after falling heavily in a tackle.

CENTRAL 32 (G Upkett, Paul White, C Curran, R Miller, P McCaffery tries; C Walker 6 goals) d TOOWOOMBA 18 (C Patch, T Cook,J Clancy tries; P Dwyer 3 goals).

1989

State League Semi-Final -
Easts 14 v Valleys 8

Valleys hit a low in their honors hunt

By JACK CRAIG

VALLEYS' hopes of defending their Winfield State League rugby league title disintegrated in a mistake-ridden loss to Easts at Lang Park last night.

The Tigers go into Sunday's final after a 14-8 win, but their lackadaisical performance would not make them favorites to win their second State League competition.

Easts scored two tries to nil but not in their free-flowing style, although one of their tries came from a 90m return of a Valleys clearing kick.

Fullback Gavin Payne fielded the ball in the shadow of his goalpost and ran to the left side of the field. He beat Valleys winger David Bourke effortlessly to make the initial break.

He linked with centre Steve Wilkes, who then gave winger Rod West a run to the line from 40m out. West had too much speed for the cover defence.

Easts' second try midway through the second half came from a spilled bomb by Valleys skipper Steve Hegarty.

Replacement five-eighth Chris Hastings put up the kick in desperation on the final tackle and Hegarty botched it. Hastings, following through, was on the spot to recover for the try.

But Easts made some horrible mistakes of their own. They repeatedly put themselves under pressure with penalties and spilled ball in their own half.

Coach Des Morris stressed on his players during the week not to give Hegarty shots at goal, but he had four attempts in the first 15 minutes and converted three of them for Valleys' first half points.

Valleys were aiming for their sixth straight trophy after making a clean sweep of the four titles last season and already had the Woolies pre-season honors in their keeping.

But the weakened Diehards did not have the combination they had throughout the State League, when they notched 24 tries.

They camped in Easts territory for most of the first half but could not put the finishing touches to their opportunities.

They obviously are not the premiership favorites without chief playmaker Brett Daunt, who did not take the field last night after a gruelling Panasonic Cup game on Wednesday. The Diehards also were without Bill Holmes and Ziggy Strasser.

EASTS 14 (R West, C Hastings tries; S Wilkes 2, C Hastings goal) d VALLEYS 8 (S Hegarty 4 goals).



1989

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - EASTS 30 v CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 4

Tigers carve up Capras, end fairytale



By JACK CRAIG

CENTRAL Queensland's fairytale advance to the Winfield State League grand final became a nightmare at Lang Park yesterday when Easts thrashed them 30-4.

It was the Tigers second WSL championship having won the inaugural competition in 1982.

The Capras were sentimental favorites to become the first country team to win the competition but it was obvious they had played their grand final on Thursday night when they beat Toowoomba.

Their one moment of glory yesterday was when they were presented with the Winfield Country Cup as country champions.

Yesterday they were a lethargic outfit, their much-vaunted attacking flair never materialising. Their defence also was brittle and provided only token resistance to the Tigers who ran in six tries.

But hard working second rower Lloyd House said it all when he told Easts coach Des Morris: "Even if we had played our best football we would not have beaten you."

House rated Easts the best team they had played in the State League and the Tigers lived up to that reputation with some sparkling attack and a commitment in defence that stifled the Capras.

Coach Greg Reynolds agreed his team was not up to the task but blamed three days in a strange environment for the lethargy.

"We may have been better off going home for a couple of days," Reynolds said. "We have been confined to quarters on the Gold Coast for two days and it has had an unsettling effect on the players. We just could not reach the heights of Thursday night."

Capras skipper Paul McCaffery said the players knew they had made history by becoming the first country team to reach the WSL final and he believed they rested on their laurels.

The former Sydney Norths halfback said country players still had a lot to learn.

Easts however showed that Brisbane clubs still have the edge on the country divisions. Their ball control was better, their mistake rate lower and the teamwork more organised.

The Tigers were on top early when late starter Martin Quinn powered over for two tries in the first 12 minutes for a 10-0 lead. Quinn came into the side at the 11th hour after skipper Ian Stains failed a fitness test on his injured ankle.

Another late change to the team was Bruce Crosby at lock for second rower Dave Paterson, a move which strengthened Easts forwards' mobility. Crosby and hooker Brad Price made repeated breaks through the Capras around the rucks.

But it was the half combination of Nick Muir and Peter Sinclair who caused most havoc for the Capras — Sinclair handling three times in a movement that finished with Crosby scoring in the 24th minute and Muir's elusiveness earning him a brilliant individual try that sent Easts to a 20-4 lead at the break.

EASTS 30 (M Quinn 2 B Crosby N Muir R West P Sinclair tries; G Payne 3 goals) b CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 4 (P Elmore try). First scorers (and first try scorers) Easts 10, Central Queensland 11.



EASTS five-eighth Peter Sinclair unloads a pass to a support during yesterday's final as hard-working Central Queensland second-rower Lloyd House looms in an effort to halt the movement.

1989

BRL: VALLEYS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VALLEYS	18	14	-	4	439	228	28
EASTS	18	14	-	4	390	242	28
NORTHS	18	12	1	5	349	246	25
IPSWICH	18	12	-	6	368	280	24
REDCLIFFE	19	9	-	9	313	333	18
SOUTHS	18	8	1	9	279	244	17
W-MANLY	18	6	1	11	313	366	13
WESTS	18	6	1	11	292	387	13
BROTHERS	18	4	1	13	209	346	9
LOGAN CITY	18	2	1	15	196	476	5

Winfield Cup 1989 — Results

MATCH		DATE/VENUE	
		ROUND 1	**ROUND 2**
Series 1		**Sunday, April 23**	**Sunday, June 25**
Valleys	v Ipswich	**Valleys 10** d Ipswich 6	**Valleys 17** d Ipswich 12
Souths	v Easts	**Easts 12** d Souths 6	**Easts 18** d Souths 12
Brothers	v Wests	**Wests 10** d Brothers 6	**Wests 10** d Brothers 4
Norths	v Redcliffe	**Norths 20** d R'cliffe 18	**Redcliffe 24** d Norths 21
Wynnum	v Logan City	**W/Manly 14 v L/City 14**	**W/Manly 24** d L/City 22
Series 2		**Sunday, April 30**	**Sunday, July 2**
Easts	v Valleys	**Easts 28** d Valleys 26	**Valleys 20** d Easts 16
Wynnum	v Souths	**Souths 28** d W/Manly 8	**Souths 22** d Wynnum 12
Ipswich	v Brothers	**Ipswich 24** d Brothers 6	**Ipswich 38** d Brothers 20
Logan City	v Norths	**L/City 16** d Norths 12	**Norths 24** d Logan City 6
Redcliffe	v Wests	**Wests 24** d R'cliffe 8	**Redcliffe 20** d Wests 18
Series 3		**Sunday, May 7**	**Sunday, July 9**
Valleys	v Wynnum	**Valleys 19** d W/Manly 12	**Wynnum 22** d Valleys 21
Wests	v Souths	**Wests 12** d Souths 10	**Souths 14 v Wests 14**
Brothers	v Logan City	**Brothers 7** d L/City 0	**Brothers 54** d L/City 16
Norths	v Ipswich	**Norths 14** d Ipswich 8	**Norths 36** d Ipswich 28
Easts	v Redcliffe	**Easts 24** d R'cliffe 6	**Easts 34** d Redcliffe 22
Series 4		**Sunday, May 14**	**Sunday, July 16**
Norths	v Valleys	**Valleys 22** d Norths 17	**Valleys 20** d Norths 14
Souths	v Redcliffe	**Souths 38** d Redcliffe 12	**Redcliffe 16** d Souths 10
Wynnum	v Brothers	**Brothers 19** d W/Manly 16	**W/Manly 24** d Brothers 8
Wests	v Logan City	**Wests 10** d L/City 6	**Wests 44** d Logan City 6
Ipswich	v Easts	**Ipswich 16** d Easts 14	**Easts 12** d Ipswich 6
Series 5		**Sunday, May 21**	**Sunday, July 23**
Valleys	v Souths	**Valleys 14** d Souths 6	**Souths 13** d Valleys 10
Brothers	v Norths	**Norths 18** d Brothers 10	**Norths 8** drew Brothers 8
Wests	v Ipswich	**Ipswich 14** d Wests 8	**Ipswich 26** d Wests 16
Redcliffe	v Wynnum	**Redcliffe 16** d W/Manly 10	**Redcliffe 25** d W/Manly 10
Logan City	v Easts	**Easts 16** d Logan City	**Easts 38** d Logan City 16
Series 6		**Sunday, May 28**	**Sunday, July 30**
Logan City	v Valleys	**Logan City 10** d Valleys 8	**Valleys 58** d Logan City 2
Norths	v Souths	**Norths 16** d Souths 4	**Souths 10** d Norths 8
Redcliffe	v Brothers	**Redcliffe 22** d Brothers 0	**Redcliffe 14** d Brothers 12
Ipswich	v Wynnum	**Ipswich 28** d W/Manly 12	**W/Manly 29** d Ipswich 16
Easts	v Wests	**Easts 28** d Wests 12	**Easts 46** d Wests 4
Series 7		**Sunday, June 4**	**Sunday, August 6**
Brothers	v Valleys	**Valleys 30** d Brothers 4	**Valleys 26** d Brothers 6
Souths	v Ipswich	**Ipswich 21** Souths 18	**Ipswich 26** d Souths 6
Redcliffe	v Logan City	**Redcliffe 30** d Logan City 6	**Norths 27** d Wests 20
Norths	v Wests	**Norths 28** d Wests 18	**Easts 18** d W/Manly 16
Wynnum	v Easts	**Easts 24** d Wynnum 16	**Redcliffe 30** d Logan /City 12
Series 8		**Sunday, June 11**	**Sunday, August 13**
Valleys	v Redcliffe	**Valleys 22** d Redcliffe 14	**Valleys 38** d Redcliffe 12
Brothers	v Souths	**Souths 26** d Brothers 6	**Brothers 21** d Souths 14
Easts	v Norths	**Norths 12** d Easts	**Norths 26** d Easts 2
Wynnum	v Wests	**Wynnum 32** d Wests 28	**W/Manly 34** d Wests 10
Ipswich	v Logan City	**Ipswich 21** d Logan City 16	**Ipswich 44** d Logan City 22
Series 9		**Sunday, June 18**	**Sunday, August 20**
Wests	v Valleys	**Valleys 42** d Wests 18	**Valleys 36** d Wests 16
Souths	v Logan City	**Souths 12** d Logan City 10	**Souths 30** d Logan City 8
Easts	v Brothers	**Easts 24** d Brothers 10	**Easts 26** d Brothers 8
Norths	v Wynnum	**Norths 20** d W/Manly 10	**Norths 28** d W/Manly 12
Redcliffe	v Ipswich	**Ipswich 16** d Redcliffe 10	**Ipswich 18** d Redcliffe 14

1989

1989 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

The 1989 season began with the State League and, like in 1988, two country sides made the semis. Central Queensland became the first country side to make a State League final after beating Toowoomba 32-18 in their semi-final. Valleys, now a stand alone club again after their brief joint venture with Tweed Heads, played Easts in the other semi-final and were beaten 14-8. Easts easily accounted for Central Queensland in the final 30-4.

Valleys and Easts finished the regular season at the top of the table on 28 points. Norths finished 3rd and Ipswich finished in 4th place just behind them on the table. The Ipswich Jets were in good form in the semi-finals beating Norths 27-18 and then had a strong win against Easts in the preliminary final to advance to their second grand final against Valleys, who only just beat Easts 20-18 in the major semi-final.

Based on those results it looked like Ipswich would seriously challenge the Diehards. The Diehards, coached by Ross Henrick, ran rampant in the grand final winning 28-4. They scored 5 tries with doubles to Shane Buckley and Murray Fiechtner and another try to Ziggy Strasser. Peter Coyne at five-eighth had a blinder having a hand in 3 of the tries.

Valleys became the first side since Easts in 1977-1978 to win back-to-back premierships.

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Ipswich 27 v Norths 18

Morrissy a shock weapon for Jets

By STEPHEN GRAY

IPSWICH rugby league five-eighth Gary Morrissy did not know until 10 minutes before yesterday's knockout semi-final against Norths at Lang Park whether he would even start the match.

But the 21-year-old put aside the uncertainty to lead the Jets to a 27-18 win and throw open the Brisbane Winfield Cup final race.

Ipswich coach Jim Landy said he had considered starting either injured grand-final five-eighth Craig Spark or ball-playing prop Tony Watson off the bench.

His decision to play Watson and leave Spark on the sideline proved a matchwinner.

Watson scored a try and showed no signs of the knee injury which sidelined him for six weeks while Morrissy and experienced half Ray Ovens outplayed the fancied Norths duo of Neil Wharton and Dean Sammut.

"I knew if I got on the field I had to have a good one," Morrissy said. "Having players like Ray Ovens inside and Ross Willams outside seemed to give me a bit of room."

Morrissy frequently found holes out wide and gave Ipswich the extra attack that flu-stricken centres Sam Smith and Williams were struggling to provide.

"I'm certainly not a big name and Norths might not have looked that closely at me," he said. "But the credit should go to our forwards. Andrew Walters, Brett Kaatz and Ben Olsen kept going all day and made it easy for us."

Morrissy, who played the second half of last year's losing grand final after Ovens was injured, capped off his match with a field goal in the final minutes yesterday.

IPSWICH 27 (R Ovens, B Kaatz, T Watson, D Wolens, S Parcell tries; S Parcell 2, R Ovens goals, G Morrissy field goal) d NORTHS 18 (M Booth, G Harvey, N Wharton, D Crameri tries; G Harvey goal).

Ipswich looked no chance of getting any closer to their second grand final in a row after a sluggish start, with Norths winger Danny Crameri setting up lock Michael Booth for the first try in the 12th minute.

It was left to Ovens, who seems to bring out the best in Ipswich in finals, to start a first-half scoring procession when he backed up fullback Tony Waddups and hooker Steve Parcell to score between the posts to level.

Some shabby Norths' defence turned it into a fly-by for the Jets, who ran in tries from Kaatz, lock Darren Wolens and Watson for a 20-6 lead at the break.

Fittingly, it was Parcell who provided Ipswich with an added six-point cushion when he bulled his way over from dummy-half 10 minutes into the half.

But the Devils came back, posting quick tries by winger Guy Harvey, Wharton and Crameri to narrow the gap to 18-26.

While Ipswich were looking to their next match with confidence, the loss may well have been the swansong for veteran Norths lock Michael Booth.

Booth said earlier in the week he would consider retiring if they missed the final.

Ipswich play the preliminary final in two weeks against the loser of Sunday's major semi-final between Easts and Valleys.



NORTHS halfback Neil Wharton wins the race to knock the ball dead in-goal ahead of flying Ipswich winger Clinton Baker who is backed up by fullback Tony Waddups in yesterday's Winfield Cup semi-final action at Lang Park.

1989

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 20 v Easts 18

Holmes fires to spearhead Diehards to Cup finale

By STEPHEN GRAY

VALLEYS hooker Bill Holmes celebrated his appointment as Queensland Residents captain in the Diehards' 20-18 defeat of Easts yesterday by doing what he does best — leading from the front.

Holmes produced a flawless display as Valleys won through to their second successive grand final, and the Tigers found themselves pencilled in to play Ipswich at Lang Park this weekend.

Holmes was named on Friday to captain the tour to France at the end of the season and in response, turned in one of his best matches for Valleys this season. He scored a try, defended strongly — including some tremendous cover tackles — and ran intelligently from dummy-half.

Fullback Steve Hegarty is Valleys captain, but the new state leader said there was no chance of any conflict of interest yesterday.

"We all have a bit of say out there," Holmes said. "We're a team and Steve does his bit, so everything works well."

Valleys needed every bit of captaincy they could muster in the first five minutes, with two players, second-rower Richard Boys and centre Darryl Pitt, finding their way to the sin-bin for 10 minutes.

Boys was sent off by referee Ian Irwin after he "chested" an Easts player and was held responsible for the ensuring scuffle which involved almost all the players.

Pitt followed a minute later when he tripped Easts second-rower Brad Price, who had chipped ahead. But inexplicably, Easts failed to capitalise on the two-man advantage and instead let Valleys lock Tony Catton in for the first try in the 14th minute.

VALLEYS 20 (B Holmes, T Catton, D Bourke, M Fiechtner tries; S Hegarty 2 goals) d EASTS 18 (S Wilkes, T Cook, R Purcell tries; M Quinn 3 goals).

Holmes agreed Easts had done a lot to help Valleys hold out in that 10-minute period when they should have dominated.

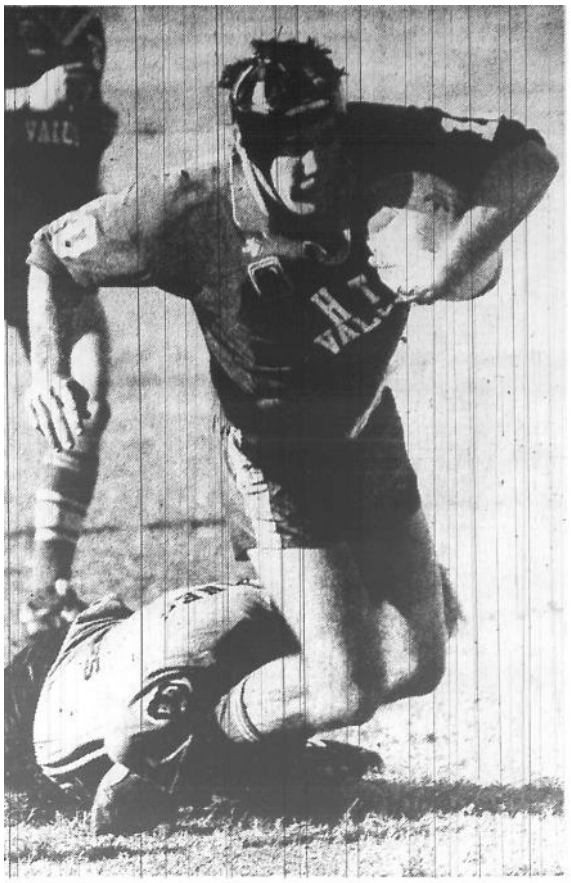
"We knew once we got through that 10 minutes with 11 men we could beat them," he said. "We did a lot of work."

The pace of the match was furious at times and Valleys bombed at least three tries through forcing the last pass during the first half.

Five-eighth Peter Coyne, a controversial omission from the Residents team, turned in a classy performance and his passing and kicking game was well complemented by half Brett Daunt, who battled through the match despite a stiff neck.

Valleys led 10-2 at halftime after Holmes' try, but increased it to 16-2 three minutes later when Holmes darted from dummy-half on the last tackle and put winger David Bourke in to score.

But that seemed to spark Easts out of their lethargy and winger Steve Wilkes brought them back with a juggling take of an Ian Stains pass. The Tigers took the score to 18-20 through tries by Trevor Cook and Rob Purcell.



VALLEYS prop Lindsay Williams is brought down from behind by his opposite number Ian Stains during yesterday's major semi-final.



VALLEYS speedster Murray Fiechtner is grabbed by the shorts by diving Easts centre Pat Cowell as five-eighth Chris Hastings comes in to lend a hand.

1989

BRL Preliminary Final - Ipswich 24 v Easts 6

Landy's ploy fires as Easts crash again under strain

By STEPHEN GRAY

A GAMBLE on two players returning after a combined 15 weeks on the sideline paid off at Lang Park yesterday when Ipswich steamed into a grand-final rematch with Valleys

A disappointing Easts, who looked disjointed from almost the first five minutes, had no answer to the Jets, folding 24-6 to give coach Des Morris a less-than-memorable last match.

The Tigers found the combination of a determined Ipswich side and a hefty imbalance in the penalty count to be too difficult to overcome as they turned in their second successive ordinary semi-final performance.

It was a victory for Ipswich coach Jim Landy, who threw prop Tony Watson and centre Craig Spark into starting roles yesterday.

Watson, with half a game under his belt after eight weeks out with a torn medial ligament, played the full match and scored a try, while Spark, in his first game in seven weeks after a shoulder injury, defended stoutly in the backs.

Watson, a surprise starter off the bench in the semi-final win over Norths, said he would be gunning for his third successive premiership this weekend.

"I played with Warwick Cowboys in the Toowoomba competition and won back to back premierships," he said. "Maybe I can get the hat-trick."

Spark formed a solid defensive combination with Ross Williams in the centres after Landy switched state under-21 centre Sam Smith to the wing in place of John Moynahan.

"I was able to test my shoulder a few times and it came through without any problems," Spark said.

All the talk in the dressing-room was of the rematch with Valleys, who won last year's final 17-14.

While Landy's decision to use his two "crocks" more than paid off, second-rower Andrew Walters was a stand-out with his running and off-loading.

IPSWICH 24 (S Smith, R Ovens, T Watson, R Williams G Morrissy tries; S Parcell 2 goals) d EASTS 6 (S Wilkes try; M Quinn goal).

Landy said he regarded Walters as one of the Broncos' biggest losses after he was cut from their ranks at the end of last season.

Canterbury chief executive Peter Moore, at the match to look at Easts second-rower Darren Smith, may have pencilled in Walters, who repeatedly broke through and topped the tackle count with 23.

Easts prop Martin Quinn, one of the best in a beaten side, along with half Nick Muir and Smith, opened the scoring after only a minute when referee John Topp penalised Ipswich for being off-side.

Topp set the scene for a whistle-dominated first half that resulted in Easts conceding 11 penalties to five.

It was Smith who grabbed the first try, in the 14th minute, when Williams found him with a pass that cut out two players for him to cross wide out.

Ipswich's semi-final specialist Ray Ovens grabbed his customary try, in the 34th minute, when he backed a break engineered by the improved Gary Morrissy, and Spark to make it 10-2 at the break.

Easts showed patches of promise just before halftime, with Trevor Cook firing the backline from five-eighth.

But Cook found himself on the wrong end of a tackle by team-mate Brad Price when Williams scored in the 61st minute and left with a shoulder injury.

The Tigers were spared the ignominy of being held tryless when Smith used his pace to get into a hole before Steve Wilkes juggled the ball to score in the 63rd minute.



THE battle of the back-rowers ... Easts second-rower Darren Smith wraps up his opposite number Andrew Walters during Ipswich's preliminary final win yesterday.



"THAT red-head is a good player"... Broncos duo Allan Langer and Kerrod Walters yesterday watched their former Ipswich team-mates move into their second successive grand final.

1989

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 28 v IPSWICH 4

Diehards' defence blots out the Jets

By STEPHEN GRAY

VALLEYS produced the defensive game of the year in their 28-4 defeat of Ipswich yesterday to become the first club of the decade to win back-to-back Winfield Cup premierships.

The Diehards blotted out the link between the Jets ball-players and their supports and turned on their own flashing brand of attack to score five tries.

Valleys, who won last year's final 17-14 also against the Jets, are the first team to win successive grand finals since Easts in 1977-78. And coach Ross Henrick has taken them to wins in seven of their eight finals in his first two seasons.

Valleys relentless defence lapsed only once — when Jets winger Sam Smith surged over in the corner.

Even with a minute to go, hard-working prop Lindsay Williams saved a certain try when he barrelled Ipswich replacement Jack Simpson into touch in-goal with a last-ditch dive.

Valleys hooker Bill Holmes said Williams' tackle typified the spirit in the team.

"That's the sort of thing we had to do," he said. "We were exhausted before we went out for the second-half. I couldn't get my breath yet we ended up making 25 tackles in a row in the first 10 minutes of the second half."

VALLEYS 28 (S Buckley 2 M Fiechtner 2 Z Strasser tries, S Hegarty 4 goals) d IPSWICH 4 (S Smith try).

Captain and fullback Steve Hegarty, who kicked four goals from seven attempts, said Ipswich were unable to lift themselves for a final effort after winning through from fourth.

"They had won two grand finals before they got to us," he said. "Their fans should be proud of them for getting this far."

Both teams ran the ball from the first tackle, but Valleys found themselves in the best scoring opportunity in the 14th minute after an error by Jets five-eighth Gary Morrissy.

Morrissy knocked on after a mix-up from dummy-half, and from the scrum, Valleys five-eighth Peter Coyne put winger Shane Buckley over in the corner.

It was the start of Valleys' attacking blitz in which Coyne figured prominently — throwing the final passes for three of their tries.

Valleys made it 10-0 in the 27th minute when centre Murray Fiechtner intercepted an errant Morrissy pass near his line and sped down the touch-line before kicking in field and regathering over the line in spectacular fashion.

Ipswich made a concerted effort to score in the final 10 minutes of the half, placing Valleys under intense pressure.

The Jets kept that pressure on straight after the break, which saw Smith score in the corner in the 50th minute.

But Valleys switched roles and went from defenders to aggressors. Holmes made a break near halfway and linked with Hegarty who found Fiechtner in support for him to grab his second try and put the match out of reach.



JUST the start of celebrations . . . coach Ross Henrick and veteran second-rower Ziggy Strasser with the Winfield Cup.



IPSWICH half Ray Ovens grasps at accelerating Valleys centre Murray Fiechtner in their Winfield Cup showdown at Lang Park yesterday.

Diehard spirit alive and well

THE Diehard spirit of the early '70s is back, Valleys chairman Bill Fien said yesterday after the club's second successive Winfield Cup premiership.

"We lost our direction a few years ago when we aligned with the Seagulls, but we are back to the strength we were when we won three out of four premierships," Fien said.

He gave credit to the coaching of Ross Henrick for their remarkable run of seven trophy wins in the past two seasons. "We lost the Winfield State League earlier this year, but five of our players were involved in a Panasonic Cup match the previous day."

Fien said Valleys sponsors had signed with the club for another two years and he hoped to re-sign all their players.

The atmosphere in the Valleys dressing room was electric, with several players from those glory years of the early '70s there to celebrate the victory. To a man, they agreed the old Diehard commitment to defence was the bottom line in their win.

Few of the 11,000 at Lang Park yesterday would disagree with Henrick's assessment of the game: "One of the best games seen here for a few years.

"We led 10-4 in the second half and Ipswich had us on the back pedal and both sides were throwing the ball around.

"But Ipswich had said all along they got to the grand final because Norths and Easts had failed to knock over their ball carriers, and that was our main mission."

Jets coach Jim Landy agreed the Diehards' commitment to defence was high, but refused to use that as an excuse for their defeat. "We were guilty of some handling errors, which cost us dearly," he said. "I think we played as well as Valleys, but they capitalised on all their opportunities.

"We dropped more ball in that hectic first 15 minutes than we did all season. You can't afford to make errors against Valleys.

"We were not content just to reach the grand final but we will learn by this experience. The taste of defeat is bitter, but maybe it will be third time lucky next year," Landy said.

Henrick was bitter about Peter Coyne's omission from the Queensland team which leaves today for France. "Coyne is the best five-eighth in Queensland yet he's not in the touring side. It's an injustice."

Coyne gave the final pass for three of Valleys' five tries, but unselfishly credited the first to Steve Hegarty and the last to the good hands of Ziggy Strasser. "Ziggy is like a bottle of good scotch. He gets better with age," Coyne said.

1989

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 28 v IPSWICH 4

VALLEYS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB LTD. — 1989

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BRISBANE DIVISION PREMIERS AND MINOR PREMIERS, STATE LEAGUE SEMI-FINALISTS, WOOLIES PRE-SEASON AND TROPHY WINNERS — POINTS FOR: 487 — POINTS AGAINST: 250 (BRISBANE COMPETITION)



Fourth Row (l to r): PETER COYNE, CAMERON GREIG, BOB PFINGST (Strapper), DARRYL PITT, ROSS NEUMANN (Treasurer).
Third Row (l to r): LEN SHANAHAN (Selector), SHANE BUCKLEY, PETER SHIELDS, DAVID BOURKE, ROB KNIGHT, MICK McSWEEN (Assistant Manager).
Second Row (l to r): VINCE BUCKLEY (Assistant Manager), LINDSAY WILLIAMS, TONY CATTON, SUE JOHNSON (Trainer), BRETT DAUNT, TONY O'NEILL, MURRAY FIECHTNER, ROD BOULT (Secretary).
Front Row (l to r): GLEN FIEN (Manager), ZIGGY STRASSER, STEVE HEGARTY, BILL FIEN (President), BILL HOLMES, RICHARD BOYS, ROSS HENRICK (Coach).

RANALD SIMMONDS STUDIO

1989 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 27 def. Norths 18
Major Semi-Final: Valleys 20 def. Easts 18
Preliminary Final: Ipswich 24 def. Easts 6

1989 BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS 28 (Tries: S. Buckley 2, M. Fiechtner 2, Z. Strasser, Goals: S. Hegarty 4) def. IPSWICH 4 (Tries: S. Smith)

1990

STATE LEAGUE: VALLEYS

1990 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Valleys won their second State League title in three years, when the Diehards defeated Easts in the grand final.

ROUND 1

Valleys 62 defeated Wynnum-Manly 12 at Lang Park
Brothers 34 defeated Logan City 10 at Meakin Park
Toowoomba 30 defeated Norths 10 at Tara
Wide Bay 26 defeated Souths 0 at Maryborough
Central Qld 28 defeated Wests 26 at Rockhampton
Redcliffe 22 defeated Ipswich 12 at Ipswich
Easts 12 defeated North Qld 8 at Townsville

ROUND 2

Ipswich 26 defeated Central Qld 20 at Gladstone
Valleys 12 defeated Toowoomba 10 at Toowoomba
Wide Bay 18 defeated Wynnum-Manly 10 at Bundaberg
Brothers 20 defeated Norths 2 at Bishop Park
Easts 38 defeated Wests 10 at Lang Park
Souths 42 defeated Logan City 0 at Davies Park

ROUND 3

Brothers 28 defeated Toowoomba 18 at Dalby
Wide Bay 32 defeated Logan City 22 at Gympie
Norths 28 defeated Central Qld 27 at Biloela
North Qld 32 defeated Souths 16 at Mackay
Wests 22 defeated Wynnum-Manly 20 at Kianawah Road
Valleys 33 defeated Ipswich 24 at Neumann Oval
Easts 20 defeated Redcliffe 10 at Lang Park

ROUND 4

North Qld 42 defeated Wynnum-Manly 0 at Proserpine
Toowoomba 50 defeated Wests 28 at Roma
Valleys 44 defeated Central Qld 12 at Gladstone
Easts 32 defeated Wide Bay 16 at Mundubbera
Redcliffe 24 defeated Logan City 12 at Dolphin Oval
Ipswich 18 defeated Brothers 8 at Ipswich

ROUND 5

Ipswich 22 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Toowoomba
Redcliffe 22 defeated Wide Bay 12 at Nambour
Central Qld 44 defeated Brothers 24 at Rockhampton
North Qld 54 defeated Logan City 4 at Townsville
Valleys 53 defeated Wests 11 at Purtell Park
Norths 28 defeated Wynnum-Manly 10 at Kianawah Road
Easts 30 defeated Souths 22 at Lang Park

ROUND 6

North Qld 22 defeated Norths 19 at Cairns
Wests 36 defeated Wide Bay 34 at Nanango
Brothers 22 defeated Wynnum-Manly 4 at Crosby Park
Ipswich 24 defeated Logan City 19 at Meakin Park
Valleys 24 defeated Redcliffe 16 at Lang Park

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts
VALLEYS	6	6	-	0	228	85	12
EASTS*	5	5	-	0	132	66	11
NORTH QUEENSLAND*	5	4	-	1	168	51	9
BROTHERS	6	4	-	2	136	96	8
Ipswich	6	4	-	2	126	118	8
Redcliffe*	5	3	-	2	94	80	7
Wide Bay	6	3	-	3	138	122	6
Toowoomba*	5	2	-	3	124	100	5
Central Queensland*	5	2	-	3	131	148	5
Norths*	5	2	-	3	86	109	5
Souths**	4	1	-	3	80	88	4
Wests	6	2	-	4	133	223	4
Wynnum-Manly	6	0	-	6	66	194	0
Logan City	6	0	-	6	67	210	0

* Each received one point due to cancelled games.
** Had two games cancelled. Received one point for each cancelled game.

SEMI FINALS

EASTS 32 (M Nash 2, Ken Jackson, P Cowell, Andrew Neave, Bruce Crosby tries; Ken Jackson 4 goals) defeated
NORTH QLD 30 (C Mason 2, Brendan Norton, Ray Gagai, S Carter, Steven Bella tries; Brendan Norton 3 goals) at Lang Park

VALLEYS 32 (Trevor Schodel 2, Shane Buckley 2, David Bourke, C Greig tries; Steve Hegarty 4 goals) defeated
BROTHERS 22 (S McErlean 2, L Churchill, C Prince tries; J McGraw 2, G Darwin goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL

VALLEYS 34 (David Bourke 2, Trevor Schodel, Tony O'Neill, Richard Boys, Brett Daunt tries; Steve Hegarty 5 goals) defeated
EASTS 26 (S Wilkes 2, Ken Jackson, M Nash tries; Ken Jackson 5 goals) at Lang Park

1990

State League Semi-Final -
Easts 32 v North Queensland 30

Easts tag Marlins in last throw

By STEPHEN GRAY

DEFENDING Winfield State League champions Easts last night were 57 seconds away from missing Sunday's grand final against Valleys.

The Tigers, 32-30 winners, had trailed a gallant North Queensland team for most of their semi-final before a desperation kick on the sixth tackle from lock Darren Wolens bounced out of North Queensland winger Damien Dixon's hands and into centre Mark Nash's grasp for the winning try.

Easts coach John Lang, who had turned away as it seemed certain the Marlins would go through to their first final, said it was an unbelievable finish.

"I don't think I've ever been involved in a match like that and we were very lucky to get away," he said.

"We dug ourselves a monstrous hole but clawed our way out of it somehow. We'll have to improve dramatically on that when we play Valleys."

Nash finished with two tries but it was hard to go past halfback Andrew Neave as the Tigers' best player.

The 20-year-old scored a try and had a hand in two others as well as making two vital covering tackles on runaway Marlins players.

Easts will be without five-eighth Craig Patch for the final after he badly injured his ankle midway through the second half last night.

Lang was undecided who would replace Patch, but suggested replacement back Barry Allan may get the nod.

Allan had a steady match at five-eighth but Lang's other options could also include switching centre Chris Hastings to five-eighth or bringing Bruce Crosby off the bench.

EASTS 32 (M Nash 2, K Jackson, P Colwell, A Neave, B Crosby tries; K Jackson 4 goals) d **NORTH QUEENSLAND 30** (C Mason 2, B Norton, R Gagai, S Carter, S Bella tries; B Norton 3 goals).

A tired North Queensland outfit had weathered a three-try comeback in the final 10 minutes of the first half by Easts after leading 20-2.

They opened the scoring in the second half after some flashy backline passing between wingers Ray Gagai and Bill Saylor put five-eighth Craig Mason over for his second try.

But Easts, aided by some timely penalties and a flagging defence, were able to exert enough pressure to snatch the game.

The Marlins, who were best served by former Brothers half Tim Robinson and lock Steve Bella, were devastated after Nash's converted try before reluctantly trudging off the field.

North Queensland had started brightly enough, scoring within three minutes to rattle Easts.

Quick hands from centres Brendan Logan and John Skardon put former Bronco Gagai over in the corner for a 4-0 lead.

The Marlins were intent on bustling Easts and the Tigers reacted accordingly.

Bella extended the lead seven minutes later when he crashed over near the posts following good work by Robinson, beefy prop Mark Anderson and Day.

Below: On the last tackle of the game Easts from their own 40 metre line passed the ball from one side to the other through 5 sets of hands then kicked. Two Marlins players were closer chasing it but a wild bounce of the ball saw it bounce into the hands of Mark Nash for Easts to score and come from behind to win the game 32-30.



1990

State League Semi-Final -
Valleys 32 v Brothers 22

Diehards make final, but cop penalty caning

By JACK CRAIG

VALLEYS powered into the Winfield State League final with a thrilling 32-22 win over Brothers at Lang Park last night.

A Diehard victory was never in doubt from the time halfback Trevor Schodel scored their first try in the 17th minute, but coach Ross Henrick will need to stress more discipline for Sunday's showdown.

Central Queensland referee Lou Crane punished Valleys with a penalty count of 18-3, including 16 in a row.

He also gave replacement forward Lindsay Williams 10 minutes in the sin-bin for a swinging arm and fullback Steve Hegarty was banished for five minutes for a professional foul.

Valleys may well shake their heads at the penalty count, but Crane could have dished out several more for being inside the 5m.

Adding to the Diehards' woes as they prepare for Sunday is an increased injury list which includes Peter Coyne (bruised elbow), Darren Fraser (broken collarbone) and Frank Rolls (ankle).

Centre Tony O'Neill and hooker Paul Fitzgerald were late withdrawals last night and are in doubt for the final.

Nevertheless, the Diehards should go into Sunday's match favorites after their powerhouse display.

They scored six tries to four and had established a 28-6 lead 15 minutes into the second half.

It was a team effort in attack and defence.

The attack came in waves with plenty of supports, and there were three and four men into most tackles.

Their six tries were scored along the backline with Schodel and centre Shane Buckley each scoring a double.

Schodel continued to impress behind the pack and scored a sizzling try from a scrum 5m from his line. He broke two tackles and then outsped Brothers wingers Kevin Smith and Andrew Crowther in a 90m dash.

He was also responsible for Cameron Greig's try when he skirted the blindside of a scrum, sent Greig into a gap and the centre used his strength to haul three defenders over the line.

Brothers' attack was running around in circles until Shane McErlean showed some of his former centre form to score a 45m individual try seven minutes into the second half. He repeated the act right on the bell.

VALLEYS 32 (T Schodel 2, S Buckley 2, D Bourke, C Greig tries, S Hegarty 4 goals) d **BROTHERS 22** (S McErlean 2, L Churchill, C Prince tries, J McGraw 2, G Darwin goals). **First scorers,** Brothers 4, Valleys 5; first try, Valleys 7, Brothers 12.



BROTHERS hooker John McGraw is brought down in a ball-and-all tackle by Valleys five-eighth Brett Daunt during last night's Winfield State League semi-final.

1990

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - VALLEYS 34 v EASTS 26

Final fling not the end for Valleys

By STEPHEN GRAY

A SICK and sore Valleys might have won the Winfield State League final with a 34-26 victory over Easts yesterday, but their attention already was turning to other matters.

Valleys centre Peter Coyne, icing an elbow injury up until yesterday morning in a bid to play, found time among the celebrations to look ahead to their defence of the Winfield Cup.

"We've been giving up 15 to 20 points in the past few games and that's something we've got to work on if we want to do well for the rest of the season," he said.

Coach Ross Henrick played down talk of the match being a grand final preview.

"It could be, but then there's a lot of time between now and September," he said.

It is an ominious sign for other clubs that the Diehards consider they can improve, but it is backed up by the fact Easts managed to catch them short defensively on several occasions.

Valleys' win was as much a triumph for club trainer Bob Pfingst and long-time patron Dr Tom Dooley as it was for their excellent team combination.

Props Shawn Rubesaame (knee) and Frank Rolls (ankle) did not take the training field during the week, while Coyne, hooker Paul Fitzgerald (ankle) and centre Tony O'Neill were not confirmed as starters until as late as yesterday.

Winger Shane Buckley and utility Cameron Greig were still choked with the flu virus that affected several members of the team.

Captain Tony Catton admitted the players had felt the pinch at some stages.

"After the first five minutes, a few of us thought we were gone," he said. "But we got our second wind eventually and that got us through even when Easts were leading."

Easts, the defending WSL champions, took advantage of Valleys early lethargy with experienced centre Steve Dowden, one of their best on the field, putting fullback Ken Jackson over in the corner with a long pass.

VALLEYS 34 (D Bourke 2, T Schodel, T O'Neill, R Boys, B Daunt tries; S Hegarty 5 goals) **d EASTS 26** (S Wilkes 2, K Jackson, M Nash tries; K Jackson 5 goals).

But Valleys hit back in the 11th minute when Catton laid on a delightful short pass to send Richard Boys over near the posts.

Boys, in some of the best form of his career, threw the final pass for winger David Bourke's try three minutes later after half Trevor Schodel made a half break with a probing run.

Easts had a chance to peg Valleys back shortly after when a grubber from Andrew Neave hit referee David Manson before Neave dived on it over the try-line — forcing a scrum instead of four points.

Valleys held a 14-8 lead at halftime after Bourke's second try when second-rower Ziggy Strasser and five-eighth Brett Daunt combined to send him over.

Valleys coach Ross Henrick warned his side at the break to watch out for Easts in the first 10 minutes of the second half and saw his words haunt him when Tigers winger Mark Nash easily outpaced O'Neill and fullback Steve Hegarty in a 75m sprint to the line.

Nash has been one of the big improvers of the season for Easts so far and the former Colts centre benefitted from the service by centres Dowden and Steve Wilkes, who scored the first of his two tries in the 53rd minute.



VALLEYS five-eighth Brett Daunt, the driving force behind the Diehards' second-half comeback, gets rid of a pass despite the tackle of Easts half Andrew Neave as prop Shane Pearse looks on at Lang Park yesterday.



ROSS HENRICK ... no grand final preview.

1990

BRL: VALLEYS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	Pts
VALLEYS	18	15	-	3	30
REDCLIFFE	18	13	-	5	26
EASTS	18	12	1	5	25
NORTHS	18	11	-	7	22
SOUTHS	18	10	1	7	21
BROTHERS	18	10	-	8	20
IPSWICH	18	5	3	10	13
WESTS	18	5	-	13	19
LOGAN CITY	18	3	4	11	10
W/MANLY	18	1	1	16	3

Winfield Cup 1990 Results

Round 1

Sunday, May 6

Easts 32 d Valleys 16
Redcliffe 22 d Wynnum Manly 16
Wests 40 d Logan City 20
Past Brothers 28 d Souths 18
Norths 18 d Ipswich 16

Sunday, May 13

Valleys 34 d Wynnum Manly 12
Redcliffe 16 d Norths 14
Easts 46 d Logan City 6
Past Brothers 23 d Ipswich Jets 22
Wests 31 d Souths 12

Sunday, May 20

Valleys 22 d Norths 14
Redcliffe 22 d Wests 16
Logan City 18 d Ipswich Jets 18
Past Brothers 20 d Easts 14
Souths 21 d Wynnum Manly 20

Sunday, May 27

Valleys 24 d Past Brothers 18
Redcliffe 30 d Souths 6
Norths 12 d Logan City 0
Wests 38 d Ipswich Jets 14
Easts 20 d Wynnum Manly 0

Sunday, June 3

Valleys 45 d Redcliffe 24
Logan City 21 d Past Brothers 20
Easts 36 d Wests 18
Souths 14 d Norths 6
Ipswich Jets 40 d Wynnum Manly 4

Sunday, June 10

Valleys 27 d Ipswich Jets 14
Redcliffe 18 d Past Brothers 12
Souths 42 d Logan City 16
Easts 36 d Norths 4
Wynnum Manly 20 d Wests 14

Sunday, June 17

Valleys 34 d Logan City 20
Redcliffe 15 d Easts 10
Souths 30 d Ipswich Jets 30
Past Brothers 24 d Wests 10
Norths 38 d Wynnum Manly 16

Sunday, June 24

Valleys 22 d Souths 10
Redcliffe 22 d Logan City 12
Past Brothers 16 d Wynnum Manly 12
Norths 40 d Wests 26
Ipswich Jets 18 d Easts 8

Sunday, July 1

Valleys 22 d Wests 20
Redcliffe 22 d Ipswich Jets 6
Logan City 22 d Wynnum Manly 18
Norths 30 d Past Brothers 20
Easts 33 d Souths 12

Round 2

Sunday, July 8

Easts 27 d Valleys 8
Redcliffe 18 d Wynnum Manly 14
Logan City 18 d Wests 16
Souths 21 d Past Brothers 20
Norths 25 d Ipswich Jets 18

Sunday, July 15

Valleys 50 d Wynnum Manly 6
Norths 35 d Redcliffe 26
Logan City 20 d Easts 20
Past Brothers 26 d Ipswich Jets 19
Souths 21 d Wests 10

Sunday, July 22

Valleys 52 d Norths 16
Wests 30 d Redcliffe 28
Ipswich Jets 18 d Logan City 18
Past Brothers 30 d Easts 14
Souths 32 d Wynnum Manly 2

Sunday, July 29

Valleys 16 d Past Brothers 10
Souths 22 d Redcliffe 20
Norths 33 d Logan City 12
Ipswich Jets 50 d Wests 7
Easts 34 d Wynnum Manly 6

Sunday, August 5

Redcliffe 24 d Valleys 22
Past Brothers 20 d Logan City 0
Easts 50 d Wests 14
Souths 22 d Norths 18
Ipswich Jets 26 d Wynnum Manly 20

Sunday, August 12

Valleys 20 d Ipswich Jets 18
Redcliffe 30 d Past Brothers 10
Souths 30 d Logan City 10
Easts 17 d Norths 14
Wests 42 d Wynnum Manly 0

Sunday, August 19

Valleys 24 d Logan City 12
Easts 21 d Redcliffe 20
Souths 24 d Ipswich Jets 8
Past Brothers 24 d Wests 12
Norths 22 d Wynnum Manly 20

Sunday, August 26

Valleys 28 d Souths 8
Redcliffe 38 d Logan City 22
Past Brothers 8 d Wynnum Manly 4
Norths 32 d Wests 20
Ipswich Jets 32 d Easts 16

Sunday, September 2

Valleys 42 d Wests 20
Redcliffe 30 d Ipswich Jets 6
Logan City 14 d Wynnum Manly 14
Norths 29 d Past Brothers 16
Easts 18 d Souths 12

1990

1990 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

Only one country side made the 1990 State League semi-finals. In the first semi-final North Queensland led 30-26 with a minute to go when Easts on their last tackle scored a miracle “Hail Mary” try that went through many hands before a kick was put through. With two North Queensland players converging on the ball a wild bounce saw the ball bounce straight back into the hands of an Easts player giving them a try with an easy conversion to seal a 32-30 win. Easts couldn’t stop Valleys though and Valleys won the State League 34-26 beating Easts who had won the year before.

Valleys were clear BRL minor premiers finishing 4 points ahead of Redcliffe who they defeated 34-16 in the major semi-final. Third placed Norths beat Easts 20-17 and then beat Redcliffe in extra time 12-6 to advance to the grand final.

Just like in the minor semi-final, the grand final also featured a wild all-in brawl early on that went on for a couple of minutes as rain came down briefly. As the game went on it turned out to be one of the greatest BRL grand finals ever played in front of 13 000 fans, the highest grand final attendance so far in the post-Broncos era.

An upset was on as Pat Cleary made up for an earlier dropped ball that cost a try with a sideline run that led to Troy Evans scoring and Norths leading 16-10 with 10 minutes to go. Valleys kept the ball alive which led to a try by Fietchner before Peter Coyne sealed the game 17-16 with a field goal. It gave the Valleys Diehards a rare three premierships in a row, including a second State League/BRL double.

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Easts 17

All-in brawl mars ‘knock-out’ semi

By STEPHEN GRAY

NORTHS rugby league captain Neil Wharton last night defended his side in the wake of their brawling 20-17 Winfield Cup semi-final win over Easts at Lang Park.

It was the knock-out semi-final and the Lang Park crowd saw both sides do their bit to live up to the match billing.

Easts Queensland under-19 prop Shane Pearse was taken to hospital with a suspected broken jaw after a scrum erupted into a brawl in front of the McAuliffe Stand seven minutes into the match.

Every player was involved as the fight spilled over to the sidelines with Easts winger Steve Wilkes ending up against the advertising hoardings as the players split into three groups.

Referee David Manson spoke to Norths forwards Scott Mackay and Paul Dinte before awarding the penalty to Easts.

But Wharton said speculation that Norths had set out to deliberately put Easts off their game with early fireworks was wrong.

“Norths earned a reputation over the years with things like ‘bash-up park’ and stuff like that and we’re still stuck with it,” he said.

“Tommy Raudonikis has never told us to go out and deliberately put something on. He’s emphasised that we’ve got to stand up for ourselves but it’s nothing that any other side wouldn’t do.”

NORTHS 20 (P Cleary, B Foster, T Evans tries; G Harvey 4 goals) d **EASTS 17** (D Wolens, S Neilson tries; R O’Davis 4 goals, K Jackson field goal.)

Raudonikis said he coached his side to play within the rules. “A semi-final can get a bit fiery but we didn’t plan anything. I’m glad we won but we’ve still got work to do,” he said.

Easts coach John Lang said he was disappointed in the injury to Pearse, who came into the side on Saturday as a replacement for captain Ian Stains.

“I didn’t like to see it but that’s part of football,” he said. “Still, I will say I thought it was ironic behavior from a club that cites players, although I absolve Tommy from that.

“Anyway, those who live by the sword, die by the sword. It might be a different story on another occasion.”

Lang, yet to decide whether he would coach at the club next season, said he did not expect Easts to take action about the brawl.

Easts were not without blame either and replacement winger Rod West was fortunate to escape with a caution after Norths five-eighth Darryl Duncan was flattened late and high in the 20th minute.

It was unfortunate much of the post-match attention focused on the brawl as the game was played at a tremendous pace with the result in doubt until the dying minutes.

A Ken Jackson field goal gave Easts a 15-14 lead with 23 minutes left but a disastrous bounce of the ball from a Pat Cleary kick eluded West in goal and gave Norths hooker Troy Evans a try with 15 minutes to go.

A penalty goal to Easts reduced the margin to 20-17 and then a controversial ruling by Manson with nine minutes on the clock snuffed out the Tigers final hopes.

Jackson chased his own bomb and he and Cleary contested the ball in the air and landed in the in-goal.

It appeared Jackson had forced the ball but Manson, who was on the spot, ruled the Norths fullback had claimed the bomb and ruled no try.

Wharton said the Norths players were in no doubt Cleary had taken the ball and Lang believed the correct decision had been made.

Never-say-die Tigers’ spirit



EASTS prop Steve Hermann, who played himself to a standstill in an outstanding performance, refuses to go to ground with the ball despite the attention of Norths prop Scott Mackay at Lang Park yesterday.

1990

BRL Major Semi-Final - Valleys 34 v Redcliffe 16

VALLEYS GET REVENGE AND REDCLIFFE SUFFER

By STEPHEN GRAY

REDCLIFFE'S Winfield Cup chances suffered a dual setback at Lang Park yesterday with a 34-16 defeat by Valleys in the major semi-final and a damaging injury toll.

Valleys took revenge for their upset loss in the Woolies Trophy final six weeks ago with a confidence-boosting display to clinch their third successive grand final berth.

Dolphins coach Mark Murray now faces a daunting week in preparing for Saturday night's preliminary final against Norths with several key players in doubt.

"We'll have to try and pick a side despite the injury toll," said Murray, who agreed that Redcliffe had paid the price for taking players into the match who may not have been fully fit.

"It's not my decision. If a player declares himself fit then he is supposed to be the best judge. I try to pick the strongest team from who is available."

The injury parade in the Redcliffe dressing-room was grim.

VALLEYS 34 (D Bourke, P Shields, Z Strasser, B Holmes, M Fiechtner, T Catton tries; P Coyne 5 goals) **d REDCLIFFE 16** (S Cherry, S Pringle, R Clark tries; G Cruickshank 2 goals).

Centre Mark Protherpe (ankle) lasted just 14 minutes before retiring, fullback Anthony Southward completed an unhappy game by limping off with a leg injury late in the match, replacement forward David Simpson was on for only eight minutes before hurting a shoulder and winger Glen Cruickshank still appeared troubled by torn stomach muscles.

Five-eighth and captain Trevor Benson finished the match as a passenger on the wing after suffering a badly corked thigh.

"We had to replace players out of necessity rather than as part of a game plan and that affected us badly," Murray said.

Murray acknowledged his side had contributed to their own demise with unforced errors in their own quarter but praised the Valleys defence. "They were pretty forceful and a lot of our mistakes came because of that."

Valleys had the match won at halftime when they led 20-4 following a 10-minute scoring blitz. Captain Bill Holmes (16th minute), fullback David Bourke (19th), second-rower Ziggy Strasser (22nd) and winger Peter Shields (26th) all crossed for tries following Redcliffe blunders.

Holmes, a busy contributor in his first full match for a month, said Valleys' props Frank Rolls and Shawn Rubesaamme were outstanding.

"They have hit their straps at the right time," he said.

"At the start of the season we were trying out props to see which was the best combination and we were changing nearly every week. No-one really had a chance to get into any sort of form," he said.

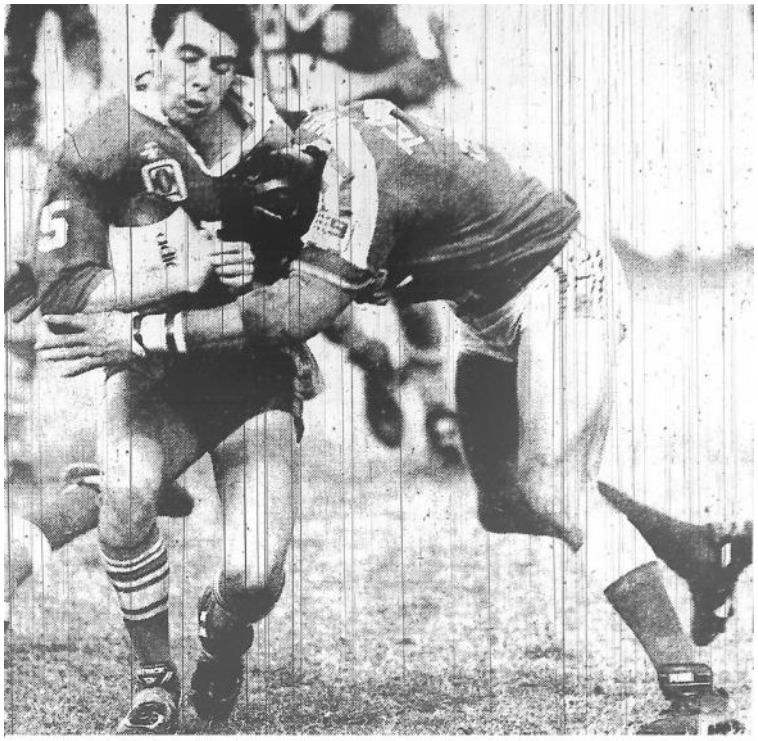
Valleys coach Ross Henrick said Redcliffe had not been able to repeat their earlier win over the Diehards because they had been prepared for similar tactics.

"They tried to get us with the quick darts out of dummy-half and turning the ball back inside but we countered that. You don't go fishing with the same bait twice," he said.

Henrick said he did not have a preference which team Valleys played in the grand final. "I don't care. We're firing at the right end of the year and most of the side have been there at least once," he said.

In contrast with Redcliffe's injuries, Valleys had a boost with the successful return of centre Murray Fiechtner from a broken wrist. Fiechtner finished with a try when he crossed for the Diehards final scoring effort.

Second-rower Kahu Tweedie was replaced with bruised ribs but he is expected to be fit for Sunday week's grand final.



CRUNCH . . . Valleys winger Peter Shields buckles as he is hit in a heavy tackle by Redcliffe prop Mick Anderson in yesterday's major semi-final.

1990

BRL Preliminary Final - Norths 12 v Redcliffe 6

Norths scramble home in overtime

By STEPHEN GRAY

NORTHS replacement second rower Peter Elmore was the hero of extra time as the Devils got home 12-6 against Redcliffe in the Brisbane preliminary final at Lang Park last night.

Elmore scored with eight minutes remaining in the second 10-minute period of extra time to give Norths a grand final meeting with Valleys on Sunday.

The teams were locked together 6-6 at full time and set themselves for a further 20 minutes of football to decide the winner.

Experienced Norths halfback Neil Wharton provided the spark for Elmore's try when he spotted a weakness on the Redcliffe blindside and positioned winger Wayne Williams. Williams, also a replacement, drew Redcliffe winger Glen Cruickshank before offloading to Elmore for the try.

Norths winger Guy Harvey put the match out of Redcliffe's reach with a penalty — his fourth for the night — with less than five minutes remaining.

It was a gutsy performance by Norths who have won through to the grand final from fourth spot.

Both sides had their chances to seal the match before extra time but were frustrated by determined defence.

Redcliffe half Peter Robinson was on the spot on two ocassions to prevent tries, pulling down second rower Ian MacKenzie just short and with 12 minutes to go cutting centre Brett Kelso down when he had the line wide open.

Norths also had their own savior when five-eighth Darryl Duncan motored across to put Redcliffe replacement Bevan Canning into touch just before the try line in the final minute of regular time.

The win sees Norths in their first grand-final in 10 years and Devils captain Neil Wharton said that would be foremost in the minds of the players this week.

"There's a fair bit of pride in the club at the moment and for a lot of the experienced blokes it's probably going to be the last chance at winning a grand-final," he said.

"The boys showed a lot of heart and we didn't drop our bundle even when they scored early.

First Grade: NORTHS 12 (P Elmore try, G Harvey 4 goals) d REDCLIFFE 6 (G Cruickshank try, goal). Reserve grade: EASTS 14 (K Wrigley, J Butler tries; J Butler 3 goals) d BROTHERS 10 (G Darwin, P Little tries; J Bailey goal). Third grade: NORTHS 16 (R Estreich, M Jabore tries; L Dowling 4, D Pratt goals) d EASTS 4 (D Jarden try). Colts: VALLEYS 22 (A Wieland, R Allan, P Connor, D McDonald-Kerr tries; D Law 3 goals) d WESTS 16 (C Hill, M Maguire, P Hodson tries; M Maguire 2 goals).



Redcliffe defenders Gordon Barwick (No 13) and Darryl Holder swarm on Norths five-eighth Darryl Duncan in last night's preliminary final at Lang Park

1990

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 17 v NORTHS 16

Coyne magic helps to wrap up hat-trick

By STEPHEN GRAY

IT was fitting five-eighth Peter Coyne should provide the point that gave Valleys their third Brisbane Winfield Cup premiership with a 17-16 win over Norths yesterday.

Coyne, captain of the 1988 Valleys team which started the sequence, calmly kicked a field goal with two minutes and 24 seconds left to break a deadlock and a situation not covered in even the wildest pre-match speculation.

The 13,000 fans — up 3000 on last year — were kept riveted until the siren, with an attempted field goal by Norths half Neil Wharton in the final 10 seconds.

Valleys were hot favorites after finishing minor premiers while Norths battled into fourth.

But when fiery Devils hooker Troy Evans backed up a Pat Cleary break to score a try which was reminiscent of Joe Kilroy and Brian Dunne's premiership-winning try in 1980, the season's biggest upset was on the cards.

Coyne initially feared the field goal would miss, but was relieved when it went through, especially after an earlier optimistic attempt from inside his own half turned into a touch-finder.

"The funny thing is that (injured half) Brett Daunt usually kicks our field goals, although I've done my fair share over the years," he said.

"We had so much to lose. People will get up tomorrow and say 'oh yeah, Valleys won again', but these guys are a great team."

The Queensland five-eighth was named man of the match after featuring in all of Valleys tries. A Coyne grubber kick in the 16th minute which Norths fullback Cleary fumbled, let Peter Shields score the first try, while Coyne started and finished their next.

He also threw the final pass for replacement Murray Fiechtner to score the try which levelled with six minutes left.

Coyne said Valleys did not get a chance to revert to their preferred attacking style because referee David Manson had to control the match from the ruck.

"Because he was standing over the ruck keeping an eye on things the 5m was pretty iffy and we couldn't get into a pattern," Coyen said.

Coyne, who was hit late several times, said he was delighted to beat Norths.

"I'm sorry for Tommy (Raudonikis) because he's missed another chance, but the way some of their players carried on I was glad to be able to walk off the field as a winner," he said.

The Valleys players, whether three-time premiership players or first-timers, were unanimous in assessment of the match.

"That was the hardest match of my life," said prop Frank Rolls, whose win emulated that of younger brother Tom, a prop in the Canberra Raiders President's Cup premiership side.

Captain Bill Holmes, sporting the first broken nose of his career, said the clash was tougher than the 1988 grand final.

Valleys coach Ross Henrick became the second coach in the competition's history — with Norths president Bob Bax — to win premiership hat-tricks with the same club.

Henrick, who admitted his heart was in his mouth during the final five minutes, said it was the most satisfying of the three.

"The feeling between the two clubs and the fact it was our third meant it was a very satisfying win," he said. "But I've got to hand it to Norths. They played above themselves and Tommy will be bitterly disappointed."

Henrick said his players had lived up to the club nickname by their refusal to give in when Evans scored his try.

"They weren't going to lie down. They didn't look at the clock and worry about time. They just went about scoring the try they needed to stay in there," he said.

The Diehards had many heroes, with fullback David Bourke, prop Shawn Rubesaamme, half Darryl Gray and Holmes producing outstanding performances.

VALLEYS 17 (P Shields, P Coyne, M Fiechtner tries; P Coyne 2 goals, field goal) d **NORTHS 16** (I McKenzie, T Evans tries; G Harvey 4 goals).



TO THE victors go the spoils ... Valleys coach Ross Henrick and a bloodied Bill Holmes celebrate after claiming the club's third successive premiership.





Above: The Valleys team on their victory lap after winning the 1990 Grand Final.

1990

BRL GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 17 v NORTHS 16



VALLEYS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.
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BACK ROW W. Reed, D. Gray, T. O'Neil, S. Polzin, M. Cleary, R. Boys, B. Daunt, T. Schodel, P. Fitzgerald, L. Menzies (Treasurer).

2ND ROW R. Boult (Secretary), P. Anderson, M. Fischtner, S. Rubesaame, F. Rolls, R. Pfingst (Trainer), K. Tweedie, S. Strasser, P. Coyne, S. Hegarty.

FRONT ROW R. Henrick (Coach), C. Greig, P. Shields, T. Catton, W. Flen (President), W. Holmes (Captain), S. Buckley, D. Bourke, M. McSween (Manager).

1990 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Norths 20 def. Easts 17
Major Semi-Final: Valleys 34 def. Redcliffe 16
Preliminary Final: Norths 12 def. Redcliffe 6

1990 BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS 17 (Tries: P. Shields, M. Fiechtner, P. Coyne; Goals: P. Coyne 2; Field Goal: P. Coyne) def. NORTHS 16 (Tries: I. McKenzie, T. Evans; Goals: G. Harvey 4)

1991

STATE LEAGUE: NORTH QUEENSLAND

1991 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

The State League changed formats in 1991 and 1992 when it became a representative competition. Brisbane Metros and Capitols competed instead of the Brisbane Rugby League clubs. Gold Coast re-joined as Gold Coast - Group 18 and the Northern Territory entered the competition for the first time. North Queensland became the first country team to win the State League title when they defeated Central Queensland in the grand final.

ROUND 1 -May 19

Northern Territory 19 defeated North Queensland 18 at Barlow Park, Cairns
Central Queensland 44 defeated Wide Bay 14 at Browne Park, Rockhampton
Gold Coast -Group 18 22 defeated Brisbane Capitols 21 at Lang Park
Brisbane Metros 46 defeated Toowoomba 14 at Lang Park

ROUND 2 -May 26

Central Queensland 30 defeated Brisbane Capitols 22 at Longreach Showgrounds
North Queensland 30 defeated Toowoomba 19 at Athletic Oval, Toowoomba
Brisbane Metros 82 defeated Wide Bay 10 at Lang Park
Northern Territory 30 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 22 at Lang Park

ROUND 3 -June 2

Northern Territory 10 defeated Wide Bay 4 at Nambour Showgrounds
Brisbane Metros 28 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 22 at Seagulls Stadium
Central Queensland 28 drew with Toowoomba 28 at Lang Park
Brisbane Capitols 36 defeated North Queensland 30 at Lang Park

Final Standings									
	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Brisbane Metros	3	3	0	0	156	46	14	110
2	Northern Territory	3	3	0	0	69	44	13.5	15
3	Central Queensland	3	2	1	0	102	64	11.5	38
4	North Queensland	3	1	0	2	78	74	6	4
5	Brisbane Capitols	3	1	0	2	79	82	6	-3
6	Gold Coast -Group 18	3	1	0	2	66	79	5	-13
7	Toowoomba	3	0	1	2	61	104	3.5	-43
8	Wide Bay	3	0	0	3	28	136	1.5	-108

SEMI FINALS -June 8

NORTH QUEENSLAND 14 (Vince Hollingsworth, John Filosi tries; Vince Hollingsworth 3 goals) defeated
BRISBANE METROS 12 (Shane Buckley, Tony Catton tries; Guy Harvey 2 goals) at Lang Park

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 38 (Neil Smith 2, Peter White, Paul White, Greg Upkett, Rod McGrath, Steve Stafford tries; Neil Smith 5 goals) defeated
NORTHERN TERRITORY 16 (P Dangerfield, S Stokes, G Pointing tries; M House 2 goals) at Lang Park

GRAND FINAL -June 13

NORTH QUEENSLAND 44 (Vince Hollingsworth, Ray Gagai, Leo Yusia, Ray Blackman, Laurie Spina, Jason Erba, Glen Haggath, John Filosi tries; Vince Hollingsworth 6 goals) defeated
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 30 (Paul White 2, Greg Upkett 2, Neil Smith, Rod McGrath tries; Neil Smith 3 goals) at Lang Park

1991

State League Semi-Finals - North Queensland 14 v Brisbane Metros 12 and Central Queensland 38 v Northern Territory 16

Marlins crush Metros hopes

By STEPHEN GRAY

NORTH QUEENSLAND made history last night when they qualified for their first Winfield State League final with a 14-12 win over the Brisbane Metros.

The Marlins, beaten last year in the semi-finals by Easts, were too hungry for a disappointing Metros team who battled to match their less-favored opponents.

Always known for their excellent attack, the Marlins elated coach Kerry Boustead with an outstanding defensive effort.

"Our blokes can all attack but it was our defence that we needed to improve," he said. "Blokes like (centre) John Skardon, and forwards Glen Haggath and Dallas Dalley were outstanding in their defence.

"I was pleased with Dallas because he has a reputation for being a hot-head but I told him before the match we needed him on the field rather than off it."

Veterah halfback and captain Laurie Spina, who will fly back to North Queensland today to coach the Herbert River representative side, was instrumental in keeping the pressure on.

North Queensland will clash with Central Queensland in the final of the competition which will be played before next week's State Of Origin match at Lang Park.

Their only casualty was Queensland under 19 winger Raymond Blackman who popped a shoulder but regular winger Trevor Tim, who gets married today, is expected to be available.

Brisbane centre Rob Armstrong and captain and lock Tony Catton tried hard for the Metros, who struggled to make clean breaks against the tough Marlins defence.

North Queensland applied plenty of pressure in the opening 10 minutes when both sides had trouble with the handling.

NQ 14 (Hollingsworth, Filosi tries; Hollingsworth 3 goals) d **METROS 12** (Buckley, Catton tries; Harvey 2 goals).

In the early semi-final, Northern Territory's campaign came to an abrupt end at the hands when Central Queensland ran in seven tries for a 38-16 win over the previously undefeated Titans.

Central Queensland, with big centre and captain Peter White outstanding, displayed an increased concentration and intensity to put paid to the Territory's chances.

But with a scattering of talent scouts in attendence, several Titans would have caught the eye including former Stradbroke Island winger Peter Dangerfield and five-eighth Steve Stokes.

The Titans started on a bad note when skipper Les Boyd appeared to break a finger in the third minute when a tackle on Capras second-rower Craig Taylor went wrong.

Impressive young centre Justin Mossman was knocked out attempting a tackle on Peter White and while he was recovering, flashy CQ halfback Greg Upkett slipped through some loose defence to open the scoring.

Boyd was in trouble again when referee Ian Irwin sent him to the sin-bin for the use of an elbow while in possession that left Upkett prostrate.

CQ then took advantage of the extra man to run in tries to Peter White and two to winger Neil Smith to make it 22-0 after 20 minutes.

Northern Territory scored in the 25th minute when five-eighth Steve Stokes — the older brother of Manly winger Frank — regathered his own chip-kick to cross near the posts but the Capras quickly replied with Steve Stafford and prop Rod McGrath scoring tries for a 32-6 lead at the break.

CQ continued to use the ball intelligently after the break and had to wait just nine minutes before centre Paul White took a cut-out pass from five-eighth Wayne Alberts to plunge over wide out.

CENTRAL QLD 38 (N Smith 2, Peter White, Paul White, G Upkett, R McGrath, S Stafford tries; N Smith 5 goals) d **NORTHER TERRITORY 16** (P Dangerfield, S Stokes, G Pointing tries; M House 2 goals).

Central Queenslander Paul White about to be tackled by Titan Mark House



1991

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - NORTH QUEENSLAND 44 v CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 30

Marlins' first in State League victory

By STEPHEN GRAY

NORTH QUEENSLAND last night became the first country side to claim the Winfield State League after a high-scoring 44-30 win over Central Queensland.

The Marlins, coached by former Test winger Kerry Boustead and captained by former Norths, Cronulla and Easts half Laurie Spina, produced some withering attack to run in eight tries to six.

It was a sweet result for Spina before the sell-out State of Origin crowd as he almost played there in an Origin match in 1987 but for the selectors' decision to blood Allan Langer.

Spina led from the front as the Marlins' attacking spearheads in fullback Vince Hollingsworth, centre Leo Yusia and winger Ray Gagai, stunned the favored Capras.

Despite a gutsy second-half comeback inspired by Capras halfback Greg Upkett, Central Queensland were unable to peg back the lead they gave up in the first half.

NORTH QUEENSLAND 44 (V Hollingsworth, R Gagai, L Yusia, R Blackman, L Spina, J Erba, G Haggath, J Filosi tries; Hollingsworth 6 goals) d CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 30 (Paul White, G Upkett 2, N Smith, R McGrath tries; N Smith 3 goals).

Marlins hooker Jason Erba, coached by Central Queensland coach Ross O'Reilly in last year's Queensland under-19 side, gave North Queensland the start they wanted after five minutes.

A Brendan Norton bomb rebounded off a Capras player and Erba picked it up and crossed for the opening try.

The Marlins enjoyed a disorganised start by the Capras and second-rower Glen Haggath capitalised on this to crash over six minutes later.

The Capras put this horror start behind them to a degree and narrowed the 12-0 gap with a try by winger Neil Smith.

But North Queensland, relishing the big match atmosphere, turned on their attacking afterburners to run in two tries from halfway in a matter of minutes.

Gagai beat two defenders in a dash down the right flank and then Spina had his turn. A chip-kick bounced well for him and the former Sydney half toed the ball ahead.

Smith appeared to have the ball covered but fumbled it and a surprised Spina dived on it for a try. Hollingsworth kicked his fourth goal and the Marlins held a 24-6 lead.

Referee David Manson stamped his authority with two minutes left in the half when he sent Marlins prop Mark Anderson to the sin-bin for 10 minutes for a professional foul.

CQ prop Rod McGrath burst through some disinterested defence to score on the halftime hooter.

The second half started the same way for NQ with the Capras scoring again through Upkett as Anderson stood on the sideline waiting to come on. Smith's goal made it 28-16. But there was worse to come for the Marlins.



FRONT ROW (left to right): Raymond Gagai, John Skardon, Laurie Spina (Captain), Kerry Boustead (Coach), Glen Haggath, Vince Hollingsworth, Brendan Norton.
SECOND ROW (left to right): Rod Bathe (Trainer), Tupoa Nona, Dallas Dalley, Darryl Subloo, Jason Erba, Leo Yusia, John Filosi, Ron Read (Manager).
THIRD ROW (left to right): Raymond Blackman, Matt Clifford, David Jones, Mark Anderson, John Clifford.
ABSENT: John Alloway (Trainer).
INSERT: Trevor Tim.

NORTH QUEENSLAND MARLINS
WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1991

East Coast Photographics • (07) 844 2333

1991

BRL: EASTS

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTS	18	15	1	2	517	216	31
NORTHS	18	12	1	5	428	307	25
WESTS	18	10	2	6	401	331	22
REDCLIFFE	18	10	2	6	357	312	22
VALLEYS	18	9	-	9	377	328	18
IPSWICH	18	8	2	8	339	384	18
LOGAN CITY	18	8	1	9	339	384	17
BROTHERS	18	5	1	12	284	416	11
SOUTHS	18	5	-	13	284	444	10
WYNNUM	18	3	-	15	314	518	6

QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE
BRISBANE DIVISION

1991 WINFIELD CUP RESULTS

Round One

Series One	**31st March 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Southern Suburbs	32—14
Eastern Suburbs	v Wynnum Seagulls	38—18
Northern Suburbs	v Brothers	38—16
Logan City	v Western Suburbs	24— 6
Valleys	v Redcliffe	28— 6
Series Two	**7th April 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Wynnum Seagulls	40—14
Brothers	v Southern Suburbs	6—18
Western Suburbs	v Eastern Suburbs	16—42
Redcliffe	v Northern Suburbs	20—30
Logan City	v Valleys	28— 8
Series Three	**14th April 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Brothers	28— 0
Wynnum Seagulls	v Western Suburbs	26—34
Southern Suburbs	v Redcliffe	30—10
Eastern Suburbs	v Valleys	38— 2
Northern Suburbs	v Logan City	26—14
Series Four	**21st April 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Western Suburbs	20—16
Redcliffe	v Brothers	14—22
Valleys	v Wynnum Seagulls	40— 6
Logan City	v Southern Suburbs	16—10
Eastern Suburbs	v Northern Suburbs	32—22
Series Five	**28th April 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Redcliffe	28— 8
Western Suburbs	v Valleys	14— 8
Brothers	v Logan City	4—30
Wynnum Seagulls	v Northern Suburbs	16—22
Southern Suburbs	v Eastern Suburbs	10—20
Series Six	**12th May 1991**	
Valleys	v Ipswich Jets	26—14
Logan City	v Redcliffe	14—12
Northern Suburbs	v Western Suburbs	12—24
Eastern Suburbs	v Brothers	22— 8
Southern Suburbs	v Wynnum Seagulls	22—10
Series Seven	**19th May 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Logan City	26—18
Valleys	v Northern Suburbs	12—22
Redcliffe	v Eastern Suburbs	26—18
Western Suburbs	v Southern Suburbs	32—12
Brothers	v Wynnum Seagulls	34—18
Series Eight	**26th May 1991**	
Northern Suburbs	v Ipswich Jets	28—16
Eastern Suburbs	v Logan City	34—12
Southern Suburbs	v Valleys	16—38
Wynnum Seagulls	v Redcliffe	8—40
Brothers	v Western Suburbs	20—20
Series Nine	**2nd June 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Eastern Suburbs	6—20
Northern Suburbs	v Southern Suburbs	44— 4
Logan City	v Wynnum Seagulls	16—22
Valleys	v Brothers	34—28
Redcliffe	v Western Suburbs	28—22

Round Two

Chairman's Trophy	**9th June 1991**	
Series One	**16th June 1991**	
Southern Suburbs	v Ipswich Jets	12—20
Wynnum Seagulls	v Eastern Suburbs	14—28
Brothers	v Northern Suburbs	2—12
Western Suburbs	v Logan City	28—20
Redcliffe	v Valleys	24—16
Series Two	**23rd June 1991**	
Wynnum Seagulls	v Ipswich Jets	50—10
Southern Suburbs	v Brothers	30—16
Eastern Suburbs	v Western Suburbs	30—10
Northern Suburbs	v Redcliffe	14—22
Valleys	v Logan City	48—12
Series Three	**30th June 1991**	
Brothers	v Ipswich Jets	14—25
Western Suburbs	v Wynnum Seagulls	34—06
Redcliffe	v Southern Suburbs	28—22
Valleys	v Eastern Suburbs	14—22
Logan City	v Northern Suburbs	16—28
Series Four	**7th July 1991**	
Western Suburbs	v Ipswich Jets	42—10
Brothers	v Redcliffe	06—19
Wynnum Seagulls	v Valleys	14—16
Southern Suburbs	v Logan City	18—23
Northern Suburbs	v Eastern Suburbs	12—13
Series Five	**14th July 1991**	
Redcliffe	v Ipswich Jets	12—12
Valleys	v Western Suburbs	10—25
Logan City	v Brothers	22—26
Northern Suburbs	v Wynnum Seagulls	36—16
Eastern Suburbs	v Southern Suburbs	46— 6
Series Six	**21st July 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Valleys	28—8
Redcliffe	v Logan City	20—14
Western Suburbs	v Northern Suburbs	30—12
Brothers	v Eastern Suburbs	40—4
Wynnum Seagulls	v Southern Suburbs	38—18
Series Seven	**28th July 1991**	
Logan City	v Ipswich Jets	32—12
Northern Suburbs	v Valleys	18—16
Eastern Suburbs	v Redcliffe	18—14
Southern Suburbs	v Western Suburbs	20—16
Wynnum Seagulls	v Brothers	26—16
Series Eight	**4th August 1991**	
Ipswich Jets	v Northern Suburbs	20—20
Logan City	v Eastern Suburbs	18—18
Valleys	v Southern Suburbs	17—4
Redcliffe	v Wynnum Seagulls	42—6
Western Suburbs	v Brothers	24—23
Series Nine	**11th August 1991**	
Eastern Suburbs	v Ipswich Jets	42—0
Southern Suburbs	v Northern Suburbs	18—32
Wynnum Seagulls	v Logan City	14—22
Brothers	v Valleys	29—6
Western Suburbs	v Redcliffe	8—8

1991

1991 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

The State League changed its format in 1991 and 1992 when it became a representative competition. Brisbane Metros and Capitols competed instead of the BRL clubs and the Northern Territory entered the competition for those two years making the semi-finals in 1991. North Queensland became the first country side to win the State League defeating Central Queensland 44-30 in the final.

Under coach John Lang, Easts dominated the BRL premiership finishing as minor premiers losing only 2 games and drawing 1 game out of 18 games leading into the finals. They thrashed Norths 30-10 in the major semi-final. Wests won both the minor semi-final 21-16 against Redcliffe and the preliminary final 35-24 against Norths to make their first grand final in 15 years.

Bruce Crosby got the ball rolling for Easts in the grand final with a dummy-half run that led to a try similar to a try set up by his coach in the 1972 grand final. After another try, Easts fullback Ken Jackson rifled an amazing 51 metre field goal that was almost still climbing when it went through the posts. Kurt Wrigley scored a double including a magnificent sideline run eluding several defenders including Adrian Lam. Easts went on to win 25-10 giving coach Johnny Lang success as a player in the 1970's (1972, 1977 & 1978) and as a coach in both the 1980's (1983) and 1990's (1991).

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Wests 21 v Redcliffe 16

Wests kick-started into knockout win

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

THE boot was on the right foot for Wests yesterday as they advanced further into the foreign territory of Winfield Cup semi-final football with a 21-16 rugby league win over Redcliffe at Lang Park.

All bar four of the Panthers' points in the knockout semi-final came from kicks in general play which led to tries — two well-placed stab kicks from centre Graham Strutton, a chip kick from five-eighth Craig Bowen and a sensational 40m field goal from winger Gavin Duncan.

Duncan, who landed a similar field goal a few seasons ago with a 50m effort in a Colts match against Valleys, broke a 16-16 deadlock with 22 minutes remaining to propel Wests one match away from their first grand final since 1976.

The lanky winger took virtually everyone by surprise when he steadied himself near the Frank Burke stand touchline and lifted a wobbly field goal over.

"I half thought about it the tackle before and when I got it, I thought I might as well have a lash as it was on the fifth tackle," Duncan said.

Wests coach Nev Hunter counted himself as one of those who had not expected an attempt at one point at that stage of the match.

"I thought we had a chance of scoring a try on the other side of the field if we had swung it, but 'Dunc' knew what he was doing," he said.

The kick served as an ideal heart-starter for Wests who lifted their intensity for the final 20 minutes.

"I kept looking at the scoreboard clock and it hardly seemed to move," Wests captain Adrian Lam said. "It was the longest 20 minutes I've had to worry about."

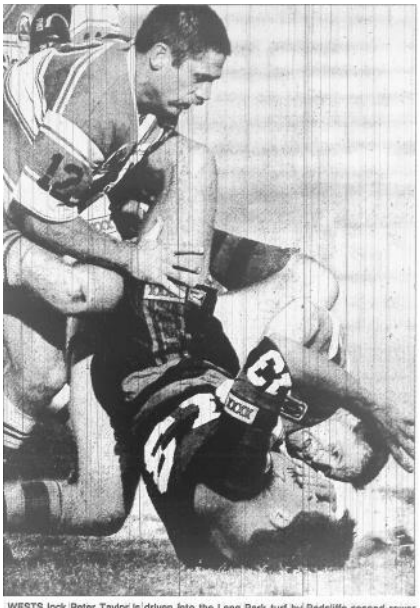
Lam, who beat three defenders to score a brilliant individual try 15 minutes into the second half to lock the scores at 16-16, had a excellent individual battle with Redcliffe half Steve Madden. Both have been mentioned as possible targets for Sydney clubs and would have enhanced their reputations yesterday.

The estimated crowd of 5000 contained a good proportion of vocal Wests supporters, especially on the hill, and Hunter credited that as a significant factor in the win.

"The boys knew who the crowd was going for and responded to it. It helps a hell of lot and the players certainly appreciate the support," he said. "Today wasn't one of our best performances but we've got two weeks to work on that."

The crowd was roaring after the first seven minutes with a slightly stunned Redcliffe looking at a 10-0 deficit. In the second minute, Bowen's chip kick bounced perfectly for centre Sam Smith to regather and position Lam who in turn found Bowen backing up.

Strutton followed suit four minutes later when he stabbed a short kick into the Redcliffe in-goal which Wests fullback Paul Weaver pounced on to score.



WESTS lock Peter Taylor is driven into the Lang Park turf by Redcliffe second-rower Darryl Holder (left) and lock Gordon Barwick in yesterday's Winfield Cup knockout semi-final action. Wests won 21-16.

WINFIELD CUP

SEMI-FINAL

WESTS 21 d REDCLIFFE 16

Scorers — Wests: C Bowen, P Weaver, A Lam, S Smith tries; G Duncan 2 goals, field goal. Redcliffe: S Knuth, G Barwick, S Cherry tries; S Pringle 2 goals.

1991

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 30 v Norths 10

Jackson in dual role: villain-hero

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

EASTS fullback Ken Jackson admitted his heart was fluttering after he almost provided Norths with an escape route back into yesterday's Brisbane Winfield Cup major semi-final at Lang Park.

The Tigers won 30-10 to advance to their first grand final since 1983 but a moment of madness from Jackson almost provided Norths with an opportunity to struggle back.

The talented fullback threw a wild over-head pass 15 minutes into the second half as he was herded towards the touchline in front of the Frank Burke stand where Broncos coach Wayne Bennett and Gold Coast Seagulls talent scouts Billy Johnstone and Tom Searle were running an eye over several players including Jackson.

Easts were leading 14-4 but the Jackson mistake, while not directly costing a try, led to a lessening of pressure which saw Norths fight back to 14-10 with 20 minutes left.

"I don't know why I did that," Jackson said. "My heart was fluttering because I thought they were going to get back into it."

While Jackson's pass was not the thing to have club executives running down to hand him a contract to sign, the try which put Easts 10 points clear was.

Jackson ran off an excellent pass from five-eighth Rob Duncan which changed the point of attack and allowed the rangy fullback to crash through near the posts with 16 minutes left.

The busy Duncan, who replaced Brisbane and Queensland representative Steve Dowden at five-eighth for the match, said he did not expect to remain in the starting side for the grand final.

The duel between Jackson and Norths fullback Pat Cleary was a classic with Jackson trying to give Cleary few chances at returning his kicks in general play.

The one time when Cleary did split Easts with a bust which belied the strength in his slender frame, Jackson produced a strong covering tackle which eventually caused Cleary's replacement with a neck injury.

Easts coach John Lang praised his forwards, especially the leadership and drive of prop Ian Stains, the powerful defence of second-rower Darren Wolens and the work-rate of his back-row partner Scott Neilson.

Lang did not agree that Easts had the measure of Norths, despite winning their fourth straight encounter against them this season.

"I don't agree with the idea that we've got anyone's measure," he said. "Wests look to have a great opportunity now but Norths are a very talented side and they've got plenty of depth."

Easts advanced to the grand final in reserve grade with a comprehensive 36-12 win over last year's premiers Valleys, which featured one of two eight-point penalty tries seen at Lang Park yesterday.

Brothers also received an eight-point try in their 22-17 win over Souths in the Colts major semi-final.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
EASTS 30 d NORTHS 10

Scorers — Easts: R Rateri, A Neave, D Wolens, K Jackson, K Wrigley tries; K Jackson 5 goals. Norths: B Kelso, K Meyer tries; G Harvey goal.



EASTS winger Kurt Wrigley can go no further after being claimed by Norths' prop Scott McKay at Lang Park yesterday.



NORTHS hooker Troy Evans claims Easts second-rower Scott Neilson during yesterday's Winfield Cup major semi-final at Lang Park.

1991

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 35 v Norths 24

Wests revive memories of yesteryear

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

THE legacy of Wests' 1990 open grade rugby league premiership side lived on yesterday as the Panthers accounted for Norths 35-24 in the Winfield Cup A grade preliminary final at Lang Park.

The difference 12 months can make in a footballer's career was never more vividly illustrated than by three of Wests' best performers yesterday — lock Peter Taylor, three-try second-rower Tat Whaleboat and classy centre Graham Strutton — as they helped the Panthers to a grand final encounter with Easts.

Taylor, Whaleboat and Strutton all played for Wests in the more relaxed open grade competition last year because of heavy work commitments, but a more flexible approach this season has allowed them to be a part of Wests' first A grade grand final side since 1976.

It has been an exceptional performance by Wests, who finished third this year after a major facelift during the off-season, and will go into the final match without a major sponsor. Yesterday's 17-man squad contained just six players from last year's first grade side.

An emotionally-drained Paul Schuler, another who has seen the wheel turn the full circle in 12 months after sitting out the 1990 season, was still struggling 25 minutes after the match to cope with the realisation that a premiership was now just a win away.

"I really can't believe it," he said.

Whaleboat, who scored three tries and gave a clever off-load to send fullback Paul Weaver away for his try, said the turnaround in the club in two years had been amazing.

"The professionalism in the place has improved out of sight," he said. "We have a physio, a great trainer in Dave Ryan, a sports psychologist, a masseur and club doctor. All these people have contributed to get us here."

Wests coach Ney Hunter said he had no doubt his players would not get carried away with the enormity of their achievement.

"We'll get together at the club tomorrow night and talk about what we've got to do," he said. "I don't think there'll be any problem keeping their feet on the ground. We haven't won anything yet, so there's no reason to get carried away."

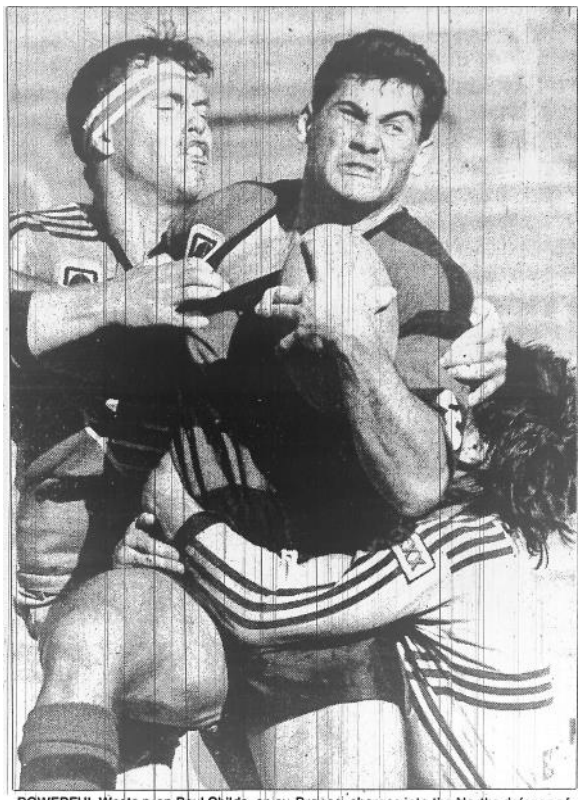
Hunter said he had been told Easts wanted to play Norths in the grand final, but he was happy to spoil things for them.

"We haven't matched Easts yet, but I've been encouraged by our performances against them. We've lifted our intensity each time but we need to lift ourselves again for the grand final."

Hunter agreed that Wests still had failed to concentrate for the entire match, but was optimistic that the lesson had been learned.

Norths, who in the end overcame themselves with a barrage of mistakes, still managed to pressure Wests and at the start of the second half, briefly looked like potential winners.

WESTS 35 (T Whaleboat 3, S Smith, P Weaver, M Maguire tries; G Duncan 5 goals, fld goal) d **NORTHS 24** (P Elmore, N Tierney, P Cleary, M Bevan tries; G Harvey 4 goals).



POWERFUL Wests prop Paul Childs, an ex-Bronco, charges into the Norths defence of prop Mark Bevan, a future Bronco, and second-rower Craig Rynne during yesterday's preliminary final at Lang Park.

1991

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 25 v WESTS 10

Tigers make meal of Panthers

Easts ride high after eight years

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

A PROP who is supposed to be too old and a lock who trains every night propelled Easts to their first Winfield Cup rugby league premiership in eight years with a 25-10 triumph over Wests at Lang Park yesterday.

It is fair to say that Ian Stains, the Easts captain, and Bruce Crosby are at long-odds to progress further than the Brisbane competition despite their obvious ability — and more is the pity.

Stains, at 29 and in the age bracket where front-row forwards are supposed to be in their prime, was worthy of accolades simply for producing the same intense brand of football that has characterised his performances all season.

Unfortunately he is unlikely to get the chance to prove his worth in the Sydney competition because of his age even though he frequently has caught the eye of talent scouts.

A Tiger since 1985 when he came down from Toowoomba as a centre, Stains led from the front to claim a premiership he had "dreamed of winning one day".

Typically Stains, whom coach John Lang described as the ultimate professional, was content to shower his praise on the other players around him in the beer-soaked Easts dressing-room.

"The second half was as flat as a tack but we kept going," he said.

"Bruce Crosby was tremendous. His runs created uncertainty in the Wests defence and that made the job of the rest of the forwards a lot easier.

Crosby showed the benefit of a rigorous off-season build-up to break the spirit of Wests virtually from the opening minute of play.

"Bruce decided that he wanted to improve and he went at the weights like a madman in the off-season. He trains every night and you can always find him at Langlands Park doing a few sprints," Lang said.

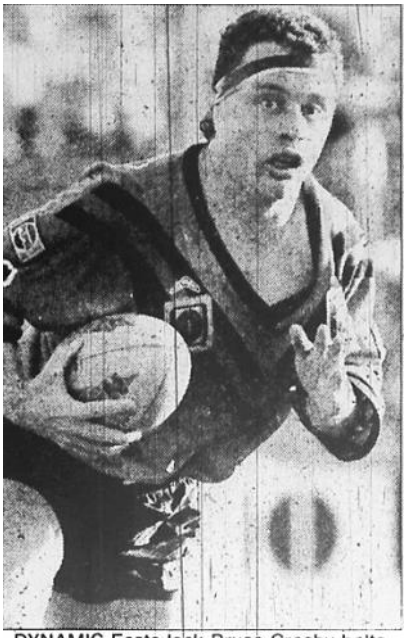
Crosby, who has retained the pace which allowed him to start his career with Easts as a halfback, moved into dummy-half on the fourth play-the-ball of the match and darted down the blindside as the over-eager Wests markers went haring to the open side.

Crosby managed to position winger Andrew McGown with a pass that appeared to drift forward, although referee David Manson was virtually stride for stride with him and did not pull the play up. McGown drew the final line of defence before finding five-eighth Steve Dowden in support for the try.

EASTS 25 (K Wrigley 2, S Dowden, A Neave tries; K Jackson 4 goals, field goal) d **WESTS 10** (P Weaver, C Bowen tries; G Duncan goal).

Easts kept the blowtorch applied and crossed again after nine minutes when opportunist halfback Andrew Neave, one of four Tigers heading to France next week for off-season playing stints, grubber-kicked and scored under the posts.

At 12-0, the healthy contingent of Wests supporters were hushed. They were more so a few minutes later when Easts fullback Ken Jackson, who caught the eye of Canterbury yesterday and who will talk with the Gold Coast this week, fired off a 55m field goal that would have drawn admiring glances at Ballymore.



DYNAMIC Easts lock Bruce Crosby bolts into open space yesterday in one of the many breaks he made during the Tigers premiership win.





Right: Ken Jackson rifles a field goal from just inside his own half that was almost still climbing when it sailed through the posts.

Lang carries premiership success into third decade

By **PAUL MALONE**

JOHN LANG managed another hit for his premiership addiction as he stretched his grand final success into a third decade at Lang Park yesterday.

Brisbane rugby league's "Mr September" won his fifth premiership with Easts as a player and a coach with the distracted and exhausted air of a father wondering what will happen to his children.

As grand finals go, this was a comfortable one for a coach. For that Lang was grateful. He even had time to give a television interview with 13 minutes left.

"I'm relieved now. I was as nervous as hell before it, more nervous than when I was a player," he said. "There were so many people who had put so much into Easts. The club is the best it has ever been.

"I knew we had the players to win a grand final, but we still had to nail it. I felt like a trainer who had a horse which had led all the way in a Grand National Hurdle and had one hurdle to go."

Lang has won premierships as a player with the Tigers in 1972, 1977 and 1978. In 1980, the resilient hooker stunned Sydney doubters by how much he learned with Bob Fulton's Roosters in his farewell season at the age of 29 as Easts were runners-up to Canterbury.

In 1983, he coached Easts to a Brisbane grand final win before deciding two years later that the money was not worth his trouble and concentrated instead on his family and his electrical business.

"I had won my premierships. I really wanted them to win one for themselves," Lang said. "I coach because I'm like a league addict and I want my hit. I get paid a fair amount by Brisbane standards, but I look at it that I get paid enough to support my habit."

Lang's affinity with his players and other club figures was obvious as he moved about the winning dressing-room. Anyone knowing his penchant for a chat will realise that this process took a while.

If he does return to Langlands Park next year, Lang expects to be without a few of his premiership team, including fullback Ken Jackson and defensive specialist Darren Wolens.

Wolens said he had been approached by Sydney Easts and he wanted to make a break into the NSW premiership.

"If a Sydney club doesn't pick Waldo up, they wouldn't know a footballer if they fell over one," Lang blustered. "There are others who should be there as well.

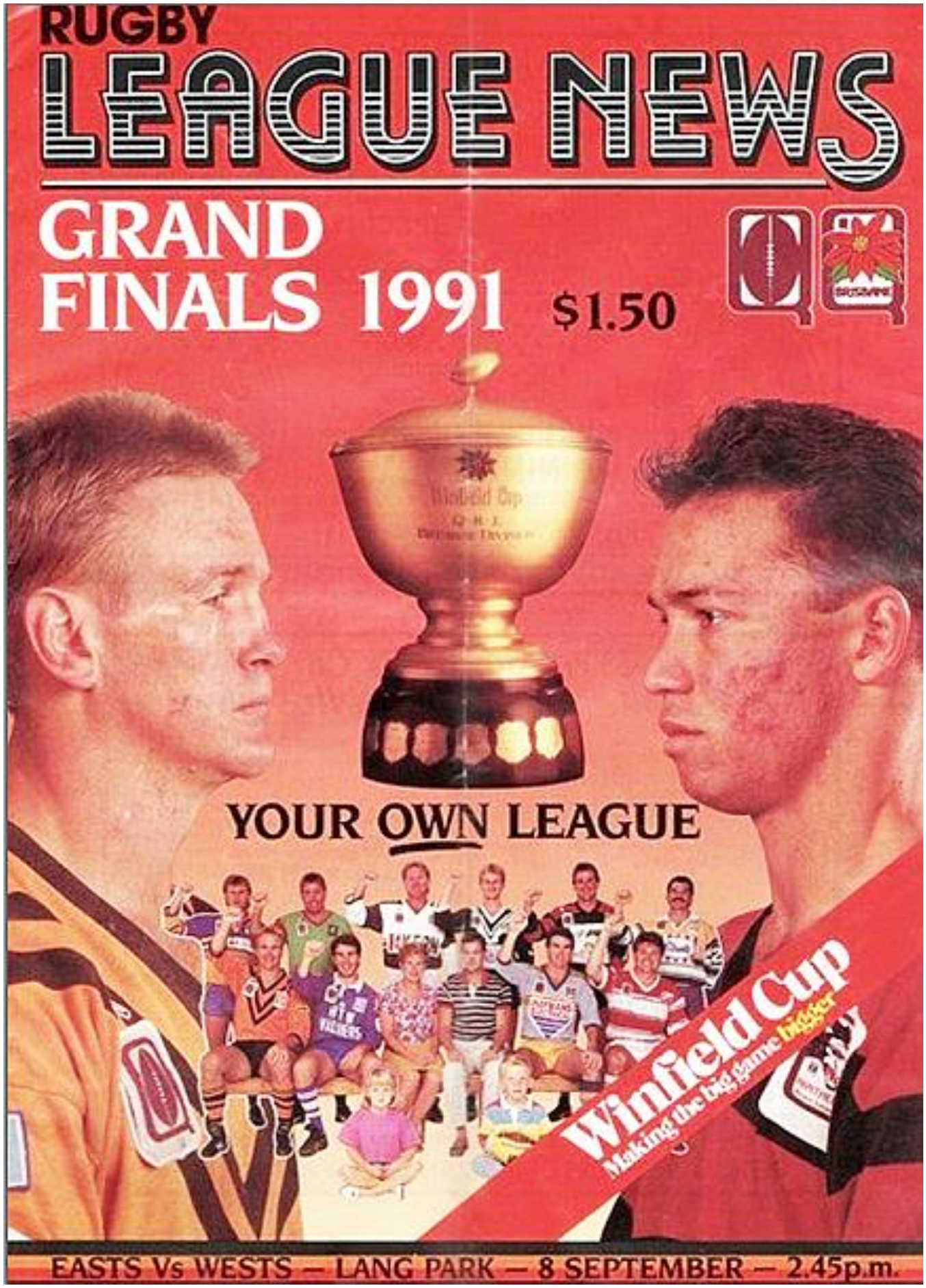
"Waldo is as good a hitter as I've seen and if anything is holding him back it is that he paces himself through a match too much. He is as tough as nails and would walk into half the teams in Sydney.



THE premiership specialist . . . Easts coach John Lang is chaired from the field by his captain Ian Stains, centre Gavin Payne (obscured) and winger Kurt Wrigley.

1991

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 25 v WESTS 10



1991

BRL GRAND FINAL - EASTS 25 v WESTS 10



1991 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Chairman's Trophy Winners and Premiers. ***Front Row:*** *Mike Kopittke (Pepsi – Sponsor); Steve Hermann; Steve Dowden; Ian Stains (Captain); John Lang (Coach); Gavin Payne (Vice Captain); Andrew Neave; Ken Jackson; Shane Richardson (Selector).* ***Second Row:*** *Brian Smart (Secretary); Ray Grieshaber (Selector); Pat O'Brien (Manager); Rob Duncan; Andrew McGown; Rob Raiteri; Scott Neilson; Kurt Wrigley; Bruce Crosby; Mike Batch (Conditioner); Terry Jacks (Skills Coach); Graham McComb (Kicking Coach).* ***Back Row:*** *Jeff Evans (Trainer); Dan Penman (Trainer); Paul Lusk; Greg Street; Darren Wolens; Darren Winmill; Darren Crothers; Trevor Catchpole (Trainer); Noreen Wheatley (Trainer).*

1991 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Wests 21 def. Redcliffe 16
Major Semi-Final: Easts 30 def. Norths 10
Preliminary Final: Wests 35 def. Norths 24

1991 BRL GRAND FINAL:

EASTS 25 (Tries: K. Wrigley 2, S. Dowden, A. Neave; Goals: K. Jackson 4; Field Goal: K. Jackson) def. WESTS 10 (Tries: P. Weaver, C. Bowen; Goal: G. Duncan)

1992

STATE LEAGUE: BRISBANE CAPITOLS

1992 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

1992 was the same format as 1991 except some of the teams had a few name changes. Toowoomba became the South-West Division, North Queensland became Northern Division and Central Queensland became Central Division. The Brisbane Capitols won the 1992 title when they easily beat the Northern Division.

ROUND 1

Northern Division 28 defeated Northern Territory 16 at Darwin
South-West Division 18 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 14 at Roma
Central Division 26 defeated Brisbane Metros 12 at Gladstone
Brisbane Capitols 16 defeated Wide Bay 10 at Maryborough

ROUND 2

Northern Division 44 defeated Brisbane Metros 14 at Ingham
Wide Bay 26 defeated Central Division 24 at Gin Gin
South-West Division 38 defeated Northern Territory 0 at Toowoomba
Brisbane Capitols 26 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 20 at Neumann Oval

ROUND 3

Gold Coast -Group 18 28 defeated Northern Territory 4 at Seagulls Stadium
Brisbane Capitols 20 defeated South-West Division 16 at Dalby
Brisbane Metros 42 defeated Wide Bay 8 at Kingaroy
Central Division 29 defeated Northern Division 18 at Moranbah

Final Standings									
	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Brisbane Capitols	3	3	0	0	62	46	13.5	16
2	South-West Division	3	2	0	1	72	34	10	38
3	Northern Division	3	2	0	1	90	59	10	31
4	Central Division	3	2	0	1	79	56	10	23
5	Gold Coast -Group 18	3	1	0	2	62	48	6	14
6	Brisbane Metros	3	1	0	2	68	78	6	-10
7	Wide Bay	3	1	0	2	44	82	4	-38
8	Northern Territory	3	0	0	3	20	94	0	-74

SEMI FINALS

BRISBANE CAPITOLS 34 (Gerard Kerr 2, Ken Robertson 2, Craig Spark, Jason Hetherington tries; Gerard Kerr 5 goals) defeated
CENTRAL DIVISION 0 at Athletic Oval

NORTHERN DIVISION 26 (Ray Gagai 2, Steve Craig, Ray Blackman, E.Saunders tries; Steve Craig 3 goals) defeated
SOUTH-WEST DIVISION 8 (M Barrett try; S Milne 2 goals) at Athletic Oval

GRAND FINAL

BRISBANE CAPITOLS 30 (Gerard Kerr 2, Ricky Taylor, Steele Retchless, M McKenzie tries; Gerard Kerr 5 goals) defeated
NORTHERN DIVISION 10 (Ray Blackman 2 tries; Steve Craig goal) at Lang Park

1992

State League Semi-Final -
Brisbane Capitols 34 v Central Queensland 0

Punting pays off for Vautin

By **STEPHEN GRAY**
in Toowoomba

A BET on the Toowoomba races on Saturday paid off as Paul Vautin's Capitals roared into the Winfield State League final with a 34-0 win over Central Queensland yesterday.

After the Brisbane side had completed training in fine weather on Saturday morning, a decision by Vautin to have a punt provided some vital information.



PAUL VAUTIN . . . wet-weather tactics paid dividends.

"I was watching Sky-Channel in a pub and when the Toowoomba race came up, it was raining," the coach said.

"That's when I started working out a few more things for a wet game and we went over them on the bus trip up. The boys played outstanding wet weather football."

The Capitals made light of a typical Toowoomba pea-soup fog, intermittent rain and a soggy ground to shut down the Capras, who struggled to adjust to the conditions.

The visibility varied between poor and atrocious in both semi-finals and the lights were turned on at 1.20pm to cast an eerie glow over proceedings.

Brisbane's bigger forwards, with props Brad Pike and Eric Kennedy notable, gave the Capitals an ideal base to build on.

Gold Coast Seagulls captain-coach Wally Lewis made the trip to run the rule over prospective players and Vautin said he believed Lewis would be talking to Pike after the State League.

Central were not aided in their bid to make the final for the second year in a row by a sometimes inconsistent display by referee Ian Irwin, who nonetheless allowed an open game despite the weather.

But an even bigger hurdle for the youthful Capras side was the loss of props Peter White and Frank Rolls in quick succession five minutes after halftime with head cuts.

Rolls, the side's captain, needed several stitches beneath his eye after an accidental head clash, while White needed heavy tape before he could return.

While the duo were off Brisbane lock Craig Spark crossed after an excellent feed from halfback Craig Grauf. The conversion by winger Gerard Kerr made it 16-0.

Grauf and Spark featured in all but one of Brisbane's six tries, with each having his best game of the series.

CQ coach Ross O'Reilly said the conditions had not suited their style of play, but praised his players for performing above expectations during the State League.

"We'd scored 16 tries in three games in the dry, but the wet conditions were something we couldn't overcome, especially in the forwards," he said.

"This is a very young side and I can't praise them enough for how they've responded.

BRISBANE 34 (K Robertson 2, G Kerr 2, J Hetherington, C Spark tries; G Kerr 5 goals) d **CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 0.**

1992

State League Semi-Final -
Northern Queensland 26 v South-West Queensland 8

Dalley injury worries NQ

By **STEPHEN GRAY**
in Toowoomba

NORTH QUEENSLAND will wait for the results of x-rays today to see if rugged forward Dallas Dalley plays in Wednesday night's Winfield State League final against Brisbane.

Dalley injured a thumb in the second half of the Marlins' 26-8 semi-final win over South West in trying conditions yesterday.

Dalley, a nationally-ranked cruiserweight professional boxer, told North Queensland officials he would play regardless of the injury.

But coach Eddie Muller said they would make a decision today on whether a replacement would be needed before the side prepared to defend their title.

"Dallas is our forward leader and his loss would be a blow, but we'll wait and see the results of the x-rays," he said.

"Brad Tassell has a bit of an ankle worry, but he should be fine. I was happy with the way we stuck to our game plan and used the forwards before we tried to move the ball."

The Marlins' victory was assured by halftime when they led 14-2, but South West, who had had a controversial build-up during the week after several selection changes, battled back.

The selectors' decision to strip halfback Mark Barrett of the captaincy in favor of lock Mick Gleeson and drop starting forwards Rob Reeves and Rion Pearce to the bench was questioned in several quarters.

Barrett pointedly led the players out and assumed much of the responsibilty.

Coach Bill Nunn said the unrest had cast a cloud over his side's build-up and contributed to their slow start.

Roma centre Bobby Thompson was taken to hospital with concussion after taking two heavy knocks midway through the second half.

NORTH QUEENSLAND 26 (R Gagai 2, R Blackman, E Saunders, S Craig tries; S Craig 3 goals) d SOUTH WEST 8 (M Barrett try; S Milne 2 goals).



REFEREE Russell Leis gain a better view than the opposing backlines of this scrum between South West and North Queensland in foggy Toowoomba yesterday. The lights at Athletic Oval were turned on at 1.20.

1992

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - BRISBANE CAPITOLS 30 v NORTH QUEENSLAND 10

Holmes ignores pain as Capitals crush Marlins

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

CAPTAIN Bill Holmes ignored the pain of a suspected broken arm and a shoulder injury to lead the Brisbane Capitals to a 30-10 Winfield State League championship win over North Queensland last night.

Holmes will have x-rays today on his right forearm which he injured making a tackle early in the second half of the Lang Park clash.

His coach, Paul Vautin, said Holmes probably should not have returned after halftime because of a shoulder injury which he received before a 10-minute stint in the sin-bin just before the break.

"It was a courageous decision by Bill to go back out, but his direction and captaincy were ideal for us," Vautin said. "I've been fortunate to win a grand final, play for Queensland and Australia, but this is a very special moment.

"I'll savor this for a long time. They are a tremendous bunch of blokes and I'll tip big things for several of them."

Holmes, the leading contender for the Queensland hooking spot against Britain next month, said he hoped the injury was bruising.

BRISBANE 30 (G Kerr 2, R Taylor, S Retchless, M McKenzie tries, G Kerr 5 goals) d **NORTH QUEENSLAND 10** (R Blackman 2 tries, S Craig goal).

The Capitals, led by an excellent kicking game from halfback Craig Grauf and powerhouse displays by forwards Eric Kennedy, Steve Mills and Brad Pike, benefitted from a high error rate by the Marlins.

"We made more errors in that match than we did in the entire series," lamented North Queensland coach Eddie Muller.

"Some blokes who never drop passes put down three or four tonight. We had the ball for about 20 minutes and the rest was spent tackling.

"There's no way they were a 20-point better side, but that's what it will show."

It was a decision by second-rower Mills to switch from his usual wide-running game to a more conventional forward's role which aided Brisbane in the early exchanges.

"I knew they'd be expecting me to run it out wide and I wanted to get more involved," Mills said.

Mills' performance in victory was sweet as he played in two losing Canberra lower grade grand final sides before moving to Brisbane.

It was the same for Kennedy, a member of the Central Queensland side which lost to the Marlins last year.

Referee Ian Irwin, who had a sound match, stamped his presence from the outset, awarding a penalty to the Marlins after three minutes following a high tackle by Holmes on prop Scott McKay. Fullback Steve Craig landed the goal to give them a 2-0 lead.

The Capitals hit back six minutes later when a Grauf bomb was not cleanly handled by Marlins winger Ray Blackman and Kerr cleaned up.

Kerr, who finished with a pesonal tally of 18 points from two tries and five goals for a total of 62 for the State League, calmly kicked the goal from wide out to take them to a 6-2 lead.

Both teams showed a willingness to run the ball, but such adventure also led to errors.

Brisbane lost prop Pike to the blood-bin for five minutes and he returned just in time for Blackman to level the score.

Marlins centre Ray Gagai cleverly flicked a pass back inside near the line and it bounced from a Brisbane defender's hand to Blackman for the try.

The Capitals were under pressure just before halftime when Holmes was sent to the sin-bin for a high tackle on Spina, but the Marlins missed a golden opportunity to take the lead when they made a string of errors.

Their misfortune continued when Irwin sent lock Steve Bella to the sin-bin for 10 minutes when they were on the attack after a touch judge reported a punch.

Brisbane then launched a foray down the touchline when smooth-running centre Ken Robertson speared into a gap and found Jason Hetherington on the inside.

He quickly fed the ball to Kerr, who had come from the opposite wing, and he out-paced Gagai and Eddie Saunders to score seconds before halftime.



CAPITALS prop Eric Kennedy charges in to make a ball-and-all tackle on a North Queensland attacker with the help of second-rower Steve Mills in last night's Winfield State League final at Lang Park.



1992

BRL: WESTS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTS	18	14	-	4	363	239	28
WESTS	18	13	1	4	446	293	27
NORTHS	18	12	-	6	365	300	24
WYNNUM	18	10	1	7	322	349	21
VALLEYS	18	10	-	8	514	286	20
SOUTHS	18	10	-	8	396	288	20
BROTHERS	18	7	-	11	339	414	14
LOGAN CITY	18	5	-	13	267	438	10
REDCLIFFE	18	4	1	13	263	465	9
IPSWICH	18	3	1	14	296	517	7

1992 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

29th March, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 1

Brothers	V	Western Suburbs	10 — 18
Eastern Suburbs	V	Valleys	4 — 32
Southern Suburbs	V	Northern Suburbs	20 — 28
Logan City	V	Wynnum Seagulls	22 — 10
Ipswich Jets	V	Redcliffe	22 — 18

5th April, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 2

Valleys	V	Brothers	46 — 6
Northern Suburbs	V	Western Suburbs	26 — 4
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Eastern Suburbs	12 — 26
Redcliffe	V	Southern Suburbs	20 — 18
Logan City	V	Ipswich Jets	32 — 12

12th April, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 3

Brothers	V	Northern Suburbs	16 — 28
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Valleys	16 — 30
Western Suburbs	V	Redcliffe	32 — 12
Eastern Suburbs	V	Ipswich Jets	34 — 4
Southern Suburbs	V	Logan City	48 — 0

19th April, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 4

Brothers	V	Wynnum Seagulls	20 — 34
Redcliffe	V	Northern Suburbs	14 — 26
Ipswich Jets	V	Valleys	12 — 37
Logan City	V	Western Suburbs	6 — 50
Eastern Suburbs	V	Southern Suburbs	12 — 6

26th April, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 5

Redcliffe	V	Brothers	14 — 16
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Ipswich Jets	22 — 18
Northern Suburbs	V	Logan City	20 — 12
Valleys	V	Southern Suburbs	13 — 14
Western Suburbs	V	Eastern Suburbs	12 — 14

10th May, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 6

Ipswich Jets	V	Brothers	22 — 28
Logan City	V	Redcliffe	10 — 18
Southern Suburbs	V	Wynnum Seagulls	22 — 24
Eastern Suburbs	V	Northern Suburbs	28 — 10
Valleys	V	Western Suburbs	29 — 30

17th May, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 7

Brothers	V	Logan City	24 — 16
Ipswich Jets	V	Southern Suburbs	2 — 20
Redcliffe	V	Eastern Suburbs	6 — 10
Western Suburbs	V	Wynnum Seagulls	2 — 16
Northern Suburbs	V	Valleys	6 — 4

24th May, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 8

Southern Suburbs	V	Brothers	18 — 12
Eastern Suburbs	V	Logan City	30 — 6
Western Suburbs	V	Ipswich Jets	28 — 14
Valleys	V	Redcliffe	45 — 6
Northern Suburbs	V	Wynnum Seagulls	32 — 6

31st May, 1992

ROUND 1 / SERIES 9

Brothers	V	Eastern Suburbs	16 — 18
Southern Suburbs	V	Western Suburbs	8 — 11
Logan City	V	Valleys	4 — 20
Ipswich Jets	V	Northern Suburbs	24 — 38
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Redcliffe	18 — 6

7th June, 1992

CHAIRMANS TROPHY

Easts	V	Norths	24 — 16

14th June, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 1

Western Suburbs	V	Brothers	30 — 12
Valleys	V	Eastern Suburbs	20 — 28
Northern Suburbs	V	Southern Suburbs	14 — 21
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Logan City	14 — 10
Redcliffe	V	Ipswich Jets	30 — 30

21st June, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 2

Brothers	V	Valleys	32 — 26
Western Suburbs	V	Northern Suburbs	31 — 22
Eastern Suburbs	V	Wynnum Seagulls	22 — 0
Southern Suburbs	V	Redcliffe	40 — 0
Ipswich Jets	V	Logan City	24 — 14

28th June, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 3

Northern Suburbs	V	Brothers	26 — 24
Valleys	V	Wynnum Seagulls	42 — 20
Redcliffe	V	Western Suburbs	16 — 36
Ipswich Jets	V	Eastern Suburbs	30 — 12
Logan City	V	Southern Suburbs	24 — 22

5th July, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 4

Wynnum Seagulls	V	Brothers	22 — 14
Northern Suburbs	V	Redcliffe	12 — 16
Valleys	V	Ipswich Jets	42 — 14
Western Suburbs	V	Logan City	38 — 4
Southern Suburbs	V	Eastern Suburbs	21 — 20

12th July, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 5

Brothers	V	Redcliffe	26 — 20
Ipswich Jets	V	Wynnum Seagulls	32 — 14
Logan City	V	Northern Suburbs	11 — 22
Southern Suburbs	V	Valleys	18 — 16
Eastern Suburbs	V	Western Suburbs	28 — 18

19th July, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 6

Brothers	V	Ipswich Jets	33 — 10
Redcliffe	V	Logan City	10 — 42
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Southern Suburbs	24 — 22
Northern Suburbs	V	Eastern Suburbs	6 — 17
Western Suburbs	V	Valleys	18 — 16

26th July, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 7

Logan City	V	Brothers	28 — 16
Southern Suburbs	V	Ipswich Jets	32 — 6
Eastern Suburbs	V	Redcliffe	30 — 8
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Western Suburbs	16 — 16
Valleys	V	Northern Suburbs	10 — 16

2nd August, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 8

Brothers	V	Southern Suburbs	14 — 28
Logan City	V	Eastern Suburbs	12 — 20
Ipswich Jets	V	Western Suburbs	26 — 44
Redcliffe	V	Valleys	30 — 46
Wynnum Seagulls	V	Northern Suburbs	30 — 12

9th August, 1992

ROUND 2 / SERIES 9

Eastern Suburbs	V	Brothers	10 — 20
Western Suburbs	V	Southern Suburbs	28 — 18
Valleys	V	Logan City	40 — 14
Northern Suburbs	V	Ipswich Jets	21 — 12
Redcliffe	V	Wynnum Seagulls	19 — 6

1992

1992 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

The State League was again played as a representative competition with the Brisbane Capitols easily defeating North Queensland 30-10 in the final held as a curtain raiser to the State of Origin that year.

Easts were again BRL minor premiers finishing only a point ahead of their grand final opponents from the previous year, Wests. Wests got the better of Easts in the major semi-final beating Easts 25-14 but made the grand final after beating Norths 32-16 in the preliminary final.

Wests, with plenty of support from fans at the Caxton Street end of Lang Park, put on a masterful display to thrash Easts in the grand final and win their first BRL premiership in 16 years. It was Easts' Peter Anderson who opened the scoring with a simple try after a poor tackle. Wests hit back with a try to Schuler before Gavin Duncan set up a great try to Sam Smith with a kick and regather. The conversion made it 14-4 to Wests at half time.

Craig Bowen, Sam Smith and John Green combined well for the next two tries scored by John Green which extended the lead to 28-4. After a scrum win against the feed, Gavin Duncan skirted the sideline to score the next try. Further tries on the right side saw Wests win the 1992 BRL grand final 40-10, the second biggest BRL grand final winning margin.

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 18 v Wynnum 12

Sickbed warriors to fore

By STEPHEN GRAY

NORTHS' sickbed warriors yesterday combined to put the Devils in sight of a Brisbane Winfield Cup rugby league premiership when they overcame a gallant Wynnum 18-12 in the knockout semi-final at Lang Park.

Lock Ian McKenzie, centre Mark Kellaway and second-rower Danny Johnson were all bed-ridden at some stage in the lead-up to the match but rebounded to play starring roles in the Devils' win.

Kellaway needed a penicillin injection on Saturday after an attack of tonsillitis while McKenzie and Johnson were unable to complete training on Friday because of flu.

Johnson, in his first season in Brisbane first grade after joining Norths from the Sunshine Coast, was further inconvenienced during the first half when he needed six stitches after a clash of heads with team-mate Jason Adams.

The second-rower, 21, revealed some excellent ball skills and instigated his team's first try to hooker Troy Evans when he slipped a neat pass, despite the tackle of two Wynnum defenders.

The unorthodox Wynnum were expected to provide the bulk of the attacking flair but it was the Devils who caught the eye, particularly Kellaway.

Until yesterday, Kellaway had been known better for his defensive qualities as a lock or five-eighth, but he was a revelation in the centres.

He featured in both first half tries and took the attack to the Wynnum pairing of Ricky Taylor and Dale Jensen, both Brisbane representatives this season.

Norths coach Dave Brown said he had used a profile of Taylor published in Saturday's Courier-Mail to remind Kellaway of his own potential.

"Taylor's a good young player but when Mark rang me to tell me he was feeling pretty crook, I just told him to go off and read that a few times and think about what he was capable of," Brown said.

"He's come through a tough school in the lower grades and I know he's one player I can count on for 100 percent wherever I play him.

"The boys who were crook responded magnificently. I thought Ian McKenzie was the best player on the field in the first half and Danny Johnson came back from a heck of a knock.



NORTHS 18 (B Kelso, M Kellaway, T Evans tries; G Harvey 3 goals) d WYNNUM 12 (J Powdr, B Morgan, B Gant tries).

"He's going to be an unbelievable player next year and the confidence he gets from the finals will really help him."

Norths had put themselves in the box seat after taking a 12-0 lead after 10 minutes and holding on in the face of two quick Wynnum tries to lead 18-8 at halftime.

Norths halfback Craig Grauf last night hit out at a perceived crackdown on scrum penalties after he was penalised inside his quarter by referee Ian Irwin for an incorrect feed with 1min 30sec left in the match.

Wynnum, who had scored the only points of the second half through impressive forward Brett Gant, had time to mount one more attacking raid only to see replacement winger Brendan Brown bundled into touch just short of the line.

Grauf was critical after the match at the possibility that finals could be decided by scrum penalties.

"I'm not having a go at the referee — he's only doing his job — but why are scrum feeds being penalised now when we've gone almost the whole season without any attention?" he said.

"Just imagine if a side loses a grand final because of a scrum penalty in the last five minutes — that shouldn't happen.

"I understood that the rule concerning scrum feeds was coming in next season so that's why I'm concerned at it happening now."

South East (Brisbane) Division chairman Kevin Brasch said there had been no directive to pay special attention to scrums, and complimented Irwin for his refereeing display.

Irwin established himself as the leading contender for the grand final with a composed performance and there was little dissent in either camp about his handling of the match.

He chose the right option to send Norths forward Darryl Duncan to the sin-bin for 10 minutes with 14 minutes left after Duncan had knocked over Wynnum forward Brad Nairn as he attempted to play the ball forward.

Brown said he would again remind his players about their discipline before their preliminary final game in a fortnight.



1992

BRL Major Semi-Final - Wests 25 v Easts 14

Urgent call for prop

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

PREMIERS Easts will rush prop Peter Anderson back from a four-week suspension into their starting side for Sunday's Winfield Cup preliminary final against Norths.

The Tigers, reeling from the twin blows of a 25-14 loss to Wests in the major semi-final on Saturday night and a worrying injury toll, will include Anderson in a likely revamped side.

Coach John Lang said injuries to forwards Darren Winmill (shoulder) and Scott Neilson (back), and the loss of last year's grand final prop Paul Lusk with a knee injury had come at the wrong time.

"It's a worry when the injuries happen now," he said.

"We were halfway through the second round and congratulating ourselves on how lucky we'd been with injury. Now they've all happened at once."

"Peter Anderson has been training very hard since he was suspended and he's probably fitter than he was then before he was sent off," he said.

Winmill, who has a recurrence of nerve damage in his shoulder, may not play again this season and Neilson is rated a slight chance of recovering in time.

Lang, while disappointed with his side's first loss to Wests in two seasons, said they had the ability and character to rebound this week against Norths.

"That's why you aim for a top two spot — so you can have a second bite of the cherry," he said.

"We've got some hard work ahead of us this week but we're still two games away from winning the premiership."

Easts lower grade sides have won through to the grand final and Lang said that would be an advantage for the first grade team.



JOHN LANG . . .
'happened at once.'

The club's depth is excellent and it would not surprise if former Norths back-rower Peter Elmore, impressive second-rower Adam Maher and former Queensland under-21 centres Mark Nash and Steve Wilkes were called on from reserve grade.

Norths hooker Troy Evans, who played reserve grade in the loss to Easts on Saturday, emerged from the match without injury and trained yesterday with the first grade squad.

Coach Dave Brown is expected to add fullback Geoff Huxtable to his 17-man squad, although with the reserve grade also involved on Sunday, one of his reserves will be dropped back.

Wests coach Gary Greinke will put his side through a tough week's training to compensate for the week's break they face.

"We won't have played a game during the day for a month by the time the grand final comes up," he said.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
WESTS 25 d EASTS 14

Scorers — Wests: C Bowen 2, S Mills tries; J Green 6 goals, G Duncan field goal. Easts: G Street 2, S Davis tries; P Mulvihill goal.

1992

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 32 v Norths 16

Tigers thrash Norths

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

PREMIERS Easts needed 40 minutes yesterday to re-establish themselves as Brisbane Winfield Cup rugby league contenders and dismiss an ill-fated Norths' challenge at Lang Park.

The final 32-18 scoreline was largely irrelevant in deciding the winner after Easts powered to a 30-0 halftime lead.

Just as grand final opponents Wests had steamrolled Easts in the major semi-final last week to have the result decided at halftime, yesterday's match had disgruntled Norths fans on their feet looking for the exits with a half of football still left to play.

The result was a testimony to the unflappable nature of coach John Lang who had to rebuild a team which had its confidence shaken by the Wests onslaught.

"We had a team dinner on Friday night after one of our worst training sessions in some time and it seemed to relax everyone," he said.

It was an even more meritorious win considering Easts came into the match with injury worries over four players and lost halfback Paul Green with an ankle injury 10 minutes into the match.

"The injuries were a worry but I knew the players concerned would only play if they knew they were right," Lang said.

But Green's absence meant Easts' super-sub Rob Duncan was able to show his own wares and he proved a match-winner.

EASTS 32 (A McGown 2, R Duncan 2, G Street tries; P Mulvihill 6 goals) **d NORTHS 16** (C Grauf, R Campbell, P Tuimavave tries; G Harvey 2 goals).

Suspicions that all was not well in the Norths camp were confirmed almost immediately with a string of unforced errors giving Easts the opportunity to apply early pressure.

Easts fullback Paul Mulvihill, under pressure after being soundly criticised in several quarters after the Wests game, said he had noticed the difference in the Norths players from the outset.

"There wasn't the talk there normally is from Norths," he said. "They were pretty quiet considering they usually give you heaps."

Mulvihill, who kicked six goals from eight attempts, had an impressive match which saw him feature in their first two tries to centre Greg Street and winger Andrew McGown, although McGown's try from a kick-through was highly dubious.

Replays later showed McGown had failed to ground the ball cleanly and that referee Geoff Mines had erred in awarding it.

But Easts had scored it with 12 men after prop Steve Hermann had been sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes for a late tackle on Norths half Craig Grauf.

"I was concerned when Steve went although Graufie did his best to make sure it was noticed," Lang said

"It was a silly thing for Steve to do but he was up against his old club and as Gavin Payne said the other night: 'You can take the boy out of the Devils, but not the Devil out of the boy'."

The Tigers pack, with props Peter Anderson and Hermann forming a devastating pairing, ran rough-shod over Norths leaving the way clear for lock Bruce Crosby and hooker Andrew Neave to regularly puncture the defence.

Crosby, whose choice of pre-match listening music was Tina Turner's "Simply the Best", did exactly that to produce one of his best games of the year while backrowers Scott Neilson and Darren Crothers made light of their injury concerns.

It was the return of Anderson from a four-week suspension which made the biggest difference to Easts.

"Ando lifted the enthusiasm on the field and at training this week. When he was suspended, we didn't appeal because we were terrified he might get longer," Lang said.

For the record, Easts' first half points spread went as follows: 16th min, Street try; 20th, McGown try; 24th, Rod Duncan try, Mulvihill goal; 29th Mulvihill goal; 32nd, McGown try, Mulvihill goal; 36th, Duncan try, Mulvihill goal; 39th, Mulvihill penalty.



HARD-WORKING Norths prop Jason Adams can go nowhere except down as he is hit in this tackle from Easts forward Scott Neilson (top) and two-try hero Rob Duncan.

1992

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 40 V EASTS 10

Wests the premiers

No nostalgia for Panthers

By STEPHEN GRAY

WESTS coach Gary Greinke avoided using the club's 16-year premiership drought to motivate his players before yesterday's Brisbane rugby league grand final at Lang Park.

Wests' comprehensive 40-10 win over reigning premiers Easts proved it was the right rein to pull as the red-hot Panthers swept to their first premiership since 1976.

Greinke, who took over this year from last year's losing grand final coach Nev Hunter, said he had tried to keep the players away from the nostalgia and focused on football during the build-up.

"Last year I think we all got a bit swept up in things and it was over-emphasised. It was better for us to distance ourselves a bit," he said.

"In this league, the finals attract a lot more exposure than the weekly competition and I didn't want the boys to lose sight of what we had to do."

With Easts jumping to a 4-0 lead through a determined run by prop Peter Anderson and a strong wind at their backs, Greinke admitted his concern.

"We looked lethargic early and I was worried that grand final nerves might have got to them, and the on-field talk was a bit slow. But once we settled down, the forwards really paved the way," he said.

"I was nervous before the match but I tried to appear as if I wasn't worried, to settle the blokes down."

The forwards were led by captain and second-rower Paul Schuler and hooker Paul Fitzgerald, an under-rated yet highly proficient part of the Panthers.

Fitzgerald, who is tipped to retire, bobbed up in support at vital moments several times in the match while Schuler provided the emotional drive, including crossing for the opening try in the 29th minute after good lead-up work by centre Sam Smith.

"Last year I think we were secretly happy just to make the grand final but we wanted to win it this year," Fitzgerald said.

"How good are our backs? In the second half they took every opportunity we gave them."

A team is only as good as the sum of its parts and both "halves" of Wests fired yesterday.

Halfback Gavin Duncan shrugged off ideas he might be a weak link with a composed performance, while Smith ignored a torn quadracep muscle in the opening five minutes to dominate.

Smith scored the decisive try a minute before halftime which put Wests in front 14-4 and featured heavily in three more of their tries.

"I twinged the injury in our last training run on Saturday but it went properly the first time I went to stretch out," Smith said. "There was no way I was going to come off but I told (winger) John Green he would be doing a lot more running."

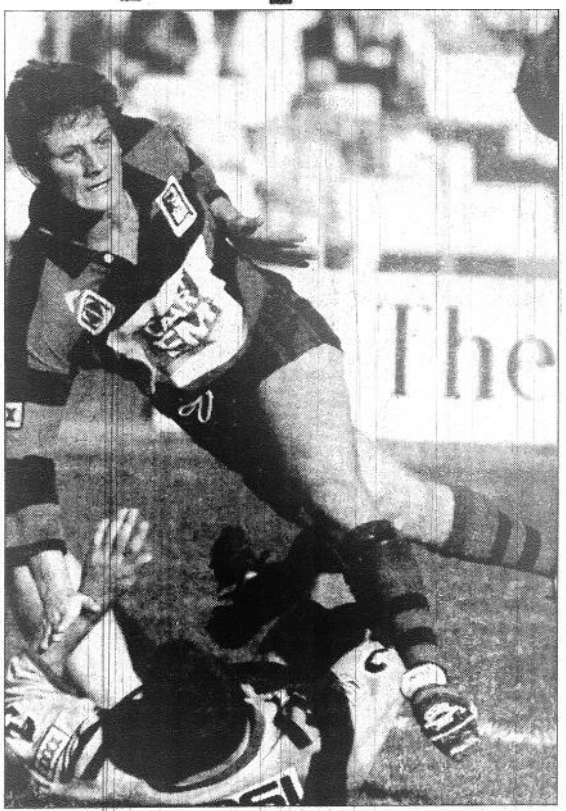
And Green did, along with the rest of the Wests backline, as the Panthers' second-half onslaught had the crowd chanting for 50 points.

Wests second-rower Steve Mills is expected to stay at Purtell Park next season, although the Broncos have held preliminary talks with him.



TO the victor, the spoils . . . the jubilant Wests players celebrate their premiership win, which redressed last year's grand final loss to Easts. Picture: JIM FENWICK

WESTS 40 (J Green 2, G Strutton 2, S Smith, G Duncan, P Schuler tries; J Green 6 goals) d EASTS 10 (P Anderson, G Street tries; G Payne goal).



IT RUNS in the family . . . Wests fullback Craig Green flicks a pass as Easts centre Gavin Payne brings off a tackle.

Fullback made the right move

By STEPHEN GRAY

A DECISION made nine months ago paid off in full yesterday for Wests fullback Craig Green as the Panthers bounded to a 40-10 Brisbane Winfield Cup rugby league grand final win over Easts at Lang Park.

Green revealed yesterday he had come "very close" to signing with Easts during the off-season after having his path to first grade blocked last year by Paul Weaver.

Easts coach John Lang had targetted Green as a possible replacement for last year's premiership fullback Ken Jackson, who signed with the Gold Coast.

But Green, whose father Bob was the captain of the last Wests team to win a premiership in 1976, relented at the last moment and decided to stay with his junior club.

"I went in to see Langie after the match and he congratulated me and told me that I'd backed the right horse," he said.

"I was thinking about Easts pretty seriously but in the end I decided to stay with Wests."

Injuries to Weaver and Brent Gannon gave Green his opportunity in first grade during the second round and his confidence culminated in a strong match yesterday.

Green did not miss a beat in handling an array of kicks aimed at him by Easts and he had a busy match in attack, including slipping an excellent pass to replacement Wayne Treleaven, who sent centre Graham Strutton over for his second try late in the game.

The Green name was well represented at Lang Park with Panthers winger John Green taking the points-scoring honors with 20 from two second-half tries and six goals from nine attempts.

Green, who is not related to his backline companion, put aside the death of an uncle on Friday to reap the benefits from the dominant Wests backline.

"I didn't know about it until mum told me today and it was a bit of a shock," he said. "That was something extra to motivate me. It was Father's Day as well and it's a day when I remember my dad, who passed away a few years ago."

The 20-year-old winger's father was Ipswich rugby league identity Des "Banjo" Green and the coal city had its own small contribution to yesterday's win in the shape of prop Darren Shaw and Green.

The duo won a Colts premiership with the Ipswich Jets in 1990 before heading for greener pastures — Shaw to Western Australia and Green to Illawarra after he was drafted by the Steelers.

His stint there was not a fruitful one and Green played the season in the local Illawarra competition before returning to Brisbane and Wests this year.

"I reckon I blew my chances of playing in Sydney last year. I went down there and thought I wouldn't have to do anything to make it and I paid for that. At the end of the season, I decided I just wanted to play with my mates again," he said.

Green said he had not received any inquiries from NSWRL premiership clubs.

1992

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 40 V EASTS 10



WESTS 1992 BRL PREMIERS

Front Row: Niel Connors (President), Wayne Treleaven (capt), Gary Geinke (coach), Craig Bowen, Peter Liddell, Chris Goddard (Secretary). **Second Row:** Bob Taylor (Selector), Mick Milliner (Delegate), Paul Fitzgerald, Darren Shaw, Sam Smith, Graham Strutton, Cameron Roper, Mick Spencer (Treasurer), Bob Foster (Selector). **Third Row:** Graham Adams (Asst. Trainer), Jason Baldwin (Asst. Manager), Gavin Duncan, Mark Maguire, Steven Weiss, Scott Tye, Shane Johnston, Craig Green, John Baldwin (Manager), Christine Sonsearay (Physio), **Back Row:** Dave Ryan (Trainer), Wayne Wilson, John Green, Steven Mills, Brent Gannon, David Liddel, Mark O'Rielly, Brad McDonald (Doctor). **Mascot:** Joel Ryan

1992 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Norths 18 def. Wynnum 12
Major Semi-Final: Wests 25 def. Easts 14
Preliminary Final: Easts 32 def. Norths 16

1992 BRL GRAND FINAL:

WESTS 40 (Tries: J. Green 2, G. Sutton 2, S. Smith, G. Duncan, P. Schuler; Goals: J. Green 6) def. EASTS 10 (Tries: P. Anderson, G. Street; Goal: G. Payne)

1993

STATE LEAGUE: MACKAY



1993 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

In 1993, the State League competition returned back to the old club format. However, the country areas were split up into 4 groups and BRL clubs competed in another group. North Queensland was Group A with 6 teams competing. Group B included the Central Queensland area and 5 teams. The Wide Bay area had 6 teams and was Group C. Toowoomba, South West, Gold Coast -Group 18 and Ipswich/Brisbane Second Division formed Group D. Three rounds were played and the top team from each group would advance to the semi-finals.

All the Brisbane Rugby League clubs returned to play in the new format. They only played two rounds and the top 2 teams advanced to the semi-finals. Mackay secured a victory for the country when they defeated Wests in the grand final.

BRISBANE ROUNDS

Round 1

Brothers 36 defeated Logan City 6
Wests 30 defeated Souths 10
Easts 20 defeated Norths 2
Wynnum 21 defeated Valleys 12
Redcliffe 14 defeated Ipswich 10

Round 2

Souths 30 defeated Logan City 24
Brothers 20 defeated Wynnum 19
Norths 28 defeated Valleys 16
Easts 26 defeated Redcliffe 12
Wests 22 defeated Ipswich 6

Easts and Wests advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

COUNTRY ROUNDS

Group A

Round 1

Townsville 44 defeated Cairns 16
Herbert River 31 defeated Burdekin/Whitsunday 22
Mackay 38 defeated Mount Isa 12

Round 2

Mackay 26 defeated Townsville 18
Mount Isa 20 defeated Herbert River 14
Cairns 49 defeated Burdekin/Whitsunday 20

Round 3

Townsville 14 drew with Mount Isa 14
Cairns 23 defeated Herbert River 20
Mackay 36 defeated Burdekin/Whitsunday 24

Mackay advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group B

Round 1

Rockhampton 38 defeated Central Highlands 28
Callide Valley 38 defeated Central West 12

Round 2

Central Highlands 62 defeated Central West 8
Rockhampton 32 drew with Gladstone 32

Round 3

Central Highlands 44 defeated Gladstone 26
Rockhampton 64 defeated Callide Valley 6

Rockhampton advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group C

Round 1

South Burnett 28 defeated Northern Districts 16
Bundaberg 42 defeated Central Burnett 22
Sunshine Coast 34 defeated Maryborough/Hervey Bay 4

Round 2

Central Burnett 46 defeated Northern Districts 18
Sunshine Coast 36 defeated Bundaberg 0
South Burnett 16 defeated Maryborough/Hervey Bay 12

Round 3

Bundaberg 60 defeated Northern Districts 0
Sunshine Coast 32 defeated South Burnett 10
Maryborough/Hervey Bay 17 defeated Central Burnett 10

Sunshine Coast advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group D

Round 1

Gold Coast -Group 18 32 defeated Brisbane/Ipswich Second Division 24
Toowoomba 20 defeated South West 12

Round 2

Toowoomba 34 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 18
South West 46 defeated Brisbane/Ipswich Second Division 14

Round 3

Gold Coast -Group 18 22 defeated South West 18
Toowoomba 34 defeated Brisbane/Ipswich Second Division 29

Toowoomba advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

Pool A

Wests 50 defeated Toowoomba 16 at Lang Park
Easts 26 defeated Toowoomba 2 at Lang Park
Wests 30 defeated Easts 12 at Lang Park

Pool B

Rockhampton 27 defeated Sunshine Coast 20 at Rockhampton
Mackay 16 defeated Sunshine Coast 11 at Nambour
Mackay 19 defeated Rockhampton 8 at Mackay

Wests and Mackay advanced to the grand final.

GRAND FINAL

MACKAY 18 (Ashley Tupaea, G Murphy, Steve Craig tries; Steve Craig 3 goals) defeated
WESTS 12 (Mark Maguire 2 tries; Gerard Kerr 2 goals) at Lang Park

1993

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - MACKAY 18 v WESTS 12

Panthers humbled by Mackay



Wests prop Michael Seaby has his progress halted by Mackay five-eighth Stanley Haru, the former Kumuls Test captain, with halfback Rion Farmer ready to lend assistance in last night's Winfield State League final at Lang Park.

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

BRISBANE rugby league premiers Wests last night crashed to a humbling 18-12 loss to a gallant Mackay outfit in the Winfield State League final at Lang Park.

Mackay's excellent performance ensured a metropolitan side did not win the State League for the second year in a row, with the Brisbane Capitols the victors under last year's different format.

Wests were bustled out of their normal confident playing style by Mackay's never-say-die defence, led by former PNG Test five-eighth Stanley Haru, second-rower Michael Wilkinson and props Jim Valery and Mark Anderson.

Anderson was the sole survivor of the North Queensland side which won the State League two years ago under the old format and turned in a mighty game.

A piece of individual brilliance by Mackay fullback Steve Craig wrapped up the win for the Sea Eagles. With 14 minutes left, Craig grubberkicked and regathered to score near the posts.

Craig, who has represented Queensland Residents, was drafted by Eastern Suburbs in Sydney in the inaugural year of the now defunct player draft. But he failed to settle in and returned home.

The result can be seen as a significent setback for Brisbane rugby league, which will now have a massive argument on its hands over the claim it is the most dominant domestic competition within Queensland.

MACKAY 18 (A Tupaea, G Murphy, S Craig tries, S Craig 5 goals) **d WESTS 12** (M Maguire 2 tries, G Kerr 2 goals).

Brisbane's only saving grace will come if it is a comprehensive winner of the City-Country clash in Toowoomba later this month to determine the Queensland residents side to play NSW Metropolitan Cup.

Ironically, Wests coach Gary Greinke will take the reins of the City side, to be selected on Sunday night.

Wests started on the wrong note when second-rower Steve Mills knocked on from the kick-off and that error set the tone for the first half.

The Panthers put themselves under pressure with numerous forced and unforced errors and Mackay gratefully accepted the chances to put pressure on the Wests defence.

Wests winger Gerard Kerr opened their account with a penalty in the 11th minute but Mackay levelled the scores four minutes later with a penalty to Craig.

It was the Sea Eagles, who took the field wearing a similar strip to that once worn by Manly in Sydney, who grabbed the opening try as they relished their underdog role.

A break by busy second-rower Wilkinson after a scrum saw mobile hooker Glen Murphy dive over from dummy-half in the 22nd minute.

1993

BRL: WESTS



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WESTS	18	15	1	2	586	287	31
EASTS	18	14	-	4	623	176	28
SOUTHS	18	14	-	4	544	233	28
IPSWICH	18	9	1	8	375	374	19
REDCLIFFE	18	8	2	8	432	418	18
VALLEYS	18	7	-	11	342	426	14
NORTHS	18	7	-	11	373	482	14
WYNNUM	18	5	2	11	313	551	12
BROTHERS	18	4	3	11	280	526	11
LOGAN CITY	18	2	1	15	263	636	5

1993 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

XXXX CUP ROUND 1

Sun April 4
Souths 32 def Norths 12
Ipswich 24 drew Redcliffe 24
Easts 34 def Logan City 8
Brothers 14 drew Wynnum 14
Wests 26 def Valleys 24

Sun April 18
Wests 46 def Norths 22
Logan City 21 def Wynnum 20
Souths 52 def Brothers 8
Valleys 26 def Redcliffe 22
Easts 44 def Ipswich 0

Sun April 25
Easts 34 def Valleys 6
Souths 18 def Wests 12
Logan City 14 drew Brothers 14
Redcliffe 40 def Norths 8
Wynnum 26 def Ipswich 12

Sun May 2
Easts 22 def Souths 20
Wests 22 def Brothers 18
Valleys 38 def Ipswich 8
Redcliffe 36 def Wynnum 18
Norths 46 def Logan City 6

Sun May 9
Wests 20 def Easts 12
Souths 35 def Redcliffe 10
Valleys 26 def Brothers 20
Wynnum 20 def Norths 10
Ipswich 24 def Logan City 14

Sun May 16
Brothers 16 drew Redcliffe 16
Easts 64 def Wynnum 4
Wests 30 def Logan City 22
Souths 26 def Valleys 10
Norths 36 def Ipswich 12

Sun May 23 & 30
Wests 46 def Redcliffe 8
Wynnum 29 def Valleys 12
Souths 40 def Logan City 0
Easts 18 def Norths 4
Ipswich 46 def Brothers 0

Sun June 6
Souths 58 def Wynnum 6
Easts 40 def Brothers 0
Valleys 30 def Norths 8
Redcliffe 36 def Logan City 20
Wests 32 def Ipswich 20

Sun June 13
Valleys 26 def Logan City 10
Easts 68 def Redcliffe 4
Brothers 42 def Norths 16
Souths 30 def Ipswich 24
Wests 51 def Wynnum 12

XXXX CUP ROUND 2

Sun June 20
Norths 19 def Souths 14
Easts 74 def Logan City 6
Wests 36 def Valleys 12
Brothers 18 def Wynnum 12
Ipswich 22 def Redcliffe 16

Sun June 27
Ipswich 14 def Easts 4
Souths 26 def Brothers 20
Wests 56 def Norths 20
Wynnum 30 def Logan City 20
Redcliffe 34 def Valleys 10

Sun July 4
Wests 18 def Souths 13
Norths 24 def Redcliffe 18
Brothers 22 def Logan City 16
Easts 29 def Valleys 8
Ipswich 29 def Wynnum 14

Sun July 11
Souths 10 def Easts 0
(Chairman's Trophy)

Wests 24 def Brothers 8
Ipswich 12 def Valleys 0
Wynnum 18 def Redcliffe 14
Norths 38 def Logan City 16

Sun July 18
Norths 42 def Wynnum 16
Brothers 30 def Valleys 16
Redcliffe 22 def Souths 6
Easts 20 def Wests 16
Ipswich 28 def Logan City 24

Sun July 25
Redcliffe 48 def Brothers 20
Souths 34 def Valleys 4
Ipswich 38 def Norths 12
Easts 48 def Wynnum 12
Wests 68 def Logan City 10

Sun August 1
Easts 24 def Norths 2
Souths 56 def Logan City 6
Ipswich 32 def Brothers 8
Valleys 44 def Wynnum 18
Wests 25 def Redcliffe 12

Sun August 8
Valleys 32 def Norths 22
Souths 38 def Wynnum 24
Easts 74 def Brothers 0
Wests 18 def Ipswich 16
Redcliffe 32 def Logan City 20

Sun August 15
Norths 32 def Brothers 22
Logan City 30 def Valleys 18
Wynnum 20 drew Wests 20
Redcliffe 42 def Easts 14
Souths 36 def Ipswich 16

BRL FINALS

Minor Semi-Final (Sun August 22)
Souths 36 def Ipswich 4

Major Semi-Final (Sun August 29)
Easts 22 def Wests 6

Preliminary Final (Sun September 5)
Wests 15 def Souths 2

GRAND FINAL (Sun September 12)
Wests 18 def Easts 12

1993

1993 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

In 1993, the State League competition returned back to the old club format. However, the country areas were split up into many more localised teams. Only two Brisbane clubs and four country teams advanced to the final two pools where three teams played each other once. There were no true semi-finals with this format used for the last three years of the State League. The highest placed from each of the two pools of three teams advanced to the final. In the final played at Lang Park as a curtain-raiser to the State of Origin, Mackay upset last year's BRL premiers, Wests, to win 18-12.

Wests were the minor premiers finishing 3 points ahead of Easts and a resurgent Souths who thrashed Ipswich 36-4 in the minor semi-final. Easts got the jump on Wests in the major semi-final winning 22-6 and then Wests overpowered Souths 15-2 in the preliminary final to advance to their third grand final in a row against their great rival Easts.

Wests were a formidable side and included future stars, Adrian Lam and Broncos mountain man, Brad Thorn, as well as Queensland legend Tony Currie who returned from Sydney to play for Wests.

Currie made a break that led to their first try scored after a great Easts try to future star Paul Green. Wests scored 4 tries to 2 with doubles to Mark Maguire and David Mills to win 18-12 and claim back-to-back premierships for Wests to emulate their famous back-to-back double of 1975 and 1976.

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 36 v Ipswich 4

MAGPIES SOAR
'Revenge' for trio

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

MEMORIES of an inglorious exit from the Brisbane rugby league semi-finals five years ago helped to inspire Souths yesterday as they surged towards the XXXX Cup grand final.

A mixture of defensive strength and some fortunate breaks enabled Souths to overpower second-round improvers Ipswich 36-4 at Lang Park and, in the process, redress a personal wrong for three of the Magpies.

Souths second-rower Brent Vincent, prop Chris White and winger Floyd Hill were survivors from the 1988 team which finished as minor premiers only to lose 20-6 in the preliminary final to eventual grand finalists Ipswich, who came from fourth spot.

Vincent made the most of a reprieve from the Brisbane judiciary last Monday after being sent off against Ipswich the previous week with a dynamic performance. He said memories of the 1988 debacle had resurfaced before yesterday's match.

"Chris and I were talking about it earlier and figured today was as good a day as any to get things back in our favour," he said.

Vincent, White and Hill were all noticeable yesterday, although for differing reasons. Souths' attempts to cloak White's return from a broken arm in secrecy paid off when he started the match in jumper No 10 in place of Phil Tarditi instead of off the reserves bench.

The Queensland and former Manly forward showed no early ill-effects to be in the thick of the action. However, he was in obvious pain just before halftime and was replaced early in the second half after noticeably carrying the heavily-padded forearm.

He will have x-rays today to check whether there is more damage, although Souths medical staff were confident after the game he had not suffered a further fracture.

Hill again proved what a worthy fixture he is for the Magpies, taking a key intercept and dashing 90m to score a minute before halftime to effectively break the spirit of the Ipswich players.

Ipswich had started enthusiastically and looked comfortable with a 0-0 scoreline after 15 minutes despite losing winger John Green with an ankle injury early.

A tighthead scrum win 25m out from the Souths line gave the Jets a perfect opportunity to apply pressure, but five-eighth Jim Allen spilled a regulation pass from captain-coach Kevin Langer.

From the next scrum, Souths centre Paul Donaghy gave a glimpse of his rare ability to swerve and accelerate through the Jets defence and cruise away to score. Chris Hastings' sideline conversion made it 6-0.

Donaghy's troublesome knee flared again before half-time and he will be racing to be fit for the next stage of their campaign.

Two successive penalty goals put Ipswich closer before Souths centre Shane Buckley snapped up the crumbs from a spilt bomb by Jets fullback Tony Weatherley to score for a 12-4 scoreline.

With a minute to go before the break, Ipswich launched their best attacking raid but, with an overlap begging, Hill bobbed up to snatch Doug Evans' pass and sprint away.

"When the intercept happened, the heads went down and it's hard to get them back up when that happens," Langer said afterwards.

"It was disappointing to finish like that because we're a better side than what we showed today. Souths will push the top two sides if they keep playing like that."

SOUTHS 36 (T Hill 2, P Donaghy, S Buckley, C Graul, C Hastings tries; C Hastings 6 goals) d IPSWICH 4 (M Ralph 2 goals).



FLYING HIGH ... Souths fullback Phil Cameron heads for a rocky landing courtesy of Ipswich forwards Brad Chicken and Matt Trevorrow as Souths centre Shane Buckley attempts to lessen the after-effects.

1993

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 22 v Wests 6

Brawl could cost plenty

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

WESTS and Easts have been warned they will face fines of $2000 each if there is a repeat of yesterday's brawling finish to Easts 22-6 major semi-final win at Lang Park.

South East Division chairman Kevin Brasch immediately sought out the presidents of the two clubs, Neil Connors of Wests and Shane Richardson of Easts, at the conclusion of the match to inform them of the consequences.

"Both clubs have been warned about our requirements and they know the outcome if either engage in similar behavior in the preliminary final and grand final," Brasch said.

In 1990, the Division fined grand finalists Norths and Valleys a similar amount after the two sides waged a lengthy brawl early in the match.

Yesterday's match erupted with nine minutes remaining with nearly all players involved in a brawl which spilled on to the sideline in front of both dug-outs.

An advertising hoarding was knocked over and QRL stewards later stressed they had taken steps to ensure reserves and other personnel were kept well away to prevent an already fiery situation from becoming further inflamed.

Replacement Easts prop Peter Anderson and replacement Wests prop Rob Campbell were both sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes when calm had been restored.

Several players from both sides needed stitches to facial cuts after the match although both camps reported no significent injuries stemming from the fight.

Brasch confirmed he would review video of the incident today to see if any players should be cited, although most observers felt referee Stuart Berndt had handled the incident, and the game, well.

EASTS 22 (S Davis, G Bell, P Green, A Neave tries; P Green 3 goals) d **WESTS 6** (G Strutton try; G Duncan goal).

Neither club was expected to lodge official complaints although there was concern in the Easts camp that one of their players had been kicked on the ground during the melee.

Easts coach John Lang said the fight was unfortunate but believed neither side could be accused of being any more responsible than the other.

"It is not our go and I know it is not Gary Greinke's go. These sort of things happen every so often," he said.

"There were a few tempers which frayed and it was probably more frustration than anything else. I wouldn't say there is any bad blood between us," he said.

The Tigers yesterday turned the tables on the premiers, inflicting a defeat similiar to that done by Wests in the major semi-final last year when Easts were reigning premiers.

Easts will now meet the winner of next week's Souths-Wests preliminary final for the XXXX Cup in the grand final on September 12.

The Tigers grabbed the upper-hand after 12 minutes when a neat grubber close to the line by hooker Andrew Neave, who was later awarded the ABC man of the match for a creative display, eluded Wests five-eighth Adrian Lam for Easts half Paul Green to score.

Bell, who produced another exciting performance, put the result beyond doubt in the 57th minute when he finished off some sharp lead-up work by Davis and Green.



WESTS on-field backline general Tony Currie attempts to out-flank his Easts rival Peter Sinclair during yesterday's XXXX Cup major semi-final at Lang Park.



UP AND DOWN ... Wests prop Paul Schuler crashes his opposite number Shane Pearse into the Lang Park turf yesterday.

1993

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 15 v Souths 2

Wests on the march

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

THE benchmen had their day in the sun as Wests grimly shut the door on Souths' Brisbane XXXX Cup rugby league grand final hopes with a 15-2 win at Lang Park yesterday.

Replacement winger Gerard Kerr, who had resigned himself to completing the fall from Queensland representative last year to bench-warmer this year, grabbed two tries to send Wests to their third grand final in a row against Easts.

Kerr, relegated earlier this season after falling victim to a knee injury and defensive lapses, had been named on the bench again leading up to yesterday's preliminary final, with up-and-coming Aldwin Tong preferred.

But Tong lasted just 10 minutes before being helped off in obvious discomfort. He had injured his shoulder while attempting a tackle on rival flanker Dean Smith, thus giving Kerr his chance.

"I was just happy to get a run and, fortunately, the opportunities came my way," Kerr said. "I came here to win a first-grade premiership and we are a step closer now."

From the outset, antics on the bench attracted more than their normal share of attention with Queensland second-rower Steve Mills sitting out and Shane Vivian taking his place in the starting side.

It would surely have been the first time in the competition's history that a current Rothmans medallist was benched in a final, but Panthers coach Gary Greinke said it had been a deliberate strategy.

"Ever since the 10m rule came in, Steve has been struggling to go the distance and we decided we would rather have him running at the end than starting and going off," he said.

"He is a strike player and we felt we might need something from him."

Mills fulfilled that role to the letter after taking the field in the 27th minute and helping Wests gain the upper hand in a fiercely contested forward battle.

But it was a piece of unscripted forward play that gave Wests a vital edge, when 18-year-old prop Brad Thorn, a player destined for bigger things, suddenly discovered himself in the outside-centre spot after a break by lock Paul Tanks brought play back to the blind-side.

Thorn, whose maturity and compsure was praised by Greinke, was able to deliver the final pass for Kerr's 57th-minute try and an 11-2 scoreline.

"They keep testing Brad out and he keeps proving himself. He is an 18-year-old with the brain of a 28-year-old," Greinke said.

Wests led 7-0 at halftime with their only try coming in the 21st minute when a Craig Green grubber into the in-goal was nabbed by winger Mark Maguire.

A field goal by half Adrian Lam gave them a further advantage in what had been a defence-orientated 40 minutes.

Statistics revealed later by Souths coach Chris Phelan showed they had made 117 tackles to Wests 75 in the first half in a performance which weighed heavily on them in the second half.

"They kept us in our half and we used up too much petrol in the first half. It was hard for us to find something extra in the second," Phelan said.

"Everyone worked hard but it wasn't our day. Some things didn't go our way and they did for Wests," he said.

Another cross against Souths was the loss of hooker Mark Rockley with a suspected broken wrist in the 25th minute and second-rower Brent Vincent with a shoulder injury five minutes later.

Souths were not able to regain their momentum.

WESTS 15 (G Kerr 2, M Maguire tries; G Kerr goal, A Lam field goal) d **SOUTHS 2** (C Hastings goal).



ANOTHER one bites the dust . . . Wests fullback Dave Mills keeps Souths prop Phil Tarditi at arm's length as another Magpies defender hits the Lang Park turf during yesterday's preliminary final.

1993

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 18 v EASTS 12

Brothers realise a dream

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

WESTS' Mills brothers fulfilled a childhood dream yesterday as the Panthers swept to consecutive Brisbane rugby league premierships with an 18-12 win over Easts at Lang Park.

Dave and Steve Mills had waited until this year to play alongside each other in first grade and made it a memorable season with fullback Dave producing a man-of-the-match performance as the Panthers claimed the inaugural XXXX Cup.

"Ever since we were young kids we'd wanted to play alongside each other in an A-grade grand final and, if possible, win a premiership," Steve said.

"It's a great feeling and I'm really pleased for Dave — he's a legend after his performance today," he said.

The result made it two premierships in succession for Steve Mills, who joined Wests last year after sitting out the 1991 season following a three-year stint with the Canberra Raiders.

He convinced brother Dave, at 22 three years his junior, to try his luck in Brisbane this year and he made the switch from the local Canberra competition.

"I came up here for the season to see whether I could handle it and I didn't know how I'd go," Dave said. "But I won't be heading back to Canberra now."

If the thought of two Mills brothers being match-winners in the future is not a worry for rival Brisbane clubs, perhaps the prospect of a third brother might cause them to sit up and take notice.

"We're trying to convince our youngest brother Andrew to come up from Canberra and try his luck next season," Dave said. "He's a second-rower and a pretty good player. There'll be a fair bit of peer pressure going on in the off-season."

Wests director Mick Milliner, who worked hard behind the scenes during the off-season after Wests' premiership win to put together this year's team, confirmed he had already made contact with the 19-year-old forward.

It was a pass from second-rower Steve to his younger sibling which put the Panthers back into the match after Easts had taken a 6-0 lead in the 27th minute with a clever try to half Paul Green after smart passing around the ruck by hooker Andrew Neave and fullback Sean Davis.

Both sides took the field with altered line-ups, with Wests coach Gary Greinke opting for Shane Vivian to start ahead of Steve Mills in the second-row as he did in the preliminary final against Souths.

"Steve wasn't happy when I told him on Saturday night but sometimes you've got to make unpopular decisions as a coach," Greinke said.

Easts had prop Ian Stains ruled out yesterday morning with a knee injury suffered at training on Friday. Peter Anderson, who produced some charging runs while fresh, started, with colts prop Matthew Shaw drafted into the squad.

Physiotheraphy had given Stains some hope on Saturday but he ruled himself out yesterday morning after consulting with coach John Lang.

The sides were locked at 6-6 at the break but Wests made the early strike in the 45th minute, with winger Mark Maguire grabbing the first of his two second-half tries.

Centre Tony Currie made a break down the sideline and off-loaded before being crunched by Green's covering tackle.

Currie, whose head hit the ground heavily, was knocked out and carried off. Although he was able to join his team-mates later, he had no memory of the game — his last.

From the play-the-ball on the opposite side of the field, Wests chanced their arm and strung together a bewildering array of passes before centre Graham Strutton fired a cut-out ball to Maguire.

Mills' second try in the 60th minute came after a Steele Retchless break had taken the Panthers to the Easts' 20m zone. Again they swung the ball wide for Mills to crash over.

Maguire's second try, which gave Wests a seemingly unassailable 18-6 lead, came six minutes later after Strutton made another incision in the Easts defence.

Wests had to dig deep to hold off the desperate Tigers for 18 consecutive tackles as the clock counted down towards the possibility of extra-time.

The Panthers twice had to drop-out from under their posts and wearily lift themselves to repel the Easts attack.



Above: Wests players celebrate winning the 1993 Grand Final and completing a premiership double.

GRAND FINAL

WESTS 18 d EASTS 12

Scorers —Wests: M Maguire 2, D Mills 2 tries; G Kerr goal. Easts: P Green, P Sinclair tries; R Cannon, P Green goals.

1993

BRL GRAND FINAL - WESTS 18 v EASTS 12



WESTS 1993 BRL PREMIERS

Front Row: Neil Connors (President), Robert Campbell, Gary Geinke (coach), Paul Schuler (capt.)John Baldwin (Manager), Mark Maguire, Chris Goddard (Secretary). **Second Row:** Mick Spencer (Treasurer), Christine Sonsearay (Physio), Adrian Lam, Craig Bowen, Bob Foster (Selector), Graham Strutton, John Little, Brad McDonald (Doctor), Mick Milliner (Delegate). **Third Row:** Graham Adams (Asst. Trainer), Tony Currie, Sam Smith, Paul Tanks, Gerrard Kerr, Steele Retchless, Cameron Roper, Craig Green, Wayne Treleaven, **Back Row:** Dave Ryan (Trainer), Shane Vivian, Tat Whaleboat, Dave Mills, Steven Mills (club capt.), Brad Thorn, Jason Baldwin (Asst. Manager). **Absent:** Aldwin Tong, Wayne Seaby, Wayne Wilson, Gavin Duncan **Mascots:** Joel Ryan, Sam Green

1993 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Final: Souths 36 def. Ipswich 4
Major Semi-Final: Easts 22 def. Wests 6
Preliminary Final: Wests 15 def. Souths 2

1993 BRL GRAND FINAL:

WESTS 18 (Tries: M. Maguire 2, D. Mills 2; Goal G. Kerr) def. EASTS 12 (Tries: P. Green, P. Sinclair; Goals: R. Cannon, P. Green)

1994

STATE LEAGUE: MACKAY



1994 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

The 1994 State League used the same format as in 1993 but with a few changes. The country rounds remained the same but the Brisbane clubs did not play separate State League games. Instead, three rounds from the B.R.L XXXX Cup were used and the highest two ranked clubs after those rounds advanced to the semi-finals.

Mackay successfully defended their title by comprehensively beating Wests in the grand final.

BRISBANE ROUNDS

Round 1

Valleys 20 defeated Crushers 18
Wests 22 defeated Wynnum 8
Logan City 28 defeated Brothers 18
Norths 30 defeated Broncos 24
Redcliffe 38 defeated Easts 8
Souths 13 drew with Ipswich 13

Round 2

Wests 42 defeated Logan City 6
Crushers 52 defeated Brothers 12
Easts 28 defeated Norths 20
Souths 32 defeated Valleys 24
Ipswich 18 defeated Redcliffe 16
Wynnum 48 defeated Broncos 14

Round 3

Wynnum 26 defeated Easts 16
Wests 39 defeated Broncos 12
Crushers 32 defeated Logan City 4
Souths 28 defeated Brothers 16
Ipswich 28 defeated Norths 18
Redcliffe 42 defeated Valleys 12

Souths and Wests advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

COUNTRY ROUNDS

Group A

Round 1

Townsville 32 defeated Herbert River 22
Mackay 40 defeated Cairns 20
Burdekin/Whitsunday 36 defeated Mount Isa 24

Round 2

Mackay 46 defeated Herbert River 28
Mount Isa 38 defeated Townsville 22
Cairns 24 drew with Burdekin/Whitsunday 24

Round 3

Mackay 54 defeated Townsville 14
Cairns 82 defeated Mount Isa 4
Burdekin/Whitsunday 48 defeated Herbert River 6

Mackay advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group B

Round 1

Central Highlands 38 defeated Gladstone 36
Callide Valley 26 defeated Central West 23

Round 2

Rockhampton 48 defeated Central West 14
Central Highlands 32 defeated Callide Valley 19

Round 3

Rockhampton 46 defeated Gladstone 30
Central West 40 defeated Mid West 16

Rockhampton advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group C

Round 1

Sunshine Coast/Gympie 34 defeated Bundaberg 14
Central Burnett 46 defeated Northern Districts 22
Maryborough/Hervey Bay 44 defeated South Burnett 20

Round 2

South Burnett 32 defeated Bundaberg 26
Sunshine Coast/Gympie 62 defeated Central Burnett 6
Maryborough/Hervey Bay 26 defeated Northern Districts 22

Round 3

South Burnett 58 defeated Northern Districts 12
Bundaberg 58 defeated Central Burnett 0
Sunshine Coast/Gympie 56 defeated Maryborough/Hervey Bay 16

Sunshine Coast advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group D

Round 1

Gold Coast -Group 18 52 defeated Ipswich Diggers 22
Toowoomba 20 defeated South West 14

Round 2

Toowoomba 52 defeated Ipswich Diggers 4
Gold Coast -Group 18 46 defeated South West 24

Round 3

Gold Coast -Group 18 26 defeated Toowoomba 4
Ipswich Diggers 46 defeated South West 28

Gold Coast -Group 18 advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

Pool A

Wests 40 defeated Gold Coast -Group 18 6 at Gold Coast
Wests 14 drew with Souths 14 at Purtell Park
Gold Coast -Group 18 20 defeated Souths 12 at Davies Park

Pool B

Mackay 32 defeated Rockhampton 28 at Rockhampton
Mackay 24 defeated Sunshine Coast 8 at Mackay
Rockhampton 26 defeated Sunshine Coast 24 at Gympie

Wests and Mackay advanced to the grand final.

GRAND FINAL

MACKAY 34 (Ray Gagai 2, Steve Craig, J Doyle, P White, R Farmer, Steve Bella tries; Steve Craig 3 goals) defeated
WESTS 14 (Brett Schultz, Graham Strutton, Craig Bowen tries; Mark Maguire goal) at Lang Park

1994

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - MACKAY 34 v WESTS 14

Wests out-muscled

Final to Mackay

By STEPHEN GRAY

MACKAY yesterday took a leaf of out the manual of another successful Sea Eagles rugby league side when they out-muscled Wests 34-14 to win their second successive Winfield State League final at North Ipswich.

Mackay, who play in the same maroon and white playing strips which Manly wore a few seasons back, used a similar formula to that favored by Manly coach Bob Fulton — with the same success.

Mackay's hard-hitting, physically dominant forwards got on top of Wests from the outset and allowed the Sea Eagles' backline the room which Wests usually rely on to weave their particular brand of magic.

In almost a carbon copy of last year's final, the Sea Eagles rose comfortably to the occasion while Wests saved a bad performance for a big match.

Mackay forwards Jim Valery, Michael Wilkinson, Steve Bella, Dallas Hannay and benchmen John Vella and Jim Wilson were the prime beef which stampeded through the underweight Wests pack, despite a game effort from prop Rob Campbell.

Five-eighth Rob Burgess, a former Western Suburbs President's Cup player who tasted first grade with the Magpies before moving to Mackay last year, was a stand-out while experienced centres Paul White and Ray Gagai were classy finishers.

Panthers coach Gary Greinke, who was denied a fairytale farewell in his last official coaching engagement with the club, said they had been unable to hold off Mackay in the forwards.

"They've got us there two years in a row," he said. "We didn't meet any of our team goals which we had set ourselves before the match so the outcome wasn't a surprise."

Greinke denied a suggestion that the loss could herald the start of a slump for the Panthers, who have lost half Adrian Lam to Easts in Sydney and could lose five-eighth Craig Bowen to Sydney after renewed interest in him from two NSWRL clubs.

"I don't believe so. People thought we would drop our bundle last year when we lost but we came back well. The premiership is a different matter to this. I feel the depth is there," he said.

"We have only lost two matches and drawn two matches this year and I feel it's significent they have all come under the same referee (Stuart Berndt)."

Mackay coach Colin Grosskreutz was delighted at recording a second triumph and confirmed he may well bring down the curtain of his representative career at the end of the season.

"I don't know what I'm going to do about next year. We've got the Foley Shield in a few weeks which we want to do well in but I'll have a think about it," he said.

"It was a super performance by all 17 players. We had the nucleus from last year but there were still plenty of new players who we had to mould into the side."

Hooker Glen Murphy is the only confirmed North Queensland Cowboys signing but Grosskreutz said he believed there were several of his players who represented excellent value for the Cowboys in their 1995 debut.

Bella, who sat out most of last year after announcing his retirement at the end of Queensland's Fijian tour in 1992, is back in the running for representative honors after being one of nine Mackay players selected in the North Queensland team for the divisional championships.

Brisbane's hopes of redressing the swing in rugby league supremacy to the country will lie with the Darryl Van de Velde-coached City team which plays Country in Maryborough on June 12.

MACKAY 34 (R Gagai 2, S Craig, J Doyle, P White, R Farmer, S Bella tries; S Craig 3 goals) d WESTS 14 (B Schultz, G Strutton, C Bowen tries; M Maguire goal).



ALL wrapped up . . . Mackay captain Michael Wilkinson (top) and five-eighth Rob Burgess (below) swoop on Wests prop Rob Campbell during yesterday's State League final. Picture: GEOFF McLACHLAN

1994

BRL: REDCLIFFE

BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REDCLIFFE	22	18	-	4	594	358	36
SOUTHS	22	16	1	5	545	323	33
WESTS	22	15	1	6	635	396	31
IPSWICH	22	15	1	6	552	413	31
EASTS	22	11	2	9	533	538	24
CRUSHERS	22	11	1	10	573	408	23
VALLEYS	22	10	2	10	530	515	22
BROTHERS	22	7	1	14	435	615	15
BRONCOS	22	7	-	15	483	556	14
WYNNUM	22	7	-	15	416	610	14
LOGAN CITY	22	6	-	16	388	649	12
NORTHS	22	4	1	17	400	703	9

1994 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

XXXX CUP ROUND 1

Sun March 6
Crushers 22 def Ipswich 10
Norths 32 def Wynnum 18
Easts 2 def Souths 0
Wests 24 def Brothers 8
Redcliffe 28 def Broncos 18
Valleys 30 def Logan City 26

Sun March 13
Logan City 22 def Redcliffe 18
Ipswich 40 def Broncos 18
Brothers 21 def Norths 14
Valleys 36 def Wynnum 6
Wests 52 def Easts 12
Crushers 22 def Souths 14

Sun March 20
Redcliffe 30 def Souths 10
Crushers 24 def Norths 14
Broncos 42 def Brothers 12
Ipswich 22 def Wests 14
Valleys 22 def Easts 18
Wynnum 26 def Logan City 24

Sun March 27
Crushers 40 def Broncos 16
Ipswich 36 def Brothers 24
Redcliffe 32 def Norths 18
Easts 26 def Logan City 20
Souths 42 def Wynnum 12
Wests 14 drew Valleys 14

Sun April 3
Norths 30 def Broncos 24
Redcliffe 38 def Easts 8
Wests 22 def Wynnum 8
Logan City 28 def Brothers 18
Souths 13 drew Ipswich 13
Valleys 20 def Crushers 18

Sun April 10
Ipswich 18 def Redcliffe 16
Souths 32 def Valleys 24
Easts 28 def Norths 20
Crushers 52 def Brothers 12
Wests 42 def Logan City 6
Wynnum 48 def Broncos 14

Sun April 17
Souths 28 def Brothers 16
Ipswich 28 def Norths 18
Redcliffe 42 def Valleys 12
Crushers 32 def Logan City 4
Wynnum 26 def Easts 14
Wests 39 def Broncos 12

Sun April 24
Logan City 14 def Broncos 10
Ipswich 48 def Valleys 12
Souths 28 def Norths 12
Wynnum 22 def Crushers 20
Easts 40 def Brothers 24

Wed April 27 (postponed game)
Wests 50 def Redcliffe 14

Sun May 8
Souths 22 def Broncos 8
Ipswich 22 def Logan City 18
Easts 24 drew Crushers 24
Wests 30 def Norths 16
Brothers 34 def Valleys 14
Redcliffe 24 def Wynnum 16

Sun May 15 & 22
Logan City 32 def Norths 26
Brothers 26 def Wynnum 10
Valleys 34 def Broncos 16
Easts 22 def Ipswich 14
Redcliffe 23 def Crushers 20
Wests 22 def Souths 10

Sun May 29
Souths 38 def Logan City 6
Valleys 36 def Norths 14
Broncos 27 def Easts 14
Crushers 36 def Wests 24
Redcliffe 23 def Brothers 16
Ipswich 14 def Wynnum 12

XXXX CUP ROUND 2

Sun June 5
Wynnum 26 def Norths 24
Wests 50 def Brothers 24
Valleys 26 def Logan City 12
Ipswich 24 def Crushers 14
Redcliffe 36 def Broncos 16
Souths 28 def Easts 22

Sun June 12
Broncos 38 def Ipswich 18
Brothers 26 drew Norths 26
Souths 41 def Crushers 4
Easts 45 def Wests 24
Redcliffe 38 def Logan City 4
Valleys 46 def Wynnum 16

Sun June 19
Ipswich 25 def Wests 12
(Chairman's Trophy)

Redcliffe 46 def Souths 6
Valleys 22 drew Easts 22
Norths 26 def Crushers 18
Logan City 26 def Wynnum 22
Brothers 26 def Broncos 22

Sun June 26
Crushers 20 def Broncos 11
Redcliffe 40 def Norths 10
Wests 34 def Valleys 22
Ipswich 30 def Brothers 17
Souths 20 def Wynnum 8
Easts 48 def Logan City 22

Sun July 3
Crushers 31 def Valleys 10
Brothers 26 def Logan City 16
Souths 25 def Ipswich 12
Broncos 58 def Norths 0
Wests 48 def Wynnum 28
Redcliffe 30 def Easts 10

Sun July 10
Broncos 24 def Wynnum 22
Easts 48 def Norths 14
Souths 27 def Valleys 16
Redcliffe 12 def Ipswich 10
Brothers 25 def Crushers 12
Wests 28 def Logan City 16

Sun July 17
Souths 50 def Brothers 4
Ipswich 54 def Norths 1
Easts 22 def Wynnum 16
Redcliffe 30 def Valleys 18
Wests 28 def Broncos 14
Logan City 26 def Crushers 23

Sun July 24
Broncos 46 def Logan City 16
Crushers 72 def Wynnum 6
Brothers 35 def Easts 18
Ipswich 20 def Valleys 14
Souths 30 def Norths 12
Redcliffe 22 def Wests 8

Sun July 31
Valleys 38 def Brothers 14
Easts 28 def Crushers 22
Souths 21 def Broncos 12
Wests 36 def Norths 10
Redcliffe 24 def Wynnum 18
Ipswich 22 def Logan City 20

Sun August 7
Crushers 33 def Redcliffe 8
Souths 16 def Wests 14
Norths 46 def Logan City 24
Broncos 25 def Valleys 20
Ipswich 46 def Easts 32
Wynnum 22 def Brothers 6

Sun August 14
Redcliffe 20 def Brothers 19
Wynnum 28 def Ipswich 26
Wests 20 def Crushers 16
Easts 28 def Broncos 12
Valleys 44 def Norths 16
Souths 44 def Logan City 6

BRL FINALS

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final (Sat August 20)
Ipswich 40 def Easts 22

Major Preliminary Semi-Final (Sun August 21)
Wests 14 def Souths 8

Minor Semi-Final (Sat August 27)
Souths 18 def Ipswich 4

Major Semi-Final (Sun August 28)
Redcliffe 28 def Wests 20

Preliminary Final (Sun September 4)
Wests 21 def Souths 10

GRAND FINAL (Sun September 11)
Redcliffe 24 def Wests 18

1994

1994 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

The State League continued the format of the previous year and surprisingly with such a high number of teams the same two teams, Mackay and Wests contested the final. Just like the year before Mackay upset Wests in the final at Lang Park with an even bigger win of 34-14.

Contesting both the State League and the BRL in 1994 were the Brisbane Broncos and South Queensland Crushers. Between the Broncos fielding a reserve grade side in the NSWRL and this season many Broncos fringe players played for Brothers but they then decided to field a full lower grade in the BRL. The Crushers had been given approval to enter the ARL competition in 1995 and chose to also field a side in the BRL bringing the number of BRL teams up to 12 for this year and the next. The Broncos finished low and Crushers finished middle of the pack and missed the semi-finals.

With 12 teams there were an extra two semi-finals contested by the top 5 teams. Redcliffe were minor premiers ahead of Souths who lost to Wests, then thrashed Ipswich 36-4 before losing to Wests 21-10 in the preliminary final.

This 1994 season, though, was the year of the Dolphin. Having last won a premiership in 1965 with Arthur Beetson before he went to Sydney they won all three grades (previously only done by Souths in 1945) and beat a gallant Wests 24-18 with tries to McGrady, Adamson, Pike and Schick. It was a grand spectacle for the newly upgraded and renamed Suncorp Stadium.

BRL Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Ipswich 40 v Easts 22

Defiant Langer leads Jet blitz

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

IPSWICH captain-coach Kevin Langer yesterday defied medical opinion as the Jets kicked in the afterburners to eclipse Easts 40-22 in the XXXX Cup minor preliminary semi-final at Lang Park.

Langer was refused a medical clearance to play by Ipswich and QRL doctor Roy Saunders leading up to the match, but overruled the decision to take his place.

The experienced halfback was a key figure as the Jets made the most of a wealth of early possession to hold a match-winning 28-6 lead by halftime.

Langer was knocked out and taken to hospital in the final premiership round when Ipswich lost 28-22 to Wynnum last week. But Langer elected to ignore the general rule of a week's rest applying to head knocks, to lead his side.

"I felt bad on the Monday but by Saturday I felt fine," he said.

"I didn't have any headaches during the week and I decided to go ahead and play even though the doctor wasn't keen. My wife Donna wasn't that pleased either.

"I didn't have any problems during the game. It was a tough decision to make but we had unlimited interchange so I could always get off if something came up during the game."

The Jets took just over two minutes to get on the scoreboard through rugged hooker Doug Evans, who strolled through some flimsy defence to score under the posts in an ominous sign for Tigers fans.

An intercept try to Easts centre Heath Lewis as Ipswich launched another attacking raid five minutes later temporarily halted the momentum and locked the scores at 6-6. But an Easts error, with Dion Cope letting the kick-off go dead, followed by one of eight penalties they conceded in the first half, left Easts trailing 8-6.

The margin grew quickly after that as Ipswich scored some excellent tries. A delicate cross kick from five-eighth Peter Dodd in the 19th minute saw winger Ken Mercy leap acrobatically, re-gather and then beat two defenders to score in the corner.

Tries to hard-working back-rower Matt Ralph, whose booming kicking took full use of the gusty wind at their back in the first half, and centre Jim Lenihan took the Jets to 22-6.

It was left to prop Brett Kaatz to produce the most spectacular of Ipswich's tries. A grubber kick from Langer was pounced on by interchange pivot Jim Allan who flicked the ball off the ground to Kaatz.

Kaatz appeared to lose the ball but in fact held it — awkwardly clasped by one hand behind his leg — and was miraculously able to control it as he ran the 15m or so to the line.

"How far did I run — 40m or something?" Kaatz said. "I thought I'd dropped it at one stage."

Langer warned his players not to relax even as they raced to a half-time lead similar to that posted the last time the two sides met, which also resulted in a victory to Ipswich.

"I told them we would have to do some tackling because we had all the ball and Easts can throw the ball around and make it hard for us," he said.

Easts showed a glimpse of what would have been an improbable comeback when they scored two tries — a rampaging individual effort by prop Peter Anderson and Lewis' second after great work by centre Shane Cairns and fullback David Smith — in three minutes after halftime.

But the momentum was stopped and tries to Lenihan and fullback Clinton Baker, from a Langer scrum-base dash, put the match beyond doubt.

Easts still finished with a try on fulltime, which featured a good break by Lewis.

MINOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL
IPSWICH 40 d EASTS 22

Scorers — Ipswich: J Lenihan 2, M Ralph, C Baker, K Mercy, D Evans, B Kaatz tries; M Ralph 6 goals. Easts: P Anderson 2, H Lewis 2 tries; S Cairns 3 goals. At Lang Park.



BOMBS away . . . Ipswich captain-coach Kevin Langer hits the ground in a tangle of arms and legs in the tackle of Easts centre Shane Cairns yesterday.

1994

BRL Major Preliminary Semi-Final — Wests 14 v Souths 8

Panthers owe it all to Vivian

WESTS' lock Shane Vivian won a man-of-the-match award on Saturday night which should remain a special memory long after the season ends.

Vivian was a stand-out in the Panthers 14-8 win over Souths in the major preliminary semi-final on Saturday night in a result which held plenty of meaning and emotion.

The 23-year-old forward missed Wests' last premiership game after returning home to Moura to be with his family after his father, Terry, died in the recent mine disaster.

The Panthers' players used Vivian as their inspiration in their 20-16 win over the Crushers and the tough back-rower set himself to repay their faith in him against Souths.

Vivian said he saw the Crushers game on television in Moura and felt honoured that his teammates rallied behind him in his time of trouble.

"It was just good to watch, but it would have been better if it never had to happen," he said.

Vivian takes the same attitude to his father's memory. "I don't think he wants to be remembered at all. He'd just like to still be here," he said.

Terry Vivian was a rugby league stalwart in Moura, spending years as coach and later taking on the job of club secretary.

"Ever since I can remember, he's been involved with the Moura club," Vivian said.

"Everything was football with my dad. The whole family is football mad.

"But it wouldn't have mattered to him what we played. He supported us in whatever we did. As kids we had a dabble at everything. He was always there to buy us a bike, to buy us a horse.

"He supported us in everything we wanted to do. I think he was committed to rugby league because it was the game we played."

Vivian said his close-knit family were still coming to terms with the loss of his father. "It has to be inspirational," he said of his father's death. "But it hurts."

Wests will play minor premiers Redcliffe on Sunday at Lang Park in the major semi-final with the winners advancing to the grand final on September 11.

The Panthers have injury concerns over second-rower Steele Retchless (corked thigh) and fullback Brett Schultz (back).

Souths will play Ipswich in the minor semi-final on Saturday night with the Magpies certain to be without prop Brent Vincent (shoulder) and possibly second-rower Mark Rockley (calf).

Souths failed to convert numerous opportunities against a dogged Wests outfit, although Magpies coach Chris Phelan did not believe they lacked killer instinct.

XXXX CUP
MAJOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL
WESTS 14 d SOUTHS 8
Scorers — Wests: P Tong, C Bowen tries; M Maguire 3 goals. Souths: F Hill try; C Hastings goal. At Lang Park

1994

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Souths 18 v Ipswich 4

Magpie lesson for jittery Jets

By STEPHEN GRAY

A METHODICAL Souths last night rolled up their sleeves and grafted their way to an 18-4 Brisbane Division rugby league minor semi-final win over Ipswich at Suncorp Stadium.

The Magpies had a disrupted preparation with the late loss of halfback Peter Nocon.

And there was a minor panic before the match when officials discovered they were minus several jumpers in their kit bag, but they showed the benefits of patience and control to maintain their undefeated status against the Jets this season.

Despite a welter of possession through a 7-2 penalty count, Souths did not score until the 23rd minute when halfback Craig Grauf retrieved his own kick to go over.

SOUTHS 18 (C Grauf, T McCarthy, S Rolfe tries; C Hastings 3 goals) d **IPSWICH** 4 (A Saltner try).

Grauf, who played intelligently after being switched to half following a training accident to Nocon on Friday night, benefited from a powerhouse showing by props Jason Adams and Peter Deaves and clever running by hooker Mick Davis.

Phelan praised Grauf's direction and creativity, with another kick in the second half leading to replacement Shane Rolfe scoring to take the lead to 16-4.

"Craig has been tremendous for us all year," Phelan said. "He is a great organiser, leader and thinker on the field and why a Winfield Cup club would go overseas for a half when someone like him is here is beyond me."

Ipswich captain-coach Kevin Langer questioned the appointment of referee Shane Woodward for his initial first grade semi-final, but stressed he was not attributing their loss to his control.

"A semi is not a place to experiment with a referee although that is taking nothing away from Souths, who were the better side," he said.

"It's just that it is hard when you don't have the ball, especially early on. But it was a very disappointing way to go out. We didn't play to the standard we know we are capable of."

Ipswich won the penalties 12-9 and Woodward, who has refereed in the NSWRL lower grades, had what was generally a solid game.



Jet collision . . . Ipswich replacement second rower Shane Page stops the progress of Souths lock Mark Lane during the Brisbane Division rugby league minor semi-final at Suncorp Stadium last night. Souths won 18-4

1994

BRL Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 28 v Wests 20

YEAR OF THE FIN?
Dolphins on a roll

By STEPHEN GRAY

THE Year of the Fin moved a step closer to reality yesterday as Redcliffe won through to the XXXX Cup grand final with a 28-20 win over defending premiers Wests at Lang Park.

There were plenty of reminders in yesterday's major semi-final about Redcliffe's hopes, with the debut appearance of a large grey dolphin mascot on the sideline.

The club has launched a range of bumper stickers and T-shirts with the slogan, "We're Itching", accompanied by a cartoon of a dolphin.

Not all of the dolphin symbolism is new. Redcliffe captain Ian Graham has carried a "Fins" tattoo on his right shoulder since his days as a colt.

Redcliffe's lack of premiership success is more than a seven-year itch, although 1987 was the last time they were in an A grade grand final. The anticipation of the club capturing its first A grade premiership since 1965 is building rapidly.

There will be a school of dolphins at Lang Park on September 11 with Redcliffe having three teams in the grand final. Reserve grade yesterday came back in the final 10 minutes from a 26-14 deficit against Souths to win 27-26 and the colts team beat minor premiers Norths 20-6.

The club's open grade side won its second division grand final last week 22-18 over Souths while the Redcliffe Hotel "Giants" side also won its grand final.

The omens are there ... but Redcliffe coach Ross O'Reilly was quick to put the next fortnight into perspective.

"We gave them a sniff today when we got away from our game pattern and it's something we have to watch," he said.

"I'm glad we have got all of the sides into the grand final because this year has been a club effort. We have all worked hard to get where we have. But we have plenty more to do."

Redcliffe were first on the scoreboard when two players who had mighty games yesterday — lock Craig Spark and winger Wayne Miller — combined off a scrum for Miller to score out wide.

It took the strapping winger to 202 points for the season and he promptly improved that effort by landing the goal from the sideline.

Wests hit back through improving winger Peter Tong, who scored a fine 60m individual try which saw him beat three defenders with some silken running.

Tong, who was replaced later in the match after copping an accidental finger in the eye, also scored a second try during Wests mini-comeback in the second half.

REDCLIFFE 28 (J McGrady, R McGrady, B Canning, W Miller, T O'Reilly, A Schick tries; W Miller 2 goals) d WESTS 20 (P Tong 2, M Maguire, S Retchless tries; M Maguire 2 goals).

Redcliffe then cleared away through some McGrady magic, with first Ricky crossing for his 22nd try of the season and then Jason, a slightly chunkier but no less effective runner, beating three defenders to score to make it 14-6.

And those who may have pegged the McGradys as sensational runners and ordinary tacklers would have changed that perception, based on their defensive effort against the likes of Graham Strutton and Sam Smith.

A well-taken try to replacement forward Andrew Schick four minutes before the break made it 20-6 and ABC Television's halftime statistic that Wests had missed 22 tackles came as no surprise.

Wests coach Brad Price said they had failed to wrap up the ball carrier and had generally lacked intensity in the first half. "We had talked about the need to keep our intensity up after two pretty emotional efforts in our past two games but it didn't work that way," he said.

Price, a physical education teacher at Wellington Point SHS, had his own omen about Wests' prospects when the open girls hockey team which he coaches lost their regional semi-final during the week.

Wests out-scored Redcliffe in the second half and it could have been a closer result in the end but for three outstanding covering tackles by Spark on Wests five-eighth Craig Bowen.



STEPPING OUT . . . Redcliffe fullback Bevan Canning tries to dance away from Wests winger Peter Tong during yesterday's major semi-final at Lang Park.

1994

BRL Preliminary Final - Wests 21 v Souths 10

Schultz inspires Wests

Depleted Souths run out of steam

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

WESTS fullback Brett Schultz yesterday gave himself a timely birthday present with an inspiring display in their 21-10 preliminary final win over Souths at Lang Park.

Schultz, who turned 22 yesterday, provided some dynamic attack from fullback as the defending XXXX Cup premiers moved into a grand final showdown with Redcliffe at Lang Park on Sunday.

Schultz gained a start only on Saturday when last year's grand final fullback Dave Mills was ruled out with a corked thigh, and made the most of his chance to present Wests coach Brad Price with a selection headache this week.

"We'll see how Dave is and I'll have a chat to the selectors but it's going to be a tough decision whichever way we go," Price said.

Wests will also anxiously await the diagnosis on five-eighth Craig Bowen, who suffered a knee injury late in the match in addition to a broken nose in the first half.

"Our physio felt it was just a strain but we'll know more in 24 hours and keep our fingers crossed that Craig is okay for the grand final," Price said.

Schultz kept his big day to himself prior to the match but ensured any party Souths might have planned would be a fizzer through his silken running.

The former Queensland Residents and Broncos player made several long breaks to reduce the effectiveness of the kicking game of Souths pair Chris Hastings and Craig Grauf, particularly in the second half when they had a good breeze at their backs.

Schultz did not have it all his way though, with a one-on-one tackle on rampaging Souths winger Isei Siganyavi proving too difficult in the first half as the Magpies led 10-4.

WESTS 21 (B Berrigan, C Bowen, P Tong, D Fuller tries; M Maguire 2 goals, J Little field goal) d SOUTHS 10 (I Siganyavi, T Catton tries; C Hastings goal).

Souths opened the scoring in the 13th minute through a Grauf grubber which eluded Wests lock Shane Vivian for Souths forward Tony Catton to fall on.

Wests winger Mark Maguire, who has caught the eye of several NSWRL clubs including Newcastle, was unable to land two penalties in a row and then the club lost prop David Liddell when he was knocked out attempting a tackle.

But Wests were able to take advantage of a strong off-load by centre Sam Smith 20m out from the Souths line to allow five-eighth Craig Bowen to dash over in the 26th minute.

Smith had one of his best games for Wests with some powerhouse running but marred his performance by throwing some wayward passes in scoring positions.

The sides were locked 10-10 at halftime after Wests half Barry Berrigan scored with two minutes left in the half following a determined surge by interchange forward David Fuller.

A fiery exchange between Smith and Souths centre Gavin Darwin, during which Darwin clearly attempted to head-butt Smith, got the second half off to a flying start.

Darwin went to the blood bin following the melee. Despite wearing head-gear, he suffered a head-knock almost as soon as he returned to action and he took no further part in the match.

His replacement, promising Townsville recruit Jason Hughes, then found out just how little can separate a win or loss in rugby league.

As Souths launched a surprise foray out of their own 30m, Hughes hesitated a fraction too long to deliver the ball to Siganyavi, who already had shown his liking for a long-range try.

Instead, Wests winger Peter Tong pounced on the pass and sprinted the short distance to the try-line to give the Panthers a crucial 16-10 lead with 23 minutes left in the match.

Souths captain Craig Grauf identified the intercept as the turning point of the match even though a well-taken John Little field goal with eight minutes left put Souths behind by more than a converted try.

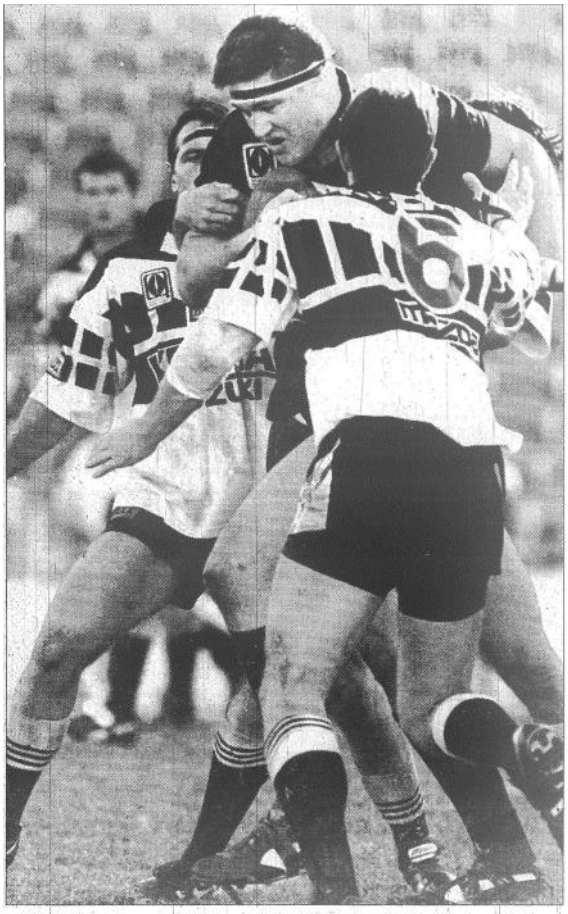
"We had the wind with us and they were doing it tough," he said. "I think we could have got them in the final 10 minutes but instead, we had to go after them."

A late try to Fuller inside the final two minutes ensured Wests would figure in their third grand final in as many years.

Grauf said he favoured Redcliffe to win their first premiership in nearly 30 years because of their overall power.

In reserve grade, Norths were too classy for Souths as they moved into a grand final clash with Redcliffe with a 22-6 win. But the result was spoilt by an on-field gouging allegation by Norths prop John Elordi against a Souths forward.

The Devils had worse luck in colts, with their minor premiership under-19 side crashing out 20-17 to big improvers Wests. A try to Panthers centre Nathan Hinckley with three minutes left lifted them into the grand final against Redcliffe.



TOWER of power ... giant Wests prop Michael Seaby drags Souths defenders with him during one of his many determined runs yesterday as Magpies five-eighth Chris Hastings joins the fray. Picture: ASHLEY WOODHOUSE

1994

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 24 v WESTS 18

DOLPHINS THE CHAMPS



REDCLIFFE'S nippy halfback Tom O'Reilly launches another probing run against Wests at Lang Park yesterday.

By **STEPHEN GRAY**

THE vision of halfback Tom O'Reilly yesterday ensured Redcliffe came away from Lang Park with a 24-18 win over defending premiers Wests and long-awaited Brisbane rugby league premiership.

O'Reilly, who was blind in his left eye two years ago, came up with a crucial covering tackle on Wests five-eighth Craig Bowen in the 72nd minute as Wests launched a desperate attacking raid against a 12-man Redcliffe side.

Redcliffe led 22-18 but Wests, winners of the past two grand finals and contesting their fourth in succession, were building ominously.

They had appeared to gain a crucial opening when Dolphins centre Jason McGrady was sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes in the 68th minute.

Wests scored straight from the penalty when centre Sam Smith plunged over.

A determined bust by Wests half Barry Berrigan saw Bowen dash into the Redcliffe 30m zone before O'Reilly came from behind to drag him down.

Possession turned over shortly after that and Redcliffe were able to go on to win their first title since 1965 to cap an outstanding day, with wins to their colts side (12-8 over Wests) and reserve grade (32-22 over Norths) giving the club the first grand final clean-sweep since Souths in 1945.

The 20-year-old O'Reilly, who laid the foundation for the Dolphins' opening try to flashy centre Ricky McGrady with a smart break, revealed after the match that a cataract in his left eye had effectively blinded him at the end of his under-17 season.

"I had the cataract cut out and a plastic lens was put into my eye to fix my vision," he said. "It is practically 100 percent now."

O'Reilly, who has received few feelers from NSWRL clubs about next season, said he had reacted instinctively when he saw Bowen moving into the clear. "I saw him go and knew I had to get there," he said.

Wests did not get the start they wanted when robust prop Michael Seaby was cut badly over the right eye in the opening five minutes by what seemed an over-vigorous tackle from Redcliffe captain Ian Graham, which admittedly went unpunished.

Seaby was able to return after receiving six stitches but was replaced several times because of bleeding from the wound, which he admitted afterwards had affected his game.

"Each time I started to get a bit of a roll on, I had to get replaced. It was disappointing but that's how the game goes," he said.

A Mark Maguire penalty got Wests off to a 2-0 lead but Ricky McGrady's 23rd try of the season after good lead-up by O'Reilly and Graham put Redcliffe in front after 16 minutes.

McGrady, who is set to follow team-mate Brad Pike to Eastern Suburbs next season, played in front of a host of relatives including older brother Ewan, the 1991 Rothmans Medallist who may link with the Dolphins next season.

Wests hit back four minutes later when quick hands from Bowen and Smith allowed Maguire to squeeze over in the corner for a 6-4 lead.

A fine individual try to Redcliffe five-eighth Grant Adamson, where he beat three defenders to score near the posts, put his side back into the lead at 10-6.

Wests gave up a vital try eight minutes before the break when a mix-up in-goal between winger Peter Tong and fullback Brett Schultz from an Adamson kick saw replacement forward Andrew Schick follow through to score.

But the Panthers showed their quality by working play down to Redcliffe's end before Australian Residents centre Graham Strutton showed great strength to wrestle away from three tacklers and off-load to lock Shane Vivian for a 37th minute try and a 16-12 halftime scoreline.

The second half was a tighter affair, with Wests appearing to have the upper-hand early. But with 24 minutes left, Bowen elected to take a tap rather than kick for goal and narrow the deficit to two points after they received a penalty near the posts.

It proved unsuccessful and Redcliffe made the most of their good fortune to move further ahead with a 61st minute try to Pike when he charged over through the centre of the ruck following a well-timed pass from tireless hooker Barry Collins to extend the lead to 20-12.

The final tense few minutes teased out the anticipation of the waiting heavily pro-Redcliffe crowd.



IRISH eyes are smiling. 'Twas a great day for the Redcliffe O'Reillys — coach Ross and halfback Tom celebrate yesterday's grand final triumph. Pictures: GEOFF McLACHLAN



DOLPHINS forward Kahu Tweedie unloads his pass as Wests' Shane Vivian tackles.



TIRELESS Wests lock Shane Vivian attempts to elude a Redcliffe defender yesterday.

THE STATS

	REDCLIFFE	WESTS
	24	18

Redcliffe 24 (R McGrady, G Adamson, B Pike, A Schick tries; W Miller 4 goals) d Wests 18 (S Smith, S Vivian, M Maguire tries, M Maguire 3 goals). **First scorers:** Redcliffe 3, Wests 2. **Penalties:** 8-4 Wests. **Scrums:** 7-5 Wests. **Send-offs:** nil **Sin-bins:** J McGrady (Red) 10 mins.

WHEN THEY SCORED

7 min: Wests 2-0 (Maguire goal)
16 min: Redcliffe 4-2 (R McGrady try)
20 min: Wests 6-4 (Maguire try)
24 min: Redcliffe 10-6 (Adamson try, Miller goal)
32 min: Redcliffe 16-6 (A Schick try, Miller goal)
37 min: Redcliffe 16-12 (Vivian try, Maguire goal)
61 min: Redcliffe 22-12 (Pike try, Miller goal)
69 min: Redcliffe 22-18 (Smith try, Maguire goal)
75 min: Redcliffe 24-18 (Miller goal)

TURNING POINT

The superb 72nd minute covering tackle by Redcliffe half Tom O'Reilly on Wests five-eighth Craig Bowen as the Panthers launched an ominous attacking raid on a 12-man Dolphins outfit with the score at 22-18.

The Courier-Mail MAN OF THE MATCH
GRANT ADAMSON (Redcliffe)

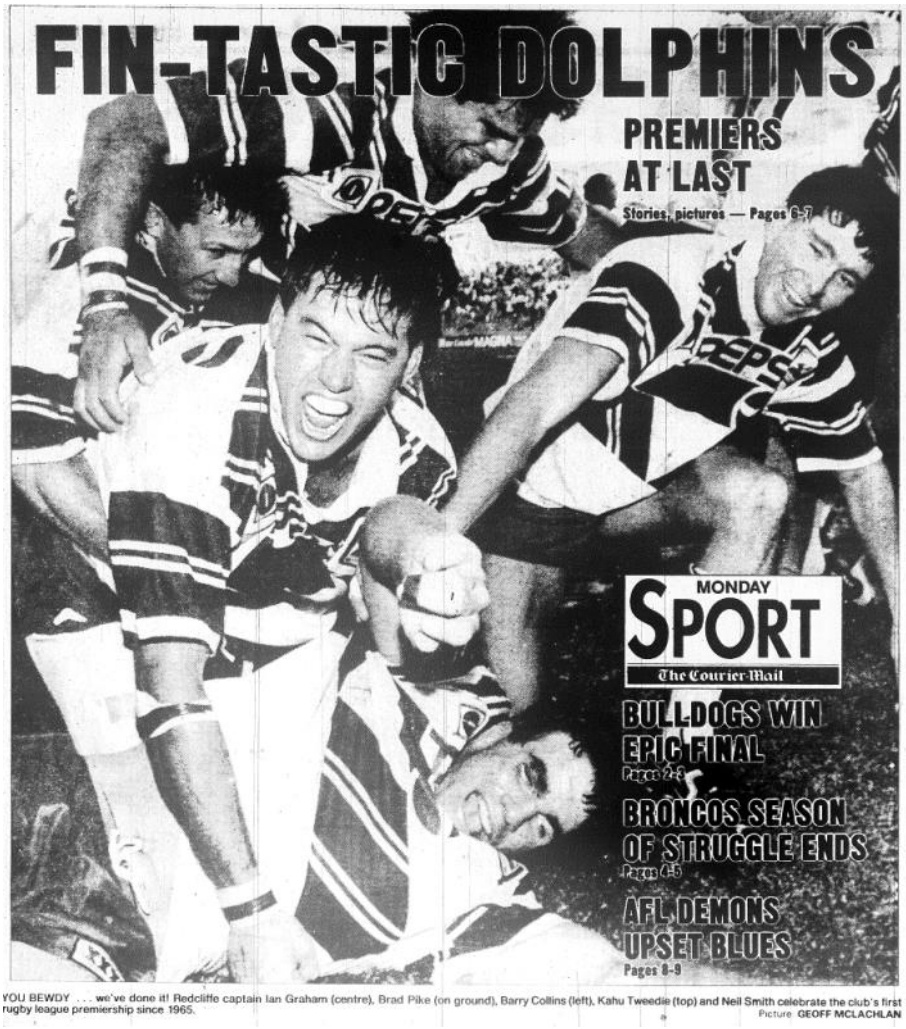


'ERE WE GO, 'ere we go . . . skipper Ian Graham (with trophy) in fine voice as he leads the Dolphins club song.



1994

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 24 v WESTS 18



YOU BEWDY . . . we've done it! Redcliffe captain Ian Graham (centre), Brad Pike (on ground), Barry Collins (left), Kahu Tweedie (top) and Neil Smith celebrate the club's first rugby league premiership since 1965. Picture: GEOFF MCLACHLAN

Redcliffe finally knock the monkey off their back



REDCLIFFE president Des Webb celebrates with hooker Barry Collins (left) and second-rower Kahu Tweedie



CRUNCH! Redcliffe captain Ian Graham meets Panther Brett Green head-on.

By BERNIE PRAMBERG

IF A football dressing room can produce a poignant moment, it must be the fleeting period of privacy shared between coach and players after a winning grand final.

Behind closed doors, for barely a minute or two before the celebrating hordes swarm into the rooms, comes an intensely emotional time.

Redcliffe coach Ross O'Reilly did not waste words when he stood to address his exhausted troops at Lang Park yesterday.

Every player was seated, every eye focused on O'Reilly

even the mob milling outside were suddenly quiet. After 29 years, the monkey had finally been tossed from the Dolphins' back.

"There's a lot of trust and honesty between the blokes in this room," O'Reilly said.

"You've been prepared to do the hard work from as far back as October last year — and it has been hard. You're a tremendous bunch of blokes with great spirit.

"This is your premiership to enjoy, you earned it."

O'Reilly reached for a beer the dressing room door opened and president Des Webb, champagne bottle in hand, led a battalion of long-suffering Dolphin disciples to land the victors of '94.

Webb, flanked by former president Dick "Tosser" Turner and Don McLennan who served as secretary from 1950 to 1989, admitted a huge sense of relief.

"I honestly don't know what we'd have done at Redcliffe if we'd lost this year," Webb said.

"Everyone was feeling the pressure — we've come so close in the past. The weight of expectation was really on the shoulders of the players.

"I thought we had the side to win — we've had a lot of teams in the past with big name players, internationals and the like. But this side was extremely well balanced."

Redcliffe, the country-style club in a city competition, has a reputation for friendliness and Webb was quickly into the losing Wests' room to offer commiserations.

"It was an amazing performance by Wests — they kept coming back at us for the 80 minutes," Webb said.

Redcliffe's victory was significant on two counts — it was only the club's second first-grade premiership (the inaugural being in 1965) and the Dolphins became the first club to win all three grades on grand final day since Souths in 1945.

Not only did Redcliffe win first grade (24-18), reserves (32-22) and colts (12-8) yesterday, they also took the third grade premiership final three weeks ago.

Yesterday's free-flowing final was a fine display of rugby league by any standard with at least a dozen players likely to be signed by Winfield Cup clubs.

Arthur Beetson and coaching guru Jack Gibson played cards in the press box during the lower grades but called a halt to scout the talent on show from 3pm. They weren't alone — a number of known informants to the Sydney clubs were spotted watching the action from the spanking new grandstand.

Speaking of the new edifice, one veteran league identity remarked yesterday that the Lang Park Trust has been slow to restore the original name to the "Frank Burke Stand".

"It's got Suncorp Stadium plastered all over it, but I can't see Frank Burke's name," he said.

"They shouldn't be allowed to forget the bloke who was responsible for Lang Park in the first place."

Indeed, Frank Burke would have been proud of Lang Park yesterday — the well preserved playing surface was so green it could have been transposed from the west coast of Ireland.

And a crowd of 17,500, one of the best post-Broncos attendances for a local grand final, was large and vocal enough to create plenty of atmosphere.

Finally, what of the entertainers?

For my money, Redcliffe halves Tom O'Reilly (sporting an Ellery Hanley hairstyle) and ex-Mount Isa five-eighth Grant Adamson played the house down while chunky fullback Bevan Canning caused incessant headaches for the Panthers.

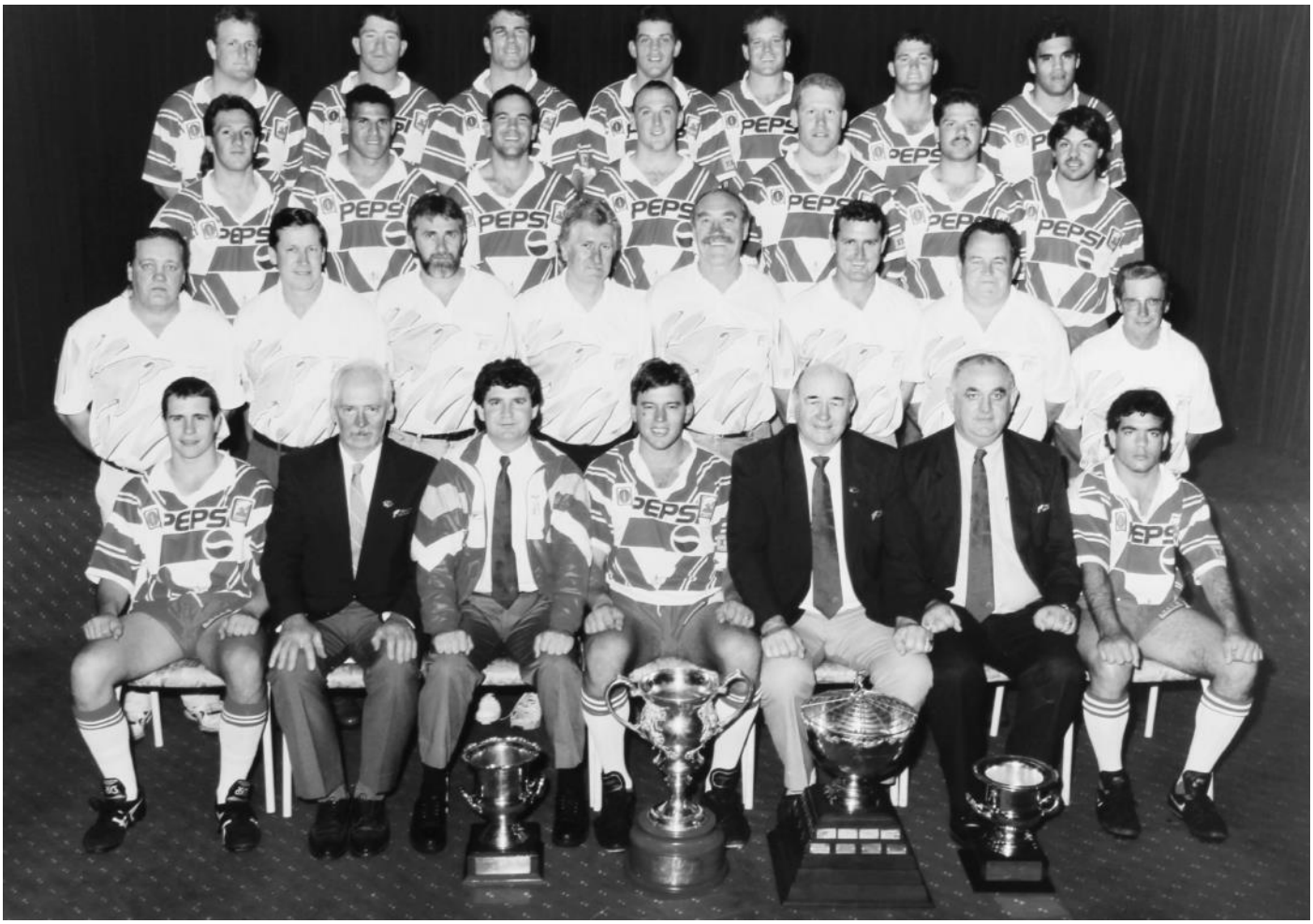
Up front, prop Brad Pike, tearaway second-rower Ian Graham and lock Craig Spark produced powerful games while seasoned hooker Barry Collins was never off the ball.

Finally, a warning.

Anyone travelling in the vicinity of Redcliffe today should be wary of a smiling Dolphin — the one which had been lugging a monkey on its back for almost 30 years.

1994

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 24 v WESTS 18



Above: The 1994 Redcliffe team that won their first premiership since 1965.

1994 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Ipswich 40 def. Easts 22
Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Wests 14 def. Souths 8
Minor Semi-Final: Souths 18 def. Ipswich 4
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 def. Wests 20
Preliminary Final: Wests 21 def. Souths 10

1994 BRL GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 24 (Tries: R. McGrady, G. Adamson, B. Pike, A. Schick; Goals: W. Miller 4) def. WESTS 18 (Tries: S. Smith; S. Vivian, M. Maguire; Goals: M. Maguire 3)

1995

STATE LEAGUE: ROCKHAMPTON



1995 WINFIELD STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

This was the last State League competition held before the Queensland Cup would take over in 1996. The format differed a little to 1994, with only the top Brisbane side advancing to the semi-finals instead of the two. The country rounds were split into 5 groups with 4 teams competing in each group.

It was also the first time a State League grand final had been held away from Lang Park. It was held at Browne Park in Rockhampton and, incidentally, the home team won the very last State League title by defeated the Gold Coast - Group 18.

BRISBANE ROUNDS (Group 3)

Round 1

Brothers 20 defeated Wests 4
Easts 30 defeated Wynnum 8
Redcliffe 12 defeated Broncos 8
Logan City 14 defeated Valleys 0
Souths 30 defeated Crushers 4
Ipswich 20 defeated Norths 12

Round 2

Redcliffe 12 defeated Wests 8
Ipswich 24 defeated Brothers 21
Wynnum 22 defeated Valleys 14
Easts 38 defeated Norths 10
Logan City 36 defeated Souths 18
Crushers 24 defeated Broncos 20

Round 3

Brothers 22 defeated Norths 12
Logan City 44 defeated Wests 6
Souths 17 defeated Easts 8
Redcliffe 48 defeated Wynnum 10
Broncos 37 defeated Valleys 24
Crushers 18 defeated Ipswich 14

Logan City advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

COUNTRY ROUNDS

Group 1

Round 1

Cairns 34 defeated Townsville 24
Mount Isa 48 defeated Mid West 12

Round 2

Cairns 66 defeated Mount Isa 6
Townsville 90 defeated Mid West 0

Round 3

Cairns 106 defeated Mid West 0
Townsville 60 defeated Mount Isa 6

Cairns advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

Group 2

Round 1

Gold Coast -Group 18 22 defeated Ipswich Diggers 16
Bundaberg 34 defeated Maryborough/Hervey Bay 16

Round 2

Maryborough/Hervey Bay 17 defeated Ipswich Diggers 14
Gold Coast -Group 18 30 defeated Bundaberg 18

Round 3

Gold Coast -Group 18 54 defeated Maryborough/Hervey Bay 16
Ipswich Diggers 28 defeated Bundaberg 24

Gold Coast -Group 18 advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group 4

Round 1

Rockhampton 44 defeated Central Highlands 16
Mackay 60 defeated Central West 20

Round 2

Rockhampton 48 defeated Central West 22
Mackay 66 defeated Central Highlands 16

Round 3

Rockhampton 38 defeated Mackay 28
Central Highlands 42 defeated Central West 24

Rockhampton advanced to Pool A semi-finals.

Group 5

Round 1

Toowoomba 38 defeated South Burnett 8
Sunshine Coast/Gympie 30 defeated South West 24

Round 2

Toowoomba 42 defeated Sunshine Coast/Gympie 24
South West 28 defeated South Burnett 14

Round 3

Toowoomba 40 defeated South West 6
Sunshine Coast/Gympie 47 defeated South Burnett 14

Toowoomba advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Group 6

Round 1

Northern Districts 54 defeated Central Burnett 8
Gladstone 24 defeated Callide Valley 22

Round 2

Northern Districts 22 defeated Callide Valley 14
Gladstone 52 defeated Central Burnett 24

Round 3

Callide Valley 40 defeated Central Burnett 24
Gladstone 82 defeated Northern Districts 10

Gladstone advanced to Pool B semi-finals.

Pool A

Logan City 24 defeated Cairns 14 at Meakin Park
Rockhampton 22 defeated Cairns 20 at Cairns
Rockhampton 20 defeated Logan City 18 at Rockhampton

Pool B

Toowoomba 36 defeated Gladstone 10 at Toowoomba
Gold Coast -Group 18 36 defeated Gladstone 24 at Gladstone
Gold Coast -Group 18 22 defeated Toowoomba 18 at Seagulls Stadium

Rockhampton and Gold Coast -Group 18 advanced to the grand final.

GRAND FINAL

ROCKHAMPTON 26 (D Wass, Paul Iles, Brad Nevan, Hughie Stanley, M White tries; D Wass 2, Paul Iles goals) defeated
GOLD COAST (GROUP 18) 22 (A Kempnich, Robin Thorne, Troy McCarthy, D Donelly, W Beetham tries; A Kempnich goal) at Browne Park

1995

STATE LEAGUE FINAL - ROCKHAMPTON 26 v GOLD COAST 22

Gold Coast wrest consolation prize

GOLD COAST Group 18 Vikings have been rewarded with four places in the Queensland Country side despite being denied a first State League title in Rockhampton yesterday.

Goalkicking decided yesterday's match, a 26-22 win to Rockhampton.

The Vikings missed two relatively easy attempts at goal which would have drawn the game.

However, it was Rockhampton who earned the biggest reward — a State League title as well as the selection of four of their squad in the Country side to take on City on May 21.

After skipping away to a 16-8 lead at the break and dominating play during the first 20 minutes of the second half, Rockhampton looked set to dominate the scorecard completely.

But the Vikings, led by two former Gold Coast Seagulls in halfback Ali Davys and centre Troy McCarthy, fought back to close the gap and set up a dramatic finish.

Queensland Rugby League managing director Ross Livermore, who travelled to Rockhampton with the Queensland selectors, said the entire event, culminating in yesterday's final at Browne Park, was a huge success.

"It was a fantastic match to finish up with. It was the standard of a true final," Livermore said. "The fact there was such a large crowd of supporters was extremely pleasing to see.

"The defence out there from both sides was rock solid. The way the match see-sawed, with the Gold Coast coming back with a final rally, made the game a fantastic exhibition.

"Both sides should be proud of their performance, but Rockhampton deserved to win the match. The fact they had to work so hard to achieve it is a credit to the Vikings."

Man of the match Graham White, who came off the Rockhampton interchange bench, earned a Country jersey with an inspired display.

ROCKHAMPTON 26 (D Wass, P Iles, B Neven, H Stanley, M White tries; D Wass 2, P Iles goals) d **VIKINGS 22** (A Kempnich, R Thorne, T McCarthy, D Donelly, W Beetham tries; A Kempnich goal) at Browne Park, Rockhampton.

1995

BRL: WYNNUM-MANLY



BRL PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTS	22	15	2	5	697	337	32
BROTHERS	22	14	3	5	526	332	31
WYNNUM	22	15	1	6	540	446	31
REDCLIFFE	22	14	1	7	515	310	29
SOUTHS	22	13	-	9	551	323	26
BRONCOS	22	12	2	8	519	452	26
CRUSHERS	22	13	-	9	507	421	26
IPSWICH	22	8	2	12	390	526	18
WESTS	22	8	-	14	400	494	16
LOGAN CITY	22	7	1	14	400	515	15
NORTHS	22	4	-	18	357	639	8
VALLEYS	22	3	-	19	280	887	6

1995 BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

XXXX CUP ROUND 1

March 11/12
Souths 38 def Caboolture-Valleys 20
Easts 54 def Crushers 14
Ipswich 24 def Logan City 14
Wynnum 22 def Wests 14
Redcliffe 22 def Norths 2
Brothers 14 drew Broncos 14

March 18/19
Broncos 32 def Wests 16
Norths 33 def Caboolture-Valleys 16
Souths 32 def Wynnum 22
Easts 26 def Brothers 18
Redcliffe 16 def Ipswich 10
Crushers 32 def Logan City 22

March 25/26
Brothers 20 def Wests 4
Easts 30 def Wynnum 8
Redcliffe 12 def Broncos 8
Logan City 14 def Caboolture-Valleys 0
Souths 30 def Crushers 4
Ipswich 20 def Norths 12

April 1/2
Redcliffe 12 def Wests 8
Ipswich 24 def Brothers 21
Wynnum 22 def Caboolture-Valleys 14
Easts 38 def Norths 10
Logan City 36 def Souths 18
Crushers 24 def Broncos 20

April 8/9
Brothers 22 def Norths 12
Logan City 44 def Wests 6
Souths 17 def Easts 8
Redcliffe 48 def Wynnum 10
Broncos 48 def Caboolture-Valleys 24
Crushers 18 def Ipswich 14

April 15/16
Ipswich 34 def Wests 16
Easts 30 def Redcliffe 8
Brothers 37 def Caboolture-Valleys 4
Souths 24 def Norths 12
Wynnum 16 def Crushers 8
Logan City 24 def Broncos 16

April 22/23
Caboolture-Valleys 22 def Wests 18
Crushers 25 def Brothers 24
Redcliffe 36 def Souths 28
Ipswich 20 drew Easts 20
Broncos 24 def Wynnum 12
Logan City 24 def Norths 12

April 29/30
Brothers 18 def Souths 4
Easts 50 def Wests 14
Redcliffe 66 def Caboolture-Valleys 8
Wynnum 22 def Logan City 20
Broncos 23 def Ipswich 18
Crushers 26 def Norths 20

May 6/7 & 13/14
Ipswich 22 def Souths 4
Easts 42 def Caboolture-Valleys 10
Wynnum 28 drew Brothers 28
Crushers 20 def Wests 6
Redcliffe 14 def Logan City 4
Norths 24 def Broncos 12

May 20/21
Ipswich 22 def Wynnum 12
Crushers 22 def Caboolture-Valleys 8
Broncos 23 def Souths 16
Brothers 30 def Redcliffe 0
Wests 30 def Norths 18
Easts 21 def Logan City 0

May 27/28
Brothers 16 drew Logan City 16
Souths 38 def Wests 10
Caboolture-Valleys 30 def Ipswich 22
Wynnum 44 def Norths 18
Broncos 26 def Easts 10
Redcliffe 28 def Crushers 10

XXXX CUP ROUND 2

June 3/4
Souths 68 def Caboolture-Valleys 0
Redcliffe 13 def Norths 6
Logan City 30 def Ipswich 6
Wynnum 24 def Wests 10
Easts 38 def Crushers 20
Brothers 24 def Broncos 16

June 10/11
Wynnum 10 def Souths 8
Ipswich 19 def Redcliffe 12
Brothers 16 def Easts 12
Norths 34 def Caboolture-Valleys 10
Wests 30 def Broncos 26
Crushers 18 def Logan City 12

June 17/18
Logan City 36 def Caboolture-Valleys 14
Wynnum 26 def Easts 8
Wests 22 def Brothers 6
Ipswich 28 def Norths 20
Souths 16 def Crushers 14
Broncos 26 def Redcliffe 20

June 24/25
Brothers 24 def Ipswich 23
Wynnum 56 def Caboolture-Valleys 12
Souths 27 def Logan City 8
Redcliffe 26 def Wests 12
Easts 54 def Norths 12
Broncos 20 def Crushers 14

July 1/2
Brothers 34 def Norths 18
Souths 28 def Easts 22
Wests 40 def Logan City 12
Wynnum 16 def Redcliffe 14
Crushers 28 def Ipswich 12
Broncos 64 def Caboolture-Valleys 22

July 8/9
Redcliffe 24 drew Easts 24
Chairman's Trophy
(Redcliffe had more points at the end of Round 1)

Souths 50 def Norths 0
Wests 36 def Ipswich 4
Brothers 42 def Caboolture-Valleys 16
Broncos 18 def Logan City 16
Crushers 38 def Wynnum 6

July 15/16
Wests 44 def Caboolture-Valleys 12
Souths 15 def Redcliffe 12
Easts 50 def Ipswich 18
Brothers 31 def Crushers 12
Wynnum 34 def Broncos 20
Norths 30 def Logan City 28

July 22/23
Wynnum 36 def Logan City 28
Brothers 8 def Souths 6
Easts 26 def Wests 12
Redcliffe 48 def Caboolture-Valleys 0
Ipswich 20 drew Broncos 20
Crushers 52 def Norths 10

July 29/30
Easts 52 def Caboolture-Valleys 16
Wynnum 34 def Brothers 22
Souths 58 def Ipswich 2
Redcliffe 58 def Logan City 6
Crushers 18 def Wests 16
Broncos 34 def Norths 22

August 5/6
Crushers 78 def Caboolture-Valleys 4
Wests 22 def Norths 16
Brothers 26 def Redcliffe 12
Wynnum 44 def Ipswich 12
Easts 40 def Logan City 2
Broncos 22 def Souths 14

August 12/13
Wests 14 def Souths 2
Caboolture-Valleys 18 def Ipswich 14
Brothers 45 def Logan City 4
Wynnum 36 def Norths 16
Redcliffe 14 def Crushers 12
Easts 42 def Broncos 18

5th Playoff 1: Broncos 18 def Crushers 4
5th Playoff 2: Souths 17 def Broncos 12

BRL FINALS

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final
Souths 16 def Redcliffe 4

Major Preliminary Semi-Final
Wynnum 22 def Brothers 20

Minor Semi-Final
Brothers 30 def Souths 0

Major Semi-Final
Easts 44 def. Wynnum 16

Preliminary Final
Wynnum 26 def Brothers 16

GRAND FINAL (September 10)
Wynnum 32 def Easts 24

1995

1995 BRL SEASON SUMMARY

The final State League competition was won by Rockhampton who beat the Gold Coast 26-22. Its success in terms of country teams competing well against Brisbane clubs would lead to a momentous expansion to a full season statewide competition the following year. In Brisbane Wynnum Manly would win the last true Brisbane premiership in 1995 before it was expanded to a statewide competition in 1996 with the successful Queensland Cup.

It would be Easts, though, who set the pace and were minor premiers by a point over Brothers and Wynnum followed by Redcliffe. In 5th place was Souths with a better for-and-against than the Broncos and Crushers on the same number of points. Valleys, who would be the first BRL club in the post-Broncos era to drop out of the competition and missed entry in the next year's Queensland Cup, finished last with only 3 wins for the season.

Easts thrashed Wynnum in the major semi-final 44-16 and were favourites to win the grand final against Wynnum who beat Brothers 26-16 in the preliminary final. Easts captain Graham Strutton opened the scoring with the first of his 3 tries from an intercept. Both teams exchanged tries in a high-scoring and attacking game. Within the last 10 minutes Easts hit back to only trail 26-24 before a Ricky Taylor try following his chip and regather sealed the 32-24 victory for Wynnum in front of 12 176 fans to witness the end of the BRL premiership before the competition would go statewide.

BRL Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Souths 16 v Redcliffe 4

PHELAN GIVES MAGPIES KICK

Skipper inspires battling Souths

STORIES: MIKE WESTLAKE
PCITURES: GEOFF McLACHLAN

A FRIDAY night goal-kicking competition at Davies Park solved one of Souths' major concerns before last night's dour 16-4 win over Redcliffe in the Premier League minor preliminary semi-final at Suncorp Stadium.

After Thursday's close shave against the Broncos in the playoff for fifth spot, Chris Phelan agonised over his side's goalkickers after regular sharp shooter Reinhard Gmeinder was ruled ineligible for the Premier League finals.

Phelan agreed the only democratic way to solve the situation was to have a shootout to determine the best of the rest, and eventually the task fell to captain Craig Grauf.

While he only landed two shots in the game, in front of a crowd of 5000, Phelan was over the moon with his contribution.

"We had a bit of a kicking comp to see who would have the job, Graufy got the most at training, so he got the vote," Phelan said. "I thought he was sensational."

But Grauf's contribution was more significant than four points against his name on the score sheet, as he again captained his side with distinction and lead by example.

The Magpies' win has them set for a do-or-die match against Brothers next Sunday, but the progression to the next step of the finals series has come at a high cost.

Souths could be without tough second rower Steve Mills for the rest of their campaign after he left the field with a fractured cheekbone minutes into the second half.

Redcliffe were restarting play after the 45th minute try to replacement Peter Nocon, who again provided the attacking spark off the interchange bench and Mills took the ball full steam ahead into Dolphins skipper Waverly Stanley.

Play was held up for several minutes as both players were treated. Stanley played on groggily, and Redcliffe could no longer expect the same inspirational drive from their captain, who had notched up 27 tackles before the halftime break.

Phelan said his side would be playing on for Mills, who had his finals dreams smashed for the second year in a row, following last year's exit from the semis with serious knee injuries.

"His loss is very costly to us, but we will pick up the chips and do it for Steve," he said. "We won't be talking about grand finals or anything like that. All we are looking at is next week's game against Brothers and we will do our best for Steve."

"He puts a lot of positives into our team and that will be very hard to replace."

Despite another game-breaking performance from Nocon off the interchange bench, Phelan is still coy about using the energetic half as a starting option.

Phelan was faced with another reshuffle on Friday night when he learned Shane Rolfe, who at five-eighth was among Souths best against the Broncos, had suffered a cracked sternum and would not be fit to take the field.

Instead of promoting Nocon, Phelan elected to start with Shane O'Grady, whom Phelan said was impressive given the circumstances.

Redcliffe coach Ross O'Reilly was clearly distraught after his side's up-and-down season had drawn to such a sad conclusion, and was lamenting the amount of unforced errors that eventually cost his side any chance of victory.

"Ball security and unforced errors are what cost us," O'Reilly said. "But that was a super effort from Souths, the way they backed up from Thursday to win like that.

"We told players in the younger grades that the spots were there for the taking at the start of the year and the way some of them have developed has been impressive. "We will have a strong platform to build from for next year, but that was a disappointing match to lose."



Magpie sandwich . . . Souths' Ian Turner coughs up the ball under a heavy tackle from Redcliffe's Greg Morianos (left) and Mal Peckham at Suncorp Stadium last night. Souths won the Premier League minor preliminary semi-final 16-4 and how meet Brothers while Wynnum play Easts

SOUTHS 16 d REDCLIFFE 4

Scorers —Souths: I Turner, S Barnes, P Nocon tries: C Grauf 2 goals. Redcliffe: T O'Reilly try.

1995

BRL Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Wynnum 22 v Brothers 20

Wynnum revival has Brethren in a spin

A DYNAMIC second half performance by Wynnum earned them a meeting with Brisbane Premier League minor premiers Easts next weekend when they beat Brothers 22-20 in last night's major preliminary semi-final at Suncorp Stadium.

Halfback Jason Predl, who alternated positions with five-eighth Glen Waia during the match, was a two-try hero with an inspiring display.

With Geoff Hassen, Predl, Ricky Taylor, Darren Filewood and Anthony Batten all producing strong performances in the second half, Wynnum turned the tables on Brothers to overcome a 10-point halftime deficit.

Whatever message Seagulls coach Peter Donkin gave his side at halftime did the trick, as the Seagulls stormed home to the delight of their vocal supporters, keeping Brothers scoreless in the second half until hooker Barry Collins crossed for the Bretheren in the final minute.

Although entertaining, the first half was not as close as most had predicted, with Brothers racing to a 14-4 lead at halftime as Wynnum threw away good opportunities with poorly selected passes.



Brother in arms . . . Wynnum's Gavin Kugler lifts Brothers' Chris Essex while his teammate Aaron Douglas races in to help during the Premier League major preliminary semi-final at Suncorp Stadium last night. Wynnum staged a fighting comeback to win 22-20

Brothers ran to their strengths in their outside backs and were too much to handle for Wynnum, who looked a little underdone.

Hassen scored the first try after just three minutes, but Brothers were stung by the early setback, and began their charge two minutes later when Brothers backrower Chris Essex broke from the back of a scrum 20m out from the Wynnum line.

Essex turned the defence inside out, floated a pass to winger Aaron Douglas, who juggled it, regathered and was slammed into touch.

After that, Wynnum fell away, and Brothers were allowed to dictate terms, backed by a flood of possession.

Three sensational tries to Allan Anderson, Ricky Hewihnson and James Wainwright shot Brothers to a commanding lead, and they went to the sheds at 14-4.

Wynnum again crossed early in the second half, with Taylor scoring a good try from a flat pass from Predl in the 43rd minute.

Predl came alive in the second half, as Donkin experimented swapping his inside back combination.

The move paid handsome dividends, as Predl directed traffic and created the gaps Wynnum struggled to find in the first half.

Wynnum lifted noticeably as their big men started running with more purpose and passes that had strayed in their first half found their mark.

Again Predl was involved in the match-turning moment for Wynnum, starting and finishing one of the best tries of the season.

He swung the ball wide through the backline from a scrum and the ball went through four sets of hands before Predl crashed across in the corner, to level the match at 14-14 with 25 minutes to play.

A penalty goal from 40m gave Wynnum the lead, and from there they were not going to be stopped, as Brothers had no answer to Wynnum's revival.

When Predl got his second try off a well timed ball from Hassen with only four minutes to go, the match was out of Brothers' reach.

Hooker Barry Collins scored a consolation try on the siren, making the scores 22-20.

WYNNUM 22 d BROTHERS 20

Scorers — Wynnum: J Predl 2, R Taylor, G Hassen tries; M Olszewski 3 goals. Brothers: A Anderson, R Hewinson, J Wainwright, B Collins tries; S Maguire 2 goals.

1995

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 30 v Souths 0

BRAWLS MAR PREMIER SEMI



Pacesetter . . . Brothers fullback Allan Anderson breaks the line in one of his many searching runs in the Brethren's 30-0 knockout semi-final win at Suncorp Stadium last night

Tempers rise from kickoff

By MIKE WESTLAKE

AN all-in brawl which spilled over the sidelines and into the stands marred Brothers' 30-0 Premier League elimination semi-final win over Souths at Suncorp Stadium last night.

Souths' Scott Barnes and Keith Leckie and Brothers' Ron Orchard will face the judiciary tomorrow night after being sent off by referee John Topp, who battled to control the spiteful encounter.

From the opening whistle the two sides attacked each other with venom befitting a sudden death semi-final. But as the match wore on, clashes became more intense and it was not surprising when the pressure cooker situation exploded a minute before half-time.

With Souths down 10-0, the two sides left the field swapping harsh words and shoves. But the break hardly cooled tempers.

In the first minute after the restart, Barnes was marched for a high tackle, which also signalled the end of Souths' chances.

Brothers, with the man advantage, utilised their speed out wide, with Shane Hemstedt crossing for a good try in the 40th minute.

But any hope of a permanent return to football went by the board six minutes later when Orchard and Leckie came to blows near the halfway line — prompting teammates to rush in from all quarters to release their frustrations.

The swirling mass mauled their way towards the sideline, with a couple of players ending up on the wrong side of the grandstand fence as players let go with everything they had in a display of genuine spite for their opponents.

While in no way to blame, the sorry saga was a sad finale to the coaching career of Souths' former State of Origin star Chris Phelan, who was clearly emotional and disappointed the game had degenerated into the low point of the Premier League season.

Topp did the right thing immediately after the brawl when he brought the two sides together and lectured them in the middle of the field.

It seemed to work as both teams cooled down enough to allow the game to continue within the rules.

It was Brothers who were able to refocus quickly and seal the match in a six-minute spurt in which they piled on 16 points.

The brawl aside, Souths will look back and consider that their chances were on the skids when they lost their captain Craig Grauf after only three minutes with a quadricep injury after he took the first shot for goal for the night.

He did not strike the ball sweetly and spent the next five minutes hobbling around in the second line trying valiantly to rally his troops.

In the eighth minute he realised his efforts were in vain and walked to the bench to be replaced by Peter Nocon.

The fights and backplay incidents took some of the shine off a remarkable performance by the Brethren in posting 30 unanswered points in a semi-final.

The way they absorbed an abundance of early pressure by the Magpies, through a stream of simple Brothers mistakes, was sensational and perhaps the key to their eventual victory.

In the dressing room afterwards, Brothers coach Don Gailer told his team: "We're back.

"The way Peter Robinson led that side tonight was just unbelievable," Gailer said. "The defence of the first 15 minutes was the best of the match and the way we held them out was truly gutsy."

In others games last night Souths again had to battle a man down in the reserve grade clash against Brothers, but this time the Magpies emerged triumphant, winning 26-16.

Redcliffe and Easts battled it out in under 21 and colts grades and shared the honours, with Redcliffe winning the under 21s 26-8, and Easts taking out colts with a 22-14 win.

BROTHERS 30 (A Douglas 2, S Himstedt 2, R Hewinson, D Nolan tries; S Maguire 3 goals) d **SOUTHS 0.**

1995

BRL Major Semi-Final - Easts 44 v Wynnum 16

Selection dilemma for Easts after easy win

By **MIKE WESTLAKE**

EASTS coach Gavin Payne has a welcome selection dilemma for the grand final with his two fullback options Andrew Duncan and David Smith scoring five of their team's eight tries in yesterday's 44-16 drubbing of Wynnum at Suncorp Stadium.

Prop Mark Sessarago notched up 16 points as his side gave the Seagulls a taste of their own medicine, going on a second half 34-point rampage to give the minor premiers another week to recover before deciding this year's title.

After yesterday's performance, Brothers or Wynnum — who will fight out the preliminary final on Saturday night — will have an enormous task of containing the Tigers.

Wynnum were outclassed apart from the opening 20 minutes which saw them post only four points despite practically all the possession and territory at their disposal.

With Wynnum on the rampage early, Easts seemed content to sit back and absorb the pressure until finding the right time to pounce, which came in the last 10 minutes of the first term with tries to captain Graham Strutton and Duncan giving them a 10-4 advantage at the break.

Duncan's try, the first of his three, would have been the heartbreaker for Wynnum, because of its simplicity, with Seagulls fullback David Chapman spilling a bomb that landed in the lap of his opposite pushing Wynnum just that little bit further away than they had been at 6-4.

After the break Easts ignited, breaking away to 28-4 before Wynnum skipper Ricky Taylor got his side back on their feet with a try in the 65th minute.

Wynnum would have been belting a dead horse thinking of a comeback at such a late stage, and despite scoring perhaps the try of the match through Greg Street with seven minutes to go, were resigned to being on the receiving end of the second semi-final thrashing of the weekend.

Payne said he had sent his side back out to the field after halftime with a message to be wary of Wynnum's habit of coming from behind to snatch victory.

"Every time we scored I sent out a message to say that we were not far enough in front," Payne said. "We had to keep tackling well, running well and when the opportunities came up we had to change them.

"Defensively we have been pretty good all year, but we are our own worst enemies because we give ourselves so much work to do by coughing the ball up time and time again.

"That effort of the first 20 when we were stuck on our own line, although it didn't seem like it at the time, was a great boost for us."

Wynnum coach Peter Donkin was annoyed with his side's performance after sizzling in the preliminary semi against Brothers last week, but reserved special praise for his captain for another lion-hearted performance.

"Ricky just doesn't know when to give up," Donkin said. "Even right at the end he was the first chaser and giving his all. He should be proud of that.

"We can pick up the pieces from this because they will now be focused on sudden-death football," he said. "I think because this is such a young side, they fell into a bit of a comfort zone with their performances.

"The most disappointing thing is that most of our fans won't be able to see next week's game because the ground has been sold out for the Winfield Cup semi-final."

In the earlier games, Easts handed Redcliffe their first loss of the season in reserve grade, with Tigers halfback Troy Johnstone scoring a converted try in the final minute to take his side to a 24-18 win.

The Crushers colts were very disappointing when they were hammered 46-22 by the Broncos, after trailing 38-6 .15 minutes into the second half, while in under-21s Souths beat Wynnum 12-8 to go into the grand final.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

EASTS 44 d WYNNUM 16

Scorers — Easts: A Duncan 3, D Smith 2, D Williams, M Sessarago, G Strutton tries; M Sessarago 6 goals. Wynnum: R Taylor, G Street, J Predl tries; M Olszewski 2 goals.

1995

BRL Preliminary Final - Wynnum 26 v Brothers 16

Taylor leads Gulls charge



Face first . . . Wynnum winger Matt Olszewski overshoots Brothers centre Ricky Hewinson in the BRL preliminary final at Suncorp Stadium last night

By MIKE WESTLAKE

WYNNUM 26 (R Taylor 2, P Rackemann, G Street tries; M Olszewski 5 goals) d **BROTHERS 16** (A Douglas 2, R Ackerman tries; S Maguire 2 goals).

A TACKLE five minutes before fulltime by Wynnum skipper Ricky Taylor last night sent the Seagulls into their first grand final since 1986 with a preliminary final 26-16 win over Brothers at Suncorp Stadium.

With the captain-coach of the 1986 triumph Wally Lewis looking on from the Suncorp Stand, Taylor had close to the performance of the year to give the Seagulls another crack at Easts in next week's grand final.

Taylor also scored two tries and led his side superbly but it was his match-saving tackle on Brothers replacement Richard Ackerman with the clock winding down which was the highlight of the game.

Wynnum overcame a shaky start to the second half to outclass Brothers, who tried everything to shake their Wynnum-hoodoo before crashing to the Seagulls for the fourth time this year.

Wynnum coach Peter Donkin predicted during the week his side would probably do it tough early on in the battle of nerves because of their relative inexperience and he was on the mark after five minutes.

Brothers second rower Dene Rauchle swooped on a spilled bomb to cross but the Seagulls breathed a sigh of relief as referee Stuart Berndt ruled — according to television replays incorrectly — that Rauchle had knocked on during the joust for the ball.

That let-off seemed to settle the Seagulls and they were more composed than last week against Easts.

Skipper Ricky Taylor opened their account in the 11th minute with a powerful try down the blindside.

The runner-up in the Rothmans Medal voting this season used brute strength to burst down the sideline and smash over.

Matt Olszewski's conversion from the sideline had the Gulls on their way at 6-0.

Taylor again was the centre of attention three minutes later, when hooker Peter Rackemann was on the end of a string of backup runners to score the second try.

Taylor made the initial bust and looked inside to find second rower Geoff Hassen running off his shoulder. Hassen continued the move forward before a sly pass back on the inside, capped by another great kick by Olszewski, saw the Seagulls open up a 12-point buffer.

But Brothers, riding the kicking game of five-eighth Scott Maguire into good field position, nearly reaped handsome dividends when sizzling winger Aaron Douglas just missed a Maguire grubber into the in-goal.

1995

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 32 v EASTS 24

Taylor caps dream day for Seagulls

By **MIKE WESTLAKE**

RICKY TAYLOR lived a childhood dream yesterday as Wynnum's 32-24 grand final win over Easts made him the first Seagulls captain to lead his side to a premiership since Wally Lewis in 1986.

The Seagulls were magnificent as they held on gamely to a slender lead before Taylor sealed the match with two minutes to go with an equally magnificent try off his own chip kick.

Premier Wayne Goss described the match as "crackerjack" and it was difficult to argue as both sides turned in great attacking games that reaped a game total of 10 tries.

Taylor was his usual brilliant best, but even his performance was overshadowed by former Townsville prop Kirk Lawton, who was unstoppable.

Taylor recalled how, as a 14-year-old junior, he had been in the Lang Park crowd the day Lewis led Wynnum to victory nine years ago, wishing he was the one lifting the spoils in front of the fanatical Wynnum fans.

"This is a dream I've had since I was kid watching the '86 grand final," Taylor said. "What I am feeling is just too hard to put into words. It is just a sensational feeling."

Coach Peter Donkin is confident the Seagulls can re-establish their glory days following the win, which saw them bounce back from a 44-16 drubbing by Easts two weeks ago to deny the Tigers the only title they were yet to claim this season.

The shock result capped off a miserable day for Easts, who were involved in three of the four finals contested yesterday and came away empty-handed.

The Seagulls, on the other hand, had dual celebrations as their under-21 side scored a converted try in the final minute of their clash with Souths to take the title by two points.

It was the first grade title triumph that set the Wynnum fans alight, the supporters commonly known as the "pigpen" in the northern outer pushing over the fence when their team came to salute them after the game.

Wynnum got off to a horror start, with Easts skipper Graham Strutton snaring an intercept to score the first of his three tries untouched after just five minutes.

The Seagulls fought back to lead 14-10 five minutes before the break before a crucial play by halfback Jason Predl two minutes later changed the complexion of the game.

Predl took the chance to duck down a narrow blindside corridor inside his own 30m zone and the gamble paid off as he linked with Greg Street to carry the Seagulls into the attacking 20m zone.

From the next set of six, second-rower Kent Larsen, who had another non-stop game, crashed over to take the Gulls to a 20-10 halftime lead.

Easts scored first after the break to again reduce the deficit to six point and as the action swung from one end of the field to the other, the Tigers came within two points with nine minutes to go when hooker Dale Williams spotted a gap and scored.

Donkin admitted he hit all the panic buttons as his side, wilting with exhaustion, faced defending a two-point lead against the competition's best attacking side for nine minutes.

"I didn't know the score," he said. "I thought it was a draw, which made it worse. But the way the boys hung on was superb.

"What do you say? I don't know. The boys stuck to their guns. They did what they had to do and just hung on."

Fittingly, skipper Taylor scored the try to put the issue beyond doubt with two minutes to go. Although the crowd — 12,176 — was a little disappointing, there is no chance they could have left disenchanted with the standard of the premier league after such a "crackerjack" game.

Tigers coach Gavin Payne was obviously emotional, but subdued afterwards saying his team had faced a desperate side which had done their homework after their major semi-final humiliation.

"We didn't play anywhere near our best but we were still in it. With a couple of better options later in the match we could have even been in front," Payne said.

"But Wynnum played well. They corrected their errors from the last time we played them. They certainly held on to the ball a lot better than we did and that's a big part of any game these days."

Payne acknowledged the blindside defence lapse late in the first half which led to Larsen's try had ultimately proved costly.

"Our defence has been our strongest point all year and today they slipped us down the blindside to score just before half time, which in the wash-up was crucial. We just didn't play terribly smartly in that first half."



WYNNUM'S unofficial 'vice-captain' Clayton Maher serves it up to the Easts defence yesterday. Maher and fellow prop Kirk Lawton were almost unstoppable in Wynnum's first grand final win since 1986. Picture: GEOFF McLACHLAN



Above: Wynnum captain Ricky Taylor receives the 1995 BRL premiership trophy from Premier Wayne Goss.

MATCH FACTS

WYNNUM 32 d EASTS 24

WYNNUM 32 (D Chapman, M Olszewski, R Taylor, K Larsen, K Lawton tries; M Olszewski 6 goals) d **EASTS 24** (G Strutton 3; D Williams, M Jenkins tries; M Sessarago 2 goals).
Crowd: 12,176
First Scorers: Wynnum 5, Easts 4
First try scorers: Wynnum 8, Easts 4
Referee: S Berndt
Scrums: Wynnum 6-5
Penalties: Wynnum 9-2
Sin bins: nil. **Send offs:** nil.
Injuries: Easts - Brett Greenhill (broken ankle).
BY THE CLOCK:
5 min: Easts 6-0 (Strutton try, Sessarago goal).
14 min: Easts 6-2 (Olszewski goal).
22 min: 6-all (Lawton try).
28 min: Wynnum 8-6 (Olszewski goal).
30 min: Easts 10-8 (Jenkins try).
35 min: Wynnum 14-10 (Chapman try, Olszewski goal).
39 min: Wynnum 20-10 (Larsen try, Olszewski goal).
48 min: Wynnum 20-14 (Strutton try).
51 min: Wynnum 22-14 (Olszewski goal).
60 min: Wynnum 22-18 (Strutton try).
64 min: Wynnum 26-18 (Olszewski try)
71 min: Wynnum 26-24 (Williams try, Sessarago goal).
78 min: Wynnum 32-24 (Taylor try, Olszewski goal).
Turning point: A defensive lapse by Easts allowed David Chapman to make a great run from his own territory. Captain Ricky Taylor scored the match-sealing try a minute later.
The Courier-Mail man-of-the-match: Kirk Lawton (Wynnum)

1995

BRL GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 32 v EASTS 24



Above: The Wynnum-Manly team celebrate winning the 1995 BRL premiership.

1995 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Souths 16 def. Redcliffe 4
Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Wynnum 22 def. Brothers 20
Minor Semi-Final: Brothers 30 def. Souths 0
Major Semi-Final: Easts 44 def. Wynnum 16
Preliminary Final: Wynnum 26 def. Brothers 16

1994 BRL GRAND FINAL:

WYNNUM-MANLY 32 (Tries: D. Chapman, M. Olszewski, R. Taylor, K. Larsen, K. Lawton; Goals: M. Olszewski 6) def. EASTS 24 (Tries: G. Strutton 3, D. Williams, M. Jenkins; Goals: M. Sessarogo 2)

1996

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

In 1996 the QRL boldly introduced a new statewide competition called the Queensland Cup that superceded the Winfield State League. From 1982 to 1995 the State League was played over about the first third of the season followed by the regular BRL competition. It was essentially expanded to become a new full season statewide competition.

Based on various financial and other criteria, clubs from across the state were invited to participate. A total of 16 teams from Brisbane and across Queensland began this new expanded competition. The pioneer teams of this new competition were Norths, Souths, Easts, Wests, Redcliffe, Wynnum-Manly, Brothers, Logan City, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Central Queensland, Mackay, Cairns and the Port Moresby Vipers who were given assistance to compete to help boost rugby league in Papua New Guinea.

A notable exception was that grand old club that had won more premierships than any other team, Valleys, who folded after the 1995 season and only briefly re-emerged for a year in 2004 when they merged with Brothers. Brothers did not re-emerge after 2004 either. At the end of 2003 one other grand old Brisbane club, Wests, also dropped out of the competition.

In 1996 Toowoomba won the inaugural Queensland Cup defeating Redcliffe 8-6. Redcliffe would win the following year and become the powerhouse team in the competition winning 5 Queensland Cup titles in total. Burleigh have won the next most Queensland Cup titles winning 3 times. The rest have been well shared amongst the rest of the teams.

With there being no NRL reserve grade following the Super League war, many NRL and Queensland Cup teams would form feeder relationships. Dual registration would allow fringe NRL players to play in the Queensland Cup and help improve the standard of the competition.

Many future great NRL players could be seen at times playing in the Queensland Cup. In 2002, for example, playing for Norths were Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Dallas Johnson. Greg Inglis played for them in 2004 and 2005. In the 2005 season a young Matt Scott played for the North Queensland Young Guns who won the competition that year.

In addition to that, some former Queensland and Australian players who retired from the top NRL level but still wanted to, or were persuaded to, play a level down in the Queensland Cup, have played for Queensland Cup teams. Some of those include Darren Smith and Steve Renouf who played for Easts in the 2004 grand final and Petero Civenoceva who played for Redcliffe for a couple of seasons after retiring from the NRL.

An event that was long overdue and finally introduced in 2014 was the State Championship game played as the main curtain raiser to the NRL Grand Final between the winners of the Queensland Cup and the NSW Cup. The Queensland Cup winners (2014 Northern Pride, 2015 Ipswich) won the first two and the NSW Cup winners (Illawarra 2016) won the most recent.

1996

QUEENSLAND CUP: TOOWOOMBA

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Toowoomba Clydesdales	15	11	1	3	360	226	23	134
2	Redcliffe Dolphins	15	10	2	3	365	193	22	172
3	Souths Magpies	15	10	1	4	375	205	21	170
4	Wests Panthers	15	10	1	4	359	208	21	151
5	Cairns Cyclones	15	10	0	5	310	224	20	86
6	Easts Tigers*	14	9	0	5	316	224	19	91
7	Wynnum Seagulls	15	8	2	5	325	225	18	100
8	Pine Rivers Brothers	15	9	0	6	339	354	18	-15
9	Norths Devils	15	8	0	7	334	332	16	2
10	Port Moresby Vipers	15	8	0	7	323	408	16	-85
11	Central Capras	15	7	0	8	309	336	14	-27
12	Mackay Sea-Eagles	15	6	1	8	306	285	13	21
13	Bundaberg Grizzlies*	14	4	0	10	211	348	9	-137
14	Logan City Scorpions	15	3	2	10	236	346	8	-110
15	Sunshine Coast Falcons	15	1	0	14	184	397	2	-213
16	Ipswich Jets	15	0	0	15	138	478	0	-340

* Received 1 point due to cancelled match

1996 Queensland Cup

The inaugural Queensland Cup consisted of 16 teams and ran for 15 preliminary rounds (which included two split rounds) with a top 6 semi-finals system.

ROUND 1 -March 30, 31
Saturday March 30
Wynnum Seagulls **20** defeated Mackay Sea-Eagles **18** at Kougari Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **6** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **36** at Salter Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **28** defeated Central Qld Capras **24** at Athletic Oval
Cairns Cyclones **30** defeated Norths Devils **4** at Barlow Park
Sunshine Coast Falcons **12** lost to Easts Tigers **16** at Kawana Sports Ground
Sunday March 31
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Wests Panthers **26** at Davies Park
Logan City Scorpions **26** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Meakin Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **40** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **20** at Bray Park

ROUND 2 -April 6, 7
Saturday April 6
Easts Tigers **28** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **14** at Langlands Park
Wests Panthers **18** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **8** at Purtell Park
Mackay Sea-Eagles **14** lost to Souths Magpies **20** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Central Qld Capras **8** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **16** at Browne Park
Sunday April 7
Redcliffe Dolphins **30** defeated Cairns Cyclones **18** at Dolphin Oval
Port Moresby Vipers **22** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **2** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Ipswich Jets **26** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **32** at North Ipswich Reserve
Norths Devils **20** defeated Logan City Scorpions **18** at Bishop Park

ROUND 3 -April 13, 14
Saturday April 13
Souths Magpies **12** lost to Central Qld Capras **15** at Davies Park
Cairns Cyclones **26** defeated Logan City Scorpions **12** at Barlow Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **18** lost to Mackay Sea-Eagles **28** at Salter Oval
Sunshine Coast Falcons **18** defeated Ipswich Jets **10** at Kawana Sports Ground
Sunday April 14
Wynnum Seagulls **16** lost to Easts Tigers **24** at Kougari Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **12** drew with Wests Panthers **12** at Dolphin Oval
Pine Rivers Brothers **28** defeated Norths Devils **12** at Bray Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **56** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **16** at Athletic Oval

1996

ROUND 4 -April 20, 21
Saturday April 20
Easts Tigers **12** lost to Souths Magpies **18** at Langlands Park
Mackay Sea-Eagles **12** drew with Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Wests Panthers **14** lost to Cairns Cyclones **20** at Purtell Park
Central Qld Capras **36** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **14** at Marley Brown Oval
Sunday April 21
Port Moresby Vipers **18** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **14** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Ipswich Jets **2** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **46** at North Ipswich Reserve
Logan City Scorpions **22** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **34** at Meakin Park
Norths Devils **34** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **16** at Bishop Park

ROUND 5 -April 27, 28
Saturday April 27
Souths Magpies **26** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **20** at Davies Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **26** defeated Norths Devils **4** at Athletic Oval
Wests Panthers **24** defeated Mackay Sea-Eagles **4** at Purtell Park
Sunshine Coast **10** lost to Logan City **26** at Kawana Sports Ground
Cairns Cyclones **42** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **4** at Barlow Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies v Easts Tigers at Salter Oval *(Match washed out; both teams received a point)*
Sunday April 28
Redcliffe Dolphins **19** defeated Central Qld Capras **12** at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **40** defeated Ipswich Jets **0** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 6 -May 4, 5, 12
Saturday May 4
Central Qld Capras **12** defeated Wests Panthers **11** at Emerald
Mackay Sea-Eagles **22** defeated Cairns Cyclones **20** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Sunday May 5
Port Moresby Vipers **26** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **20** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Sunday May 12
Easts Tigers **23** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Langlands Park
Logan City Scorpions **4** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** at Meakin Park
Ipswich Jets **2** lost to Souths Magpies **48** at North Ipswich Reserve
Norths Devils **18** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **20** at Bishop Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **22** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **20** at Bray Park

ROUND 7 (Split Round) -May 18, 19, 25, 26
Saturday May 18
Wynnum Seagulls **18** drew with Logan City Scorpions **18** at Kougari Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **36** defeated Ipswich Jets **8** at Salter Oval
Mackay Sea-Eagles **28** defeated Central Qld Capras **18** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Sunday May 19
Souths Magpies **34** defeated Norths Devils **24** at Davies Park
Saturday May 25
Wests Panthers **30** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Purtell Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **20** at Athletic Oval
Cairns Cyclones **26** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **8** at Barlow Park
Sunday May 26
Redcliffe Dolphins **42** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **16** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 8 (Split Round) -June 1, 2, 8, 9
Saturday June 1
Norths Devils **18** lost to Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** at Suncorp Stadium
Logan City Scorpions **8** drew with Souths Magpies **8** at Meakin Park
Central Qld Capras **14** lost to Cairns Cyclones **18** at Victoria Park
Sunday June 2
Pine Rivers Brothers **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **30** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **24** defeated Wests Panthers **18** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Saturday June 8
Easts Tigers **18** defeated Mackay Sea-Eagles **16** at Langlands Park
Sunshine Coast Falcons **8** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** at Wises Road
Sunday June 9
Ipswich Jets **4** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **34** at North Ipswich Reserve

ROUND 9 -June 15, 16
Saturday June 15
Souths Magpies **44** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **0** at Davies Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** defeated Logan City Scorpions **20** at Salter Oval
Mackay Sea-Eagles **28** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **14** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Cairns Cyclones **6** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 16
Wests Panthers **32** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Purtell Park
Wynnum Seagulls **34** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **4** at Kougari Oval
Central Qld Capras **18** lost to Easts Tigers **30** at Browne Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **14** lost to Norths Devils **16** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 10 -June 22, 23
Saturday June 22
Easts Tigers **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **22** at Langlands Park
Sunshine Coast Falcons **6** lost to Souths Magpies **32** at Wises Road
Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** drew with Wynnum Seagulls **20** at Athletic Oval
Sunday June 23
Norths Devils **10** lost to Wests Panthers **44** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **12** lost to Mackay Sea-Eagles **24** at North Ipswich Reserve
Logan City Scorpions **4** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **42** at Meakin Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **24** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **6** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **38** defeated Central Qld Capras **20** at Lloyd Robson Oval

ROUND 11 -June 29, 30
Saturday June 29
Redcliffe Dolphins **8** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **26** at Dolphin Oval
Easts Tigers **44** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **6** at Langlands Park
Central Qld Capras **22** defeated Ipswich Jets **10** at Browne Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **23** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **18** at Salter Oval
Cairns Cyclones **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **19** at Barlow Park
Mackay Sea-Eagles **20** lost to Norths Devils **28** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Sunday June 30
Wests Panthers **32** defeated Logan City Scorpions **12** at Purtell Park
Souths Magpies **32** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** at Davies Park

ROUND 12 -July 6, 7
Saturday July 6
Logan City Scorpions **26** defeated Mackay Sea-Eagles **16** at Meakin Park
Sunshine Coast Falcons **10** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **28** at Wises Road
Toowoomba Clydesdales **28** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** at Athletic Oval
Sunday July 7
Norths Devils **44** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Bishop Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **20** lost to Wests Panthers **28** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **29** defeated Cairns Cyclones **22** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Ipswich Jets **10** lost to Easts Tigers **28** at North Ipswich Reserve
Wynnum Seagulls **12** lost to Souths Magpies **35** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 13 -July 13, 14
Saturday July 13
Redcliffe Dolphins **18** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **8** at Dolphin Oval
Easts Tigers **16** lost to Norths Devils **22** at Langlands Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **0** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **32** at Salter Oval
Wests Panthers **28** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **22** at Purtell Park
Mackay Sea-Eagles **18** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **29** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Cairns Cyclones **8** defeated Souths Magpies **6** at Barlow Park
Sunday July 14
Central Qld Capras **28** defeated Logan City Scorpions **22** at Browne Park
Port Moresby Vipers **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **14** at Lloyd Robson Oval

ROUND 14 -July 20, 21
Saturday July 20
Wynnum Seagulls **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **20** at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions **4** lost to Easts Tigers **34** at Meakin Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** defeated Wests Panthers **20** at Athletic Oval
Sunshine Coast Falcons **10** lost to Mackay Sea-Eagles **44** at Wises Road
Sunday July 21
Souths Magpies **38** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **6** at Davies Park
Norths Devils **46** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **12** at Bishop Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **26** lost to Central Qld Capras **34** at Bray Park
Ipswich Jets **14** lost to Cairns Cyclones **24** at North Ipswich Reserve

ROUND 15 -July 27, 28
Saturday July 27
Wests Panthers **22** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **16** at Purtell Park
Mackay Sea-Eagles **14** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** at Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds
Easts Tigers **20** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **24** at Langlands Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **18** at Salter Oval
Sunday July 28
Central Qld Capras **32** defeated Sunshine Coast Falcons **20** at Browne Park
Ipswich Jets **14** lost to Norths Devils **34** at North Ipswich Reserve
Port Moresby Vipers **28** defeated Logan City Scorpions **14** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **36** defeated Souths Magpies **8** at Dolphin Oval

1996

1996 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

In 1996 the QRL boldly introduced a new statewide competition called the Queensland Cup that superceded the Winfield State League.

A total of 16 teams from Brisbane and across Queensland began this new expanded competition. The pioneer teams of this new competition were Norths, Souths, Easts, Wests, Redcliffe, Wynnum-Manly, Brothers, Logan City, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Central Queensland, Mackay, Cairns and the Port Moresby Vipers who were given assistance to compete to help boost rugby league in Papua New Guinea.

Two country clubs made up the top six in 1996 - Toowoomba, who finished minor premiers ahead of Redcliffe, and Cairns who finished 5th. Easts, Wests and Souths were the other finalists that competed in a very drawn out 5 week final series.

Redcliffe were the first team to make the grand final when they beat Toowoomba 6-0 in a low scoring major semi-final. After beating Souths 21-8 in the minor semi-final Wests were soundly beaten by Toowoomba 19-8 in the preliminary final.

The grand final was between Toowoomba and Redcliffe in front of 6 500 fans at Suncorp Stadium and was another tough, defensive game. Toowoomba led 2-0 at half time. Shawn Lawson scored the first try for Toowoomba after throwing a big dummy pass. Redcliffe hit back with a great sideline run by Mark Shipway to make it 8-6 to Toowoomba. Peter Robinson and Cameron Hurren both came tantalisingly close to score for Redcliffe but somehow Toowoomba held on to win 8-6 and claim the inaugural Queensland Cup.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Easts 16 v Cairns 12

■ EASTS overcame one of the competition's toughest hurdles to stay alive in the semi-final race, leaving Cairns last night with a 16-12 sudden death win over the Cyclones.

The Tigers led 10-0 at halftime, but the home side hit back to grab a 12-10 lead 15 minutes after the break.

But from then Cairns had a battle, with two of their most experienced players, David Maiden and Brian Fourmile, sidelined with serious injuries, leaving the Cyclones with a two-man bench.

Maiden, the representative centre, succumbed to a painful leg injury while Fourmile was taken to hospital to have his ear stitched back on after an unsavoury incident.

With Cairns against the wall, the Tigers took their chance, snatching back a 16-12 lead 10 minutes from fulltime to end the Cyclones' campaign.

— MIKE WESTLAKE

EASTS 16 d CAIRNS 12

Scorers — Easts: S Sipple 2, A Duncan tries; A Duncan 2 goals. Cairns: A Henley, C Kelly tries; J Clifford 2 goals. At Cairns.

1996

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Toowoomba 12 v Redcliffe 10

Tough on Downs for Dolphins

THE Toowoomba Clydesdales earned a standing ovation from their hardy fans with a gutsy 12-10 semi-final win over Redcliffe at a chilly Athletic Oval in Toowoomba last night.

The Clydesdales went one step closer to achieving their season goal of remaining unbeaten at home, surviving a frantic final 10 minutes when Redcliffe threw everything they had at the home side in a desperate bid for the week off Toowoomba will now enjoy.

"I think this is the first time this year we have known what to do when we are protecting a lead like that with the pressure on," Toowoomba coach Gary Lawrence said.

The win is even more meritorious considering it is only three weeks since Redcliffe outclassed the Clydesdales when they met at Dolphin Oval, a match that reinstated the Dolphins as title favourites and took some of the gloss off Toowoomba's phenomenal season.

Lawrence said injuries to centre Andrew Richards (ankle) and prop Kayne Spicer (thigh) would respond with the week's break, while Redcliffe have to back up next weekend.

TOOWOOMBA 12 d REDCLIFFE 10

Scorers — Toowoomba: D Lawson, S Lawson tries; S Kuhnemann goal, G Slater goal. Redcliffe: R Hewinson, D Smallhorne tries; T Gould goal. At Toowoomba.

1996

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Wests 22 v Souths 15

Top act by Twist boosts Panthers

By MIKE WESTLAKE

WESTS halfback Jason Twist has given a timely reminder to the South Queensland Crushers that a solution to their halfback problems is in their own backyard.

He produced a masterful performance in yesterday's 22-15 Channel 9 Cup semi-final win over Souths at Davies Park.

Twist was the difference between the two sides as two of the best forward packs in the competition slugged it out in the finals series opener. Twist scored a try and created two others with sharp passing and brilliant pace.

Still only 25 but with Winfield Cup experience at the Gold Coast and the Broncos, Twist showed the three ARL club representatives present at yesterday's game he still had something to offer.

Twist's message came loud and clear after revelations last week from two of the game's brightest stars, Adrian Lam and Paul Green, that they had waited anxiously for a call from the Crushers that never came.

While Twist was dynamic, he was no one-man band. The Panthers had to work as a unit with their their four interchange men providing rock solid support from the bench.

Souths coach John Payne lamented his side's inability to perform the fundamentals but was quick to rule out any talk his side may have hit their peak two weeks too early after some sensational end of season form.

"The blokes never gave in at any stage out there but it will be back to the blackboard next week to take care of some really simple errors," Payne said. "Defensively, I thought we were great and our discipline was good.

"And it wasn't a hiding out there. If we had only taken a few more of the chances we had, it would have been a different game. We set up enough breaks and gave ourselves opportunities but didn't take them."

Injuries to key Magpies, Michael Davis (shoulder) and Jason Adams (hip) are of more immediate concern.

WESTS 22 d SOUTHS 15

Scorers — Wests: T Devlin, C Elliot, J Twist tries; J Brown 5 goals. Souths: M Allouche, P Nocon tries; F Hill 3 goals, P Nocon field goal. At Davies Park.



TWIST AND SHOUT: Panthers halfback Jason Twist (above) pounced on every opportunity for winners Wests yesterday, running in one try and setting up a pair of others in their semi-final against Souths.

1996

QLD Cup Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Souths 34 v Easts 6

Magpies rip Tigers to bits

By MIKE WESTLAKE

SOUTHS coach John Payne made the point after his side's 34-6 Channel 9 Cup semi-final annihilation of Easts that seven days is a long time in rugby league.

But the Tigers could argue that 12 months is even longer after fumbling their way to their worst defeat of the year in a sad finish to the season for Gavin Payne's side.

Last year the Tigers thrashed Wynnum by 28 points in the major semi-final on their way to the grand final.

Yesterday, the wheel had turned, and Easts were outclassed seven tries to one by a Magpie outfit that suddenly and dynamically found themselves well and truly back on track.

Souths were ruthless in everything they did. Early in the match, the Magpies travelled 80m in one set of six, then only allowed the Tigers a 20m gain with their possession.

With winger Mark Brimble making a belated bid for the man of the match award with three scorching tries after halftime, John Payne was comfortable things had returned to "normal" after four weeks of disjointed form.

Only last weekend Souths saw their first semi-final against Wests slip through their fingers with a lack of penetration in attack and an inability to wrap up the ball in defence.

"But what they showed out there today is not something you can coach," John Payne said. "Desire is not a picture you can paint for them.

"They're the only ones who can want to win it that badly.

"Sure Easts were not as strong as they could be, but I don't think that can detract from the effort the boys put in today.

"We worked on a lot of things after last week, like tightening the area around the rucks in defence and keeping the talk up.

"There are still a lot of things to work on, but the improvements made in one week were pleasing to see."

Gavin Payne made no excuses for his side's performance, in a game that only saw them register their first points one minute from fulltime.

Souths will now meet the loser of this afternoon's clash between Redcliffe and Wests at Dolphin Oval, the winner going on to meet Toowoomba next weekend to go straight into the grand final.

SOUTHS 34 d EASTS 6

Scorers — Souths: M Brimble 3, S Buckley, M Davis, J Huxtable, G Williams tries; F Hill 3 goals. Easts: S Sipple try; A Duncan goal. At Davies Park.

Below: Gerry Connell and Wally Fullerton-Smith prepare to telecast a Queensland Cup game for the ABC at Davies Park.



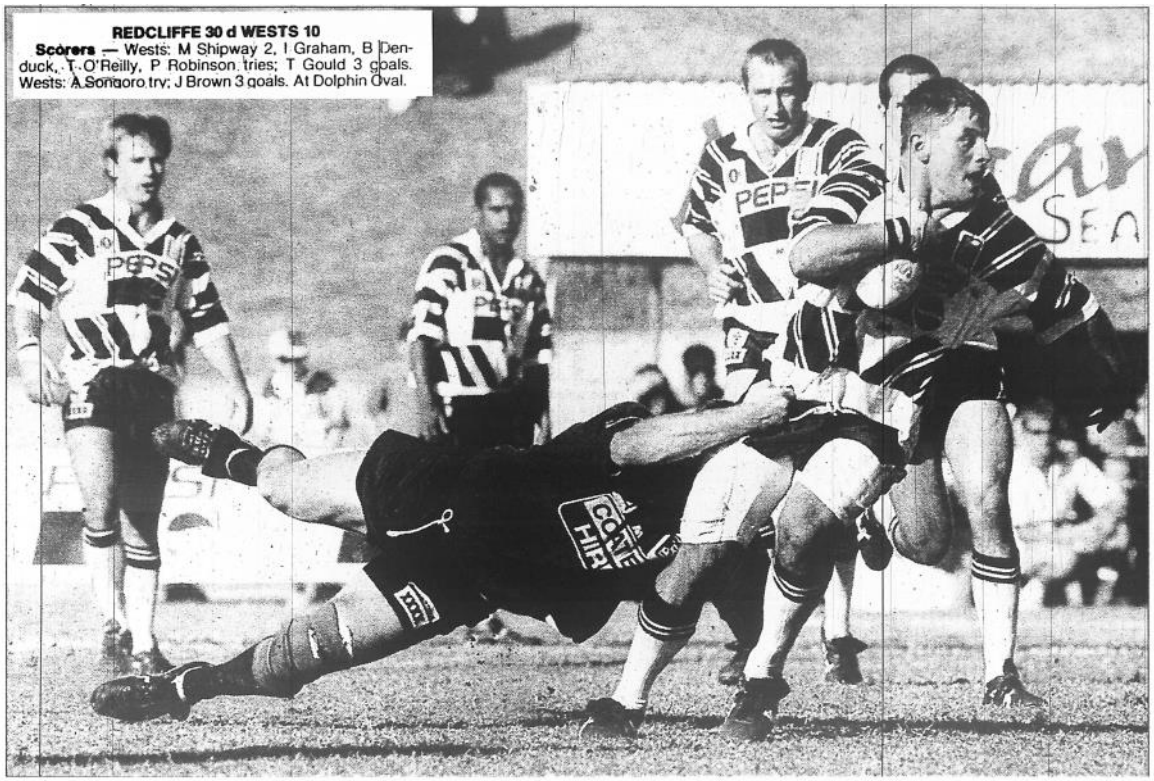
1996

QLD Cup Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Redcliffe 30 v Wests 10

Cup coaches roast the QRL

By **MIKE WESTLAKE**

REDCLIFFE 30 d WESTS 10
Scorers — Wests: M Shipway 2, I Graham, B Denduck, T O'Reilly, P Robinson tries; T Gould 3 goals. Wests: A Songoro try; J Brown 3 goals. At Dolphin Oval.



REDCLIFFE prop Dan Nutley looks for some back-up as Wests' second-rower Alan Wieland launches a tackle. Picture: **PHILIP NORRISH**

REDCLIFFE coach John Boxsell and his Wests counterpart Wayne Treleaven took the QRL to task yesterday for their scheduling of the Channel 9 Cup semi-finals after an absorbing clash between the two sides at Dolphin Oval.

Redcliffe crossed for six tries in their 30-10 shut-out of the Panthers yesterday but paid a high toll for their success, with classy centre Mark Shipway out for the season after dislocating his shoulder for the second time.

Shipway was crossing for his second try of the afternoon 10 minutes before full-time when the force of the defence popped his shoulder as he reached out to plant the ball.

Club medical staff still had not put the shoulder back into place 15 minutes after the match, and the loss of the damaging centre is a huge blow coming into this weekend's rematch with Toowoomba on the Downs.

To complicate matters further, utility forward James Hinchey will undergo X-rays on his knee after being carried off late in the second half, but the mood in the Dolphins camp afterwards was not optimistic.

They did have some reasons to smile though: it was an emphatic semi-final win, and the performances of nearly the entire squad, most notably former Canberra under-19 fullback Barry Denduck, half Peter Robinson and enforcers Ian Graham, Kahu Tweedie and Grant Cleal.

While the match was of semi-final standard and a lot closer than the score indicated, both coaches believe the semis have lacked the usual intensity because of the QRL's reluctance to schedule the matches at Suncorp Stadium.

The semi-finals have been at Davies Park (2), Toowoomba's Athletic Oval, Cairns' Barlow Park and Dolphin Oval, and both coaches agreed the matches could have been improved by playing the semis at rugby league headquarters.

"It's been hard to get the guys up to the level they should be at, mentally, to be playing in a semi-final when they are playing the match at home or another suburban ground," Boxsell said.

"The game today did not feel like a semi-final. It was a great game of footy but it felt like any other important match you have during the season.

"If you're sitting in the sheds at Lang Park 15 minutes before the game the players are thinking they're about to play a semi-final. The players don't have that experience and I don't think they are lifting themselves as much as they could be by playing at their own grounds."

Treleaven was disappointed after the match but believed the Channel 9 Cup semi-finals had been decided by the team which played better on the day, rather than any side holding a definite advantage over another.

So he was more concerned with the fitness of key players Craig Smith (medial ligament, out for the season), centre Chris Elliott (knee) and winger Alf Songoro (thigh) rather than the thought his side's finals campaign could be on the skids.

Songoro was the Panthers' best yesterday, but received ample support from fullback Tony Devlin, prop Anthony Seibold and backrower Shaun Valentine.

Treleaven echoed Boxsell's sentiments, calling for the semi-finals format to be reviewed before next season.

"You can't tell me that felt like a semi-final out there today," Treleaven said.

Meanwhile, Wynnum's chase for consecutive Brisbane premierships ended yesterday, with Brothers breaking a two-season drought against the Seagulls with an 18-4 win at Bray Park.

1996

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wests 21 v Souths 8

Brown flies as Wests get home

THE aerial exploits of winger James Brown yesterday pushed Wests to within a step of a grand final berth following a 21-8 Channel 9 Cup semi-final win over Souths at Purtell Park.

Brown scored one try and set up another with brilliance under the high ball as Wests overcame rain and mud to post four tries against the Magpies.

The handling from both sides deteriorated in the second half. Wests' turnovers gave Souths hopes of a fightback — opportunities which were squandered just as quickly.

Wests took a 10-6 advantage into halftime, courtesy of a try to second rower Shaun Valentine created by a good pass from Jason Twist.

A penalty goal to Souths winger Floyd Hill 12 minutes into the second term cut the gap to two points, but the Panthers took control and sent their opponents reeling out of the semis.

Souths coach John Payne gambled with his backline after the withdrawal of class halfback Peter Nocon, switching Hill to No 7 to partner Shane Tegan at pivot.

The experiment backfired and Hill was eventually moved back to the flank, Tegan shifted to half and replacement Mark Lane moved to five-eighth.

WESTS 21 (J Brown, S Smith., C Elliott, S Valentine tries; J Brown 2 goals; T Devlin field goal) d **SOUTHS 8** (F Hill try, 2 goals).

— MICHAEL WESTLAKE



SWOOPING MAGPIE: A Wests attack is stopped in its tracks before they triumphed 21-8 over Souths.

1996

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 6 v Toowoomba 0

Dolphins too strong in wet

By MICHAEL WESTLAKE

IT tock 66 minutes to happen — but Redcliffe last night won their way into the first Channel 9 Cup rugby league grand final with a 6-0 win over Toowoomba at Athletic Oval.

Dolphins winger Aaron Douglas was the hero, finishing a desperate Redcliffe movement by crashing over in the corner.

It may well have been Redcliffe's most important try of the season and the most disappointing for Toowoomba as it resulted in the Clydesdales' first home defeat of the season.

Lock Tony Gould added the extras from out wide and while Toowoomba never threw in the towel, watching Douglas cross to the jubilation of his teammates must have made their hearts sink.

Both sides had ample opportunities to win, but a combination of diehard defence and wet weather-induced handling errors kept the game scoreless until 14 minutes from the end.

Toowoomba threw everything they had at Redcliffe in the final stages, desperately trying to salvage a draw to force the game into overtime.

Twice they came close, but both chances were suffocated with the tryline beckoning — once through a knock on and the other involving a forward pass.

Referee Stuart Berndt was the target for some heckling from the parochial crowd as he left the field, club officials also planning to question statistics that show Toowoomba's tackle count had pulled up one tackle short on four separate occasions in the first half.

While Douglas had every right to enjoy the spoils last night, the match belonged to prop Danny Nutley, who charged into every ruck with the directness of a bus careering down the range.

His mudlark friends — Graham Cotter, Kahu Tweedie and Ian Graham — laid the platform that gave Redcliffe's backs enough room to graft the win.

Toowoomba's season is still not finished. They will host Wests at Athletic Oval next weekend for the chance to earn a rematch with the Dolphins in two weeks.

But how coach Gary Lawrence regroups his side after the loss remains to be seen.

The Clydesdales welcomed back Queensland fullback Kyle Warren after being sidelined with a ruptured spleen, but he was well contained in the centres. Considering the number of stoppages, including 23 penalties and 22 scrums, the match lacked nothing in intensity.

REDCLIFFE 6 d TOOWOOMBA 0
Scorers — Redcliffe: A Douglas try, T Gould goal. At Athletic Oval.

1996

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Toowoomba 19 v Wests 8

Country on glory road

By MIKE WESTLAKE

TOOWOOMBA have been pitchforked into their third rugby league semi-final showdown with Redcliffe after the minor premiers scored an epic 19-8 win over Wests in the Channel 9 Cup preliminary final at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

Even the loss of Clydesdales captain Don Saunders late in the first half with a dislocated shoulder could not take the gloss off their triumph.

The win has painted the perfect picture for the Queensland Rugby League — a city-versus-country grand final in the first year of the new statewide competition.

Saunders had three painkilling injections at halftime in an effort to return for the second term, but lasted only three minutes and two missed tackles before he succumbed.

"I'll play next week, no question. I'll take needles if I have to, but there is no way in the world I will be missing that game," Saunders said. "I just thought I would have been letting them down by staying out there in the second half."

Wests coach Wayne Treleaven was silently fuming after the match about a number of line-ball refereeing decisions by Paul Oliver.

Around him were the Panther players, many sitting on benches with their heads in their hands, the enormity of what they had just missed out on beginning to sink in.

"We've got to cop it sweet. We didn't deserve to lose," Treleaven said. "Coming to a preliminary final and losing . . . you might as well not make it. To get so close and fall, it's tough."

There were no such concerns for Toowoomba coach Gary Lawrence, whose side overcame a flu epidemic and the loss of Jason Denny during the week with glandular fever to capitalise on their miserly 3-2 halftime lead.

"It was a great effort by the boys to hang in. They probably should have been a little better off early on, but Wests showed they can fight," Lawrence said. "It was a great game all the way through.

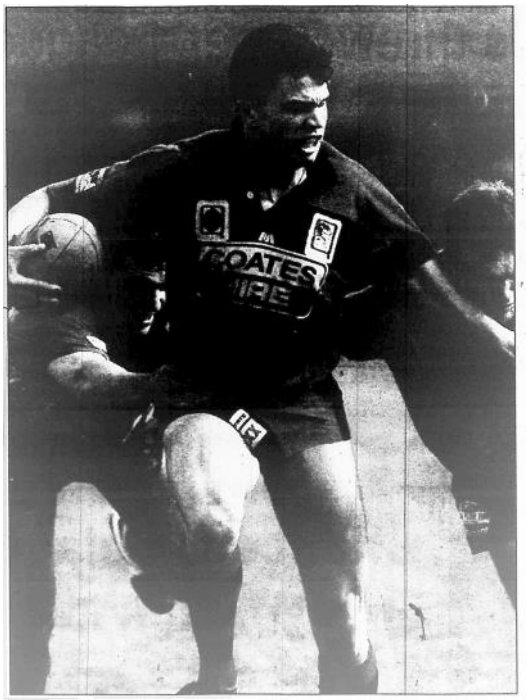
"I thought our bench players were superb. Everyone played their role well."

The match balanced on a knife edge until three minutes from fulltime when fullback Shawn Lawson juggled a sweet pass from replacement Craig Scanlan before scorching his way over 40m to clinch the win.

While his try was the sealer, it was the field goal by Toowoomba utility back Cameron Hamblin in the shadows of halftime that proved the match turner.

While Wests clawed back to trail 8-9 early in the second half, for the most part they would have needed to score twice to win.

TOOWOOMBA 19 (S Lawson, P Stenner, P Sutton tries; K Warren 2, S Kuhnemann goals; C Hamblin field goal) d **WESTS 8** (P Liddell try; J Brown 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium.



CLOSING IN: Toowoomba defenders catch up with Wests winger Alf Songoro in the Channel 9 Cup preliminary final at Suncorp Stadium.

1996

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TOOWOOMBA 8 V REDCLIFFE 6

Knockout blow sinks Dolphins

By MIKE WESTLAKE

TOOWOOMBA fullback Kyle Warren bent the laws of physics yesterday afternoon with a match-saving tackle that landed the Clydesdales the inaugural Channel 9 Cup rugby league premiership with a gripping 8-6 win over Redcliffe.

No one in the crowd of more than 6500 could have gone home disappointed in the standard of the match, although some Redcliffe supporters vented their anger after the match by throwing full cups of beer at referee Paul Oliver and his two touch judges as they left the field.

While Redcliffe coach John Boxsell denied it, the turning point came early in the second half when they lost skipper Ian Graham and winger Aaron Douglas with torn cruciate ligaments in the space of four minutes.

Both face surgery and are out of Redcliffe's Brisbane Rugby League grand final in a few weeks time.

Halfback Peter Robinson also could be in doubt after being placed on report for a high shot on Toowoomba's Mick Jenkins, where he appeared to use a forearm in an incident that left Jenkins unconscious.



WINNERS: The victorious Toowoomba team after yesterday's tough grand final.

Warren has no memory of the tackle where he and winger Peter Stenner not only stopped Redcliffe halfback Robinson, but stopped all the momentum of a 30-metre sprint that looked set to snatch victory from the hands of a gutsy Toowoomba.

The Redcliffe fans had every reason to cheer — their side was trailing 6-8 after being behind 0-2 at halftime, there was less than five minutes to go and as Robinson crossed the 10-metre line it looked like only the hand of God would stop the game's top domestic prize from heading to the peninsula.

But Warren, riding on the game of his life, found something extra — knocking himself unconscious in the process. The drama was only halfway unfurled, however, as a Toowoomba player spilt the ball to give the Dolphins one last fling.

However, on the second tackle, replacement Cameron Hurren took his chance down the blindside and crossed the line, only to see the ball drop from his grasp as he went to force it.

Toowoomba had many stars. Tough backrower Jenkins was belted every time the shadow of the ball came near him, but ran back at the Redcliffe defence at full pace; utility Shawn Lawson scored the match-winning try for the second week in succession; and skipper Don Saunders controlled the match with the same brilliance Wally Lewis oozed during State of Origin matches during the 1980s.

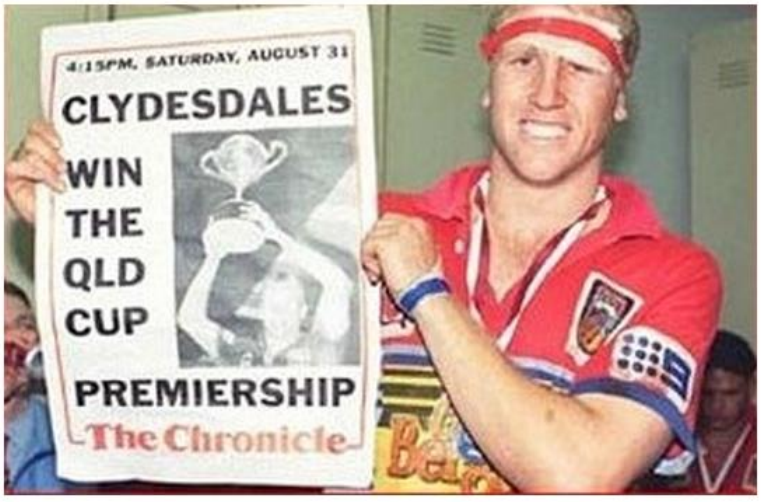
But the real hero is coach Gary Lawrence, who took only nine months to turn the club from a panicky outpost with no players and no sponsors into the inaugural champions of the statewide competition.

"I think we'll all be off to church tomorrow after that one," Lawrence said afterwards.

"I was a bit disappointed with some of the options we took, particularly in the first half, but what this victory has done for rugby league in Toowoomba is immeasureable.

"Last week there were kids bouncing basketballs in the street up there. This week they have been throwing footballs and pretending they were Don Saunders or Kyle Warren. This has regenerated rugby league on the Downs."

TOOWOOMBA 8 (S Lawson try; S Kuhnemann 2 goals) d **REDCLIFFE 6** (M Shipway try; T Gould goal)



1996

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TOOWOOMBA 8 v REDCLIFFE 6



The Toowoomba Clydesdales won the inaugural Channel 9 Queensland Cup when they defeated Redcliffe 8-6 at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday 31 August.

It was a tough, close-fought encounter - typical of all the games these two sides played during the season.

Both sides were desperate in attack and defence but the Clydesdales managed to hold on to their slim lead and take home the trophy.



1996 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

WEEK 1 SEMI-FINALS -Saturday August 3
Knock-out Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Easts Tigers **16** defeated Cairns Cyclones **12** at Barlow Park

Minor Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor-out Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Wests Panthers **22** defeated Souths Magpies **15** at Davies Park

Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Major Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Toowoomba Clydesdales **12** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **10** at Athletic Oval

WEEK 2 SEMI-FINALS -August 10, 11
Saturday August 10
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Souths Magpies **34** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Davies Park

Sunday August 11
Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **30** defeated Wests Panthers **10** at Dolphin Oval

WEEK 3 SEMI-FINALS -Saturday August 17
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Preliminary Final)*
Wests Panthers **21** defeated Souths Magpies **8** at Purtell Park

Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Preliminary Final; Winner into Grand Final)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **6** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **0** at Athletic Oval

PRELIMINARY FINAL -Saturday August 24 *(Loser eliminated; Winner into Grand Final)*
Toowoomba Clydesdales **19** defeated Wests Panthers **8** at Suncorp Stadium

GRAND FINAL -Saturday August 31
TOOWOOMBA CLYDESDALES 8 (Shaun Lawson try; Scott Kuhnemann 2 goals) **defeated REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 6** (Mark Shipway try; Tony Gould goal) **at Suncorp Stadium**

1996

BRL: REDCLIFFE

In 1996 the Queensland Cup superceded the Brisbane premiership. The QRL, though, were still keen to keep the tradition of crowning a club BRL premiers.

For the first two years (1996-1997), a separate full finals series was played between the top Brisbane clubs based on their position in the Queensland Cup competition to determine the Brisbane premiers. It was played as teams dropped out of the Queensland Cup finals with the BRL Grand Final played after the Queensland Cup Grand Final.

Due to a lack of public interest after the 1997 BRL Grand Final was played between the same two teams that played in the Queensland Cup grand final the separate BRL final series was scrapped.

The number of finals over 5 weeks for the Queensland Cup were crazy in the first years compared to today's more sensible final series and this series was duplicated with the BRL finals which was sheer overkill.

Redcliffe consoled their loss in the Queensland Cup Grand Final by beating Souths 16-12 in the BRL Grand Final even though Souths scored 3 tries to 2. A dropped ball out wide cost Souths a great chance to level or beat Redcliffe in the dying seconds.

BRL Elimination Semi-Finals - Wynnum Manly 28 v Ipswich 22 & Norths 28 v Logan 20

The play-offs for the separate Brisbane finals series began yesterday with Wynnum defeating Ipswich 28-22 and Norths continuing their late season surge with a 28-20 win over Logan City.

BRL Preliminary Semi-Finals - Brothers 18 v Wynnum Manly 4 & Easts 20 v Norths 14

Meanwhile, Wynnum's chase for consecutive Brisbane premierships ended yesterday, with Brothers breaking a two-season drought against the Seagulls with an 18-4 win at Bray Park.

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYOFF
BROTHERS 18 d WYNNUM 4
Scorers — Brothers: B Bowman, C Essex, T Gadsby tries; S Maguire 3 goals. Wynnum: P Garrett try. Brisbane premier league play-off.

PREMIER LEAGUE
EASTS 20 d NORTHS 14
Scorers — Easts: D Williams, S Neilsen, S Manns, M Dwyer tries; A Duncan 2 goals. Norths: A Fredricks, S Cook. M Brown tries; P Bishop goal. At Langlands Park.

1996

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 19 v Easts 18

Bouncer by Brothers was game winner

BROTHERS winger Brett Bowman could not have picked a more important time to land his first field goal.

His successful shot yesterday gave his side a 19-18 Premier League win over Easts at Langlands Park.

Bowman put boot to ball from 35m out moments after the final siren had sounded, and then had to hold his breath as the ball bounced off the crossbar, sailed 2m into the air then dropped safely over the bar for the point.

A lack of discipline proved to be the Tigers undoing. They conceded all 19 points while they had players in the sin bin.

Easts coach Gavin Payne said after the match that his side's season could be summed up by watching yesterday's game — getting close, perhaps deserving to win, but dropping out on the back of silly mistakes.

"Performances like that show why this year we finished fourth or fifth in the running instead of first or second," Payne said.

"They know where they went wrong."

BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 24 v Brothers 16

SOUTHS 24 d BROTHERS 16

Scorers — Souths: M Brimble 4, G Williams tries; F Hill 2 goals. Brothers: B Bowman, S Maguire, T Guilfoyle tries; S Maguire 2 goals.

BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 22 v Wests 16

Super Souths back on track

CRONULLA provided the inspiration for Souths in their Premier League preliminary final win over Wests at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

Just as the Sharks fought back to win their Optus Cup semi-final against Wests on Friday night, the Magpies also came back from the dead to score a remarkable 22-16 win.

It was the first win for Souths over the Panthers in four matches this season and handed them a BRL grand final showdown with the wounded Redcliffe next Sunday.

But it looked for the majority of the match like they would have to wait until next year to break their duck.

An error-riddled first half and Wests' free-flowing game kept the Magpies away from the lead until six minutes from fulltime, when replacement winger Shane Brown crossed for an excellent try in the corner to make the score 18-16.

Midway through the second half, Souths fought back to level the scores at 10-10, before new Rothmans Medalist Alan Wieland scored a great individual try to push his side a converted try clear.

Perhaps the Panthers relaxed into a comfort zone after that try, but it was their lack of urgency and simple errors that handed their opponents a leg-up back into the match — blowing a 10-0 halftime lead.

"At 10-0 I wasn't too concerned," Souths coach John Payne said. "I used my mate Langy (Cronulla coach John Lang) as a bit of inspiration out there today.

"Last night, Wests had Cronulla in much the same trouble we were in today in much the same part of the match. They battled early in the match and a lot of luck went against them.

"It was the same for us today. The bounce of the ball didn't go our way. Every time Wests dropped the ball, it would go backwards. Things just weren't going right.

"But I knew we could turn that around. At halftime I could sense things were just about to turn."

Wests coach Wayne Treleaven lamented two weeks ago that losing a preliminary final was the worst feeling in the world — yesterday he felt twice as bad, dropping their second.

"We probably missed a lot of opportunities in that first half. There just wasn't any patience," Treleaven said. "But we were so flat out there today.

"It's disappointing because we had our chances. We played like Souths did last week. The only thing is, we didn't win. They're back on track. If I was Redcliffe, I'd look out."

SOUTHS 22 (F Hill, S Buckley, P Nocon, S Brown, G Williams tries; F Hill goal) d **WESTS 16** (J Brown, A Songoro, A Wieland tries; J Brown 2 goals). Penalties: 10-10. Scrums: Wests 6-4

1996

BRL CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 16 v SOUTHS 12

Dolphins bury the past

THE grand final ghosts of 1981 nearly came back to haunt Redcliffe yesterday at Suncorp Stadium as the Dolphins held on 16-12 to beat Souths, their nemesis of 15 seasons past, in the premier league decider.

It was 15 years ago that these two sides last met in a title decider, and with one minute to go in the biggest match of the season, the Dolphins were on track to take a clean sweep of premierships in all grades.

But Souths winger Mick Reardon loomed like a mirage and crossed in the corner with less than 60 seconds to spare, breaking hearts across the peninsula and prolonging a premiership itch that was not cured until 1994.

Yesterday with 45 seconds eft, the Magpies were handed one final throw of the dice with a scrum deep in their own territory, and surged into Dolphins territory with good passing and hard running.

The ball was swung wide to the Ron McAuliffe Stand sideline where Floyd Hill had caused problems for the defence all afternoon. "Reardon's corner" beckoned only 30m away.

But Hill had moved inside looking for action, replacement Shane Brown was on the wing instead, and a split second after the ball had covered the 50m to land in his arms, he watched in horror as it wormed its way out, crashing to the turf for a knock-on.

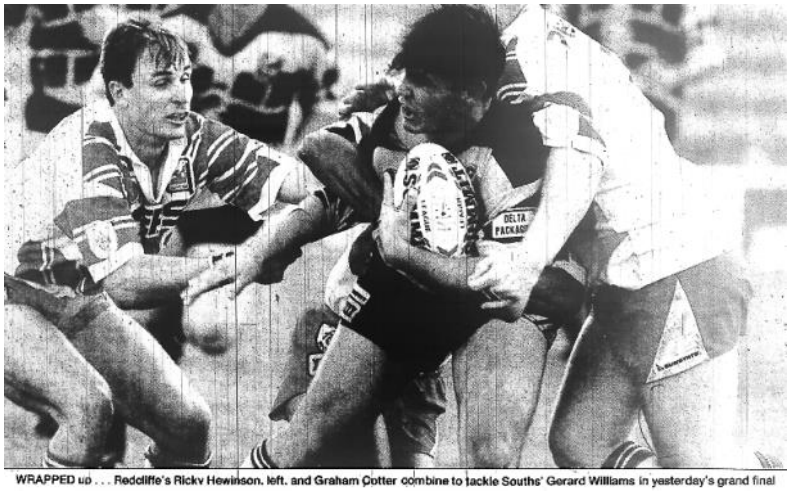
The siren sounded and Redcliffe were safe.

The Magpies were unlucky, scoring three tries to Redcliffe's two, and coach John Payne said he had no reason to be disappointed with his players, yesterday or during the season.

Redcliffe skipper Peter Robinson said winning the title for coach John Boxsell had been paramount, Boxsell overcoming a shaky start and the statewide disappointment to salvage some pride from their season.

"It's a reward for the effort the boys put in. After the last one we were shattered, but they put in today in a tough game," Boxsell said.

REDCLIFFE 16 (G Cotter, D Smallhorne tries; W Miller 4 goals), d SOUTHS 12 (M Brimble, S Buckley, G Benson tries) at Suncorp Stadium. Penalties: R 7-4. Scrums: S 14-7. First scorers (and try scorers): S: 7 (G Benson scored in 16, but was replacement for P Nocon), R: 8. The Courier-Mail man of the match: Kahu Tweedie (Redcliffe).



WRAPPED up . . . Redcliffe's Ricky Hewinson, left, and Graham Cotter combine to tackle Souths' Gerard Williams in yesterday's grand final

1996 BRL FINAL RESULTS

1st Elimination Semi-Final: Wynnum 28 def. Ipswich 22
2nd Elimination Semi-Final: Norths 28 def. Logan City 20
1st Preliminary Semi-Final: Brothers 28 def. Wynnum 4
1st Preliminary Semi-Final: Easts 20 def. Norths 14
Minor Semi-Final: Brothers 19 def. Easts 18
Major Semi-Final: Souths 24 def. Brothers 16
Preliminary Final: Souths 22 def. Wests 16

1996 BRL GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 16 (Tries: G. Cotter, D. Smallhorne; Goals: W. Miller 4) def. SOUTHS 12 (Tries M. Brimble, S. Buckley, G. Benson)

1997

QUEENSLAND CUP: REDCLIFFE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	**Wynnum Seagulls**	18	14	1	3	498	235	29	263
2	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	18	14	0	4	573	271	28	302
3	**Easts Tigers**	18	13	1	4	521	328	27	193
4	**Gold Coast Burleigh Bears**	18	13	1	4	427	347	27	80
5	**Wests Panthers**	18	12	2	4	468	271	26	197
6	**Central Capras**	18	10	2	6	455	398	22	57
7	Norths Devils	18	9	0	9	460	346	18	114
8	Port Moresby Vipers	18	9	0	9	433	518	18	-85
9	Cairns Cyclones	18	7	1	10	318	352	15	-34
10	Toowoomba Clydesdales	18	6	1	11	312	354	13	-42
11	Souths Magpies	18	6	1	11	315	424	13	-109
12	Pine Rivers Brothers	18	6	0	12	391	524	12	-133
13	Ipswich Jets	18	1	1	16	276	657	3	-381
14	Logan City Scorpions	18	0	1	17	226	648	1	-422

1997 Queensland Cup

The Gold Coast Burleigh Bears Bears were the new side into competition in 1997 as the Qld Cup was reduced to 14 teams. Mackay, Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg all left the competition after 1996.

ROUND 1 -March 29, 30
Saturday March 29
Redcliffe Dolphins **44** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at Dolphin Oval
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **16** drew with Wests Panthers **16** at Pizzey Park
Sunday March 30
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **32** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **54** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **10** at Langlands Park
Norths Devils **20** lost to Central Qld Capras **28** at Bishop Park
Logan City Scorpions **4** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **26** at Meakin Park
Ipswich Jets **6** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **46** at North Ipswich Reserve

ROUND 2 -April 5, 6
Saturday April 5
Easts Tigers **28** defeated Norths Devils **14** at Langlands Park
Wests Panthers **28** defeated Logan City Scorpions **10** at Purtell Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **28** defeated Souths Magpies **20** at Athletic Oval
Cairns Cyclones **46** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **4** at Barlow Park
Sunday April 6
Central Qld Capras **12** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **20** at Browne Park
Wynnum Seagulls **52** defeated Ipswich Jets **0** at Kougari Oval
Pine Rivers Brothers **14** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **42** at Bray Park

ROUND 3 -April 12, 13
Saturday April 12
Wynnum Seagulls **24** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **14** at Kougari Oval
Ipswich Jets **12** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **52** at North Ipswich Reserve
Sunday April 13
Souths Magpies **30** defeated Wests Panthers **24** at Davies Park
Port Moresby Vipers **40** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **24** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Norths Devils **54** defeated Cairns Cyclones **12** at Bishop Park
Logan City Scorpions **10** lost to Central Qld Capras **34** at Meakin Park
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **18** defeated Easts Tigers **14** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 4 -April 19, 20
Saturday April 19
Redcliffe Dolphins **62** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **4** at Dolphin Oval
Wests Panthers **38** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **10** at Purtell Park
Easts Tigers **44** defeated Logan City Scorpions **14** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Athletic Oval
Cairns Cyclones **20** defeated Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **8** at Barlow Park
Sunday April 20
Central Qld Capras **26** defeated Souths Magpies **18** at Browne Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **12** lost to Norths Devils **34** at Bray Park

ROUND 5 -April 25-27
Friday April 25
Logan City Scorpions **20** lost to Cairns Cyclones **22** at Meakin Park
Saturday April 26
Souths Magpies **6** lost to Easts Tigers **38** at Davies Park
Sunday April 27
Wynnum Seagulls **26** defeated Central Qld Capras **4** at Kougari Oval
Norths Devils **28** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **28** lost to Port Moresby Vipers **36** at North Ipswich Reserve
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **40** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **32** at Pizzey Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **4** lost to Wests Panthers **14** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 6 -May 3, 4
Saturday May 3
Pine Rivers Brothers **36** defeated Logan City Scorpions **12** at Bray Park
Wests Panthers **50** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Purtell Park
Easts Tigers **16** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Langlands Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **4** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **22** at Dolphin Oval
Sunday May 4
Central Qld Capras **24** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** at Browne Park
Port Moresby Vipers **43** defeated Norths Devils **26** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Souths Magpies **14** at Barlow Park

1997

ROUND 7 -May 10, 11
Saturday May 10
Wests Panthers **30** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **4** lost to Norths Devils **64** at North Ipswich Reserve
Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** lost to Easts Tigers **30** at Athletic Oval
Sunday May 11
Souths Magpies **18** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **26** at Davies Park
Wynnum Seagulls **14** lost to Cairns Cyclones **18** at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions **6** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **48** at Meakin Park
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **36** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **22** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 8 -May 17, 18
Saturday May 17
Norths Devils **26** defeated Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **10** at Bishop Park
Easts Tigers **17** defeated Wests Panthers **16** at Langlands Park
Cairns Cyclones **16** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **10** at Barlow Park
Sunday May 18
Central Qld Capras **64** defeated Ipswich Jets **22** at Browne Park
Pine Rivers Brothers **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **34** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **36** defeated Logan City Scorpions **10** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **30** defeated Souths Magpies **4** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 9 -May 24, 25
Saturday May 24
Wynnum Seagulls **12** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **15** at Kougari Oval
Wests Panthers **24** defeated Cairns Cyclones **8** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **18** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **28** at North Ipswich Reserve
Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **14** at Athletic Oval
Sunday May 25
Central Qld Capras **24** drew with Easts Tigers **24** at Browne Park
Souths Magpies **22** lost to Port Moresby Vipers **26** at Davies Park
Logan City Scorpions **12** lost to Norths Devils **34** at Meakin Park

ROUND 10 -May 31, June 1
Saturday May 31
Redcliffe Dolphins **20** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **4** at Dolphin Oval
Easts Tigers **28** defeated Ipswich Jets **16** at Langlands Park
Norths Devils **16** lost to Souths Magpies **20** at Bishop Park
Cairns Cyclones **10** drew with Central Qld Capras **10** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 1
Pine Rivers Brothers **17** lost to Wests Panthers **20** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **18** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **26** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **24** defeated Logan City Scorpions **20** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 11 -June 14, 15
Saturday June 14
Easts Tigers **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **28** at Langlands Park
Wests Panthers **21** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **32** at Purtell Park
Sunday June 15
Central Qld Capras **30** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **26** at Browne Park
Wynnum Seagulls **22** defeated Norths Devils **8** at Kougari Oval
Ipswich Jets **26** drew with Logan City Scorpions **26** at North Ipswich Reserve
Souths Magpies **24** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **36** at Davies Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** lost to Port Moresby Vipers **42** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 12 -June 21, 22
Saturday June 21
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **6** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **32** at Pizzey Park
Norths Devils **14** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **0** at Bishop Park
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Ipswich Jets **22** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 22
Pine Rivers Brothers **24** lost to Easts Tigers **36** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **25** defeated Wests Panthers **20** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Logan City Scorpions **2** lost to Souths Magpies **22** at Bill Norris Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 13 -June 28, 29
Saturday June 28
Wests Panthers **30** defeated Norths Devils **8** at Purtell Park
Easts Tigers **30** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **6** at Langlands Park
Cairns Cyclones **20** lost to Pine Rivers Brothers **22** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 29
Central Qld Capras **36** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **26** at Browne Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **22** at Athletic Oval
Souths Magpies **32** defeated Ipswich Jets **22** at Davies Park
Wynnum Seagulls **76** defeated Logan City Scorpions **0** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 14 -July 4-6
Friday July 4
Ipswich Jets **14** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** at North Ipswich Reserve
Saturday July 5
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Central Qld Capras **22** at Davies Park
Norths Devils **40** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **12** at Bishop Park
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **14** defeated Cairns Cyclones **6** at Pizzey Park
Sunday July 6
Wynnum Seagulls **12** drew with Wests Panthers **12** at Kougari Oval
Port Moresby Vipers **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **32** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Logan City Scorpions **16** lost to Easts Tigers **38** at Meakin Park

ROUND 15 -July 12, 13
Saturday July 12
Easts Tigers **26** lost to Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **28** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **28** at Athletic Oval
Wests Panthers **34** defeated Souths Magpies **6** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **8** lost to Norths Devils **16** at Barlow Park
Sunday July 13
Central Qld Capras **44** defeated Logan City Scorpions **22** at Browne Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **44** defeated Ipswich Jets **10** at Dolphin Oval
Pine Rivers Brothers **20** defeated Port Moresby Vipers **18** at Bray Park

ROUND 16 -July 19, 20
Saturday July 19
Redcliffe Dolphins **52** defeated Pine Rivers Brothers **18** at Dolphin Oval
Souths Magpies **14** drew with Toowoomba Clydesdales **14** at Davies Park
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **47** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Pizzey Park
Sunday July 20
Port Moresby Vipers **26** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Norths Devils **24** lost to Easts Tigers **28** at Bishop Park
Logan City Scorpions **16** lost to Wests Panthers **48** at Meakin Park
Ipswich Jets **24** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **30** at North Ipswich Reserve

ROUND 17 -July 26, 27
Saturday July 26
Wests Panthers **21** defeated Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **20** at Purtell Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **30** defeated Logan City Scorpions **16** at Athletic Oval
Cairns Cyclones **10** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **18** at Innisfail
Sunday July 27
Central Qld Capras **31** defeated Norths Devils **16** at Browne Park
Wynnum Seagulls **14** defeated Souths Magpies **12** at Kougari Oval
Pine Rivers Brothers **22** defeated Ipswich Jets **18** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **18** lost to Easts Tigers **26** at Lloyd Robson Oval

ROUND 18 -August 2, 3
Saturday August 2
Norths Devils **18** lost to Wests Panthers **22** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **22** lost to Souths Magpies **25** at North Ipswich Reserve
Sunday August 3
Redcliffe Dolphins **22** lost to Easts Tigers **28** at Dolphin Oval
Pine Rivers Brothers **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **46** at Bray Park
Port Moresby Vipers **21** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Lloyd Robson Oval
Logan City Scorpions **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **30** at Meakin Park
Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **32** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** at Pizzey Park

1997

1997 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

For the second season of the Queensland Cup the number of teams dropped back from 16 to 14. Dropping out were Sunshine Coast, Mackay and Bundaberg. They would re-emerge in later seasons but Bundaberg's return was just a one season cameo in 1998. Coming into the Queensland Cup was the Gold Coast Burleigh Bears.

Wynnum-Manly were the minor premiers finishing just ahead of Redcliffe followed by Easts but, come finals time, the wheels fell off for the Seagulls as they went out in straight sets losing all three of their final games against Redcliffe (17-12), Easts (14-8) before being eliminated in the minor semi-final by Wests 12-6.

The major semi-final was a sign of things to come with Redcliffe beating Easts in a tight game 18-14. Easts faced Wests in the preliminary final. Travis Baker opened the scoring with a couple of exciting tries but the game became a sloppy affair after that with both sides making a mountain of errors—65 in total. Easts won 22-14 to make it to the grand final.

In the grand final Easts made the most of a strong wind behind them and some poor defence to go out to an early 12-0 lead with fullback Leon Yeatman breaking several tackles to score his try. A try for Easts by Sessarago and another by Singleton for Redcliffe saw Easts lead 16-6 late in the game. James Hinchey became the hero for Redcliffe when he scored two tries. The second was scored in the final minute. Singleton's sideline conversion saw Redcliffe sneak home to win the first of their record five Queensland Cup premierships. They would also win the separate and last BRL Grand Final and beat Easts in all three grades to win their second clean sweep.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Wests 38 v Central Queensland 10 & QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Easts 14 v Burleigh 8

Wests blow Capra hopes away

CENTRAL Queensland collapsed before a Wests onslaught to lose yesterday's Channel Nine Cup knockout semi-final 38-10 at Purtell Park after leading 10-6 just after halftime.

It was a disappointing end to the season for the Capras, who were the talk of Rockhampton, their charge to the finals attracting the biggest home crowds with the exception of Port Moresby.

"Our cup campaign has ensured league is still the major spectator sport in Central Queensland, with nine home games drawing 15,000 spectators," Capras coach John Harbin said.

Yesterday, before just a few hundred fans at Purtell Park, the Capras were in contention trailing 6-4 at halftime and scored first after the break through centre Brad Neven.

From there it was all one-way traffic with Wests scoring six tries, two of them by winger Mark Maguire.

Prop David Liddell's powerful running was a feature and halfback Jason Twist and interchange back Craig Green caused havoc with clever passing.

Wests play the Gold Coast Burleigh Bears at Miami next weekend as a result of the Bears' 14-8 loss to Easts at Langlands Park yesterday.

Easts, who led 10-2 at halftime and 14-2 with 10 minutes remaining, had lost both premiership fixtures against the Bears this year.

Centre Travis Baker scored two tries for Easts and threw the final pass for winger Peter Turner's try. Second rower Doug Evans was outstanding, supported strongly by lock Jeff Wakefield. Five-eighth Grant Adamson was the Bears' best.

Today at Kougari Oval, minor premiers Wynnum host Redcliffe in the other semi-final with the loser playing Easts and the winner having a week off.

Wynnum's minor premiership is their first since 1984 when they boasted internationals Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Greg Dowling and Colin Scott.

Redcliffe chief executive Mark Murray has urged supporters to travel to Kougari to counter the expected huge "hometown" support for the Seagulls.

Brisbane first grade sides that failed to qualify for the Channel Nine Cup finals, today begin a series of knock-out games to determine the XXXX Cup grand finalists.

Toowoomba defeated Redcliffe in last year's Channel Nine Cup final but Redcliffe went on to win the Brisbane title.

In today's only match, Norths play Logan City at Bishop Park.

—STEVE RICKETTS

WESTS 38 d CENTRAL CAPRAS 10
Scorers: Wests: M Maguire 2, T Devlin, S Smith, C Elliott, C Wieland, D Liddell tries; T Devlin 5 goals. Central: B Neven, P Pyziakos tries; D Law goal.

EASTS 14 d GOLD COAST BURLEIGH 8
Scorers: Easts: T Baker 2, P Turner tries; S Sipple goal. Gold Coast: G Adamson try; R Stone 2 goals.

1997

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 17 v Wynnum 12

Dolphins hit back with semi success

By DAVID POTTER

REDCLIFFE, pipped at the post for the minor premiership, proved the loss of form to be merely temporary with a 17-12 Queensland Cup major semi-final win over Wynnum at Kougari Oval yesterday.

The Dolphins demoted the minor premiers to a second semi-final clash next Saturday at Kougari against Easts, who beat Gold Coast Burleigh 14-8, and in the process earned a much-needed week off.

Wests, who downed Central Queensland 38-10, play Gold Coast in the elimination final at Pizzey Park on Saturday.

"The win showed great character," Dolphins coach John Boxsell said after the match.

"We worked hard on our defence this week after leading at halftime against Easts last weekend and then getting belted in the second half."

Boxsell conceded the week's break was sorely needed with second-rower Ian Graham, suffering suspected broken ribs and a dressing room filled with players carrying bumps, bruises and niggling injuries.

Redcliffe, led by half and skipper Peter Robinson (who chalked up 31 tackles), second-rower James Hinchey (34 tackles) and front-rowers Troy Lindsay and Grant Cleal, worked hard for the win coming from 6-0 behind after six minutes.

Leading try-scorer Jabin Picker was in support after a smart break by Seagulls five-eighth Heath Lewis and the big centre accepted a perfectly timed pass to notch his 25th try of the season.

It wasn't until right on half-time that Redcliffe squared the ledger when winger Selwyn Toby was on the spot for a one-handed touchdown from a spilt bomb.

In the second half, play moved from end to end without success until Cleal took the ball one off the ruck for a soft four-pointer.

Wynnum fought back to level when Lewis combined with Brian Hamilton to put centre Brett Bowman over.

Redcliffe lock Tony Gould broke the deadlock with a field goal from 10m out, and then Dolphin George Wilson scored in the corner.

REDCLIFFE 17 (Selwyn Toby, George Wilson, Grant Cleal tries; Wayne Miller, Toby goals Gould field goal) d WYNNUM 12 (Jabin Picker, Brett Bowman tries; Brian Hamilton two goals) at Kougari Oval.

1997

QLD Cup Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Easts 14 v Wynnum 8 &
QLD Cup Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Wests 23 v Burleigh 8

Gulls facing a danger game

By STEVE RICKETTS

QUEENSLAND Cup rugby league minor premiers Wynnum Seagulls find themselves in a sudden-death situation after their 14-8 semi-final loss to Easts at Kougari Oval yesterday.

Wynnum have lost both semi-finals since claiming the minor premiership on August 3 and they face Wests at Kougari Oval next weekend in an elimination final.

Wests yesterday beat Gold Coast-Burleigh Bears 21-8 at Pizzey Park, Miami, to end the involvement of teams from outside Brisbane.

Easts and Wynnum scored two tries each yesterday. The final difference was the boot of Easts' five-eighth Scott Sipple, who landed three goals from five shots.

Easts will play Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval next weekend with the winner assured direct passage to the September 6 grand final.

The turning point yesterday came in the 30th minute when dynamic Easts halfback Brett McPherson scored a 30m try from the scrumbase to give the Tigers a 12-4 lead which they held until halftime.

Wynnum lock John Drews was placed on report by referee Paul Oliver for alleged striking.

Today in the Brisbane XXXX Cup, Souths and Brothers play an elimination match at Davies Park.

WESTS 23 d GOLD COAST BURLEIGH 8

Scorers: Wests: T Twist 2, S Smith tries; T Devlin 5 goals, C Green field goal. Gold Coast: M Searle try, R Stone 2 goals.

EASTS 14 d WYNNUM 8

Scorers: Easts: D Smith, B McPherson tries; S Sipple 3 goals. Wynnum: J Wainwright, J Garland tries.

1997

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wests 12 v Wynnum 6

Seagulls lose the plot

By DAVID POTTER

YOU could comfortably wager your last dollar that in the lead-up to yesterday's Queensland Cup elimination final both Wests coach Wayne Treleaven and Wynnum counterpart Alfonso Miranda hammered the necessity for ball control and a solid set of six.

Only Wests listened.

While the Panthers plugged away, content to master the basics, the Seagulls did not so much reinvent as retest every method of crucifying an attack.

The result was "three strikes and you're out" for Wynnum and a preliminary final appointment next weekend for Wests by virtue of a 12-6 win.

In the space of three matches, the Seagulls have gone from minor premiers to also-rans, losing to Redcliffe, Easts and yesterday to the Panthers – all at their home ground, Kougari Oval.

After taking the lead midway through the first half when five-eighth Heath Lewis was first to his own grubber kick, the Seagulls, hampered by a tight 10m, a handful of puzzling decisions by referee Stuart Berndt, and a hammering in the scrums and penalties, simply lost the plot.

Wynnum's performance could best be gleaned from a three-minute period late in the second half when they were penalised for kicking out on the full from a drop-out (penalty goal to Tony Devlin), were then penalised for being in front of the kicker at the restart and then penalised again for off-side 5m from their line (two more points to Devlin).

Wests, in contrast, never wavered.

Led by outstanding performances from prop Dave Liddell and lock Craig Wieland, the Panthers did the little things right and reaped the rewards.

The Panthers' defence was solid, as was Wynnum's, but only one side made mistakes in attack.

Liddell's willingness to take the ball to the defence was matched only by Wieland, who also added a tireless game in defence to his performance.

WESTERN SUBURBS 12 d WYNNUM 6

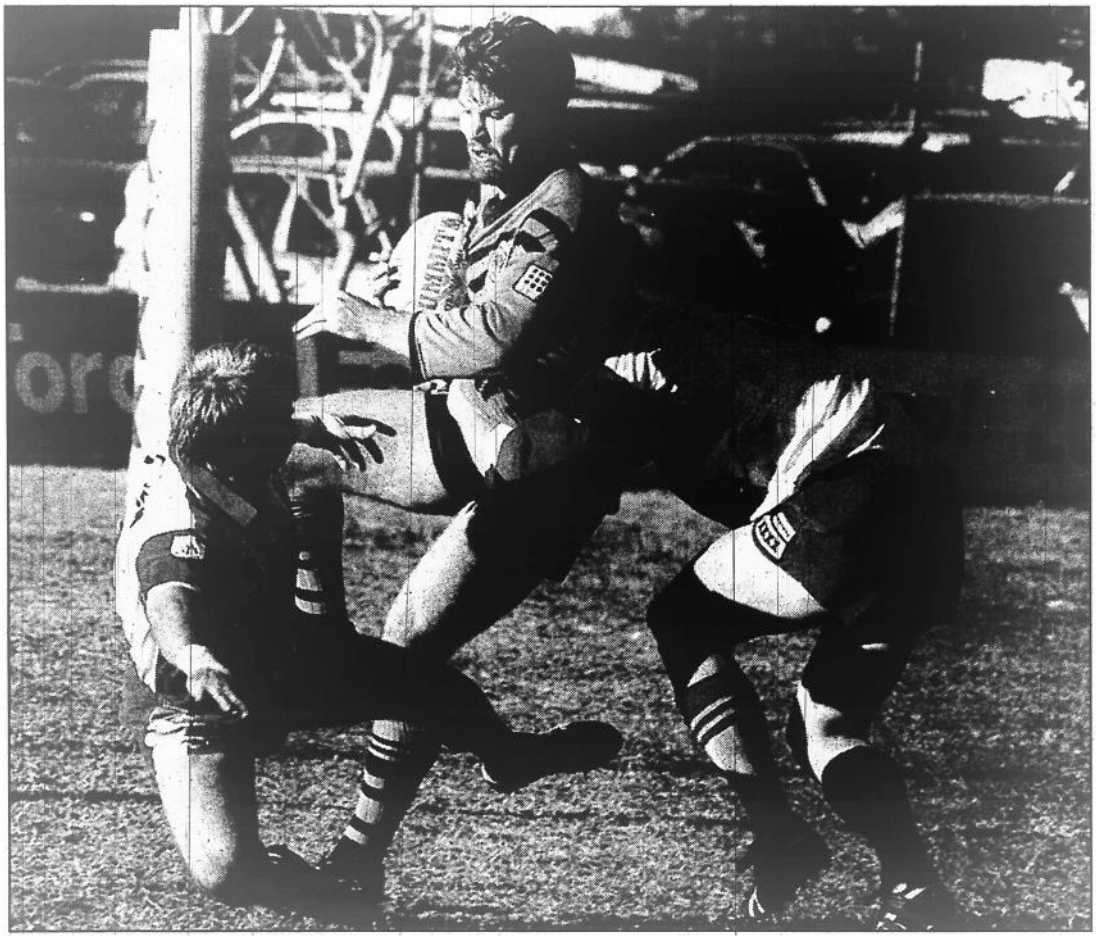
Scorers: Wests: D Liddell try; T Devlin 4 goals. Wynnum: H Lewis try; B Hamilton goal. at Kougari Oval.

1997

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 18 v Easts 14

Cleal keeps a low semis profile

By STEVE RICKETTS



EASTS second-rower Doug Evans shakes off a tackle by Redcliffe captain Peter Robinson but is well held by George Wilson in their major semi-final clash at Dolphin Oval.

PROP Grant Cleal, suspended for six weeks earlier in the season, is shaping as one of Redcliffe's key players in the Queensland Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday week.

Cleal was voted players' player after his wholehearted effort in the 18-14 major semi-final win over Easts at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

In doing so, Cleal, a regular at the judiciary in recent seasons, showed the other side of a footballer who has earned a reputation for going high in defence.

"He's a great player," Redcliffe coach John Boxsell said. "A lot of people try to bait him because of his past, but he just concentrated on football today.

"When he goes high it is only because of fatigue. I feel sorry for him. He is walking on ice every time he takes the field."

Easts' Travis Baker carries a similar burden, and yesterday the brilliant attacking centre had one of his off-days with the ball but one of his "on days" with his temperament.

Coach Gavin Payne said the "old" Travis Baker would not have handled things well yesterday.

"At least he kept showing up today even though not too much came off for him," Payne said.

The same can be said for Easts. They kept showing up, even when Redcliffe looked to have the match in safe keeping leading 16-4 after 45 minutes and 18-8 with 11 minutes remaining.

Easts hooker Dale Williams, denied a first-half try when he crashed into the goalposts, reached out from a seemingly impossible position to score four minutes from the end and Scott Sipple was on target for the first time in three shots in the wind.

The loss means that Easts must now play Wests at Langlands Park on Saturday in the preliminary final.

REDCLIFFE 18 (I Graham, J Hinchey, C Hurren tries; A Singleton 3 goals) d EASTS 14 (S Mills, P Turner, D Williams tries; S Sipple goal).

Scrums, Redcliffe 9-4; tight-heads, Redcliffe 1-0; penalties, Easts 11-6. Referee: P Oliver (Mackay).

1997

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Easts 22 v Wests 14

Easts victory riddled with errors

By DAVID POTTER

EASTS may have won yesterday's Queensland Cup preliminary final, but it was not a performance that would have had Redcliffe quaking in their rugby league boots.

The Tigers secured a relatively comfortable 22-10 win at Langlands Park over Wests, but it was a win that left Easts coach Graham Payne with plenty to ponder in the lead up to the grand final. Just as last week Wynnum fell victim to the fumbles, so too did Wests yesterday.

The Tigers buffer yesterday afternoon was provided by an electric opening 15 minutes by centre Travis Baker.

Baker, who scored both the opening tries, was easily the most dangerous player on the field as Easts posted a 12-0 lead.

But instead of the sides reaching stride in the second half, although both did intermittently, the errors continued - 65 in total at the end of the match - 37 to the usually frugal Wests and 28 to the more adventurous Easts.

Although finishing with just a one-try advantage, Easts always looked in control, even when Wests' Alan Wieland stretched his arm over the line to score taking the scoreline to 18-10 with 15 minutes left.

Easts, who fell by four points to Redcliffe last weekend, will clash with the Dolphins in the grand final at Suncorp Stadium next Saturday.

EASTS 22 d WESTS 14

Scorers: Easts: T Baker 2, R Braun, S Sipple tries; S Sipple 3 goals. Wests: A Wieland, S Johnstone, J Campbell tries; T Devlin goal. at Langland Park.

1997

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 18 v EASTS 14

Dolphin kick secures Cup

REDCLIFFE five-eighth Anthony Singleton nailed "the greatest kick of my life" after the final siren for his side to win the Queensland Cup rugby league grand final 18-16 against Easts at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

Redcliffe trailed 16-6 deep into the final quarter, but two tries from unlikely hero second rower James Hinchey, both converted from wide out by Singleton, gave the Dolphins a stunning win to avenge their last-gasp grand final loss to Toowoomba last year.

Hinchey's second try to lock the scores at 16-16 came with only 51 seconds left on the clock, leaving Singleton with a conversion attempt 10m in from the sideline, which he slotted.

"I always hook the ball and I had to allow for it, but it really seemed to hang out there," Singleton said.

By STEVE WADDINGHAM

"It was the sort of kick you will always remember but you never want to have. The greatest kick of my life, without a doubt."

Winning coach John Boxsell admitted thoughts of a second successive grand final loss crossed his mind during the second half, but he was confident his players had the legs to get home.

"Twenty minutes is a long time in a grand final, and all credit to our guys for hanging in when things weren't going our way."

Referee Stuart Berndt had his hands full in a fiery first half, which featured three fights and opposing hookers Richard Ackerman (Redcliffe) and Dale Williams (Easts) being sent to the sin-bin.

Easts, playing with a strong wind at their backs, took advantage of some sloppy Redcliffe defence to race to a 12-0 lead inside 20 minutes.

Former Brisbane Broncos fullback Leon Yeatman, a late inclusion in the Easts side, broke five tackles in a 20m run to open the scoring, while Williams pushed off two feeble grabs to plunge over from dummy half.

Redcliffe replied in kind when Singleton sent the defence the wrong way and dived over untouched.

Tigers captain Mark Sessarago produced one of the most significant plays of the game nine minutes after the break when he threw a cut-out pass which gave winger Rob Braun room to score in the corner for a 16-6 lead.

Redcliffe 18 (J Hinchey 2, A Singleton tries; Singleton 3 goals) d **Easts 16** (Leon Yeatman, Dale Williams, Rob Braun tries; Scott Sipple 2 goals).



TIGER TRAP: Easts' Tony Gould can't escape his Redcliffe opponent in yesterday's Queensland Cup final

1997

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 18 v EASTS 14



Above: Redcliffe celebrates winning the 1997 Queensland Cup.

1997 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

WEEK 1 SEMI-FINALS -August 9, 10
Saturday August 9
Knock-out Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Wests Panthers **38** defeated Central Queensland Capras **10** at Purtell Park

Minor Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor-out Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Easts Tigers **14** defeated Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **8** at Langlands Park

Sunday August 10
Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Major Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **17** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **12** at Kougari Oval

WEEK 2 SEMI-FINALS -Saturday August 16
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Wests Panthers **23** defeated Gold Coast Burleigh Bears **8** at Pizzey Park

Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Easts Tigers **14** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **8** at Kougari Oval

WEEK 3 SEMI-FINALS -August 23, 24
Saturday August 23
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Preliminary Final)*
Wests Panthers **12** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **6** at Kougari Oval

Sunday August 24
Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Preliminary Final; Winner into Grand Final)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **18** defeated Easts Tigers **14** at Dolphin Oval

PRELIMINARY FINAL -Saturday August 30 *(Loser eliminated; Winner into Grand Final)*
Easts Tigers **22** defeated Wests Panthers **14** at Langlands Park

GRAND FINAL -Saturday September 6
REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 18 (James Hinchey 2, Anthony Singleton tries; Anthony Singleton 3 goals) **defeated EASTS TIGERS 16** (Leon Yeatman, Rob Braun, Dale Williams tries; Scott Sipple 2 goals) **at Suncorp Stadium**

1997

BRL: REDCLIFFE

The separate final series for the Brisbane Rugby League was scaled back in 1997 to the top 7 Brisbane clubs based on how they placed in the Queensland Cup.

Redcliffe beat Easts 18-16 to win the Queensland Cup Grand Final and then the same two sides faced off in the BRL Grand Final. Redcliffe put on a commanding display of attacking football to win the last BRL Grand Final 35-6 to win the Queensland Cup / BRL double. They also won all three grades and performed another clean sweep to replicate what they achieved in 1994.

Due to a lack of public interest after the 1997 BRL Grand Final was played between the same two teams (Redcliffe and Easts) that played in the Queensland Cup Grand Final the separate BRL final series was scrapped.

Given that the crowds for the grand finals of the post-Broncos BRL era were almost all over 10 000 and only one Queensland Cup Grand Final has hit this mark an opportunity has been missed due to playing too many final games. A more sensible option, which could still be used today, is to play just a BRL Grand Final (and maybe a preliminary final) only if a country team wins the Queensland Cup.

BRL Elimination Semi-Final - Souths 31 v Brothers 24

BRL facing task to attract interest in its grand final

By STEVE RICKETTS

WITH the last of the country sides eliminated from the Queensland Cup, the Brisbane Rugby League faces an uphill task promoting its grand final on September 20.

Last year Toowoomba beat Redcliffe in a stirring Queensland Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium. Several weeks later Redcliffe won the Brisbane XXXX Cup trophy in another quality match against Souths.

This year's Queensland Cup final is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, with four Brisbane clubs in contention following the elimination of Gold Coast Burleigh Bears on Saturday.

The Brisbane club which wins the state title also is surely champion of Brisbane, and it seems a futile exercise to have the club prove it again two weeks later.

But the Brisbane league is determined to hang on to its grand final tradition and the loser of the state final will then have to play an elimination match the following weekend to reach the Brisbane final.

The Brisbane grand final also will be held on the same day as the Super League grand final, with Brisbane opting for an afternoon kick-off at Suncorp Stadium and SL a night match at ANZ Stadium.

Brisbane clubs out of Queensland Cup contention have been playing a series of XXXX Cup elimination matches with Souths yesterday beating Brothers 31-24 at Davies Park, teenage winger Nathan Squassoni scoring a hat-trick of tries for Souths.

Wests' 23-8 win over the Burleigh Bears at Miami means they will play Wynnum at Kougari Oval on Saturday in a Queensland Cup elimination final.

Wynnum were beaten 14-8 by Easts with Easts playing Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval next Sunday for the right to advance to the Queensland Cup grand final.

SOUTHS 31 def PAST BROTHERS 24

Souths 31 (N. Squassoni (3), B. McCarthy (2), M. Lane, G. Atkins tries; S. Tegan (3) goals 1 FG).

Past Brothers 24 (M. Fisher (2), B. Condon, S. Perry, P. McBeth tries; S. Maguire (2) goals).

BRL Preliminary Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Souths 10

NORTHS 20 d SOUTHS 10

Scorers: Norths: M Brown 2, K Carmichael, M Rhodes tries; M Brown goal, D Whalley goal. Souths: B Stevebs, B McCarthy tries; S Carr goal.

1997

BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 16 v Wynnum Manly 10

Norths add to Seagulls' end-of-season woes

QUEENSLAND Cup minor premiers Wynnum Seagulls' end-of-season woes continued yesterday when they were bundled out of Brisbane XXXX Cup contention through a 16-10 loss to Norths at Kougari Oval.

Nothing has gone right for Wynnum since they claimed the minor premiership with a 30-10 win over Logan City on August 3.

They have lost all three Queensland Cup finals despite having the home ground advantage.

Yesterday that advantage counted for nothing again as Norths scored three tries to two.

Norths play Wests at Purtell Park next Sunday.

Wests bowed out of the Queensland Cup with a 22-14 loss to Easts at Langlands Park on Saturday. Easts will play Redcliffe in Saturday's grand final at Suncorp Stadium.

Easts centre Travis Baker scored two tries in a timely return to form, with Sydney Wests' chief executive Martin Bullock at the match to assess Baker's capabilities.

— STEVE RICKETTS

NORTHS 16 d Wynnum 10

Scorers: Norths: M Rhodes, K Carmichael, K Myer tries; D Whalley 2 goals. Wynnum: C Denning, H Lewis tries; B Bowman goal at Kougari Oval.

BRL Major Semi-Final - Norths defeated Wests (scores not available)

BRL Preliminary Final - Easts 22 v Norths 16

Easts earn title shot

EASTS yesterday advanced to Saturday's XXXX Cup rugby league grand final with a 22-16 win over Norths at Langlands Park.

Redcliffe gained entry to the XXXX Cup grand final with last weekend's Queensland Cup final victory while Easts had to do battle with Norths for the right to play them.

EASTS 22 d NORTHS 18

Scorers: Easts: B McPherson 2, P Lonsky, T Baker, M Sessargo tries; S Sipple goal. Norths: M Rhodes, K Meyer, R Paul tries; D Whalley 3 goals.

1997

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 35 v EASTS 6

Redcliffe final rout

REDCLIFFE yesterday crowned a magnificent rugby league season with grand final wins over Easts in three grades at Suncorp Stadium.

Crowned Queensland Cup champions after their 18-16 win over Easts a fortnight ago, Redcliffe added the Brisbane XXXX Cup Trophy to their cabinet with yesterday's 35-6 first grade win over the Tigers.

Earlier they had won the colts and reserve grade grand finals from Easts, the club champions.

The reserve grade clash was marred by an all-in-brawl on full-time, which is likely to be the subject of a league inquiry.

In first grade, Redcliffe were defending the Brisbane title they won last year after the disappointment of their Queensland Cup grand final loss to Toowoomba.

Yesterday's grand final could be the last of its kind with the Brisbane league likely to incorporate the Brisbane title with the Queensland Cup grand final day next year.

Redcliffe winger Aaron Douglas will always remember yesterday after scoring a hat-trick of tries, one of them a 92m effort against the run of play. That was the story of the first half for Easts, with Redcliffe winger Cameron Hurren intercepting a Mark Sessarago pass in the 24th minute to post the first try of the match.

A 38th-minute try from dummy half by fullback Adam Mogg gave Redcliffe an 18-0 halftime lead.

When Douglas scored his second try, 13 minutes after the resumption, the result was put beyond doubt.

REDCLIFFE 35 (A Douglas 3, C Hurren, B Canning, A Mogg tries; A Singleton 5 goals; I Graham field goal) d EASTS 6 (S Sipple try; goal).

1997

BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 35 v EASTS 6



Above: Redcliffe celebrates winning the 1997 BRL trophy. In addition to winning the Queensland Cup premiership they also repeated their 1994 feat of winning all three top grades which they would also do in 2003.

1997 BRL FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Souths 31 def. Brothers 10
Preliminary Semi-Final: Norths 20 def. Souths 10
Minor Semi-Final: Norths 16 def. Wynnum 10
Major Semi-Final: Norths def. Wests
Preliminary Final: Easts 22 def. Norths 16

1997 BRL GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 35 (Tries: A. Douglas 3, C. Hurren, B. Canning, A. Mogg; Goals: A. Singleton 5; Field Goal: I. Graham) def. EASTS 6 (Tries S. Sipple; Goals: S. Sipple)

1998

QUEENSLAND CUP: NORTHS

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Norths Devils	22	16	1	5	872	394	33	478
2	Brothers	22	16	0	6	731	364	32	367
3	Wests Panthers	22	16	0	6	748	408	32	340
4	Redcliffe Dolphins	22	16	0	6	647	314	32	333
5	Gold Coast Vikings	22	15	0	7	673	423	30	250
6	Wynnum Seagulls	22	15	0	7	531	382	30	149
7	Townsville Stingers	22	13	3	6	686	435	29	251
8	Burleigh Bears	22	14	0	8	604	442	28	162
9	Easts Tigers	22	12	1	9	522	497	25	25
10	Cairns Cyclones	22	8	2	12	500	642	18	-142
11	Central Capras	22	8	0	14	497	701	16	-204
12	Logan Scorpions	22	6	1	15	488	694	13	-206
13	Ipswich Jets	22	6	0	16	350	606	12	-256
14	Souths Magpies	22	6	0	16	381	763	12	-382
15	Toowoomba Clydesdales	22	5	0	17	310	755	10	-445
16	Bundaberg Grizzlies	22	0	0	22	286	1006	0	-720

1998 Queensland Cup

The 1998 Queensland Cup was increased back up to 16 teams with Bundaberg Grizzlies re-joining and the Townsville Stingers and the Gold Coast Vikings joining for the first time. Port Moresby were left out of the competition after they were unable to continue paying travel and accommodation costs.

ROUND 1 -March 14, 15
Saturday March 14
Norths Devils **16** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **42** at Bishop Park
Wests Panthers **42** defeated Logan Scorpions **0** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **2** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **12** at North Ipswich Reserve
Townsville Stingers **38** defeated Gold Coast Vikings **12** at Cowboys Stadium
Sunday March 15
Burleigh Bears **28** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at Pizzey Park
Central Qld Capras **26** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** at Browne Park
Souths Magpies **22** lost to Easts Tigers **24** at Davies Park
Brothers **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **25** at Crosby Park

ROUND 2 -March 21, 22
Saturday March 21
Easts Tigers **12** lost to Townsville Stingers **36** at Langlands Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **6** lost to Wests Panthers **52** at Salter Oval
Gold Coast Vikings **22** lost to Norths Devils **34** at Carrara Stadium
Cairns Cyclones **40** defeated Souths Magpies **20** at Mareeba
Sunday March 22
Toowoomba Clydesdales **4** lost to Brothers **40** at Athletic Oval
Logan Scorpions **30** lost to Ipswich Jets **34** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **30** defeated Central Qld Capras **14** at Kougari Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **32** defeated Burleigh Bears **8** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 3 -March 28, 29
Saturday March 28
Ipswich Jets **34** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** at North Ipswich Reserve
Townsville Stingers **24** drew with Norths Devils **24** at Cowboys Stadium
Sunday March 29
Central Qld Capras **22** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **45** at Browne Park
Wests Panthers **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **28** at Purtell Park
Souths Magpies **0** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **56** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **28** drew with Cairns Cyclones **28** at Langlands Park
Brothers **46** defeated Logan Scorpions **22** at Crosby Park
Burleigh Bears **26** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 4 -April 4, 5
Saturday April 4
Redcliffe Dolphins **24** defeated Easts Tigers **12** at Dolphin Oval
Cairns Cyclones **18** drew with Townsville Stingers **18** at Barlow Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **4** lost to Brothers **62** at Salter Oval
Norths Devils **50** defeated Central Qld Capras **12** at Bishop Park
Sunday April 5
Gold Coast Vikings **22** defeated Wests Panthers **6** at Carrara Stadium
Toowoomba Clydesdales **28** defeated Souths Magpies **20** at Athletic Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **16** at Kougari Oval
Logan Scorpions **22** lost to Burleigh Bears **58** at Meakin Park

ROUND 5 -April 11, 12
Saturday April 11
Souths Magpies **32** defeated Logan Scorpions **27** at Davies Park
Wests Panthers **22** lost to Norths Devils **42** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **14** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **30** at North Ipswich Reserve
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **28** at Barlow Park
Burleigh Bears **44** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **18** at Pizzey Park
Townsville Stingers **50** defeated Central Qld Capras **4** at Cowboys Stadium
Sunday April 12
Easts Tigers **31** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **2** at Langlands Park
Brothers **18** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **4** at Crosby Park

ROUND 6 -April 18, 19
Saturday April 18
Wynnum Seagulls **18** defeated Burleigh Bears **16** at Kougari Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** lost to Souths Magpies **12** at Salter Oval
Norths Devils **38** defeated Ipswich Jets **28** at Bishop Park
Sunday April 19
Toowoomba Clydesdales **26** lost to Cairns Cyclones **42** at Athletic Oval
Central Qld Capras **22** lost to Wests Panthers **28** at Browne Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **12** lost to Townsville Stingers **36** at Dolphin Oval
Logan Scorpions **14** lost to Easts Tigers **38** at Meakin Park
Gold Coast Vikings **12** lost to Brothers **30** at Piggabeen Oval

1998

ROUND 7 -April 25, 26
Saturday April 25
Brothers **26** defeated Norths Devils **18** at Crosby Park
Townsville Stingers **12** lost to Wests Panthers **34** at Malanda Stadium
Ipswich Jets **42** defeated Central Qld Capras **28** at North Ipswich Reserve
Cairns Cyclones **46** defeated Logan Scorpions **12** at Barlow Park
Burleigh Bears **16** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **23** at Pizzey Park
Sunday April 26
Souths Magpies **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **28** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **70** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **18** at Langlands Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **64** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **0** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 8 -May 2, 3
Saturday May 2
Wests Panthers **42** defeated Ipswich Jets **8** at Purtell Park
Logan Scorpions **4** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **22** at Meakin Park
Norths Devils **30** defeated Burleigh Bears **8** at Bishop Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **0** lost to Cairns Cyclones **48** at Salter Oval
Gold Coast Vikings **52** defeated Souths Magpies **6** at Owen Park
Sunday May 3
Central Qld Capras **14** lost to Brothers **52** at Browne Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **10** lost to Townsville Stingers **38** at Athletic Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **8** defeated Easts Tigers **0** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 9 -May 9, 10
Saturday May 9
Gold Coast Vikings **24** lost to Easts Tigers **26** at Carrara Stadium
Burleigh Bears **52** defeated Central Qld Capras **20** at Pizzey Park
Townsville Stingers **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **14** at Malanda Stadium
Cairns Cyclones **14** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Barlow Park
Sunday May 10
Brothers **42** defeated Wests Panthers **22** at ANZ Stadium
Toowoomba Clydesdales **32** lost to Logan Scorpions **34** at Athletic Oval
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Norths Devils **58** at Davies Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **62** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 10 -May 16, 17
Saturday May 16
Wynnum Seagulls **0** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Kougari Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **12** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **30** at Salter Oval
Ipswich Jets **12** lost to Brothers **20** at North Ipswich Reserve
Gold Coast Vikings **42** defeated Cairns Cyclones **16** at Pizzey Park
Wests Panthers **19** defeated Burleigh Bears **18** at Purtell Park
Sunday May 17
Central Qld Capras **20** lost to Souths Magpies **33** at Marley Brown Oval
Logan Scorpions **28** lost to Townsville Stingers **32** at Meakin Park
Norths Devils **42** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Bishop Park

ROUND 11 -May 23, 24
Saturday May 23
Redcliffe Dolphins **28** defeated Gold Coast Vikings **19** at Dolphin Oval
Townsville Stingers **32** lost to Brothers **39** at Malanda Stadium
Cairns Cyclones **26** defeated Norths Devils **24** at Atherton
Sunday May 24
Souths Magpies **22** lost to Wests Panthers **24** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **28** defeated Central Qld Capras **22** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **12** at Athletic Oval
Logan Scorpions **54** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **18** at Meakin Park
Burleigh Bears **32** defeated Ipswich Jets **16** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 12 -May 30, 31
Saturday May 30
Brothers **40** defeated Burleigh Bears **33** at ANZ Stadium
Wests Panthers **31** defeated Easts Tigers **4** at Purtell Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** lost to Townsville Stingers **34** at Salter Oval
Central Qld Capras **36** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at Browne Park
Sunday May 31
Wynnum Seagulls **28** defeated Logan Scorpions **12** at Kougari Oval
Norths Devils **32** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **14** lost to Souths Magpies **20** at North Ipswich Reserve
Toowoomba Clydesdales **10** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **42** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 13 -June 13, 14
Saturday June 13
Burleigh Bears **24** defeated Townsville Stingers **8** at Pizzey Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **36** at Salter Oval
Cairns Cyclones **18** defeated Wests Panthers **10** at Innisfail
Sunday June 14
Easts Tigers **6** lost to Ipswich Jets **16** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **6** lost to Norths Devils **58** at Athletic Oval
Souths Magpies **10** lost to Brothers **58** at Davies Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **36** defeated Central Qld Capras **16** at Dolphin Oval
Logan Scorpions **22** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **48** at Meakin Park

ROUND 14 -June 20, 21
Saturday June 20
Wests Panthers **28** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **16** at Purtell Park
Townsville Stingers **22** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **25** at Malanda Stadium
Gold Coast Vikings **48** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **8** at Carrara Stadium
Ipswich Jets **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **18** at North Ipswich Reserve
Sunday June 21
Brothers **16** lost to Easts Tigers **22** at ANZ Stadium
Central Qld Capras **26** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** at Browne Park
Norths Devils **42** defeated Logan Scorpions **28** at Bishop Park
Burleigh Bears **20** lost to Souths Magpies **22** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 15 -June 27, 28
Saturday June 27
Wynnum Seagulls **10** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **25** at Kougari Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **2** lost to Norths Devils **56** at Salter Oval
Cairns Cyclones **8** lost to Brothers **32** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 28
Redcliffe Dolphins **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Dolphin Oval
Souths Magpies **12** lost to Townsville Stingers **42** at Brandon Park
Logan Scorpions **29** defeated Central Qld Capras **22** at Meakin Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **12** lost to Wests Panthers **46** at Athletic Oval
Easts Tigers **26** defeated Burleigh Bears **18** at Langlands Park

ROUND 16 -July 3-5
Friday July 3
Brothers **52** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **4** at ANZ Stadium
Ipswich Jets **10** lost to Logan Scorpions **28** at North Ipswich Reserve
Saturday July 4
Norths Devils **30** lost to Gold Coast Vikings **36** at Bishop Park
Wests Panthers **86** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** at Purtell Park
Townsville Stingers **24** defeated Easts Tigers **16** at Malanda Stadium
Burleigh Bears **30** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Pizzey Park
Sunday July 5
Souths Magpies **24** defeated Cairns Cyclones **22** at Davies Park
Central Qld Capras **29** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **16** at Browne Park

ROUND 17 -July 11, 12
Saturday July 11
Gold Coast Vikings **32** defeated Townsville Stingers **12** at Carrara Stadium
Redcliffe Dolphins **16** defeated Brothers **14** at Dolphin Oval
Bundaberg Grizzlies **20** lost to Central Qld Capras **40** at Salter Oval
Cairns Cyclones **26** lost to Burleigh Bears **34** at Barlow Park
Sunday July 12
Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** lost to Ipswich Jets **18** at Athletic Oval
Easts Tigers **36** defeated Souths Magpies **10** at Langlands Park
Logan Scorpions **22** lost to Wests Panthers **46** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **6** lost to Norths Devils **34** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 18 -July 18, 19
Saturday July 18
Wests Panthers **60** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Purtell Park
Townsville Stingers **24** lost to Burleigh Bears **25** at Malanda Stadium
Ipswich Jets **10** lost to Easts Tigers **24** at North Ipswich Reserve
Central Qld Capras **22** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **20** at Capella
Gold Coast Vikings **24** defeated Logan Scorpions **10** at Ned Byrne Field
Sunday July 19
Brothers **36** defeated Souths Magpies **18** at ANZ Stadium
Norths Devils **54** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **6** at Bishop Park
Wynnum Seagulls **50** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **8** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 19 -July 25, 26
Saturday July 25
Easts Tigers **30** lost to Wests Panthers **40** at Langlands Park
Townsville Stingers **54** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **10** at Malanda Stadium
Gold Coast Vikings **48** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **4** at Carrara Stadium
Burleigh Bears **24** defeated Brothers **10** at Pizzey Park
Cairns Cyclones **20** lost to Central Qld Capras **30** at Barlow Park
Sunday July 26
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** defeated Norths Devils **12** at Dolphin Oval
Logan Scorpions **16** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **28** at Meakin Park
Souths Magpies **16** lost to Ipswich Jets **20** at Davies Park

ROUND 20 -August 1, 2
Saturday August 1
Brothers **28** lost to Townsville Stingers **30** at Crosby Park
Wests Panthers **60** defeated Souths Magpies **16** at Purtell Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **20** lost to Logan Scorpions **26** at Salter Oval
Gold Coast Vikings **15** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **8** at Carrara Stadium
Ipswich Jets **12** lost to Burleigh Bears **28** at North Ipswich Reserve
Sunday August 2
Central Qld Capras **20** lost to Easts Tigers **34** at Marley Brown Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **46** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **8** at Kougari Oval
Norths Devils **74** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Bishop Park

ROUND 21 -August 8, 9
Saturday August 8
Redcliffe Dolphins **52** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **14** at Dolphin Oval
Townsville Stingers **28** drew with Logan Scorpions **28** at Malanda Stadium
Brothers **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Crosby Park
Burleigh Bears **30** defeated Wests Panthers **16** at Pizzey Park
Cairns Cyclones **38** defeated Gold Coast Vikings **32** at Mareeba
Sunday August 9
Souths Magpies **24** lost to Central Qld Capras **36** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **14** lost to Norths Devils **52** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **44** defeated Bundaberg Grizzlies **24** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 22 -August 15, 16
Saturday August 15
Wests Panthers **24** defeated Brothers **18** at Purtell Park
Easts Tigers **35** defeated Gold Coast Vikings **20** at Langlands Park
Bundaberg Grizzlies **6** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **38** at Salter Oval
Ipswich Jets **4** lost to Townsville Stingers **58** at North Ipswich Reserve
Central Qld Capras **16** lost to Burleigh Bears **32** at Biloela
Sunday August 16
Norths Devils **52** defeated Souths Magpies **18** at Bishop Park
Logan Scorpions **20** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **0** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **44** defeated Cairns Cyclones **12** at Kougari Oval

1998

1998 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

In 1998 the Queensland Cup expanded back up to 16 teams. Dropping out was the Port Moresby Vipers. It would not be until 2014 before another PNG team would re-enter with the PNG Hunters.

The Gold Coast would have two teams in 1998. As well as the Burleigh Bears, a Gold Coast Vikings team would compete just in this year and, based from Carrara Stadium, would be the feeder team for the Gold Coast Chargers NRL team. Also competing just for the 1998 season would be the Townsville Stingers and Bundaberg Grizzlies.

In 1998 the newly-formed NRL was picking up the pieces from the Super League war. Melbourne would get the pick of players from the Western Reds and Hunter Mariners and, as there would be no NRL reserve grade, Norths Devils would form a feeder relationship with them that would bear immediate fruit and become a model for other feeder relationships between NRL and Queensland Cup teams. Dual registration would allow fringe NRL players to play in the Queensland Cup and help improve the standard of the competition.

Norths were the minor premiers just ahead of Brothers, who had a strong year, then Wests, Redcliffe, Gold Coast Vikings and Wynnum making the finals. The long drawn out 5 week final series format was used for the third and last time.

The grand final was watched by 4 300 fans, a poor turnout for a highly entertaining game that deserved better support. Wests raced to a 16-0 lead after 24 minutes but from there Norths powered away for the rest of the game scoring 6 tries with the Storm's Matt Geyer scoring a triple as Norths, under coach Mark Murray, won the grand final 35-16.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Gold Coast 30 v Wynnum 10 & QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 20 v Wests 10

Vikings pluck Gulls

FORMER Sydney City utility Richie Allan ensured the Gold Coast Vikings progressed a further week in the Queensland Cup final series by inspiring a 30-10 win over Wynnum at Carrara last night.

Seagulls centre Brett Bowman bagged the first four-pointer of the match after just two minutes but from then on it was one-way traffic and all the Vikings way.

Allan, switched from the centres to five-eighth, picked up two tries and outside men Rod Millott and Glenn Godbee one apiece as the Coast rattled up a 20-6 half-time lead.

■ FORMER Crushers rugby league centre Ben Roedder scored two tries in Redcliffe's hard-fought 20-12 Queensland Cup semi-final win over Wests on a Purtell Park mud heap yesterday.

Roedder scored tries before and after halftime to give the Dolphins a seemingly safe 16-6 lead in the heavy conditions.

But they had to withstand a spirited Wests fightback, with winger Mark Maguire crossing for a controversial try in the corner from a brilliant Rob Campbell pass in the 69th minute.

Maguire converted from the sideline to take his points tally for the season to 104 and bring Wests within four points of Redcliffe.

Replays indicated Redcliffe halfback Peter Robinson had dislodged the ball from Maguire's grasp before he could ground it.

Redcliffe sealed the win with a try to second-rower Chris Essex after a break against the run of play by James Hinchey.

Next weekend, Redcliffe play the winner of today's clash between minor premiers Norths and second-placed Brothers.

Norths have lost winger Barry Lea to a knee injury, his place going to Tristan Brady-Smith.

Second-rower Mat Rua returned to Brisbane yesterday after being 18th man for Melbourne on Friday night.

— STEVE RICKETTS and DAVID POTTER

GOLD COAST VIKINGS 30 d WYNNUM 10
Scorers: Gold Coast. R Millott 2 R Allen 2 G Godbee 2 goals. Wynnum. D Seage R Troutman tries, S Dunshea 1 goal

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 20 d WESTS 12
Scorers: Redcliffe. B Roedder 2 B Canning C Essex tries, M Lapworth 2 goals. Wests. M Maguire J Campbell tries, M Maguire 2 goals

1998

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Norths 28 v Brothers 10

Tough workout for Devils

By DAVID POTTER

NORTHS had rattled up 174 points to 42 in three games to ensure the Queensland Cup minor premiership and it was hardly the ideal lead-up to the semi-final series.

But yesterday's 28-10 major semi-final win over Brothers at Bishop Park, which gave the Devils a week's break, was.

"It was the match we needed," Norths coach Mark Murray said. "We needed a tough game. We haven't had one since Redcliffe, which was a month ago now."

Norths could face the Dolphins again in two weeks to decide who goes into the grand final.

Redcliffe will tackle Brothers next Saturday at Crosby Park following their 20-12 win over Wests on Saturday.

The Panthers will meet Gold Coast Vikings at Purtell Park in next week's elimination final after disposing of Wynnum 30-10 on Saturday night.

If Norths had not already earned Cup favouritism they did so with the five tries to two win against Brothers yesterday.

It was a win resulting from a fairly sloppy start in which a handful of breaks, most based around five-eighth Craig O'Dwyer's short balls to fullback Paul Hubbard and lock Mark Protheroe, failed to turn to points until the 25th minute.

But once O'Dwyer linked up on the short side with John Wilshere for the first try the Devils found their groove.

Norths led 10-2 at the break, stretching that lead to 14 points five minutes after the restart through clever work by one of their best players, former South Queensland Crusher Andrew Hamilton.

NORTHS DEVILS 28 d BROTHERS 10

Scorers: North Devils. M Dux S Bell J Wilshire A Hamilton M Fisher tries, J Wilshire 4 goals. Brothers Leprachauns. L Tuqiri J Murphy tries, L Tuqiri 1 goal.

1998

QLD Cup Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Redcliffe 28 v Brothers 24 &
QLD Cup Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Wests 18 v Gold Coast 16

Winger shines as Wests sink Coast

By STEVE WADDINGHAM

YOUNG Wests winger Scott Williamson turned the clock back 30 years with a stunning first-grade debut as the Panthers beat Gold Coast 18-16 in the Queensland Cup elimination final at Purtell Park yesterday.

A son of Henry Williamson – the tough Wests forward of the 1960s – Scott was named players' player and kicked three goals from three attempts as the Panthers came from 16-0 behind in the sudden-death game.

Scott is also the nephew of Newtown and Australia winger Lionel Williamson, and his older brother Luke played five-eighth for the Adelaide Rams in the NRL this season and has signed with Canterbury-Bankstown for 1999.

Wests coach Wayne Treleaven said Williamson, pitched into a sudden-death situation on his A grade debut, had been outstanding in general play, immaculate with the boot and a unanimous choice as the players' player.

Things looked grim for the home side when the Vikings raced to a 16-0 lead midway through the first half with tries to Glen Godbee, Brendon Lindsay and Adam Cook-Watene.

A late try to second-rower Alan Wieland closed the gap to 16-6 at halftime, and Wests came home strongly in the second spell with tries to winger Mark Maguire and hooker Jason Campbell.

Wests will meet Brothers in another elimination final next week after the Leprechauns squandered a 20-8 lead to go down 28-24 to Redcliffe at Crosby Park yesterday.

Redcliffe will meet Norths in next weekend's major semi-final.

Brothers' halftime nightmare continued when they squandered their imposing lead over the defending premiers.

Tries one minute each side of the break were the key moments in Brothers' 28-10 loss to Norths in the major semi-final last weekend.

And Redcliffe centre George Wilson handed coach Ivan Henjack's side a repeat dose of halftime horror when he scored a crucial double in the 39th and 42nd minutes yesterday.

With Redcliffe missing 17 first-half tackles, the inexperienced Brothers looked well on their way to an upset victory when tries to fullback Lotte Tuqiri, halfback Shaun Berrigan and replacement forwards Dennis Scott and Bradley Meyers gave them a 20-8 lead.

They had the Dolphins pinned on their own line with 15sec to play until halftime, but Wilson kept the defending premiers alive when he was on the end of a sweeping 90m movement to score after the siren and close the gap to six points.

And when Brothers' errors handed Redcliffe 18 consecutive tackles on attack at the start of the second half, Wilson struck again to start the Dolphins' surge.

The result at Crosby Park was in the balance until the final siren, with Brothers having a golden opportunity to at least force the game into extra time.

With two minutes to play, Brothers surged from their own quarter and impressive fullback Tuqiri outflanked the defensive line. He drew fullback Geoff Neil and passed inside to Berrigan, who spilled the ball with an open 20m run to the line ahead of him.

REDCLIFFE 28 (George Wilson 2, Rick Hewinson 2, Ben Roedder, Bevan Canning tries; Matthew Lapworth 2 goals) d BROTHERS 24 (Lote Tuqiri 2, Dennis Scott, Shaun Berrigan, Bradley Meyers tries; Tuqiri 2 goals).

WESTS 18 (Mark Maguire, Alan Wieland, Jason Campbell tries; Scott Williamson 3 goals) d GOLD COAST 16 (Glen Godbee, Brendon Lindsay, Adam Cook-Watene tries; Godbee 2 goals). XXXX Cup elimination semi-finals: A grade: Norths 28 d Redcliffe 14. Colts: Brothers 26 d Wests 20.

1998

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wests 18 v Brothers 16

Young winger saves the Panthers

By **DAVID POTTER**

WESTS and Redcliffe will face one another for the second time in a month after the Panthers came from behind to score an 18-16 Queensland Cup rugby league semi-final win over Brothers at Crosby Park yesterday.

Again it was young winger Scott Williamson who stole the limelight with a 50m try in the dying minutes of the game with the Panthers trailing 12-16.

Williamson, who made his first grade debut with a strong all-round performance and three goals in the 18-16 win over Gold Coast Vikings last week, was sent on his way by man-of-the-match Craig Bowen.

Skipper Bowen and Cameron Roper, in his 100th first grade game for the club, were inspirational as the Panthers clawed their way back from 0-8 down and 8-12 at halftime.

Brothers kicked away to lead 16-12 after Wests had levelled the scores midway through the second half but just couldn't close the match down.

"Both sides were really tired in the end but we just had that little bit more," Wests coach Wayne Treleaven said.

Next Saturday afternoon it will be the Panthers and the Dolphins yet again after Redcliffe fell 16-12 to minor premiers Norths at Bishop Park on Saturday.

Redcliffe scored a last-start 20-12 win over Wests three weeks ago in the first round of semi-finals.

Both clubs will go into the preliminary final with injury problems.

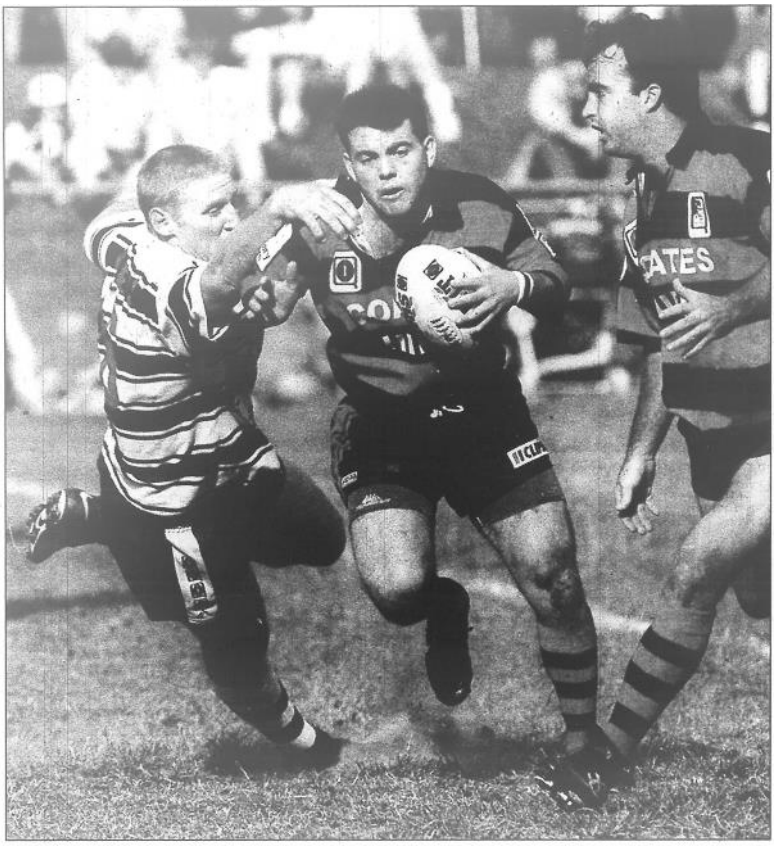
Treleaven said George Gatis (jaw) and Dave Asplin (hip) would be in doubt.

Lock Jamie McDonald, a late scratching yesterday with a knee injury, also is under a cloud but big prop Dave Liddell should be back.

Norths already have qualified for the September 19 grand final.

WESTS 18 d BROTHERS 16

Scorers: Wests: S Valentine, S Williamson, R Campbell tries; T Devlin 3 goals. Brothers: J Murphy, S Berrigan tries; L Tuqiri 4 goals.



WESTS halfback Jason Twist makes a break with team-mate Peter Liddell in support, while Bradley Meyers of Brothers tries to halt the Panther's progress yesterday. Picture: **PAUL WAGER**

1998

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Norths 16 v Redcliffe 12

Devils clinch berth

VERSATILE Norths forward Mark Protheroe tormented his former club Redcliffe as the Devils reached the Queensland Cup grand final with a 16-12 win at Bishop Park yesterday.

Protheroe, a Redcliffe junior product, tore apart the Dolphins in a storming second half performance which recalled his best days in 1996, when he was touted as a strong Queensland State of Origin prospect.

In a career which has encompassed fullback, wing, second row and lock, Protheroe has seldom been in better form than yesterday as 12-man Norths held off waves of attack from the Dolphins in the final 10 minutes.

After playing lethargically with the advantage of a howling wind in the first half to lead only 12-6, Norths were stung into action in the second 40 minutes.

A tryscoring double to wing John Wilshire was the first-half highlight for the Devils, but the competition's leading pointscorer was unsuccessful with his four shots at goal during the game.

A try to centre Ben Roedder was the only reward for Redcliffe's efforts in the first half.

Protheroe, showing the experience of his years with Easts in Sydney and the South Queensland Crushers, led the way as Norths spent most of the second half in possession and on attack, nullifying Redcliffe's use of the wind.

But the game remained in the balance until the final moments after Norths, well in control at 16-6, had captain Kevin Carmichael sin-binned for a professional foul in the 70th minute, ending his game.

A kick early in the penalty count by Redcliffe captain Tony Gould led to a spilled ball by Norths' replacement winger Matthew Fisher, presenting Bevan Canning with a converted try which narrowed the gap to four points.

Redcliffe had three sets of six tackles to salvage a result which had looked beyond them throughout the second half, but were foiled by a string of handling errors.

Norths will have a week's break while Redcliffe will meet the winner of today's elimination semi-final between Brothers and Wests at Crosby Park.

Norths will be pleased with the rest after losing influential fullback Paul Hubbard with what appeared to be a painful rib injury.

NORTHS 16 (John Wilshire 2, Steve Bell, Dale Williams tries) d REDCLIFFE 12 (Ben Roedder, Bevan Canning tries; Matthew Lapworth 2 goals) at Bishop Park.

—STEVE WADDINGHAM

1998

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Wests 27 v Redcliffe 14

Panthers stalk title

By STEVE RICKETTS

REDCLIFFE, Brisbane Rugby League's club champions, have missed out on all three grand finals to be contested at Suncorp Stadium next Saturday.

Redcliffe's Queensland Cup campaign ended with their 27-14 preliminary final loss to Wests at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

The reserve graders were already out of contention, and the colts also were eliminated when they lost 13-10 to Brothers at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

Norths, in the first season of an association with NRL club Melbourne, will contest all three grand finals.

Their coach Mark Murray was on hand at Dolphin Oval yesterday when Wests scored four tries to two against a Redcliffe side guilty of too many errors.

Wests led 14-2 until the 35th minute when Redcliffe centre Ben Roedder scored a blockbusting individual try to put the Dolphins back in the match.

But a runaway try to winger Mark McGuire, his second, gave Wests a 20-8 lead early in the second half.

Redcliffe came within six points of the Panthers with nine minutes remaining when hooker Jamie Tomlinson scored a gift try from his own kick after Scott Williamson spilled the ball.

But Wests grabbed the safety of a seven-point break through a 12m field goal by prop Rob Campbell with four minutes remaining.

Wests halfback Jason Twist was screaming for the ball, but nothing was going to stop Campbell who backed himself and then sprinted back to the halfway line in triumph.

Man of the match Joel Twohill wrapped up proceedings for Wests with a try after Redcliffe halfback Peter Robinson failed to take a difficult pass.

Robinson was involved in a second-half battle with referee Tony Maksoud, who penalised him twice for professional fouls.

At one stage it seemed Maksoud might not finish the match after twisting his ankle, but he carried on after a delay.

Wests halves Twist and Craig Bowen dominated in attack after forwards Twohill, Campbell, Asplin and Fuller provided a solid platform.

WESTS 27 (M McGuire 2, J Twohill, S Valentine tries; T Devlin 5 goals; R Campbell field goal) d REDCLIFFE 14 (B Roedder, J Tomlinson tries; M Lapworth 3 goals). Grand finals, Saturday, September 19: 10.30am, Colts, Norths v Brothers; Noon, Reserves, Wynnum v Norths; 2pm, Queensland Cup, Norths v Wests.



MAN MOUNTAIN: Wests forward Joel Twohill was outstanding in the Panthers' preliminary final win

1998

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 35 v WESTS 16

Devils too fast in second term

By STEVE WADDINGHAM

FLYING centre Matt Geyer grabbed a hat-trick as Norths stormed back from 16-0 down to beat Wests 35-16 in the Queensland Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

Geyer, who had been unsure whether he qualified for the game after being part of the Melbourne Storm's NRL finals run, sparked the Devils to a stunning turnaround against the game but tiring Panthers.

Geyer said he "didn't hesitate for a moment" when asked to give up the Storm's Mad Monday celebrations after their NRL season came to an end with their loss to the Brisbane Broncos last Sunday.

"I'm so glad I didn't opt out – this is a great feeling, and to get my first hat-trick in a grand final is a magic moment," Geyer said.

"It was a bit tough getting up for the game, and it was a real shock to look up at the scoreboard and see we were 16 points down in the last game of the season. That really got us going."

The victory provided a perfect climax to the season for Norths coach Mark Murray, whose only premiership as a player was as captain of the Devils in 1980.

Murray had a few nervous moments when Wests raced to a 16-0 lead after only 24 minutes, but Geyer's first try six minutes before the break was the turning point.

"Credit to Wests, they were the underdogs and they used that well, but I thought being down 16-6 at halftime wasn't a bad result given the run of play," Murray said.

"Once Matt got that first try I thought we were a great chance, and we were right on top when (front rower Anthony) Bonus scored right after halftime.

"Once the forwards got a roll on in the second half and we had the space for Kevvie Carmichael, Craig O'Dwyer and Matt Geyer, they carved them up."

Norths captain and halfback Carmichael was inspirational in the second spell, teaming superbly with five-eighth O'Dwyer, who came back after being concussed making the first tackle of the game.

Wests, who had made a specialty of coming from behind during their sudden death finals campaign, found themselves in the unfamiliar position of front runners in the first half before a disappointing crowd of just over 4000.

Norths were in early disarray when O'Dwyer was forced off. He returned within 10 minutes, but already Wests had struck when halfback Jason Twist scored an opportunist try with a 10m scamper after the Norths defence bought an extravagant dummy.

The Panthers had raced to a handy 16-0 lead by the 24 minute mark, with wing Mark Maguire scoring out wide and Twist grabbing his second in a five-minute scoring burst.

Norths looked dangerous during their few opportunities in attack, but did not help their cause by throwing desperation passes.

The Devils launched three raids in 10 minutes which were cut short by intercepts within 10m of the Wests line, before Geyer took matters into his own hands with a 25m solo try.

Powerful prop Bonus set Norths on the road to victory with a bullocking try from dummy half five minutes into the second half.

Geyer's second, followed by a sweeping try finished by Carmichael, kicked the Devils away to an eight point lead with 17 minutes to play, and the win was sealed by second rower Andrew Hamilton's late field goal and tries to O'Dwyer and Geyer in the final three minutes.

Logan City's Shane Perry was named Sunstate Airlines player of the year at a lunch before the grand final, winning a trip for two to Hawaii.

In earlier games, Norths' powerful colts side swept aside Brothers 44-20, but the Devils' hopes of a grand final day clean sweep were dashed when Wynnum held on for a 24-22 win in the XXXX Cup decider.

NORTHS 35 (Matt Geyer 3, Anthony Bonus, Kevin Carmichael, Craig O'Dwyer tries; John Wilshere 4, Carmichael goals, Andrew Hamilton field goal) d WESTS 16 (Jason Twist 2, Mark Maguire tries; Tony Devlin goals). Halftime: Wests 16-6.

Norths 1998 Premiership winners celebrate their Grand Final win at Suncorp Stadium. The Devils after a slow start, the champion side piled on 35 unanswered points to thrash Wests 35-16

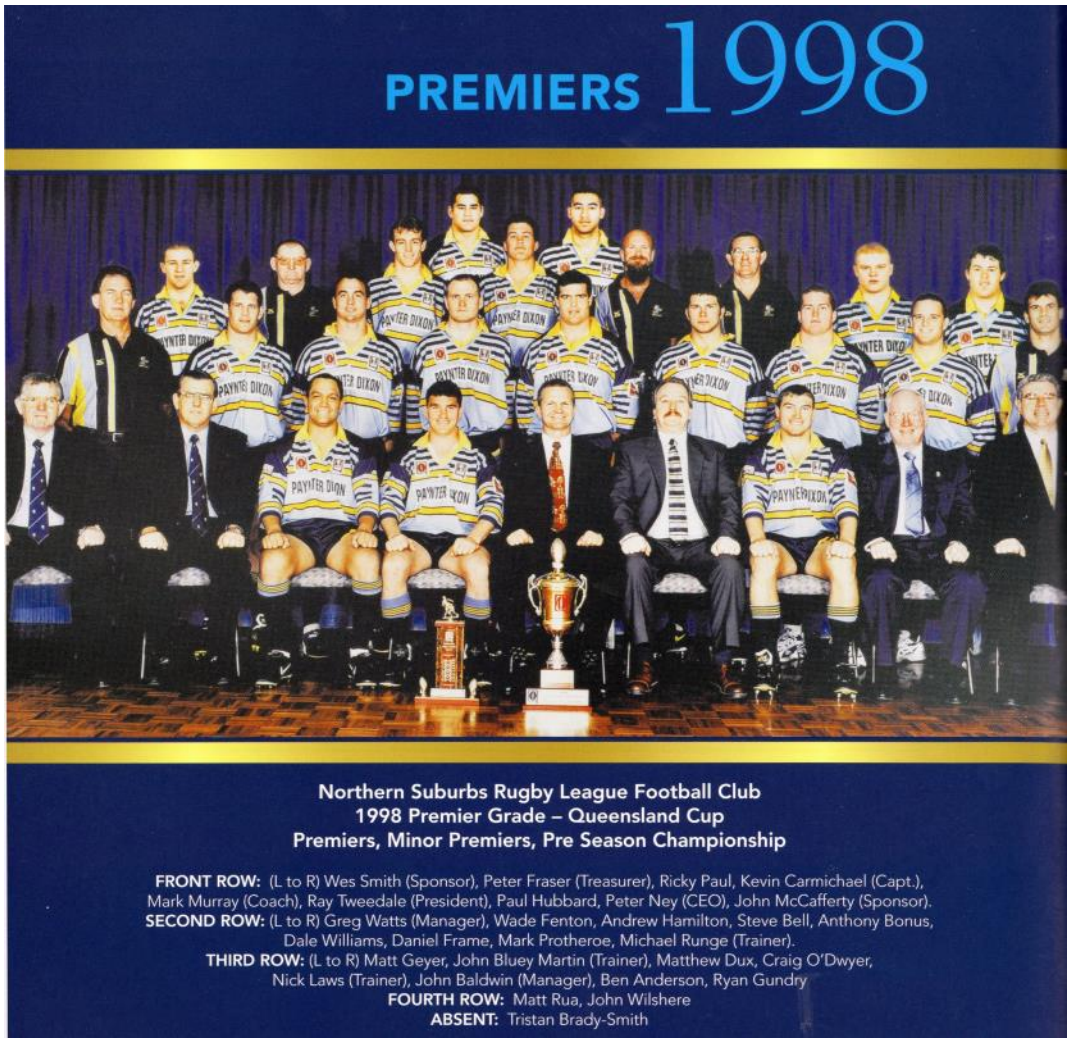


DELIGHTED DEVILS: Norths players celebrate their come-from-behind Queensland Cup grand final win over Wests yesterday



1998

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 35 v WESTS 16



1998 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

WEEK 1 SEMI-FINALS -August 22, 23
Saturday August 22
Knock-out Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Gold Coast Vikings **30** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **10** at Carrara Stadium

Minor Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor-out Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 2)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **20** defeated Wests Panthers **10** at Purtell Park

Sunday August 23
Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Major Semi-Final, Week 2; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Norths Devils **28** defeated Brothers **10** at Bishop Park

WEEK 2 SEMI-FINALS -Saturday August 29
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Wests Panthers **18** defeated Gold Coast Vikings **16** at Purtell Park

Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Minor Semi-Final, Week 3; Winner to Major Semi-Final, Week 3)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **28** defeated Brothers **24** at Crosby Park

WEEK 3 SEMI-FINALS -September 5, 6
Sunday September 6
Minor Semi-Final *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Preliminary Final)*
Wests Panthers **18** defeated Brothers **16** at Crosby Park

Saturday September 5
Major Semi-Final *(Loser to Preliminary Final; Winner into Grand Final)*
Norths Devils **16** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Bishop Park

PRELIMINARY FINAL -Saturday September 12 *(Loser eliminated; Winner into Grand Final)*
Wests Panthers **27** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **14** at Dolphin Oval

GRAND FINAL -Saturday September 19
Norths Devils 35 (Matt Geyer 3, Craig O'Dwyer, Kevin Carmichael, Anthony Bonus tries; John Wilshere 5 goals, Andrew Hamilton field goal) **defeated Wests Panthers 16** (Jason Twist 2, Mark Maguire tries; Tony Devlin 2 goals) **at Suncorp Stadium**

1999

QUEENSLAND CUP: BURLEIGH

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	22	17	1	4	660	361	35	299
2	**Norths Devils**	22	17	0	5	791	393	34	398
3	**Burleigh Bears**	22	16	0	6	685	396	33	289
4	**Toowoomba Clydesdales**	22	14	0	8	602	530	28	72
5	**Easts Tigers**	22	13	1	8	611	438	27	173
6	Wests Panthers	22	13	1	8	551	431	27	120
7	Logan Scorpions	22	10	0	12	478	561	20	-83
8	Cairns Cyclones	22	9	1	12	494	514	19	-20
9	Wynnum Seagulls	22	9	1	12	459	577	19	-118
10	Ipswich Jets	22	6	0	16	443	646	12	-203
11	Central Capras	22	4	0	18	440	626	8	-186
12	Souths Magpies	22	1	0	21	217	958	2	-741

1999 Queensland Cup

ROUND 1 - March 13, 14
Saturday March 13
Redcliffe Dolphins **28** defeated Norths Devils **16** at Dolphin Oval
Cairns Cyclones **40** defeated Souths Magpies **0** at Barlow Park
Sunday March 14
Toowoomba Clydesdales **42** defated Central Capras **14** at Father Ranger Oval, Warwick
Logan Scorpions **4** lost to Wests Panthers **17** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **14** lost to Burleigh Bears **40** at Kougari Oval
Easts Tigers **52** defeated Ipswich Jets **6** at Langlands Park

ROUND 2 - March 20, 21
Saturday March 20
Wests Panthers **18** drew with Cairns Cyclones **18** at Purtell Park
Souths Magpies **8** lost to Easts Tigers **62** at Davies Park
Ipswich Jets **4** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **36** at First Provincial Oval
Burleigh Bears **36** defeated Logan Scorpions **16** at Pizzey Park
Central Capras **22** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **26** at Browne Park
Sunday March 21
Toowoomba Clydesdales **10** lost to Norths Devils **38** at ANZ Stadium

ROUND 3 - March 27, 28
Saturday March 27
Logan Scorpions **24** defeated Central Capras **20** at Meakin Park
Souths Magpies **16** lost to Ipswich Jets **38** at Davies Park
Cairns Cyclones **10** lost to Burleigh Bears **34** at Barlow Park
Sunday March 28
Wynnum Seagulls **20** lost to Norths Devils **21** at Kougari Oval
Easts Tigers **27** defeated Wests Panthers **0** at Langlands Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **28** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 4 - April 3, 4
Saturday April 3 (Easter)
Burleigh Bears **36** defeated Easts Tigers **14** at Pizzey Park
Wests Panthers **54** defeated Souths Magpies **0** at Purtell Park
Norths Devils **42** defeated Logan Scorpions **14** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **24** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **30** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **30** defeated Cairns Cyclones **28** at Browne Park
Sunday April 4 (Easter)
Redcliffe Dolphins **58** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **4** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 5 - April 10, 11
Saturday April 10
Wynnum Seagulls **10** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **34** at Kougari Oval
Wests Panthers **36** defeated Ipswich Jets **14** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **4** lost to Norths Devils **54** at Barlow Park
Sunday April 11
Logan Scorpions **26** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **34** at Meakin Park
Easts Tigers **24** defeated Central Capras **12** at Langlands Park
Souths Magpies **10** lost to Burleigh Bears **36** at Brandon Park

ROUND 6 - April 17, 18
Saturday April 17
Burleigh Bears **22** defeated Wests Panthers **12** at Pizzey Park
Norths Devils **36** defeated Easts Tigers **18** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **17** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **10** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **32** defeated Souths Magpies **14** at Browne Park
Sunday April 18
Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** lost to Logan Scorpions **28** at Goondiwindi
Redcliffe Dolphins **28** defeated Cairns Cyclones **18** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 7 - April 24, 25
Saturday April 24 (Anzac Day)
Easts Tigers **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **38** at Langlands Park
Souths Magpies **12** lost to Norths Devils **76** at Davies Park
Wests Panthers **26** defeated Central Capras **22** at Purtell Park
Sunday April 25 (Anzac Day)
Burleigh Bears **48** defeated Ipswich Jets **17** at Pizzey Park
Logan Scorpions **18** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **20** at Meakin Park
Cairns Cyclones **18** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** at Dairy Farmers Stadium

ROUND 8 - May 1, 2
Saturday May 1 (Labour Day Weekend)
Norths Devils **30** defeated Wests Panthers **16** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **18** lost to Logan Scorpions **34** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **22** lost to Burleigh Bears **30** at Browne Park
Sunday May 2
Redcliffe Dolphins **52** defeated Souths Magpies **10** at Dolphin Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **32** lost to Easts Tigers **38** at Herb Steinohrt Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **18** lost to Cairns Cyclones **20** at Kougari Oval

1999

ROUND 9 - May 8, 9
Saturday May 8
Wests Panthers **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **18** lost to Logan Scorpions **20** at Barlow Park
Central Capras **34** defeated Ipswich Jets **18** at Browne Park
Sunday May 9
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** at ANZ Stadium
Easts Tigers **56** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **8** at Langlands Park
Burleigh Bears **28** defeated Norths Devils **18** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 10 - May 15, 16
Saturday May 15
Redcliffe Dolphins **30** defeated Burleigh Bears **19** at Dolphin Oval
Cairns Cyclones **44** defeated Ipswich Jets **26** at Barlow Park
Sunday May 16
Logan Scorpions **26** defeated Easts Tigers **18** at Meakin Park
Norths Devils **54** defeated Central Capras **24** at Bishop Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **14** lost to Wests Panthers **30** at Gatton
Wynnum Seagulls **16** lost to Souths Magpies **21** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 11 - May 29, 30
Saturday May 29
Easts Tigers **20** lost to Cairns Cyclones **30** at Langlands Park
Wests Panthers **30** defeated Wynnum Seagulls 28 at Purtell Park
Souths Magpies **6** lost to Logan Scorpions **52** at Davies Park
Ipswich Jets **22** lost to Norths Devils **36** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **14** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **32** at Browne Park
Sunday May 30
Burleigh Bears **38** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **20** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 12 - June 5, 6
Saturday June 5
Wynnum Seagulls **12** defeated Central Capras **10** at Kougari Oval
Cairns Cyclones **10** lost to Wests Panthers **22** at Dairy Farmers Stadium
Sunday June 6
Logan Scorpions **24** lost to Burleigh Bears **30** at Meakin Park
Norths Devils **18** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** at Bishop Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **30** defeated Ipswich Jets **12** at Dolphin Oval
Easts Tigers **38** defeated Souths Magpies **0** at Langlands Park

ROUND 13 - June 12, 13
Saturday 12 June (Queen's Birthday)
Wests Panthers **24** lost to Easts Tigers **26** at Purtell Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **32** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Bassett Park, Roma
Ipswich Jets **40** defeated Souths Magpies **12** at First Provincial Oval
Burleigh Bears **34** defeated Cairns Cyclones **20** at Pizzey Park
Central Capras **26** lost to Logan Scorpions **28** at Browne Park
Sunday June 13
Norths Devils **24** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **37** at Bishop Park

ROUND 14 - June 19, 20
Saturday June 19
Easts Tigers **22** drew with Burleigh Bears **22** at Langlands Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **44** defeated Ipswich Jets **32** at Sullivan Oval, Stanthorpe
Souths Magpies **6** lost to Wests Panthers **34** at Davies Park
Cairns Cyclones **40** defeated Central Capras **16** at Barlow Park
Sunday June 20
Logan Scorpions **16** lost to Norths Devils **44** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **22** drew with Redcliffe Dolphins **22** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 15 - June 26, 27
Saturday June 26
Norths Devils **52** defeated Cairns Cyclones **20** at Bishop Park.
Ipswich Jets **24** lost to Wests Panthers **26** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **12** lost to Easts Tigers **16** at Browne Park
Burleigh Bears **44** defeated Souths Magpies **0** at Pizzey Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **32** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **26** at Athletic Oval
Sunday June 27
Redcliffe Dolphins **24** defeated Logan Scorpions **18** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 16 - July 3, 4
Saturday July 3
Logan Scorpions **26** defeated Toowoomba **12** at Meakin Park
Souths Magpies **0** lost to Central Capras **42** at Davies Park
Wests Panthers **26** defeated Burleigh Bears **16** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **16** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **6** at Dairy Farmers Stadium
Sunday July 4
Easts Tigers **12** lost to Norths Devils **26** at Langlands Park
Wynnum Seagulls **38** defeated Ipswich Jets **14** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 17 - July 10, 11
Saturday July 10
Toowoomba Clydesdales **14** lost to Cairns Cyclones **30** at ANZ Stadium
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** defeated Easts Tigers **18** at Dolphin Oval
Ipswich Jets **19** defeated Burleigh Bears **18** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **14** lost to Wests Panthers **24** at Browne Park
Sunday July 11
Norths Devils **56** defeated Souths Magpies **4** at Bishop Park
Wynnum Seagulls **26** defeated Logan Scorpions **0** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 18 - July 17, 18
Saturday July 17
Wests Panthers **30** lost to Norths Devils **36** at Purtell Park
Souths Magpies **0** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **52** at Davies Park
Cairns Cyclones **16** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Barlow Park
Burleigh Bears **36** defeated Central Capras **22** at Pizzey Park
Sunday July 18
Logan Scorpions **20** defeated Ipswich Jets **18** at Meakin Park
Easts Tigers **14** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **42** at Langlands Park

ROUND 19 - July 24, 25
Saturday July 24
Norths Devils **10** lost to Burleigh Bears **26** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **30** defeated Central Capras **12** at First Provincial Oval
Sunday July 25
Redcliffe Dolphins **28** defeated Wests Panthers **14** at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **10** lost to Easts Tigers **18** at Kougari Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **56** defeated Souths Magpies **16** at Athletic Oval
Logan Scorpions **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **18** at Meakin Park

ROUND 20 - July 31, August 1
Saturday July 31
Wests Panthers **34** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **12** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **20** defeated Cairns Cyclones **16** at First Provincial Oval
Central Capras **6** lost to Norths Devils **48** at Browne Park
Sunday August 1
Burleigh Bears **16** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Pizzey Park
Easts Tigers **54** defeated Logan Scorpions **16** at Langlands Park
Souths Magpies **26** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **36** at Davies Park

ROUND 21 - August 7, 8
Saturday August 7
Norths Devils **32** defeated Ipswich Jets **10** at Bishop Park
Cairns Cyclones **8** lost to Easts Tigers **24** at Dairy Farmers Stadium
Sunday August 8
Logan Scorpions **30** defeated Souths Magpies **26** at Meakin Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **38** defeated Central Capras **12** at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **34** defeated Wests Panthers **24** at Kougari Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **26** defeated Burleigh Bears **22** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 22 - August 14, 15
Saturday August 14
Wests Panthers **34** defeated Logan Scorpions **22** at Purtell Park
Ipswich Jets **16** lost to Easts Tigers **22** at First Provincial Oval
Burleigh Bears **54** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **20** at Pizzey Park
Central Capras **22** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **36** at Browne Park
Sunday August 15
Norths Devils **24** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Bishop Park
Souths Magpies **16** lost to Cairns Cyclones **50** at Davies Park

1999

1999 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

Just as the NRL was rationalising the number of teams at the top level of the game a similar dropoff in the number of teams was happening at the Queensland Cup level.

Dropping out was the Gold Coast Chargers feeder club, the Gold Coast Vikings, as well as the Townsville Stingers, Bundaberg Grizzlies and one grand old Brisbane club, Brothers. Brothers would make a one season cameo later in 2004 in a joint venture with Valleys. Financial pressures would sadly see these great clubs brimming with history fade from top level rugby league in Brisbane. This brought the number of Queensland Cup clubs back to 12 for 1999.

It was another tight race for the minor premiership with Redcliffe finishing on top ahead of Norths and Burleigh with Toowoomba and Easts finishing further back to make up the top 5 who qualified for the finals. A more sensible 4 week finals format was adopted with the reduced number of teams.

In the major semi-final Redcliffe went to an early 12-4 lead against Burleigh before Darren Anderson scored two tries as Burleigh powered home 24-18. Redcliffe earned a grand final re-match after a hard fought 26-22 win against Norths.

In the grand final Redcliffe led 10-8 with 12 minutes to go before Bears fullback Jamie Mahon scored the winning try on the back of some determined defence by Burleigh. Redcliffe were denied a clean sweep of all three grades when huge Burleigh prop Shane O'Flanaghan came from nowhere to bundle Trent Leis into touch after a great attacking run. Burleigh beat Redcliffe 12-10 in the grand final to win the 1999 Queensland Cup.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Toowoomba 22 v Easts 6

Frawley's Cup showing to boost contract hopes

Steve Ricketts

CRAIG Frawley's chances of landing an upgraded contract with Brisbane Broncos were boosted by a two-try effort in Toowoomba's 22-6 win over Easts in yesterday's Queensland Cup rugby league knockout semi-final at Toowoomba.

Frawley, 19 last Thursday, played on the wing for the Clydesdales, who are the Broncos' affiliate club.

Sydney City and Parramatta have made offers to Frawley, but the Queensland colts representative has stalled further talks until after Toowoomba's finals campaign.

Yesterday's match was played in rain and thick fog, with Toowoomba establishing a 10-0 lead by halftime.

Easts hit back with a try to former Crushers winger Quinton Nicol in the 51st minute, but after that it was one-way traffic for the home side with Frawley, halfback Jace Van Dijk and forwards Bradley Meyers, Damon Keating and Scott Kuhnemann among the best. Toowoomba play Norths at Bishop Park next Sunday in another elimination final, with Redcliffe meeting Burleigh at Dolphin Oval on Saturday in the major semi-final.

Minor premiers Redcliffe had the weekend off, while Norths lost 34-30 to Burleigh at Bishop Park on Saturday, with Grant Adamson and Reggie Cressbrook scoring two tries each for the victors.

Easts' loss yesterday prevented the Tigers from completing a clean-sweep at the weekend. On Saturday, their colts and A grade sides beat Souths and Wynnum respectively in Brisbane knockout finals.

On the same day, Easts C grade downed Sunnybank 28-14 in the southside one second division grand final at Davies Park.

The Broncos colts side, which plays in the Toowoomba first grade competition, were beaten 28-12 by Oakey yesterday in the major semi-final. The Broncos play Warwick next weekend, while Oakey meet Pittsworth.

TOOWOOMBA 22 d EASTS 6

Scorers: Toowoomba: C Frawley 2, D White, A Harrison tries; J Van Dijk 2 goals, B Sheehan goal. Easts: Q Nicol try; M Anderton goal.

1999

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Burleigh 34 v Norths 30

Bears thriller

A REGGIE Cressbrook try under the posts in the 79th minute snatched Burleigh a 34-30 win over Norths in the Queensland Cup major semi-final at Bishop Park yesterday.

Cressbrook's try, his second, gave the Bears the lead for the first time in the match as they pinned back Norths, who led 30-10 after 10 minutes of the second half.

Burleigh will now play minor premiers Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval next weekend.

Norths, who could find themselves without talented young five-eighth Tasesa Lavea who was stretchered from the field with a knee injury in the 67th minute, will play the winner of today's knockout semi-final between Toowoomba and Easts.

BURLEIGH 34 (Grant Adamson, Reggie Cressbrook 2, Aaron Douglas, Dean Allen tries; Ben Lythe 5 goals) d NORTHS 30 (Mark Protheroe, Matt Bickerstaff, Andrew Duncan, Steve Bell, Tai Lavea tries; John Wilshere 3, Craig Smith goals).

— DAVID POTTER

1999

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Norths 24 v Toowoomba 18

Devils survive thriller

Last-ditch tackle foils Toowoomba

Steve Ricketts

A DESPERATE tackle by Norths interchange player Ryan Gundry saved the Devils from a possible extra-time battle to decide the Queensland Cup rugby league elimination final against Toowoomba at Bishop Park yesterday.

Norths won a stirring encounter 24-18 to advance to Saturday's preliminary final against Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval, with the winner to play Burleigh in the grand final.

Norths held the advantage for most of the match but could not put the young Clydesdales away.

Gundry tried to give Norths a seven-point break with three minutes remaining but his field goal shot barely got off the ground.

Toowoomba took advantage of the resultant possession and worked play deep into Norths territory.

Second-rower Ashley Harrison seemed certain to score as he charged into the clear with the tryline at his mercy. But Gundry was the man for the moment, his tackle bringing Harrison down a metre from the line and dislodging the ball.

The Toowoomba players showed the same heart and determination as their NRL affiliates Brisbane and there were several Broncos on hand to give them support, among them Toowoomba product Shane Webcke.

Norths scored five tries to three and led 14-6 after 21 minutes with fullback Tai Lavea scoring two tries in that period.

Toowoomba's fightback began with a set move from a scrum, winger Craig Frawley striding majestically for 45m for an exciting try.

But Norths scored four minutes from halftime with Gundry crossing from a clever off-load by prop Mark Shillington. Norths led 18-12.

Toowoomba drew level in the 57th minute when fullback Dennis White scored from an inside pass from halfback Jace Van Dijk, whose scheming play was a feature.

But his experienced rival Kevin Carmichael had the last laugh, setting up the match-winner for Daniel Frame in the 65th minute.

Carmichael missed last week's 34-30 loss to Burleigh because of suspension and although coach Mark Murray will expect more from him next week, he conceded it was good to have him back.

Gus McKellar, a product of St Mary's College, Toowoomba, deputised for Carmichael and originally was sent back to Brisbane A grade. But he received a reprieve with centre Craig Smith ruled out with a leg injury.

McKellar again played with confidence beyond his years, although he turned over possession three times.

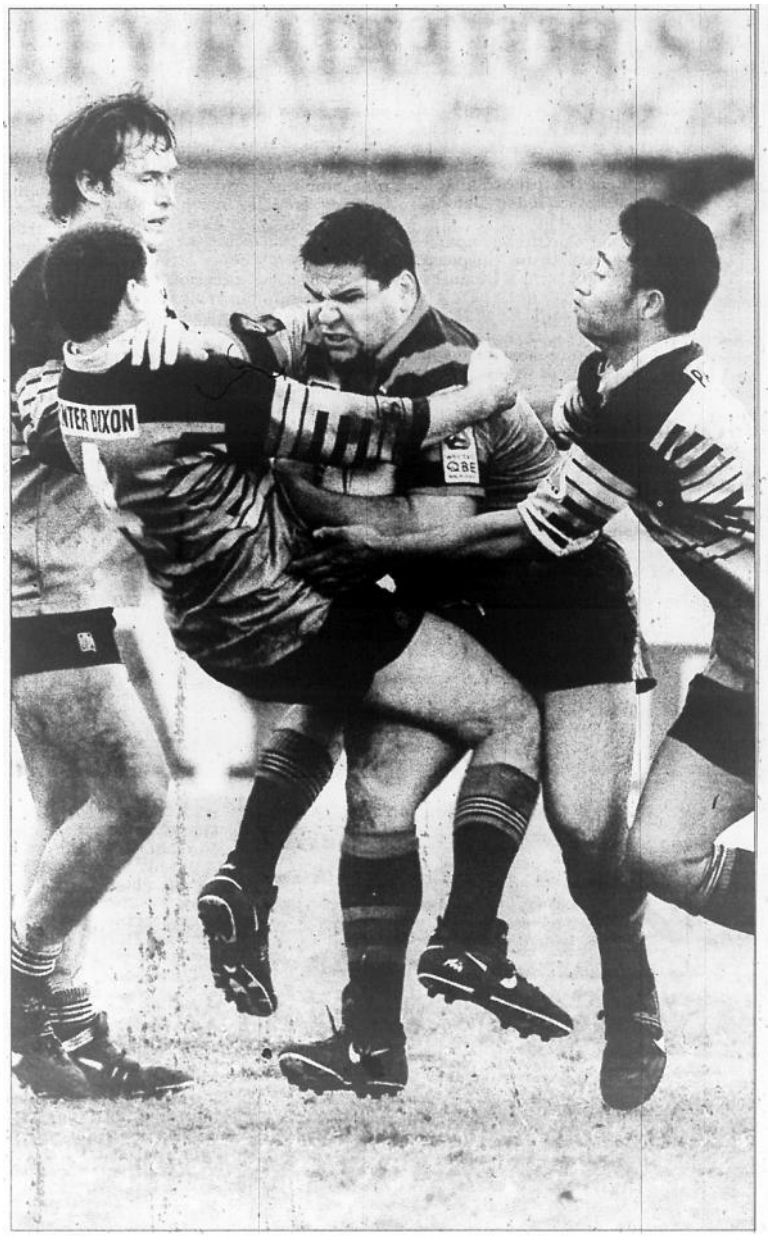
Murray was impressed with Toowoomba. "They have some quality kids," he said.

The youngsters who excelled yesterday included Van Dijk, Harrison, White, Dane Carlaw and Carl Webb.

Toowoomba's experienced men, John Driscoll, Don Saunders and Wayne Ferguson, also played big roles in yesterday's contest.

Carmichael, Shillington, Frame, Dale Williams, Steve Bell and Andrew Duncan were among Norths' best.

Norths 24 (T Lavea 2, S Bell, D Frame, R Gundry tries; J Wilshere 2 goals) d Toowoomba 18 (D White, C Frawley, A Harrison tries; J Van Dijk 3 goals); Scrums Toowoomba 9-8; penalties Norths 8-5.



NORTHS centre Andrew Duncan, *left*, and winger John Wilshere combine to stop Toowoomba prop Carl Webb at Bishop Park yesterday. Picture: Steve Pohlner

1999

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Burleigh 24 v Redcliffe 18

Bears in the hunt

BURLEIGH Bears, rugby league's standard bearer on the Gold Coast following the demise of the Chargers, now have two "A grade" sides in grand finals.

The Bears' Queensland Cup side yesterday qualified for the September 11 grand final at Suncorp Metway Stadium when they beat minor premiers Redcliffe 24-18 at Dolphin Oval. It was Burleigh's first win over Redcliffe this year.

Burleigh's Gold Coast Group 18 side qualified for next Sunday's grand final at Pizzey Park when they defeated Runaway Bay 22-18 last week.

Yesterday the hero for Burleigh was centre Darren Anderson who scored two tries.

Once again the Bears showed fighting qualities after conceding a start. Last week they trailed Norths 30-10 before storming home 34-30.

Yesterday Redcliffe led 12-4 after 20 minutes, but Burleigh took a 16-14 lead to halftime and were never headed after that, although Redcliffe got to 18-18 in the 61st minute.

Redcliffe will play the winner of today's Bishop Park elimination match between Norths and Toowoomba in next weekend's preliminary final.

Norths have had to revamp their backline with Melbourne Storm-contracted centre Craig Smith ruled out with a leg injury.

Norths play Redcliffe in the XXXX Cup A grade major semi-final, the curtain-raiser to today's Queensland Cup clash.

BURLEIGH 24 (D Anderson 2, A Douglas, G Adamson tries; B Lythe 4 goals) d Redcliffe 18 (R Hewinson, T Leis, C O'Dwyer tries; Leis 3 goals). Colts Major: REDCLIFFE d NORTHS 40-24.

—STEVE RICKETTS

1999

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 26 v Norths 22

Dolphins into final

THE Redcliffe Dolphins will contest their third Queensland Cup grand final in four years after downing Norths 26-22 at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

Redcliffe meet premiership favourites Burleigh Bears at Suncorp Metway Stadium on Saturday to try to emulate their 1997 triumph.

The Dolphins' appearance is a personal triumph for coach Alex Corvo, who has nailed a grand final berth in his first year as a senior coach.

In yesterday's pulsating clash, Redcliffe reeled in a 10-0 deficit to post 20 unanswered points before the 50-minute mark.

Premiers Norths, under Queensland coach Mark Murray, fought back to score two of the final three tries but were always playing catch-up.

But it was Redcliffe's young guns in Sam Obst, Michael Roberts, Trent Leis and John Paul Cherry who turned the tide with their sharp attack, complementing the hard work of veterans Ian Graham, Tony Gould and James Hinchey. The diminutive Obst, a menace all day with his darting runs and well-placed kicks, scored a brilliant solo try to even the score at 10-all midway through the first half.

"Mick Roberts did well to get on the field and will be better for the run after missing a few weeks with ankle trouble," Corvo said. "I thought Sam Obst was probably our best in our last two games but all 17 in the squad did their jobs well."

REDCLIFFE 26 (R Hewinson 2, S Obst, A Mogg, T Gould tries; T Leis 3 goals) d NORTHS 22 (W Fenton, M Bickerstaff, K Carmichael, D Frame tries; J Wilshere 3 goals).

—MYLES McIVOR

1999

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 12 v REDCLIFFE 10

Bears roar

By STEVE RICKETTS

'Flash' shuts out Redcliffe

BURLEIGH, with the help of the amazing cover defence of 114kg prop Shane O'Flanagan, are the 1999 Queensland Cup rugby league champions.

Burleigh defeated Redcliffe 12-10 in a dramatic grand final at Suncorp Metway Stadium yesterday after they trailed 10-8 with 12 minutes remaining.

The winning try was scored by man-of-the-match fullback Jamie Mahon when Burleigh were given two extra sets of possession – the first through a charge down and the second when Reggie Cressbrook was held up over the line.

Redcliffe hit back with an attacking raid that culminated in a great run by winger Trent Leis.

Leis beat several defenders and appeared to be on his way when O'Flanagan, nicknamed Flash, came from nowhere to knock him into touch.

Originally from the Tweed, O'Flanagan played with the now defunct South Queensland Crushers but said he quit the club after a falling out with the coaching staff.

Incredibly, O'Flanagan did a similar tackle on Leis in the major semi-final which Burleigh also won.

Redcliffe's loss robbed the club of a clean sweep of premierships after their Colts and A-Grade teams defeated Norths in XXXX Cup grand finals yesterday.

The club had another reason to celebrate with halfback Michael Roberts named Sunstate Airlines Queensland Cup Player of the Year at a function before yesterday's grand final.

Roberts, who scored 214 points this year, did not kick for goal yesterday because of an ankle injury and Leis landed only one shot from three attempts, although the two misses were from out wide.

Redcliffe five-eighth Sam Obst did not deserve to be on the losing side. He bobbed up everywhere and read play to perfection..

Burleigh winger Aaron Douglas caused concern when he was taken from the field with a neck injury early in the second half but he was cleared of serious damage.

In his last match, Burleigh's former St George prop Tony Priddle made his presence felt with steadying play and good off-loads.

Priddle has been forced into retirement by a similar knee injury to the one which ended Paul Harragon's career.

Eight coach loads of supporters travelled from Burleigh to Brisbane to cheer on the Bears.

Yesterday's win by Burleigh comes on top of their triumph in last Sunday's Gold Coast Group 18 grand final where the "second string" Bears outfit defeated Tweed Seagulls.

BURLEIGH 12 (D Anderson, J Mahon tries; B Lythe 2 goals) d REDCLIFFE 10 (T Leis, R Hewinson tries; Leis goal.).

A Grade: Redcliffe 28 d Norths 18. Colts: Redcliffe 26 d Norths 22.

■ PREMIERS Souths piled on the points early to shut Norths' out of the Queensland women's rugby league grand final at Aspley yesterday.

Souths fullback Karen Shaw scored two tries to lead the premiers to an 18-0 victory. All their points were scored in the first half.



SWEET VICTORY: Burleigh captain Grant Adamson can't hide his delight. Picture: DEREK MOORE



1999

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 12 v REDCLIFFE 10



Back Row (LtoR): Cleve Brown (Trainer), Shane O'Flanagan, Ali Brown, Tony Priddle, Brad Middlebosch, Darren Anderson, Ali Davys, Frank Johnston, Justin Bryant.

Middle Row: Bob Clark (C.E.O.), Laurie Oar (Chairman), Michael Kerwick (Manager), Adam McKenzie, Dean Allen, Grant Adamson (c), Craig Freer, Meti Noovao, Frank Napoli, Wayne Clifford, Darrell Madge (Trainer), Pat Walker (Selector).

Front Row: Rod Bathe (Trainer), Peter Lima, Ben Lythe, Faron Anderson, Aaron Douglas, Graham Lyons, Jamie Mahon, Brock Anderson, Rick Stone (Coach)

Absent: Reggie Cressbrook, Hamish Smith, Blair Tonkin

1999 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

MINOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL - **August 22** *(Loser eliminated; Winner to Minor Semi-Final)*
Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Athletic Oval

MAJOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL - **August 21** *(Winner to Major Semi-Final; Loser to Minor Semi-Final)*
Burleigh Bears **34** defeated Norths Devils **30** at Bishop Park

MINOR SEMI-FINAL - **August 29** *(Winner to Preliminary Final; Loser eliminated)*
Norths Devils **24** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** at Bishop Park

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL - **August 28** *(Winner into Grand Final; Loser to Preliminary Final)*
Burleigh Bears **24** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **18** at Dolphin Oval

PRELIMINARY FINAL - **September 4** *(Winner into Grand Final; Loser eliminated)*
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** defeated Norths Devils **22** at Dolphin Oval

GRAND FINAL - **September 11**
BURLEIGH BEARS 12 (Jamie Mahon, Darren Anderson tries; Ben Lythe 2 goals) **defeated REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 10** (Rick Hewinson, Trent Leis tries; Trent Leis goal) **at Suncorp-Metway Stadium**

2000

QUEENSLAND CUP: REDCLIFFE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Redcliffe Dolphins	22	19	0	3	546	320	38	226
2	Easts Tigers	22	17	0	5	654	427	34	227
3	Toowoomba Clydesdales	22	16	0	6	747	409	32	338
4	Burleigh Bears	22	14	1	7	600	398	29	202
5	Norths Devils	22	13	1	8	589	484	27	105
6	Ipswich Jets	22	12	0	10	556	516	24	40
7	Logan Scorpions	22	10	1	11	494	488	21	6
8	Central Comets	22	10	1	11	529	550	21	-21
9	Souths Magpies	22	8	2	12	472	624	18	-152
10	Wests Panthers	22	4	1	17	459	601	9	-142
11	Wynnum Seagulls	22	3	1	18	386	649	7	-263
12	Cairns Cyclones	22	2	0	20	288	854	4	-566

2000 Queensland Cup

*Denotes televised game.

ROUND 1- February 19
Saturday February 19
Souths Magpies **28** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Davies Park
Wests Panthers **16** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Purtell Park
Burleigh Bears **16** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **22** at Pizzey Park
Norths Devils **30** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **4** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **16** lost to Logan City Scorpions **22** at First Provincial Oval
Central Comets **25** defeated Easts Tigers **24** at Browne Park

ROUND 2- February 26, 27
Saturday February 26
Logan City Scorpions **20** defeated Central Comets **12** at Meakin Park
Burleigh Bears **18** lost to Easts Tigers **30** at Pizzey Park
Wynnum Seagulls **26** lost to Ipswich Jets **37** at Kougari Oval
Sunday February 27
Toowoomba Clydesdales **58** defeated Wests Panthers **6** at Athletic Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **10** lost to Souths Magpies **20** at Dolphin Oval
Norths Devils **52** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Bishop Park

ROUND 3- March 4, 5
Saturday March 4
*Easts Tigers **24** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **18** at Langlands Park
Norths Devils **24** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **30** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **20** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at First Provincial Oval
Central Comets **40** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Marley Brown Oval
Burleigh Bears **28** defeated Logan City Scorpions **6** at Pizzey Park
Sunday March 5
Souths Magpies **16** defeated Wests Panthers **4** at Davies Park

ROUND 4- March 10-12
Friday March 10
Toowoomba Clydesdales **40** defeated Souths Magpies **12** at Athletic Oval
Saturday March 11
*Wests Panthers **22** lost to Norths Devils **32** at Purtell Park
Logan City Scorpions **6** lost to Easts Tigers **28** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **14** lost to Burleigh Bears **30** at Kougari Oval
Cairns Cyclones **16** lost to Central Comets **20** at Barlow Park
Sunday March 12
Redcliffe Dolphins **26** defeated Ipswich Jets **16** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 5- March 18, 19
Saturday March 18
*Burleigh Bears **38** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at Pizzey Park
Ipswich Jets **29** defeated Wests Panthers **18** at First Provincial Oval
Norths Devils **26** defeated Souths Magpies **12** at Bishop Park
Logan City Scorpions **0** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **32** at Meakin Park
Central Comets **12** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **6** at Browne Park
Sunday March 19
Easts Tigers **26** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Langlands Park

ROUND 6- March 24-26
Friday March 24
Toowoomba Clydesdales **52** defeated Norths Devils **4** at Athletic Oval
Saturday March 25
*Wynnum Seagulls **4** lost to Logan City Scorpions **36** at Kougari Oval
Wests Panthers **43** defeated Central Comets **20** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **10** lost to Easts Tigers **26** at Barlow Park
Sunday March 26
Souths Magpies **18** lost to Ipswich Jets **54** at Brandon Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **18** defeated Burleigh Bears **16** at Dolphin Oval

ROUND 7- April 1, 2
Saturday April 1
*Ipswich Jets **12** lost to Norths Devils **30** at First Provincial Oval
Logan City Scorpions **40** defeated Cairns Cyclones **0** at Meakin Park
Burleigh Bears **36** defeated Wests Panthers **16** at Pizzey Park
Central Comets **22** lost to Souths Magpies **26** at Browne Park
Sunday April 2
Wynnum Seagulls **4** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **44** at Kougari Oval
Easts Tigers **12** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **24** at Langlands Park

ROUND 8- April 7-9
Friday April 7
Toowoomba Clydesdales **62** defeated Ipswich Jets **32** at ANZ Stadium
Saturday April 8
*Redcliffe Dolphins **36** defeated Logan City Scorpions **12** at Dolphin Oval
Wests Panthers **22** lost to Easts Tigers **32** at Purtell Park
Norths Devils **32** defeated Central Comets **16** at Bishop Park
Cairns Cyclones **28** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **18** at Mareeba
Sunday April 9
Souths Magpies **22** defeated Burleigh Bears **16** at Davies Park

2000

ROUND 9- April 15, 16
Saturday April 15
*Easts Tigers **34** defeated Souths Magpies **16** at Langlands Park
Burleigh Bears **22** defeated Norths Devils **20** at Pizzey Park
Central Comets **22** lost to Ipswich Jets **30** at Browne Park
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **34** at Callender Park, Innisfail
Sunday April 16
Logan City Scorpions **22** defeated Wests Panthers **6** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **6** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **14** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 10- April 20, 22-24
Thursday April 20
Wests **32** defeated Wynnum **4** at Purtell Park
Saturday April 22 (Easter)
*Norths Devils **20** lost to Easts Tigers **38** at Bishop Park
Souths Magpies **26** lost to Logan City Scorpions **34** at Davies Park
Ipswich Jets **4** lost to Burleigh Bears **22** at First Provincial Oval
Sunday April 23 (Easter)
Redcliffe Dolphins **48** defeated Cairns Cyclones **12** at Dolphin Oval
Monday April 24
Toowoomba Clydesdales **34** defeated Central Comets **16** at Dalby Leagues Ground

ROUND 11- April 28-30
Friday April 28
Toowoomba Clydesdales **10** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **18** at ANZ Stadium
Saturday April 29
*Burleigh Bears **28** defeated Central Comets **14** at Pizzey Park
Wynnum Seagulls **22** drew with Souths Magpies **22** at Kougari Oval
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Wests Panthers **26** at Mareeba
Sunday April 30
Logan City Scorpions **8** lost to Norths Devils **28** at Meakin Park
Easts Tigers **16** lost to Ipswich Jets **26** at Langlands Park

ROUND 12- May 13, 14
Saturday May 13
*Wests Panthers **14** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** at Purtell Park
Central Comets **24** defeated Logan City Scorpions **14** at Browne Park
Sunday May 14
Cairns Cyclones **12** lost to Norths Devils **38** at Vico Park
Ipswich Jets **36** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **12** at First Provincial Oval
Easts Tigers **32** defeated Burleigh Bears **30** at Langlands Park
Souths Magpies **14** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **27** at Davies Park

ROUND 13- May 20, 21
Saturday May 20
*Logan City Scorpions **18** drew with Burleigh Bears **18** at Meakin Park
Wests Panthers **26** drew with Souths Magpies **26** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **26** defeated Ipswich Jets **22** at Atherton Showgrounds
Sunday May 21
Wynnum Seagulls **18** lost to Central Comets **38** at Kougari Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins **46** defeated Norths Devils **16** at Dolphin Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** lost to Easts Tigers **30** at Athletic Oval

ROUND 14- May 27, 28
Saturday May 27
*Ipswich Jets **10** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **18** at First Provincial Oval
Central Comets **48** defeated Cairns Cyclones **4** at Browne Park
Sunday May 28
Norths Devils **38** defeated Wests Panthers **32** at Bishop Park
Souths Magpies **28** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **42** at Davies Park
Easts Tigers **30** defeated Logan City Scorpions **26** at Langlands Park
Burleigh Bears **40** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 15- June 3, 4
Saturday June 3
*Souths Magpies **30** defeated Norths Devils **25** at Davies Park
Wests Panthers **6** lost to Ipswich Jets **34** at Purtell Park
Cairns Cyclones **6** lost to Burleigh Bears **34** at Mossman Showgrounds
Sunday June 4
Redcliffe Dolphins **22** defeated Central Comets **12** at Dolphin Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales **24** lost to Logan City Scorpions **30** at Cahill Park, Gatton
Wynnum Seagulls **26** lost to Easts Tigers **28** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 16- June 10, 11
Saturday June 10 (Queen's Birthday Weekend)
*Norths Devils **30** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **6** at Bishop Park
Logan City Scorpions **14** lost to Wynnum Seagulls **22** at Meakin Park
Ipswich Jets **28** defeated Souths Magpies **18** at First Provincial Oval
Central Comets **32** defeated Wests Panthers **14** at Browne Park
Sunday June 11 (Queen's Birthday Weekend)
Burleigh Bears **22** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **0** at Pizzey Park
Easts Tigers **78** defeated Cairns Cyclones **4** at Langlands Park

ROUND 17- June 17, 18
Saturday June 17
*Redcliffe Dolphins **8** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Dolphin Oval
Wests Panthers **20** lost to Burleigh Bears **28** at Purtell Park
Sunday June 18
Toowoomba Clydesdales **36** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **28** at ANZ Stadium
Cairns Cyclones **22** lost to Logan City Scorpions **50** at Smithfield Sports Complex
Souths Magpies **28** lost to Central Comets **34** at Davies Park
Norths Devils **30** defeated Ipswich Jets **16** at Bishop Park

ROUND 18- June 24, 25
Saturday June 24
*Logan City Scorpions **18** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **28** at Meakin Park
Burleigh Bears **44** defeated Souths Magpies **6** at Pizzey Park
Central Comets **24** drew with Norths Devils **24** at Browne Park
Sunday June 25
Easts Tigers **32** defeated Wests Panthers **22** at Langlands Park
Ipswich Jets **24** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **30** at First Provincial Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **28** defeated Cairns Cyclones **14** at Kougari Oval

ROUND 19- July 1, 2
Saturday July 1
*Ipswich Jets **18** lost to Central Comets **24** at First Provincial Oval
Wests Panthers **22** lost to Logan City Scorpions **24** at Purtell Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales **64** defeated Cairns Cyclones **12** at Athletic Oval
Sunday July 2
Norths Devils **16** lost to Burleigh Bears **30** at Bishop Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **22** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **8** at Dolphin Oval
Souths Magpies **12** lost to Easts Tigers **32** at Davies Park

ROUND 20- July 8, 9
Saturday July 8
*Easts Tigers **18** defeated Norths Devils **14** at Langlands Park
Cairns Cyclones **20** lost to Redcliffe Dolphins **54** at Alley Park, Gordonvale
Central Comets **28** lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales **35** at Browne Park
Sunday July 9
Logan City Scorpions **50** defeated Souths Magpies **24** at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls **18** defeated Wests Panthers **10** at Kougari Oval
Burleigh Bears **18** lost to Ipswich Jets **28** at Pizzey Park

ROUND 21- July 15, 16
Saturday July 15
*Redcliffe Dolphins **17** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **16** at Dolphin Oval
Wests Panthers **60** defeated Cairns Cyclones **10** at Purtell Park
Central Comets **20** lost to Burleigh Bears **42** at Browne Park
Sunday July 16
Souths Magpies **40** defeated Wynnum Seagulls **24** at Davies Park
Norths Devils **28** defeated Logan City Scorpions **16** at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets **34** defeated Easts Tigers **30** at First Provincial Oval

ROUND 22 - July 22, 23
Saturday July 22
*Toowoomba Clydesdales **48** defeated Burleigh Bears **24** at ANZ Stadium
Sunday July 23
Cairns Cyclones **20** lost to Souths Magpies **28** at Stan Williams Park
Logan City Scorpions **28** lost to Ipswich Jets **30** at Meakin Park
Redcliffe Dolphins **50** defeated Wests Panthers **22** at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls **28** lost to Norths Devils **32** at Kougari Oval
Easts Tigers **48** defeated Central Comets **26** at Langlands Park

2000

2000 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The same 12 teams as 1999 lined up again for the 2000 Queensland Cup season. As far as team line-ups go, the biggest change was with the Toowoomba side who became the sole feeder club for the Brisbane Broncos which gave them a major advantage. So many Broncos played for them that they earned the nickname “Bronco-woomba”.

Despite this advantage Redcliffe had a strong enough season to finish as minor premiers ahead of Easts and then Toowoomba followed by Burleigh and Norths making up the final five.

In finals week one Burleigh eliminated Norths with a 38-12 win and Toowoomba had a big win over Easts 36-20. Easts recovered to beat Burleigh 36-10 in the minor semi-final. In the major semi-final Redcliffe didn’t know what hit them when they were hammered 46-12 by Toowoomba. Redcliffe recovered with a powerful 40-6 thrashing over Easts to meet Toowoomba in the grand final.

In Toowoomba’s grand final side were a host of future Broncos and NRL stars such as Justin Hodges, Brent Tate, Chris Walker, Corey Parker, Kerrod Walters, Nathan Friend and Carl Webb.

It was Redcliffe who started off strongly with 2 tries from Trent Leis and Troy Lindsay in the first 20 minutes. Just before half time Justin Hodges scored a blockbusting try stepping around four defenders. The only other try was scored by Redcliffe’s Craig O’Dwyer, via a dummy pass, 5 minutes into the second half. Redcliffe’s defence spoiled Toowoomba’s usual free-flowing attack. Their execution was also poor. Redcliffe held on to win 14-6 against their more fancied opponents to be the first team to win the Queensland Cup twice.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Burleigh 38 v Norths 12

Premiers issue warning

By STEVE RICKETTS

PREMIERS Burleigh Bears yesterday served notice they would not surrender their title without a fight with a 38-12 thrashing of Norths at Pizzey Park in the Bundy Gold Cup knockout final.

Minor premiers Redcliffe are favourites for the 2000 premiership, followed by Easts and Toowoomba, who meet in today's qualifying final at Langlands Park.

But some of the heroes of Burleigh's grand final win over Redcliffe last year were on song again yesterday, as they bounced back from last Sunday's 48-24 loss to Toowoomba.

Prop Shane O'Flanagan, halfback Grant Adamson and centre Darren Anderson were key figures in a seven-tries-to-two win in front of a large home crowd.

With the match still in the balance in the 58th minute, O'Flanagan was denied a try when referee Rob Alexander ruled he had been held up over the line after video referee Dennis Baker could not come to a decision from the ABC television footage.

A minute later O'Flanagan could not be denied when he crashed through three defenders to give the Bears a 20-6 lead.

Norths hit back briefly with a try from a bomb to Matt Dux but Burleigh ran in three more converted tries. Fullback Reggie Cressbrook finished with 18 points from a try and seven goals from eight shots.

Burleigh's win means they will play the loser of today's Easts-Toowoomba match next Sunday.

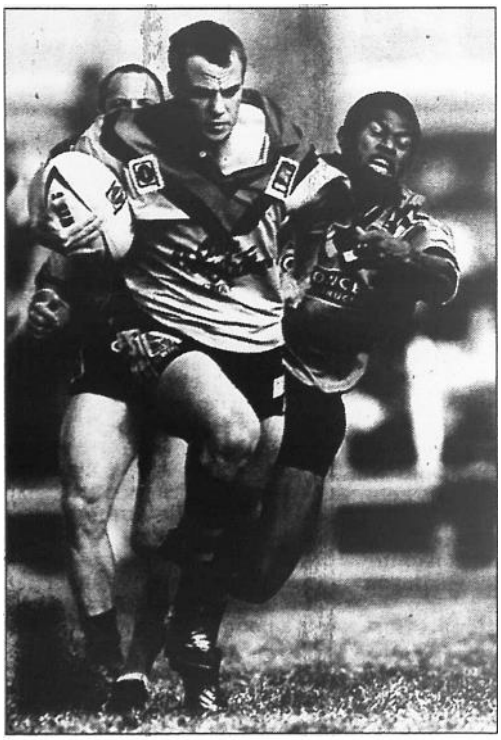
Norths, heavily hit by injuries and commitments to NRL affiliates Melbourne Storm, battled gamely and they were denied two tries coach Mark Murray and his players thought were fair. On both occasions Alexander declined to go to the video referee.

BURLEIGH 38 (R Cressbrook, A Douglas, S O'Flanagan, C Horsfall, D Allen, D Parker tries; Cressbrook 7goals) d NORTHS 12 (S Bell, M Dux tries; M Turner 2 goals).

2000

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Toowoomba 36 v Easts 20

Tigers' tackling a dream for Clydesdales



TOOWOOMBA second-rower Neale Wyatt brushes aside Easts lock Mark Mom.

David Potter

TOOWOOMBA earned a semi-final crack at Bundy Cup rugby league minor premiers Redcliffe on Saturday but not without a most generous helping hand yesterday from Easts.

The Tigers missed tackle after tackle in the first 40 minutes to trail the Clydesdales by 24-4 at the break. It was a start they were never going to peg back.

Toowoomba won 36-20, surviving only a momentary scare from the Tigers, who played significantly better in the second session but will need to improve just as markedly again next week if they are to prevent themselves tumbling out the back door at the hands of Burleigh.

The Bears will play the Tigers on Sunday at Langlands Park in an elimination final after their impressive 38-12 win over an under-manned Norths at Pizzey Park on Saturday.

The winner of the Redcliffe-Toowoomba match at Dolphin Oval will progress straight to the August 19 grand final.

The Clydesdales showed enough yesterday to suggest they will trouble the Dolphins, especially out wide.

Each of Toowoomba's seven tries were scored by their backs, two of them long-range efforts by giant centre/winger Alex Wilson.

The space on the flanks was created as much by the work in tight by the likes of Corey Parker and Neale Wyatt as it was by dreadful one-on-one defence by Easts.

Had it not been for lock Mark Mom, who thrived on a mountain of defensive work complimented by enterprising attack, and the fearsome hit-ups of a flu-stricken Chris Nahi, the Tigers would have been embarrassed by the Clydesdales.

The closest Easts came to threatening Toowoomba was in the 57th minute when an overhead, inside ball from Mom was snapped up by half Brett McPherson to score. John Wilshere's conversion took the scoreline to 24-16.

The Tigers have much to do in seven days and next weekend, in all likelihood, will have to do it without winger Jason Wendt.

Wendt was sent from the field by referee Tony Maksoud three minutes from time when he appeared to lead with the knees when sliding into Toowoomba fullback Adam Warwick.

Just a minute later, Warwick made light of the incident when he pounced on a Jace Van Dijk grubber to score in the corner.

TOOWOOMBA 36 d EASTS 20

Scorers: Toowoomba: A Warwick 2 A Wilson 2 B Tate J Pelesasa J Van Dijk tries, J Van Dijk 4 goals. Easts: J Wendt, B McPherson D Clark C Nahi tries, J Wilshere 2 goals.

2000

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Easts 36 v Burleigh 10

Easts sink Cup premiers Burleigh

Andrew Dawson

EASTS yesterday put the cleaners through Bundy Gold Cup rugby league premiers Burleigh with a 20-point second half that kept their season alive.

The Tigers triumphed 36-10 in the elimination final at Langlands Park, setting up a showdown with a battered Redcliffe next weekend.

Toowoomba already have qualified for the grand final after spanking the Dolphins 46-12 on Saturday.

A supreme 35m solo try by five-eight Scott Thorburn cracked the game open for Easts who had watched a Grant Adamson-inspired Burleigh close to within 16-10 early in the second half.

Thorburn bobbed and weaved, and ducked and dived before accelerating beyond the reaches of Reggie Cressbrook to plunge over beneath the uprights.

Trailing 22-10 after Thorburn's try, Burleigh were bailing water again and then became completely submerged when Easts lock Scott Sipple came from the back of a scrum and sprinted down a wide blindside to score.

Easts crept in front courtesy of captain Jeff Doyle in the first half.

After nine minutes he roved wide of the ruck to accept a Thorburn pass, striding 20m to the line despite Cressbrook hanging on to his ankles.

Then 30 minutes into the game he again positioned himself outside Thorburn, this time offering a marvellous one-handed pass in a tackle that found winger Aseri Laing.

Laing shrugged off defenders and when met by Cressbrook, found Brett McPherson who scooted over for the first of two tries.

John Wilshere then made it 14-nil when he was one of many Tigers who loomed up in support, anticipating an inside pass from Wade Liddell who had startled Burleigh with a blistering sideline run.

Burleigh struck either side of halftime. Initially Adamson produced a solo try from a grubber kick, and then long passes by Adamson and Chris Horsfall created space on the edge of the field for winger David Parker to cross.

Mobile prop Chris Nahi also was prominent for the winners while Adamson was in everything for the losers.

Easts also won the A grade match 22-4 over Redcliffe,

EASTS TIGERS 36 d BURLEIGH 10

Scorers: East Tigers. B McPherson 2 J Wilshere B Martin S Thorburn, S Sipple, J Doyle tries, J Wilshere 4 goals. Burleigh Bears. G Adamson D Parker tries, D Parker goal

2000

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Toowoomba 46 v Redcliffe 12

Clydesdales on the trot

BRISBANE Broncos are favourites for the NRL title and their affiliate club, Toowoomba Clydesdales, are at unbackable odds to win the Bundy Gold Cup.

Toowoomba yesterday belted minor premiers Redcliffe 46-12 in the major semi-final at Dolphin Oval, with former Australian Schoolboys rugby union star Paul Warwick leading the way at five-eighth.

The win catapults the Clydesdales into Saturday week's grand final at Suncorp Metway Stadium. Redcliffe will play next Saturday at home against the winners of today's elimination match between Easts and premiers Burleigh Bears at Langlands Park.

Redcliffe were never in yesterday's match, trailing 16-0 after 19 minutes and 22-8 at halftime.

They started the second half strongly but had two tries disallowed by the video referee and then Toowoomba clicked back into gear.

Blockbusting centre Alex Wilson maintained his recent outstanding form, grabbing a brace of tries and displaying the speed and strength which prompted the Broncos to sign him from the Newcastle club competition.

In the Brisbane colts major semi-final, Wests defeated Redcliffe 38-22.

TOOWOOMBA 46 (A Wilson 2, J Hodges, K Walters, D Mapp, D Ingram, N Friend, C Walker tries; J Van Dijk 7 goals) d REDCLIFFE 12 (D Richters 2, G Wilson tries).

2000

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 40 v Easts 6

Dolphins humiliate meek Tigers

By DAVID POTTER

IT was a far different Redcliffe yesterday from the one that meekly surrendered a Bundy Gold Cup rugby league grand-final berth the previous week to Toowoomba.

It also was a far different Easts.

Right from the 10th minute, when Trent Leis and John Olzard combined to score from a Tony Gould kick to the corner, the Tigers were on the backfoot.

They never recovered. The Tigers trailed 16-0 at halftime and continued going backwards to be embarrassed by 40-6 at the final whistle.

The Dolphins' win has earned them a rematch with Toowoomba in next Saturday's grand final at Suncorp Metway Stadium.

After turning around their miserable first-up semi-final performance against the Clydesdales with a 36-10 win over last year's premiers Burleigh, the Tigers yesterday reverted to their old ways.

The missed tackle count was horrendous, as was the lack of enthusiasm in their kick chase.

That they scored one try (by Paul Hubbard in the 72nd minute) was surprising in itself as on a handful of previous occasions they fumbled the ball with either the line in clear sight or, more often than not, within reach.

The Dolphins were a complete contrast to their opposition, especially in their chasing game.

Every time five-eighth Gould kicked the ball, even the wobbly ones were fiercely followed.

It was inevitable that the first two tries came as a result of the boot, the second by George Wilson when the ball landed perfectly on his chest as he crossed the line unchallenged.

But the good work was done in the centre of the ruck by Rob Campbell, Luke Scott and James Hinchey, playing his final match at Dolphin Park before retirement.

Campbell, Adam Starr and Craig O'Dwyer highlighted the Dolphins domination of the centre of the ruck in the 42nd, 64th and 68th minutes when each scored by simply carting the ball up the centre close to the line, casting aside a non-existent defence.

Had it not been for the performances of Easts hooker George Gatis, replacement forward Johnny Edmonds and winger Aseri Laing the Tigers would have suffered even more than they did.

REDCLIFFE 40 (G Wilson 2, J Olzard, A Mogg, C O'Dwyer, R Campbell, T Mitchell, A Starr tries; D Richters 4 goals) d EASTS 6 (P Hubbard try; J Wilshere goal). A Grade: Logan 26 d Redcliffe 24, Colts Norths 38 d Redcliffe 24.

2000

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 14 v TOOWOOMBA 6

Dolphins swim against the tide

By DAVID POTTER

AN against-the-odds 14-6 Bundy Gold Cup grand final win yesterday continued a year veteran Redcliffe prop Rob Campbell will never forget.

"I couldn't have wished for a better swansong in Australia. I've got three games left (playing in the World Cup for Russia), the last one against Australia and I'm getting married in two weeks. This has been the greatest season of my life."

Campbell, Troy Lindsay and Adam Starr and another of the retirees James Hinchey, were the foundation of Redcliffe's win at Suncorp Metway Stadium.

It was a grand final in which the cool heads of the experienced Dolphins overcame the talent of a Toowoomba outfit.

Time and again the Clydesdales would gain field position only to fritter away their opportunities with the wrong option.

The Dolphins, who have appeared in four of the five Queensland Cup grand finals, becoming the first club to win two, took advantage of referee Tony Maksoud's poor control of the ruck area to thwart Toowoomba's natural flowing game.

"That's how we beat them twice (in the regular season)," Redcliffe coach Neil Wharton acknowledged after the match.

"I don't coach spoiling tactics but to hit hard in defence and make sure of the dominant tackle."

As a result, the young Clydesdales were unable to fully utilise their running game.

The Dolphins picked up two tries in the first 20 minutes, reversing the trend of the first semi-final clash between the two when Toowoomba rattled up an unassailable early lead.

The first try scored by Trent Leis was classic sideline to sideline rugby league, the Dolphins taking advantage of Toowoomba being a man down with half Jace Van Dijk flattened after a head clash.

It started at the first play-the-ball after a bullocking run by Campbell. Tony Gould pushed the ball over his head to Barry Denduck, who linked with John Olzard to put Leis over in the corner.

Just five minutes later Lindsay pushed his way over one pass wide of the ruck through the defence of Corey Parker, Dennis White and Kerrod Walters.

The Clydesdales hit back with just 50 seconds before the break through their most dangerous attacking player, fullback Justin Hodges.

Hodges latched onto a Paul Warwick pass from a rehearsed move using Carl Webb as the decoy and stepped around four defenders to score under the posts.

The stage was set for a free-flowing second half but instead an arm-wrestle developed with Redcliffe's ferocious defence repelling a Toowoomba attack too reliant on individuals.

At times Webb, Chris Walker, Darren Mapp and Parker individually posed questions of the Redcliffe defence but the finishing touch was lacking.

The only try of the second half came in the 45th minute when an outrageous Craig O'Dwyer dummy was swallowed by four Toowoomba defenders who headed to the right, allowing him to step inside and over in the tackles of Alex Wilson and Walters.

Easts won the A grade grand final 25-10 over Logan and Norths scored a 32-14 win over Wests in colts.

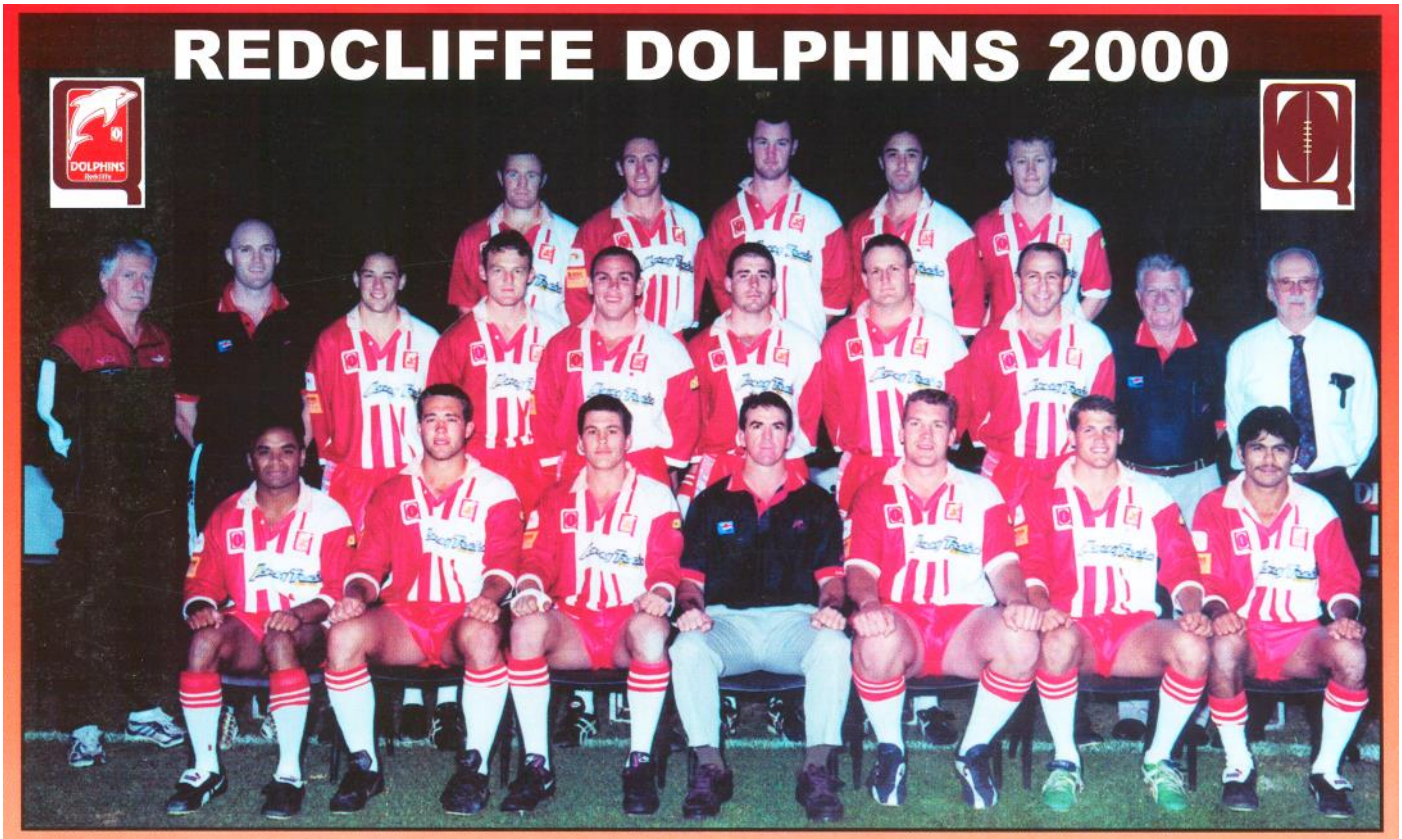
REDCLIFFE 14 (T Leis, T Lindsay, C O'Dwyer tries; D Richters goal) d TOOWOOMBA 6 (J Hudges try; P Warwick goal).



OURS: A triumphant Redcliffe skipper Craig O'Dwyer and coach Neil Wharton celebrate their victory. Picture: NATHAN RICHTER

2000

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 14 v TOOWOOMBA 6



BACK ROW: James Hinchey, Damien Richters, Adam Starr, Adam Mogg, George Wilson.

MIDDLE ROW: Gary Worden (Trainer), Sean Cassidy (Strength & Conditioning coach), Grant Flugge, John Olzard, Luke Scott, Russell Lahiff, Troy Lindsay, Tony Gould, Jack Barton (Manager), Henry Holder (Manager).

FRONT ROW: Barry Denduck, Danny Burke, Craig O'Dwyer (Captain), Neil Wharton (Coach), Robert Campbell, Trent Leis, Troy Mitchell.

2000 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

MINOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL **-July 29** *(Winner to Minor Semi-Final, Loser eliminated)*
*Burleigh Bears **38** defeated Norths Devils **12** at Pizzey Park

MAJOR PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL **-July 30** *(Winner to Major Semi-Final, Loser to Minor Semi-Final).*
Toowoomba Clydesdales **36** defeated Easts Tigers **20** at Langlands Park

MINOR SEMI-FINAL **-August 6** *(Winner to Preliminary Final, Loser eliminated)*
Easts Tigers **36** defeated Burleigh Bears **10** at Langlands Park

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL **-August 5** *(Winner to Grand Final, Loser to Preliminary Final)*
*Toowoomba Clydesdales **46** defeated Redcliffe Dolphins **12** at Dolphin Oval

PRELIMINARY FINAL **- August 12** *(Winner to Grand Final, Loser eliminated)*
*Redcliffe Dolphins **40** defeated Easts Tigers **6** at Dolphin Oval

GRAND FINAL **- August 19**
*Redcliffe Dolphins **14** defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales **6** at Suncorp-Metway Stadium

2001

QUEENSLAND CUP: TOOWOOMBA



QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Toowoomba Clydesdales	20	18	1	1	2	794	310	41	484
2	Burleigh Bears	20	15	1	4	2	660	401	35	259
3	Redcliffe Dolphins	20	14	0	6	2	617	393	32	224
4	Norths Devils	20	11	3	6	2	558	446	29	112
5	East Coast Tigers	20	12	0	8	2	501	450	28	51
6	Wynnum Seagulls	20	8	3	9	2	445	546	23	-101
7	Central Comets	20	7	3	10	2	468	517	21	-49
8	Ipswich Jets	20	6	3	11	2	447	536	19	-89
9	Logan Scorpions	20	4	1	15	2	385	581	13	-196
10	Wests Panthers	20	4	1	15	2	392	798	13	-406
11	Souths Magpies	20	3	0	17	2	388	677	10	-289

2001 Queensland Cup

* Denotes ABC televised match

ROUND 1- March 10, 11
Saturday March 10
*Norths Devils 10 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 40 at Bishop Park
Wests Panthers 10 lost to East Coast Tigers 34 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 16 lost to Logan City Scorpions 28 at Browne Park
Sunday March 11
Ipswich Jets 22 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 38 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Souths Magpies 14 lost to Wynnum Seagulls 36 at Davies Park
Bye: Burleigh Bears

ROUND 2- March 16-18
Friday March 16
Toowoomba Clydesdales 28 defeated Norths Devils 20 at ANZ Stadium
Saturday March 17
*East Coast Tigers 12 defeated Burleigh Bears 10 at Langlands Park
Wynnum Seagulls 22 drew with Central Comets 22 at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions 40 defeated Wests Panthers 4 at Meakin Park
Sunday March 18
Redcliffe Dolphins 42 defeated Souths Magpies 12 at Dolphin Oval
Bye: Ipswich Jets

ROUND 3- March 24, 25
Saturday March 24
*Wests Panthers 22 lost to Wynnum Seagulls 40 at Purtell Park
Norths Devils 28 defeated Ipswich Jets 18 at Bishop Park
Burleigh Bears 24 drew with Logan City Scorpions 24 at Pizzey Park
Central Comets 16 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 30 at Browne Park
Sunday March 25
Souths Magpies 12 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 44 at Davies Park
Bye: East Coast Tigers

ROUND 4- March 31, April 1
Saturday March 31
*Ipswich Jets 12 lost to Souths Magpies 22 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales 62 defeated Central Comets 0 at Newtown Oval
Sunday April 1
Redcliffe Dolphins 30 defeated Wests Panthers 12 at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls 18 lost to Burleigh Bears 38 at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions 6 lost to East Coast Tigers 20 at Meakin Park
Bye: Norths Devils

ROUND 5- April 7, 8
Saturday April 7
*Burleigh Bears 22 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 23 at Pizzey Park
Wests Panthers 6 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 70 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 22 lost to Ipswich Jets 23 at Browne Park
Sunday April 8
Souths Magpies 18 lost to Norths Devils 40 at Davies Park
East Coast Tigers 28 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 22 at Langlands Park
Bye: Logan City Scorpions

ROUND 6- April 21, 22
Saturday April 21
*Norths Devils 34 defeated Central Comets 16 at Bishop Park
Toowoomba Clydesdales 44 defeated Burleigh Bears 30 at ANZ Stadium
Ipswich Jets 20 lost to Wests Panthers 26 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Sunday April 22
Wynnum Seagulls 14 defeated Logan City Scorpions 6 at Kougari Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins 28 defeated East Coast Tigers 8 at Dolphin Oval
Bye: Souths Magpies

ROUND 7- April 28, 29
Saturday April 28
*East Coast Tigers 0 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 56 at Langlands Park
Wests Panthers 20 lost to Norths Devils 50 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 22 defeated Souths Magpies 10 at Browne Park
Sunday April 29
Logan City Scorpions 13 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 26 at Meakin Park
Burleigh Bears 42 defeated Ipswich Jets 8 at Pizzey Park
Bye: Wynnum Seagulls

ROUND 8- May 4-6
Friday May 4
Ipswich Jets 18 defeated East Coast Tigers 6 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Saturday May 5
*Redcliffe Dolphins 34 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 14 at Dolphin Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales 56 defeated Logan City Scorpions 0 at Newtown Oval
Norths Devils 40 defeated Burleigh Bears 18 at Bishop Park
Sunday May 6
Souths Magpies 28 defeated Wests Panthers 22 at Suncorp-Metway Stadium
Bye: Central Comets

2001

ROUND 9- May 12, 13
Saturday May 12
*Logan City Scorpions 26 lost to Ipswich Jets 30 at Meakin Park
Wests Panthers 34 defeated Central Comets 12 at Purtell Park
Sunday May 13
Wynnum Seagulls 16 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 24 at Kougari Oval
East Coast Tigers 32 defeated Norths Devils 16 at Langlands Park
Burleigh Bears 40 defeated Souths Magpies 28 at Pizzey Park
Bye: Redcliffe Dolphins

ROUND 10- May 19, 20
Saturday May 19
*Souths Magpies 14 lost to East Coast Tigers 17 at Davies Park
Ipswich Jets 16 drew with Wynnum Seagulls 16 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Central Comets 26 lost to Burleigh Bears 42 at Emerald
Sunday May 20
Toowoomba Clydesdales 18 defeated Redcliffe Dolphins 12 at ANZ Stadium
Norths Devils 17 defeated Logan City Scorpions 10 at Bishop Park
Bye: Wests Panthers

ROUND 11- May 26, 27
Saturday May 26
*Redcliffe Dolphins 50 defeated Ipswich Jets 28 at Dolphin Oval
Burleigh Bears 48 defeated Wests Panthers 4 at Pizzey Park
Sunday May 27
East Coast Tigers 16 lost to Central Comets 44 at Langlands Park
Logan City Scorpions 38 defeated Souths Magpies 28 at Meakin Park
Wynnum Seagulls 12 drew with Norths Devils 12 at Kougari Oval
Bye: Toowoomba Clydesdales

ROUND 12- June 2, 3
Saturday June 2
*Burleigh Bears 18 defeated East Coast Tigers 16 at Pizzey Park
Wests Panthers 34 defeated Logan City Scorpions 16 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 32 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 14 at Browne Park
Sunday June 3
Souths Magpies 14 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 26 at Davies Park
Norths Devils 18 drew with Toowoomba Clydesdales 18 at Bishop Park
Bye: Ipswich Jets

ROUND 13- June 9, 10
Saturday June 9
*Wynnum Seagulls 42 defeated Wests Panthers 30 at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions 16 lost to Burleigh Bears 26 at Meakin Park
Ipswich Jets 16 lost to Norths Devils 17 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Sunday June 10
Redcliffe Dolphins 46 defeated Central Comets 22 at Dolphin Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales 46 defeated Souths Magpies 30 at Newtown Oval
Bye: East Coast Tigers

ROUND 14- June 16, 17
Saturday June 16
*Souths Magpies 22 lost to Ipswich Jets 40 at Davies Park
Wests Panthers 10 lost to Redcliffe Dolphins 54 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 8 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 30 at Browne Park
Sunday June 17
East Coast Tigers 46 defeated Logan City Scorpions 18 at Langlands Park
Burleigh Bears 40 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 16 at Pizzey Park
Bye: Norths Devils

ROUND 15- June 30
Saturday June 30
*Redcliffe Dolphins 10 lost to Burleigh Bears 44 at Dolphin Oval
Wynnum Seagulls 32 defeated East Coast Tigers 28 at Kougari Oval
Toowoomba Clydesdales 64 defeated Wests Panthers 4 at Dalby Football Grounds
Norths Devils 36 defeated Souths Magpies 10 at Bishop Park
Ipswich Jets 22 drew with Central Comets 22 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Bye: Logan City Scorpions

ROUND 16- July 7, 8
Saturday July 7
*Burleigh Bears 38 defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales 14 at Pizzey Park
Wests Panthers 26 drew with Ipswich Jets 26 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 16 drew with Norths Devils 16 at Browne Park
Sunday July 8
East Coast Tigers 42 defeated Redcliffe Dolphins 26 at Langlands Park
Logan City Scorpions 20 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 16 at Meakin Park
Bye: Souths Magpies

ROUND 17- July 14, 15
Saturday July 14
*Souths Magpies 12 lost to Central Comets 30 at Davies Park
Sunday July 15
Toowoomba Clydesdales 32 defeated East Coast Tigers 6 at Carrara Stadium
Norths Devils 52 defeated Wests Panthers 34 at Bishop Park
Redcliffe Dolphins 36 defeated Logan City Scorpions 18 at Dolphin Oval
Ipswich Jets 24 lost to Burleigh Bears 34 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Bye: Wynnum Seagulls

ROUND 18- July 21, 22
Saturday July 21
*Logan City Scorpions 26 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 34 at Meakin Park
Wests Panthers 42 defeated Souths Magpies 34 at Purtell Park
Burleigh Bears 36 defeated Norths Devils 26 at Pizzey Park
Sunday July 22
Wynnum Seagulls 32 defeated Redcliffe Dolphins 22 at Kougari Oval
East Coast Tigers 36 defeated Ipswich Jets 18 at Langlands Park
Bye: Central Comets

ROUND 19- July 28, 29
Saturday July 28
*Norths Devils 18 lost to East Coast Tigers 28 at Bishop Park
Central Comets 38 defeated Wests Panthers 14 at Browne Park
Sunday July 29
Toowoomba Clydesdales 48 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 14 at Newtown Oval
Ipswich Jets 34 defeated Logan City Scorpions 22 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Souths Magpies 18 lost to Burleigh Bears 30 at Davies Park
Bye: Redcliffe Dolphins

ROUND 20- August 4, 5
Saturday August 4
*Redcliffe Dolphins 22 lost to Toowoomba Clydesdales 28 at Dolphin Oval
Burleigh Bears 24 defeated Central Comets 22 at Pizzey Park
Sunday August 5
Wynnum Seagulls 23 defeated Ipswich Jets 22 at Kougari Oval
Logan City Scorpions 22 lost to Norths Devils 42 at Meakin Park
East Coast Tigers 58 defeated Souths Magpies 8 at Langlands Park
Bye: Wests Panthers

ROUND 21- August 11, 12
Saturday August 11
*Ipswich Jets 24 defeated Redcliffe Dolphins 18 at Bendigo Bank Oval
Wests Panthers 12 lost to Burleigh Bears 56 at Purtell Park
Central Comets 30 defeated East Coast Tigers 24 at Browne Park
Sunday August 12
Souths Magpies 26 defeated Logan City Scorpions 22 at Davies Park
Norths Devils 60 defeated Wynnum Seagulls 12 at Bishop Park
Bye: Toowoomba Clydesdales

ROUND 22 - August 18, 19
Saturday August 18
*Logan City Scorpions 14 lost to Central Comets 52 at Meakin Park
Sunday August 19
Toowoomba Clydesdales 40 defeated Ipswich Jets 26 at Newtown Oval
Redcliffe Dolphins 42 defeated Norths Devils 6 at Dolphin Oval
East Coast Tigers 44 defeated Wests Panthers 26 at Langlands Park
Wynnum Seagulls 34 defeated Souths Magpies 28 at Kougari Oval
Bye: Burleigh Bears

2001

2001 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The Queensland Cup lost another team in 2001 when the Cairns Cyclones dropped out of the competition. Another Cairns-based team would return in 2008 under the name the Northern Pride. Central Queensland would be the only team competing north of Redcliffe before the North Queensland Young Guns would enter next season. The loss of Cairns brought the number of teams down to 11 for 2001.

With their feeder relationship with the Broncos, the Toowoomba Clydesdales dominated the 2001 season finishing 6 points clear of Burleigh followed by Redcliffe, Norths and making up the fifth spot in the finals was Easts.

In the minor semi-final Burleigh knocked out Easts 30-23 while in the major semi-final Redcliffe had an upset win over Toowoomba 20-10 who recovered to beat Burleigh 34-20 in the preliminary final. Redcliffe and Toowoomba would compete again in the third grand final between the two sides.

The QRL moved the grand final from Suncorp to Dolphin Oval which would host it for 3 years. This gave Redcliffe a big home ground advantage in front of 7 000 fans, mostly Dolphins fans.

The grand final was a try feast with the lead sea-sawing between the two sides as they exchanged tries. With 10 minutes to go it was 22–all and then Luke Scott steamrolled through for Redcliffe but the conversion was missed. In the last minute a reverse of play sent Casey Maguire into a hole. He placed the ball short and then momentum took him over the line. Quinn converted and Toowoomba had their revenge from the year before to win 28-26 and claim their second Queensland Cup title.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Easts 52 v Norths 10

Tigers sound warning

By MICHAEL WESTLAKE

EAST Coast Tigers put a shot across the bow of more fancied Bundy Gold Cup semi-finalists yesterday with a 52-10 mauling of Norths in the knock-out semi-final at Bishop Park.

The Tigers held on to grab the last finals berth after an up and down regular season, but they showed yesterday they have the fire power to match any team.

Second rower Ricky Taylor, who captained Wynnum to the premiership in 1995 before switching to the Tigers this season, led the charge for East Coast, demolishing the Devils with two tries and proving too good for Norths' right side defence.

Taylor scored his first try in the 18th minute with a blockbusting run, then threw the last pass for three more tries before half-time to give the Tigers a commanding 22-6 lead at the break.

The No. 11 was the stand-out performer, but he was far from the only contributor, with centre David Baildon and winger Aseri Laing both grabbing doubles in the Tigers' 10-try haul.

Scott Sipple (Tigers, late tackle) and Semi Tadulala (Norths, high tackle) were placed on report, but neither incident appeared serious.

The Devils were towelled up last weekend by Redcliffe and were lifeless again yesterday, refusing to come off their line in defence and subsequently allowing the Tigers to attack relentlessly.

But last weekend's clash proved the perfect tonic for Redcliffe who have booked a showdown with minor premiers the Clydesdales in Toowoomba next Saturday after their 40-8 thrashing of Burleigh at Pizzey Park.

The Dolphins backs scored all seven tries, with Phil Graham and Rick Hewinson grabbing a double each. Michael Roberts bagged one try and landed seven goals for a personal 16-point haul.

BUNDY GOLD CUP
ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

EAST COAST TIGERS 52 (A Laing 2 D Baildon 2 R Taylor 2 W Liddell S Thorburn M Allen C Nahi tries; J Wilshere 6 goals) **d NORTHS DEVILS 10** (D Johnson C Cronk tries; M Turner goal).

2001

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 40 v Burleigh 8

Dolphins inspired by Canberra win

David Potter

local league

THE Dolphins were primed for Saturday's Bundy Gold Cup semi-final by watching Canberra's 1989 extra-time grand final win over Balmain on video on the bus trip from Redcliffe to Burleigh.

That memorable grand final prepared the Dolphins to expect the unexpected and the unexpected was just what the crowd at Pizzey Park received as the Bears were hammered 40-8.

With Redcliffe halfback Michael Roberts calling the tune, the Dolphins scored the type of win that has them riding high as they prepare for next weekend's grand final qualifier against minor premier Toowoomba.

"We had a plan to run their big forwards around and we stuck to it," Redcliffe coach Neil Wharton said yesterday.

The Dolphins showed last weekend's hiding of Norths was no flash in the pan to set the scene for Saturday and as a result a rematch of last year's grand finalists.

As predicted by Burleigh coach Rick Stone before the match, Roberts was the key for Redcliffe and his try and seven goals were pivotal to the result.

"Michael has grown in stature every week to the extent he is now showing the potential to go to the next level," Wharton said.

Only marginally behind Roberts in performance was Redcliffe skipper Craig O'Dwyer, who turned in a non-stop 80-minute effort at hooker against a very physical opposition.

The Dolphins performance was even more impressive given the absence through injury of arguably their best player this season, fullback Adam Mogg.

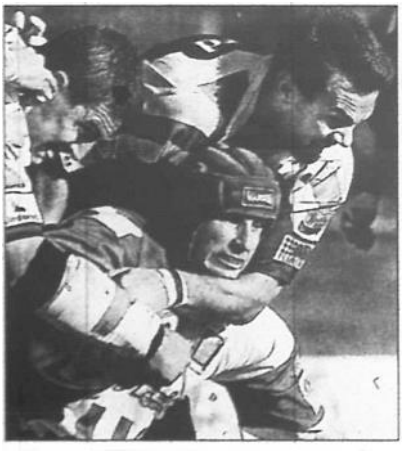
Mogg's replacement Barry Denduck was one of Redcliffe's best, making it a tough decision for Wharton next week with Mogg expected to be fit to play.

The Bears loss has consigned them to sudden death against the East Coast Tigers next weekend.

The Tigers, with two-try hero Ricky Taylor easily the best on the ground, sent Norths tumbling to a second consecutive thrashing.

Any sign of the inconsistency that has bugged the Tigers this season was cast aside in the 52-10 result.

QUALIFYING SEMI-FINAL
REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 40 (P Graham 2 R Hewinson 2 J Webber R West M Roberts tries; M Roberts 6 goals) **d BURLEIGH BEARS 8** (J Lenihan G Bourke tries).



CRUNCHED: Redcliffe's Rick Hewinson is stopped in his tracks. Picture: GEOFF McLACHLAN

2001

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Burleigh 30 v Easts 23 &
QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 20 v Toowoomba 10

Dolphins power into decider

By STEVE RICKETTS

TWO runaway tries by brilliant young centre Phil Graham catapulted Redcliffe into the 2001 Bundy Gold Cup rugby league grand final at Dolphin Oval on September 15.

The Dolphins will meet the winner of next weekend's semi-final between Burleigh and Toowoomba.

The Bears ended the East Coast Tigers' season with a 30-23 win in the knockout semi-final last night.

Graham scored a 70m intercept try to start the ball rolling in Redcliffe's bruising 20-10 win over the Toowoomba Clydesdales in yesterday's major semi-final at the Athletic Oval, Toowoomba.

With the match in the balance at 14-10 six minutes from fulltime, Graham scored his second try, this time from a scrum 75m out.

Redcliffe scored four tries to two and halfback Michael Roberts kicked only two goals from six shots.

Down 14-4 at half-time, minor premier Toowoomba mounted a spirited fightback with second-rower Michael Coorey and halves Nathan Murphy and Tony Duggan inspirational.

Murphy scored in the 55th minute for Toowoomba to trail 14-10.

The Clydesdales the Broncos' feeder club, suffered an early blow with centre Danny Bampton damaging the same knee that has required two reconstructions in the past two years.

Bampton, who was named in the Broncos' NRL squad at the start of the season, faces further reconstructive surgery.

However, it is not thought to be as serious an injury as the two others.

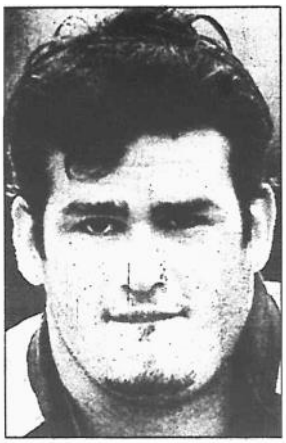
Making matters worse for Toowoomba, fullback Ken McGuinness was a virtual passenger in the second half after he took a knock to the back of the head.

The Dolphins have their worries with hooker Craig O'Dwyer and second-rower Danny Burke put on report by referee Tony Maksoud for high tackles.

REDCLIFFE 20 (P Graham 2, M Roberts, A Mogg tries; Roberts 2 goals) d TOOWOOMBA 10 (P Carige, N Murphy tries; D Quinn goal).

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

BURLEIGH BEARS 30 (J Lenihan 2 D Kennedy 2 S O'Flanagan N Shaw tries, G Bourke 2 goals G Adamson goal) **d EAST COAST TIGERS 23** (D Baildon J Wilshere R Taylor tries, J Wilshere 5 goals, S Thorburn field goal).



HURT: Danny Bampton

2001

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Toowoomba 34 v Burleigh 20

Canny halves snare Bears

THE shock inclusion of Broncos young gun Casey McGuire helped lift Toowoomba to a 34-20 Bundy Gold Cup preliminary final win over Burleigh yesterday at Athletic Oval.

McGuire was named as an interchange player for the Broncos in the NRL qualifying final in Sydney on Friday night, but did not see any action, and was rushed into the Clydesdales team yesterday.

The young pivot was a surprise selection for the Broncos, given he fractured his eye socket in an NRL clash against Canberra three weeks ago.

But he looked at home yesterday, scoring a try in a solid display.

McGuire's late inclusion forced a reshuffle of Kevin Walters' starting team, with former Parramatta centre Paul Carige starting and excelling in the second row.

Halfback Nathan Murphy was the star with a creative display.

Toowoomba, the minor premiers, have now booked a second grand final showdown against Redcliffe next weekend at Dolphin Oval and will be keen to avenge last year's 14-6 grand final defeat at the hands of the Fins.

In greasy conditions Toowoomba posted six tries, including two to points-scoring wizard Damien Quinn to hold out the brave Bears.

Burleigh's rugged and enthusiastic defence kept Toowoomba camped in their own territory for much of the first half.

It was not until five minutes before full-time that the Clydesdales put the match beyond reach, with Quinn grabbing his second try.

BUNDY GOLD CUP

PRELIMINARY FINAL

TOOWOOMBA 34 d BURLEIGH BEARS 20

Scorers: Toowoomba: D Quinn 2 P Carige S Irwin T Duggan C McGuire tries, D Quinn 5 goals. Burleigh: A Hayden G Adamson J Schloss tries, G Bourke 4 goals.

2001

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TOOWOOMBA 28 v REDCLIFFE 26

Victory eases the pain

By MYLES McIVOR

SIDELINE physiotherapy provided the perfect grand final tonic for Toowoomba hero Casey McGuire in his side's Bundy Gold Cup two-point triumph over Redcliffe yesterday.

Five-eighth McGuire was forced off for a vigorous rub to a bulging spinal disc which had threatened to prevent him from playing.

Minutes later McGuire hurled himself beside the uprights for a try in the 80th minute that levelled another nail-biting decider between the two fierce rivals. His delicate back almost collapsed underneath a pile of Clydesdales teammates as they realised the Cup was theirs.

Video referee Eddie Ward had to make the call on the decisive try.

Winger Damien Quinn knocked over the conversion after the siren for a 28-26 victory over a valiant Redcliffe combination which lapped up the majority support of the 6000-plus Dolphin Oval crowd.

McGuire, a Sunshine Coast junior who spent two seasons with the Parramatta Eels before being signed by the Broncos, said he was cramping up late in the second half.

"My back was gone and I didn't know if I would make it back on," he said. "But I had a good rub on the sideline and I was right. I wasn't sure I would score the try until I got there as I don't score too many."

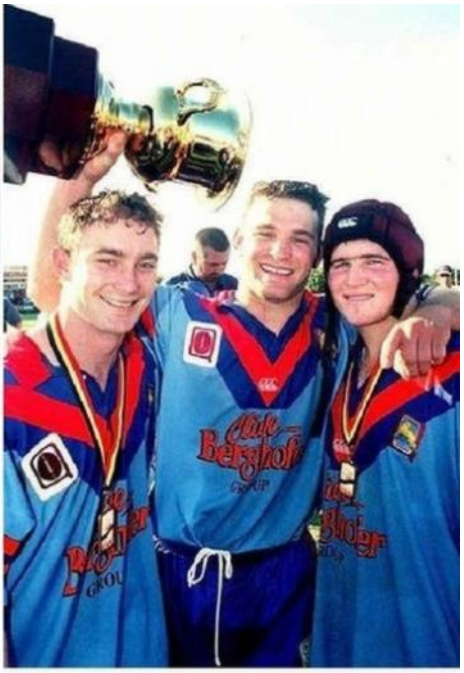
Toowoomba's rookie coach Kevin Walters said both sides could be proud of their performances.

"We showed some real character as the boys hung in there for 80 minutes," Walters said.

Toowoomba avenged last year's 14-6 loss to Redcliffe in the final at Suncorp Metway Stadium.

Clydesdales hooker Michael Ryan shone with his numerous breaks from dummy half while, in his last appearance before joining North Queensland Cowboys, fullback Ben McGuinness made valuable metres.



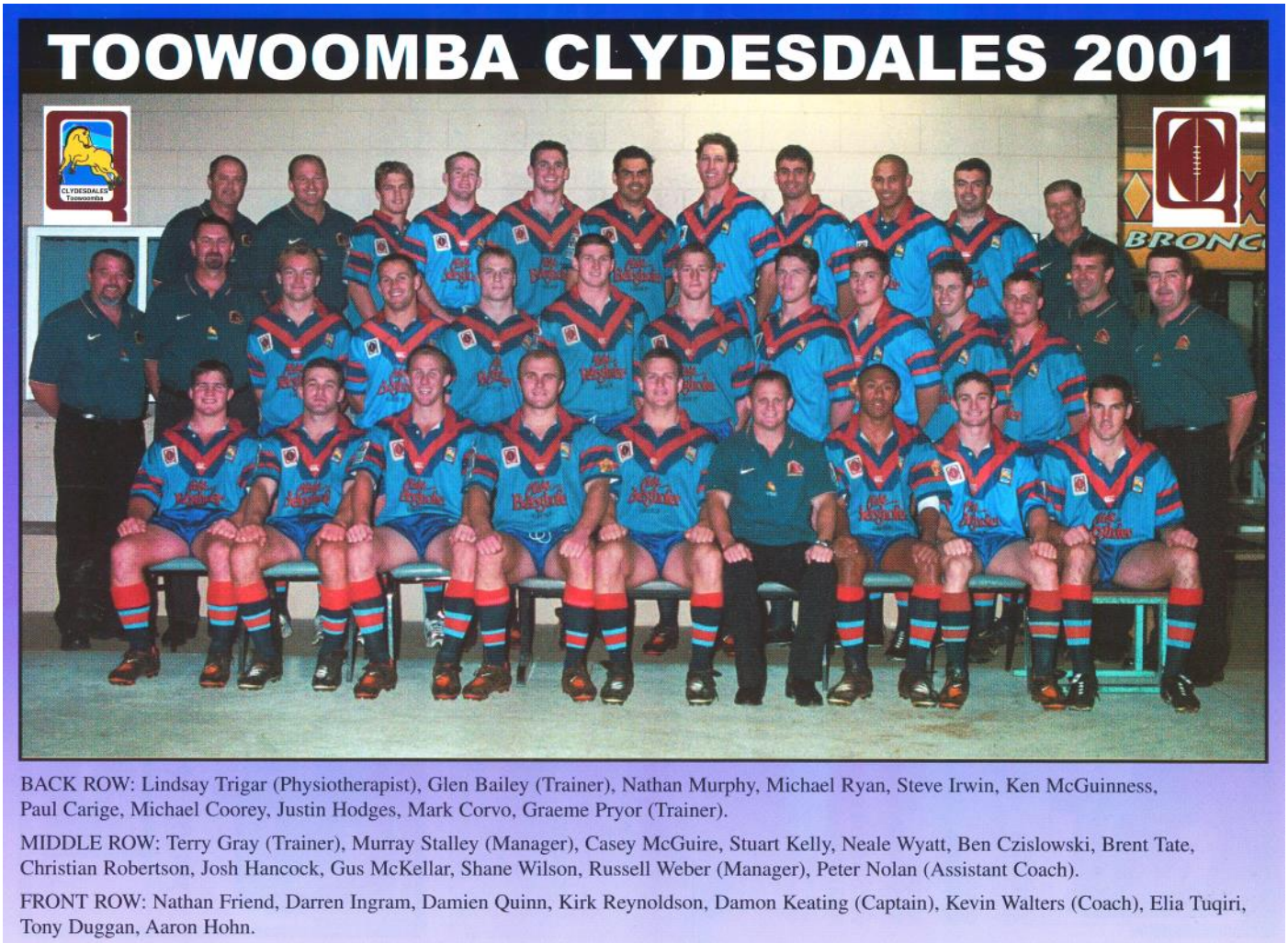


The Toowoomba Clydesdales celebrate after clinching the 2001Queensland Cup in the dying seconds over the Redcliffe Dolphins at Dolphin Oval before a very enthusiastic crowd.

Toowoomba 28 (Damien Quinn, Tony Duggan, Kirk Reynoldson, Michael Ryan, Casey McGuire tries; Quinn 4 goals) beat **Redcliffe 26** (George Wilson, Jason Webber, Rod West, Luke Scott, Andrew Wynyard tries; Michael Roberts 3 goals).

2001

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TOOWOOMBA 28 v REDCLIFFE 26



BACK ROW: Lindsay Trigar (Physiotherapist), Glen Bailey (Trainer), Nathan Murphy, Michael Ryan, Steve Irwin, Ken McGuinness, Paul Carige, Michael Coorey, Justin Hodges, Mark Corvo, Graeme Pryor (Trainer).

MIDDLE ROW: Terry Gray (Trainer), Murray Stalley (Manager), Casey McGuire, Stuart Kelly, Neale Wyatt, Ben Czislowski, Brent Tate, Christian Robertson, Josh Hancock, Gus McKellar, Shane Wilson, Russell Weber (Manager), Peter Nolan (Assistant Coach).

FRONT ROW: Nathan Friend, Darren Ingram, Damien Quinn, Kirk Reynoldson, Damon Keating (Captain), Kevin Walters (Coach), Elia Tuqiri, Tony Duggan, Aaron Hohn.

2001 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Easts 52 def. Norths 10
Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 40 def. Burleigh 8
Minor Semi-Final: Burleigh 30 def. Easts 23
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 20 def. Toowoomba 10
Preliminary Final: Toowoomba 34 def. Burleigh 20

2001 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

TOOWOOMBA 28 (Tries: M. Ryan, D. Quinn, C. Maguire, T. Duggan, K. Reynoldson; Goals: D. Quinn 4) def. REDCLIFFE 26 (Tries: C. O'Dwyer, J. Webber, G. Wilson, A. Wynyard, L. Scott; Goals: M. Roberts 3)

2002

QUESTIONS CUP: REDCLIFFE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Redcliffe	22	18	4	-	829	376	36
East Coast	22	16	5	1	704	488	33
Ipswich	22	16	6	-	673	402	32
Burleigh Bears	22	15	6	1	768	497	31
Norths	22	14	8	-	774	411	28
North Qld	22	14	8	-	713	541	28
Toowoomba	22	13	9	-	792	624	26
Wynnum	22	13	9	-	654	529	26
Central Comets	22	4	17	1	434	814	9
Wests	22	4	18	-	432	850	8
Souths	22	3	18	1	488	840	7
Logan	22	-	22	-	303	1192	0

THE QUEENSLAND CUP DRAW AND RESULTS

R1:- 16/17 March		SCORE
Sat. *East Coast v Ipswich	2.15	52 - 22
Sat. Wests v Souths	3.00	16 - 54
Sat. Nth Qld v Toowoomba	4.30	39 - 20
Sat. Central v Logan	7.30	40 - 16
Sun. Redcliffe v Burleigh	3.00	16 - 28
Sun. Wynnum v Norths	3.00	0 - 26

R2:- 22/23/24 March		SCORE
Fri. Toowoomba v East Coast	5.15	40 - 16
Sat. *Norths v Central	2.05	44 - 14
Sat. Souths v Nth Qld	4.00	24 - 44
Sat. Ipswich v Redcliffe	6.00	18 - 20
Sat. Burleigh v Wynnum	7.00	38 - 24
Sun Logan v Wests	3.00	24 - 50

R3:- 30/31 March		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Toowoomba	2.05	26 - 22
Sat. East Coast v Souths	6.00	36 - 22
Sat. Burleigh v Norths	7.00	22 - 28
Sat. Nth Qld v Logan	7.15	80 - 8
Sat. Wests v Central	7.30	22 - 46
Sun. Wynnum v Ipswich	2.15	22 - 40

R4:- 6/7 April		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Burleigh	2.05	40 - 12
Sat. Souths v Redcliffe	3.00	14 - 34
Sat. Logan v East Coast	4.00	14 - 34
Sat. Nth Qld v Central	3.30	48 - 20
Sun. Toowoomba v Wynnum	2.15	66 - 6
Sun. Norths v Wests	2.30	52 - 22

R5:- 13/14 April		SCORE
Sat. *Wynnum v Souths	2.05	24 - 6
Sat. Nth Qld v Wests	3.30	34 - 4
Sat. Ipswich v Norths	6.00	26 - 10
Sun. East Coast v Central	2.15	40 - 22
Sun. Redcliffe v Logan	3.00	88 - 0
Sun. Burleigh v Toowoomba	3.30	26 - 52

R6:- 20/21 April		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v Nth Qld	2.05	30 - 36
Sat. Wests v East Coast	3.00	26 - 33
Sat. Toowoomba v Ipswich	6.00	44 - 34
Sat. Central v Redcliffe	7.30	12 - 42
Sun. Logan v Wynnum	3.00	14 - 54
Sun. Souths v Burleigh	3.30	28 - 34

R7:- 26/27/28 April		SCORE
Fri. Toowoomba v Norths	5.15	4 - 32
Sat. *East Coast v Nth Qld	2.05	50 - 4
Sat. Ipswich v Souths	6.00	34 - 12
Sat. Burleigh v Logan	7.00	28 - 14
Sun. Wynnum v Central	3.00	44 - 12
Sun. Redcliffe v Wests	3.00	48 - 12

R8:- 11 May		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v East Coast	2.05	20 - 30
Sat. Wests v Wynnum	3.00	26 - 34
Sat. Logan v Ipswich	3.00	10 - 60
Sat. Souths v Toowoomba	3.00	30 - 50
Sat. Nth Qld v Redcliffe	5.30	22 - 30
Sat. Central v Burleigh	7.30	16 - 44

R9:- 18/19 May		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Central	2.05	24 - 22
Sat. Souths v Norths	3.00	12 - 40
Sat. Toowoomba v Logan	3.00	64 - 6
Sun. Redcliffe v East Coast	3.00	34 - 24
Sun. Wynnum v Nth Qld	3.00	12 - 22
Sun. Burleigh v Wests	3.30	24 - 16

R10:- 25/26 May		SCORE
Sat. *Wests v Ipswich	2.05	18 - 23
Sat. Burleigh v Nth Qld	6.00	28 - 29
Sat. East Coast v Wynnum	6.00	16 - 24
Sat. Central v Toowoomba	7.30	20 - 22
Sun. Norths v Redcliffe	2.30	18 - 28
Sun. Logan v Souths	3.00	16 - 48

R11:- 1/2 June		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v East Coast	2.05	50 - 16
Sat. Souths v Central	3.00	18 - 24
Sat. Nth Qld v Ipswich	3.30	28 - 30
Sat. Toowoomba v Wests	4.00	50 - 18
Sun. Wynnum v Redcliffe	3.00	24 - 22
Sun. Logan v Norths	3.00	4 - 72

R12:- 7/8/9 June		SCORE
Fri. Redcliffe v Ipswich	7.30	24 - 12
Sat. *East Coast v Toowoomba	2.05	32 - 26
Sat. Wests v Logan	3.00	28 - 18
Sat. Nth Qld v Souths	6.00	48 - 24
Sat. Central v Norths	7.30	12 - 24
Sun. Wynnum v Burleigh	3.00	36 - 10

R13:- 15/16 June		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Wynnum	2.05	22 - 14
Sat. Souths v East Coast	3.00	26 - 44
Sat. Logan v Nth Qld	3.00	28 - 42
Sat. Central v Wests	7.30	22 - 24
Sun. Norths v Burleigh	2.30	16 - 34
Sun. Toowoomba v Redcliffe	3.00	16 - 40

R14:- 29/30 June		SCORE
Sat. *Wynnum v Toowoomba	2.05	54 - 28
Sat. Wests v Norths	3.00	26 - 36
Sat. East Coast v Logan	6.00	48 - 8
Sat. Burleigh v Ipswich	6.00	20 - 24
Sat. Central v Nth Qld	7.30	10 - 36
Sun. Redcliffe v Souths	3.00	56 - 10

R15:- 6/7 July		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v Ipswich	2.05	26 - 18
Sat. Souths v Wynnum	3.00	22 - 28
Sat. Wests v Nth Qld	6.00	14 - 60
Sat. Central v East Coast	7.30	8 - 48
Sun. Toowoomba v Burleigh	1.15	16 - 38
Sun. Logan v Redcliffe	3.00	4 - 58

R16:- 13/14 July		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Central	2.05	58 - 8
Sat. Nth Qld v Norths	5.30	20 - 14
Sat. East Coast v Wests	6.00	36 - 18
Sun. Ipswich v Toowoomba	2.00	36 - 0
Sun. Wynnum v Logan	3.00	70 - 6
Sun. Burleigh v Souths	3.30	62 - 14

R17:- 20/21 July		SCORE
Sat. *Souths v Ipswich	2.05	18 - 42
Sat. Wests v Redcliffe	3.00	12 - 38
Sat. Nth Qld v East Coast	5.30	22 - 23
Sat. Central v Wynnum	7.30	24 - 54
Sun. Norths v Toowoomba	2.30	50 - 6
Sun. Logan v Burleigh	3.00	6 - 84

R18:- 27/28 July		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Nth Qld	2.05	48 - 14
Sat. Wynnum v Wests	3.00	38 - 18
Sat. East Coast v Norths	3.00	32 - 16
Sat. Ipswich v Logan	6.00	36 - 16
Sat. Burleigh v Central	7.00	46 - 22
Sun. Toowoomba v Souths	3.00	64 - 20

R19:- 3/4 August		SCORE
Sat. *East Coast v Redcliffe	2.05	36 - 30
Sat. Wests v Burleigh	3.00	10 - 56
Sat. Nth Qld v Wynnum	5.30	25 - 24
Sat. Central v Ipswich	7.30	8 - 36
Sun. Norths v Souths	3.00	82 - 12
Sun. Logan v Toowoomba	3.00	39 - 44

R20:- 9/10/11 August		SCORE
Fri. Toowoomba v Central	5.00	66 - 10
Sat. Nth Qld v Burleigh	1.00	32 - 34
Sat. *Ipswich v Wests	2.05	52 - 6
Sat. Souths v Logan	3.00	36 - 18
Sun. Redcliffe v Norths	3.00	31 - 18
Sun. Wynnum v East Coast	3.00	28 - 24

R21:- 16/17/18 August		SCORE
Fri. Ipswich v Nth Qld	7.00	34 - 4
Sat. *East Coast v Burleigh	2.05	18 - 18
Sat. Wests v Toowoomba	3.00	28 - 60
Sat. Central v Souths	7.30	26 - 26
Sun. Norths v Logan	2.30	92 - 2
Sun. Redcliffe v Wynnum	3.00	34 - 20

R22:- 24/25 August		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Redcliffe	2.05	32 - 24
Sat. Logan v Central	2.30	32 - 36
Sat. Toowoomba v Nth Qld	7.00	32 - 24
Sun. Norths v Wynnum	2.30	28 - 20
Sun. Ipswich v East Coast	3.00	10 - 16
Sun. Souths v Wests	3.00	12 - 18

SATURDAY 22 JUNE CITY 34 v COUNTRY 14

FINAL SERIES

Semi-Finals 1:- 31 August

Game A EAST COAST 22 v IPSWICH 28 (Winner to Game C, Loser to Game D).

Game B BURLEIGH 20 v NORTHS 42 (Winner to Game D, Loser out)

Semi-Finals 2:- 7 September

Game C REDCLIFFE 17 v IPSWICH 16 (Winner to G/Final, Loser to Game E).

Game D EAST COAST 16 v NORTHS 18 (Winner to Game E, Loser out).

Preliminary Final:- 14 September

Game E IPSWICH 29 v NORTHS 26 (Winner to G/Final, Loser out)

GRAND FINAL - SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

2.05PM DOLPHIN OVAL

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS v IPSWICH JETS

2002

2002 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The 2002 Queensland Cup was contested by 12 teams with the addition of a North Queensland side which helped to restore the competition back to a truly statewide competition. This season and the next would mark the high point of the golden age for the Redcliffe Dolphins who only lost 4 games leading up to the finals and were minor premiers three points clear of Easts.

Norths that year included future stars Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Dallas Johnson (Greg Inglis played for them in 2004-2005). They easily beat Burleigh in the elimination semi-final 42-20 and met Easts who were beaten 28-22 by Ipswich in the other week one final game. Norths rose to the challenge to bundle Easts out of the finals winning a tight minor semi-final 18-16 after play was suspended for 30 minutes at the 45 minute point due to a massive hailstorm. The major semi-final between Redcliffe and Ipswich went into extra time before a field goal from Shane Perry saw Redcliffe win 17-16 and make their 4th grand final in a row. Ipswich just got the better of Norths in the preliminary final 29-26 after being down 26-10.

Again the grand final was played at Dolphin Oval and 10 000 fans, mostly supporting the Dolphins, packed the ground. After a massive brawl in the first minute that saw a player each from both sides given 10 minutes in the sin bin, the Dolphins were clinical racing to a 22-0 lead at half time. Aaron Barba opened the scoring with 2 tries while Barry Berrigan and Shane Perry were brilliant in the halves for Redcliffe. Redcliffe were absolutely dominant to win the grand final 34-10 against a gallant Ipswich side to be the first team to win three Queensland Cup titles.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Norths 42 v Burleigh 20 &
QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Ipswich 28 v Easts 22

Jets' inspirational skipper to join Clydesdales

Steve Ricketts

IPSWICH Jets skipper Andrew Hamilton is set to move to Broncos feeder club Toowoomba next year.

Hamilton, one of the stars of the Jets' march to the Queensland Cup major semi-final, is viewed by the Broncos as the type of experienced forward needed to help bring the club's "young guns" into the NRL.

A Queensland Residents representative, Hamilton led the Jets to a 28-22 win over East Coast Tigers in Saturday's qualifying semi-final at Langlands Park.

The Jets will play Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval on Saturday with the winner advancing straight to the grand final at the same ground on September 21.

The Tigers are in a sudden-death situation with Norths Devils who beat Burleigh Bears 42-20 at Pizzey Park on Saturday. East Coast will host Norths at Langlands Park on Saturday afternoon.

Nudgee College student Antonio Kaufusi made his Queensland Cup debut off the bench for Norths against Burleigh a week after classmate Manuel Manolis made his debut. Kaufusi is a 100kg prop and Manolis a centre in the Matt Utai mould.

Norths has all three grades in the finals with the colts beating Wynnum 52-10 on Saturday. The reserve grade are minor premiers and they play the Tigers on Saturday.

After celebrating with his players, Norths coach Terry Matterson attended a reunion for the 1992 Broncos premiership side where he caught up with Brisbane fullback Darren Lockyer who had broken his club pointscoring record earlier that day against Canberra.

Lockyer's tally is 745 points, one more than Matterson.

QUEENSLAND CUP

Elimination semi-final

NORTHS DEVILS 42 d BURLEIGH BEARS 20

Scorers: Norths Devils (S Tadulala J Webster D Slade M Brentnall J Flint C Smith C Cronk G Turner tries C Smith 5 goals). Burleigh Bears (D Kennedy N Shaw A Laing A Hayden tries G Bourke G Adamson goals).

Qualifying final

IPSWICH JETS 28 d EAST COAST TIGERS 22

Scorers: Ipswich Jets 28 (M Chalk M Jack A Bulow B Lindsay R Bird tries R Bird 4 goals). East Coast Tigers (B Liston 2 G Allan 2 J Bulgarelli tries S Thorburn goal).

2002

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Norths 18 v Easts 16

All hail to Devils as they weather semi storm

NORTHS 18

EASTS 16

By MICHAEL WESTLAKE

EAST Coast captain Scott Thorburn missed with two attempts at a match-winning penalty goal in a dramatic end to a bizarre 18-16 Queensland Cup semi-final win by Norths at Langlands Park yesterday.

Devils secondrower John Flint was an unlikely two-try hero, grabbing the match winner seven minutes from full-time in what was another giantkilling performance from Norths.

In one of the strangest games seen in Brisbane, both teams left the field and play was suspended for more than half an hour when an electrical hail-storm hit the ground five minutes after half-time.

Torrential rain soaked the good crowd but did not dampen enthusiasm.

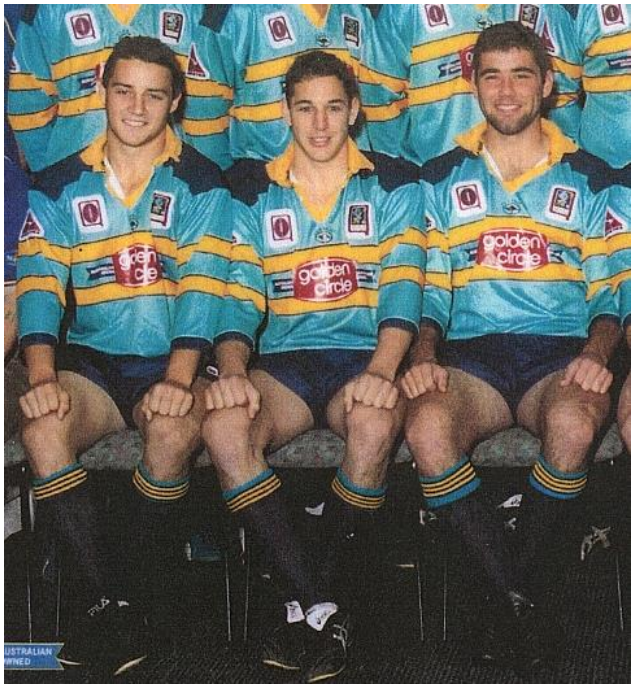
Norths coach Terry Matterson praised his players' performance "even in the most bizarre of circumstances" to book a clash with Ipswich next week.

Norths led 6-0 after nine minutes when Flint scored his first try but Easts came back with two tries through hooker John Driscoll and winger Gavin Allan to lead 12-6 at half-time.

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

NORTHS 18 d EAST COAST TIGERS 16

Scorers: Norths: J Flint 2, C Cronk tries; C Smith 3 goals. East Coast: B Liston, G Allan, J Driscoll tries; S Thorburn 2 goals. At Langlands Park.



Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater, Cameron Smith(V.Capt)



DON'T ARGUE: Norths secondrower John Flint puts a fend on Tigers lock Ricky Taylor in yesterday's Queensland Cup semi-final

2002

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 17 v Ipswich 16

Lucky Dolphins battle into final

QRL

REDCLIFFE 17

IPSWICH 16

By GARRY LEGG

A SUDDEN-death extra-time field goal by five-eighth Shane Perry clinched a Queensland Cup grand final berth for Redcliffe with a hard-fought 17-16 win over Ipswich Jets yesterday.

The Dolphins' finals opponent in a fortnight will be either Norths or Ipswich, who meet next week after Norths beat Easts in another close semi at Coorparoo yesterday.

In a titanic struggle in stifling heat at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe and Ipswich turned on one of the most entertaining matches of the season.

Dolphins coach Neil Wharton praised his side's defence, but admitted the home team was lucky to go through to host the Cup decider in a fortnight. It could have been a historic day for the Jets, but a conversion attempt by Ricky Bird to win after the full-time hooter hit the upright.

Ipswich also bombed a try midway through the second half when Michael Jack lost control of the ball as he dived under the posts.

"The way the game fell, we were lucky to win," Wharton said. "We didn't play well, though. There was obviously a bit of pressure on us and I thought at times we panicked."

Underdog Ipswich, playing its first finals, started strongly and led 12-6 at half-time. A penalty from the resumption allowed the Dolphins to put the Jets on the back foot.

They equalised when former Kiwi Test centre Brian Jellick barged over in the corner and Shane Perry converted.

Both sides traded blows with Redcliffe dominating possession, but unable to pierce the Jets' defence.

The Jets eventually cracked with nine minutes left. Secondrower Danny Burke powered over to score and, with the conversion unsuccessful, Redcliffe led 16-12.

Ipswich refused to lie down and speedy winger Jack finished a blindside move to set up Bird's ill-fated conversion.

Jets coach Gary Greinke has no doubt his side can win next week and have another shot at the Dolphins. "It was a great effort by the guys," Greinke said. "I'm disappointed we lost, but glad to be playing again next week."

Both sides mounted pressure in a fierce opening, with the Jets eventually cracking Redcliffe's defence. After holding the Jets out for three sets of six tackles, winger Faron Anderson squeezed over in the corner.

Sheer pace helped Redcliffe to its first points after Aaron Barba's neat kick and chase. Barba, one of Redcliffe's best, outpaced the defence for a strong individual try.

Redcliffe mounted an attack just before halftime and appeared to have the numbers, but Jets winger Jack intercepted to run almost the length of the field to score between the posts.

QUEENSLAND CUP

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

REDCLIFFE 17 d IPSWICH 16

Scorers: Redcliffe: B Jellick, A Barba, D Burke tries; D Richters 2 goals, S Perry field goal. Ipswich: F Anderson 2, M Jack tries; R Bird 2 goals. At Dolphin Oval.

2002

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Ipswich 29 v Norths 26

Jets back from dead

By GARRY LEGG

QRL IPSWICH 29 NORTHS 26

IPSWICH Jets yesterday fought back from what looked a season-ending deficit to beat Norths 29-26 and secure a historic Queensland Cup grand final berth against Redcliffe on Saturday.

Down 26-10 with 30 minutes to play at Bendigo Bank Oval, the Jets stormed home on the back of a vocal crowd of 1800.

The lopsided 9-1 penalty count from referee Tony Maksoud ensured the Jets had plenty of ball.

Rampaging forward Brian McCarthy came off the Jets interchange bench to score two important second-half tries.

He was backed by a solid second-half performance from bench partner Reggie Cressbrook, helping Ipswich turn its huge share of possession into points.

The teams were locked at 26-all with nine minutes to go when Cressbrook calmly potted a field goal, and he added another two-pointer from a penalty after the final whistle.

"It was a fantastic comeback," Jets coach Gary Greinke said. "We were probably a bit lethargic in the first half and Norths defended very well. Last week's tough encounter probably played a part in that, but that's finals footy.

"We'll have no trouble preparing. We have tremendous spirit in this team and everybody will be up for next week. We've had a successful season and they're a tremendous bunch of guys. It would be great to leave with a win in the grand final, but whatever happens happens."

Norths coach Terry Matterson was full of praise for the Devils. He did not want to detract from the Jets win, but was critical of Maksoud's performance.

"We had them but they had too much ball," Matterson said. "The penalties were 9-1. My guys played their guts out, but they had no ball in the second half. I'm really disappointed. Tony's the best referee running around, but today he's refereeing one side.

"I thought my guys were great. But once it got to 26-10 he just kept blowing the whistle. All credit to Ipswich for coming back, but you can't tell me discipline-wise we're nine times worse than them."

IPSWICH 29 (B McCarthy 2, F Anderson 2, M Chalk, tries; R Cressbrook 3 goals, field goal, R Bird goal) d NORTHS 26 (S Tadulala 2, J Webster, D Slade, T McKeough tries; C Smith 3 goals).

■ THE Devils host two preliminary finals against the Dolphins at Bishop Park today. Norths colts take on Redcliffe at 12.45pm and the A Grade match will be played at 2.30pm.



DOING IT TOUGH: Jets prop Danny Coburn takes on the Devils defence

2002

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 34 v IPSWICH 10

Dolphins delight

Redcliffe on a high as Jets fail to take off

By MICHAEL WESTLAKE

THE ghost of grand finals past was emphatically buried at Dolphin Oval yesterday as Redcliffe reaffirmed its position as the Queensland Cup's premier club with a 34-10 grand final mauling of the Ipswich Jets.

The Dolphins rattled up their third state league title from seven campaigns yesterday, in the process erasing the memories of last year's nightmare on the same ground when they were beaten in the dying minutes by Toowoomba.

There was no chance of a repeat performance yesterday, with the terrific crowd of around 10,000 watching the clinical Dolphins outclass an overwhelmed Jets.

With so much on the line a massive brawl erupted in the first tackle, with Redcliffe skipper Luke Scott and Ipswich forward Danny McAllister both banished to the sin-bin for 10 minutes.

It set the stage for a torrid encounter but Jets coach Gary Greinke conceded later his players were not up to the occasion.

The relief was just as thick in the air in the Dolphins' dressing room as the sense of jubilation, after going so close last year.

Dolphins coach Neil Wharton did an excellent job rebuilding his team mentally after that disappointment but also physically as well, given the massive exodus of talent from his 2001 squad to NRL clubs in the last off-season.

Wharton yesterday admitted his team had carried the mental baggage from last season throughout this year's campaign.

"It was very difficult to overcome," Wharton said. "Probably in the context of last year, we weren't given a chance. We lost five of our last six in the run-in to the finals. Our form wasn't hot. Nobody gave us a chance.

REDCLIFFE 34

IPSWICH 10

"To be the best side for all but 10 minutes last year was very cruel and I think that magnified it. This year it was a fairytale.

"But it is hard to keep rebuilding every year and starting again. Hopefully, we can keep this crew together for a little bit longer."

Redcliffe had the game in its keeping at half-time, scorching out to a 22-0 lead at the break and, while Ipswich was brave in its first Queensland Cup grand final, it never looked like challenging.

"The most pleasing thing for me was the defence," Wharton said. "Even with seven minutes or two minutes on the clock, when we had the game won, they were not going to let Ipswich cross our line.

"That is a culture that takes a long time to breed and that is pleasing to watch."



Dolphins lock Grant Flugge with the Cup

Redcliffe winger Aaron Barba was at his damaging best, scoring the opening two tries but hooker Barry Berrigan and five-eighth Shane Perry were the stars of the show with their skilful ball playing and ability to break the line.

Greinke, who will head the Logan Souths Raiders consortium next year, said his team was simply outmatched.

■ QUEENSLAND Cup victory saved what was shaping as an ordinary day for the Dolphins, with Redcliffe losing 16-8 to Easts in reserve grade and going down to Wests 30-20 in colts.

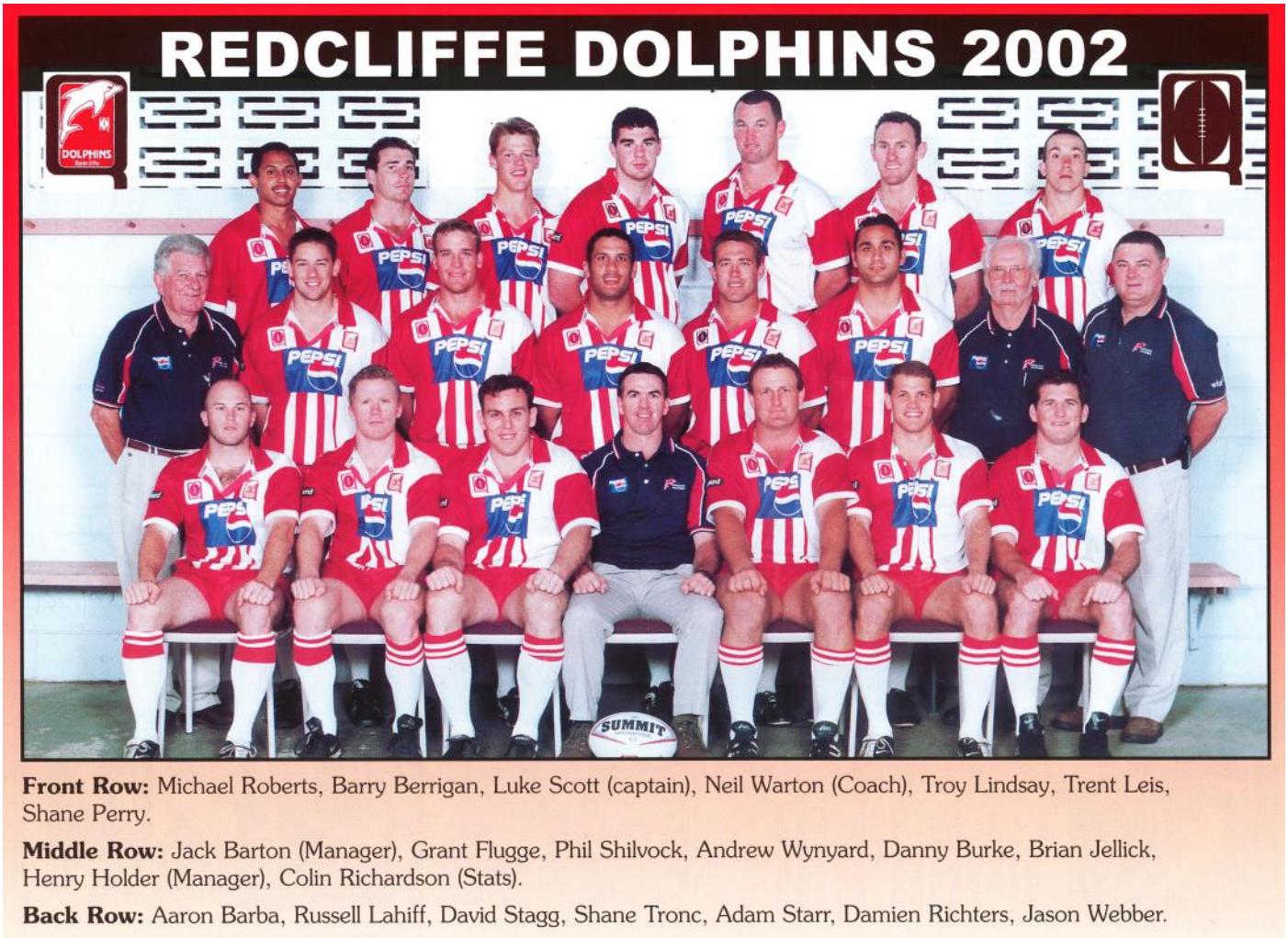
REDCLIFFE 34 (A Barba 2, D Richters, B Berrigan, P Shivlock, T Leis tries; Richters 5 goals) d IPSWICH 10 (S West, A Bulow tries; West goal).



SHOT DOWN: Redcliffe's Brian Jellick brings down Ipswich Jets Brian McCarthy at Dolphin Oval yesterday afternoon. The Dolphins atoned for last season's grand final loss with a decisive victory. Picture: **BRUCE LONG**

2002

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 34 v IPSWICH 10



Front Row: Michael Roberts, Barry Berrigan, Luke Scott (captain), Neil Warton (Coach), Troy Lindsay, Trent Leis, Shane Perry.

Middle Row: Jack Barton (Manager), Grant Flugge, Phil Shilvock, Andrew Wynyard, Danny Burke, Brian Jellick, Henry Holder (Manager), Colin Richardson (Stats).

Back Row: Aaron Barba, Russell Lahiff, David Stagg, Shane Tronc, Adam Starr, Damien Richters, Jason Webber.

2002 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Norths 42 def. Burleigh 20
Qualifying Semi-Final: Ipswich 28 def. Easts 22
Minor Semi-Final: Norths 18 def. Easts 16
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 17 def. Ipswich 16
Preliminary Final: Ipswich 29 def. Norths 26

2002 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 34 (Tries: A. Barba 2, D. Richters, B. Berrigan, P. Shivlock, T. Leis; Goals: D. Richters 5) def. IPSWICH 10 (Tries: S. West, A. Bulow; Goals: S. West)

2003

QUESTIONSLAND CUP: REDCLIFFE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Burleigh	22	16	5	1	707	366	33
Redcliffe	22	16	5	1	789	486	33
Ipswich	22	15	6	1	732	465	31
Wynnum	22	15	6	1	700	536	31
Tweed Heads	22	14	8	-	606	564	28
Toowoomba	22	11	10	1	738	595	23
Nth Qld	22	11	11	-	638	457	22
Norths	22	10	11	1	615	589	21
Easts	22	10	12	-	626	641	20
Central	22	7	15	-	466	749	14
Souths Logan	22	4	18	-	484	978	8
Wests	22	-	22	-	361	1036	0

THE QUESTIONSLAND CUP DRAW AND RESULTS

R1:- 15/16 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Toowoomba v Ipswich	2.00	24 - 34
Sat.	Easts v Redcliffe	3.00	10 - 24
Sat.	North Qld v Norths	6.30	19 - 18
Sun.	Sths Logan v Central	3.00	28 - 30
Sun.	Wynnum v Wests	3.00	42 - 26
Sun.	Burleigh v Tweed Hds	3.00	26 - 36

R2:- 22/23 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Sths Logan v Norths	2.00	32 - 50
Sat.	Wests v Easts	3.00	16 - 46
Sat.	Ipswich v Burleigh	6.00	20 - 20
Sat.	North Qld v Wynnum	6.30	16 - 20
Sat.	Central v Tweed Hds	7.30	14 - 28
Sun.	Redcliffe v Toowoomba	3.00	32 - 32

R3:- 29/30 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v North Qld	2.00	14 - 21
Sat.	Toowoomba v Wests	3.00	78 - 20
Sat.	Ipswich v Tweed Hds	6.00	48 - 10
Sun.	Burleigh v Redcliffe	3.00	18 - 22
Sun.	Wynnum v Sths Logan	3.00	44 - 18
Sun.	Norths v Central	3.00	40 - 22

R4:- 5/6 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wests v Burleigh	2.00	14 - 58
Sat.	North Qld v Toowoomba	5.30	16 - 20
Sat.	Central v Wynnum	7.30	22 - 44
Sun.	Sths Logan v Easts	3.00	16 - 44
Sun.	Redcliffe v Ipswich	3.00	29 - 16
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Norths	3.00	16 - 4

R5:- 12/13 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Redcliffe v Tweed Hds	2.00	38 - 40
Sat.	Easts v Central	3.00	44 - 18
Sat.	Ipswich v Wests	6.00	34 - 10
Sat.	Burleigh v North Qld	7.00	12 - 10
Sun.	Toowoomba v Sths Logan	12.50	62 - 32
Sun.	Wynnum v Norths	3.00	48 - 16

R6:- 26/27 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Norths v Easts	2.00	24 - 28
Sat.	Wests v Redcliffe	3.00	6 - 58
Sat.	North Qld v Ipswich	5.30	16 - 24
Sat.	Central v Toowoomba	7.30	30 - 16
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Wynnum	3.00	28 - 8
Sun.	Sths Logan v Burleigh	3.00	4 - 42

R7:- 2/3 May

			SCORE
Fri.	Ipswich v Sths Logan	7.30	44 - 16
Sat.	*Redcliffe v North Qld	2.00	8 - 30
Sat.	Easts v Wynnum	3.00	18 - 22
Sat.	Burleigh v Central	6.00	21 - 12
Sat.	Toowoomba v Norths	6.15	24 - 20
Sat.	Wests v Tweed Hds	7.00	10 - 28

R8:- 10/11 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wynnum v Toowoomba	2.00	14 - 48
Sat.	Central v Ipswich	7.30	20 - 50
Sat.	North Qld v Wests	7.30	46 - 10
Sun.	Sths Logan v Redcliffe	3.00	18 - 34
Sun.	Norths v Burleigh	3.00	14 - 34
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Easts	3.00	34 - 36

R9:- 17/18 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Wynnum	2.00	8 - 26
Sat.	Wests v Sths Logan	3.00	28 - 54
Sat.	North Qld v Tweed Hds	5.30	30 - 34
Sat.	Ipswich v Norths	6.00	54 - 12
Sun.	Toowoomba v Easts	12.05	56 - 26
Sun.	Redcliffe v Central	3.00	48 - 16

R10:- 24/25 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Burleigh	2.00	16 - 26
Sat.	Sths Logan v North Qld	2.00	22 - 48
Sat.	Central v Wests	7.30	28 - 25
Sun.	Wynnum v Ipswich	3.00	44 - 18
Sun.	Norths v Redcliffe	3.00	10 - 38
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Toowoomba	3.00	28 - 26

R11:- 31 May, 1 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Ipswich v Easts	2.00	42 - 26
Sat.	Wests v Norths	3.00	18 - 30
Sat.	North Qld v Central	7.30	52 - 10
Sun.	Toowoomba v Burleigh	12.30	22 - 18
Sun.	Sths Logan v Tweed Hds	3.00	24 - 38
Sun.	Redcliffe v Wynnum	3.00	46 - 18

R12:- 7/8 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Toowoomba v Redcliffe	2.00	36 - 28
Sat.	Easts v Wests	3.00	40 - 30
Sat.	Burleigh v Ipswich	6.00	20 - 18
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Central	3.00	30 - 34
Sun.	Wynnum v North Qld	3.00	31 - 28

R13:- 14/15 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Tweed Hds v Ipswich	2.00	32 - 26
Sat.	Sths Logan v Wynnum	3.00	20 - 66
Sat.	Wests v Toowoomba	3.00	4 - 60
Sat.	North Qld v Easts	7.00	28 - 16
Sat.	Central v Norths	7.30	24 - 25
Sun.	Redcliffe v Burleigh	3.00	28 - 34

R14:- 21/22 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wynnum v Central	2.00	30 - 24
Sat.	Easts v Sths Logan	3.00	44 - 22
Sat.	Toowoomba v North Qld	6.00	24 - 20
Sun.	Norths v Tweed Hds	3.00	40 - 14
Sun.	Ipswich v Redcliffe	3.00	18 - 14
Sun.	Burleigh v Wests	3.00	66 - 16

R15:- 28/29 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Tweed Hds v Redcliffe	2.00	28 - 34
Sat.	Wests v Ipswich	3.00	20 - 34
Sat.	North Qld v Burleigh	3.30	16 - 46
Sat.	Central v Easts	7.30	30 - 22
Sun.	Norths v Wynnum	3.00	26 - 26
Sun.	Sths Logan v Toowoomba	3.00	26 - 56

R12:- 5 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Norths v Sths Logan	2.10	18 - 32

R16:- 11/12/13 July

			SCORE
Fri.	Toowoomba v Central	5.15	22 - 24
Sat.	*Ipswich v North Qld	2.10	32 - 16
Sat.	Easts v Norths	3.00	10 - 42
Sun.	Burleigh v Sths Logan	3.00	76 - 0
Sun.	Wynnum v Tweed Hds	3.00	24 - 22
Sun.	Redcliffe v Wests	3.00	46 - 20

R17:- 19/20 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wynnum v Easts	2.10	32 - 36
Sat.	North Qld v Redcliffe	5.30	22 - 32
Sat.	Central v Burleigh	7.30	10 - 32
Sun.	Sths Logan v Ipswich	3.00	12 - 56
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Wests	3.00	46 - 14
Sun.	Norths v Toowoomba	3.00	34 - 24

R18:- 26/27 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Norths	2.10	26 - 28
Sat.	Easts v Tweed Hds	3.00	24 - 30
Sat.	Toowoomba v Wynnum	3.30	26 - 45
Sat.	Ipswich v Central	6.00	48 - 18
Sat.	Wests v North Qld	7.30	6 - 42
Sun.	Redcliffe v Sths Logan	3.00	66 - 22

R19:- 2/3 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Toowoomba	2.10	42 - 24
Sat.	Sths Logan v Wests	3.00	36 - 24
Sat.	Central v Redcliffe	7.30	18 - 66
Sun.	Tweed Hds v North Qld	2.00	22 - 42
Sun.	Norths v Ipswich	3.00	12 - 44
Sun.	Wynnum v Burleigh	3.00	26 - 28

R20:- 9/10 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Ipswich v Wynnum	2.10	12 - 26
Sat.	Wests v Central	3.00	18 - 42
Sat.	Toowoomba v Tweed Hds	4.30	24 - 34
Sat.	North Qld v Sths Logan	5.30	68 - 6
Sun.	Burleigh v Easts	3.00	40 - 18
Sun.	Redcliffe v Norths	3.00	32 - 28

R21:- 16/17 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Toowoomba	2.10	30 - 6
Sat.	Easts v Ipswich	3.00	40 - 22
Sat.	Central v North Qld	7.30	4 - 28
Sun.	Norths v Wests	3.00	78 - 0
Sun.	Wynnum v Redcliffe	3.00	20 - 24
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Sths Logan	3.00	24 - 12

R22:- 23/24 August

			SCORE
Sat.	Redcliffe v Easts	2.10	42 - 26
Sat.	Wests v Wynnum	3.00	26 - 44
Sat.	Central v Sths Logan	7.30	16 - 32
Sat.	Tweed Hds v Burleigh	3.00	4 - 26
Sun.	Ipswich v Toowoomba	3.00	38 - 28
Sun.	Norths v North Qld	3.00	46 - 24

SATURDAY 5 JULY COUNTRY 42 def CITY 36

FINAL SERIES

Semi-Finals 1:- 30/31 August

Game A REDCLIFFE 28 v IPSWICH 22 (Winner to Game C, Loser to Game D).

Game B WYNNUM 40 v TWEED HEADS 22 (Winner to Game D, Loser out).

Semi-Finals 2:- 6 September

Game C BURLEIGH 26 v REDCLIFFE 24 (Winner to G/Final, Loser to Game E).

Game D IPSWICH 12 v WYNNUM 42 (Winner to Game E, Loser out).

Preliminary Final:- 13 September

Game E REDCLIFFE 46 v WYNNUM 26 (Winner to G/Final, Loser out).

GRAND FINAL - SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

2.05PM — DOLPHIN OVAL

BURLEIGH v REDCLIFFE

2003

2003 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

In the previous two seasons Souths Magpies and Logan Scorpions finished at or near the bottom of the table and were desperately struggling financially. A joint venture with financial assistance from the Canberra Raiders was initially going to be called the Souths Logan Raiders but, thankfully, the name Souths Logan Magpies was agreed upon for season 2003. The club split its home games between Davies Park and Logan's Meakin Park. The Logan Scorpions licensed club folded and all games were then transferred back to Davies Park. Souths chose to continue with the merged name of Souths Logan Magpies.

Filling the vacancy for a 12th team was the Tweed Heads Seagulls, a somewhat controversial addition given they hail from across the border in NSW and share the same Seagulls nickname as Wynnum.

Burleigh and Redcliffe finished on the same number of points but Burleigh had a better for-and-against to be minor premiers. Tweed Heads, in their first season, finished 5th but were knocked out by Wynnum 40-22 who beat Ipswich 42-12 in the minor semi-final. Burleigh beat Redcliffe 26-24 in a tight major semi-final before Redcliffe qualified for their 5th grand final in a row beating Wynnum 46-26 in the preliminary final.

Again Redcliffe enjoyed the home ground advantage of a Dolphin Oval grand final in front of 8 000 fans. After Burleigh's Reggie Cressbrook scored an intercept try Aaron Barba set the game alight with 3 tries in the first half. Redcliffe took control and sealed their 4th Queensland Cup title with a 31-18 win. Redcliffe also scored their 3rd clean sweep of all three grades to emulate their previous clean sweeps of 1994 and 1997.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Wynnum 40 v Tweed Heads 22

Wynnum flies high in Gulls showdown

By GARRY LEGG

WYNNUM 40
TWEED HEADS 22

WYNNUM Seagulls ended Tweed Heads' fairytale Queensland Cup season with a 40-22 win in yesterday's elimination final at Kougari Oval.

Tweed Heads, an expansion team playing in the competition for the first time, led 16-10 at half-time but found the going tough in the second half as Wynnum ran rampant.

Wynnum now meets the loser of today's Dolphin Oval qualifying final between Redcliffe and Ipswich.

Tweed dominated in the first half, with Wynnum guilty of basic errors. The Tweed's big forwards made plenty of inroads.

But it was halfback Brett McPherson who scooted over for the opening try.

The visitors could not capitalise on the glut of possession and instead of of holding a 16-6 lead at the break they relaxed, allowing Seagulls centre Jimmy Ahmat to score seconds before half-time.

Wynnum coach Kelly Egan said he was confident that things would turn for the better in the second half.

"I was pretty confident we didn't reach our potential in the first half. We had about a 60 per cent completion rate and 20 missed tackles," Egan said. "Once we got into the game and completed a couple of sets we got back on top."

Four minutes after the break Wynnum spread the ball wide and Ahmat showed his strength to ground the ball for a double.

Tweed led by two points (16-14) and were pressing the Wynnum defence when an error in the 55th minute turned the passage of play and possibly the match.

A poor Tweed pass was picked up by Mohammed Allouche. He powered forward before passing to centre Greg Bourke, who slipped the ball to Brett McPherson to score near the posts.

Interchange players Brett Seawright and John Bruce both scored within two minutes to blow Wynnum's lead to 30-16.

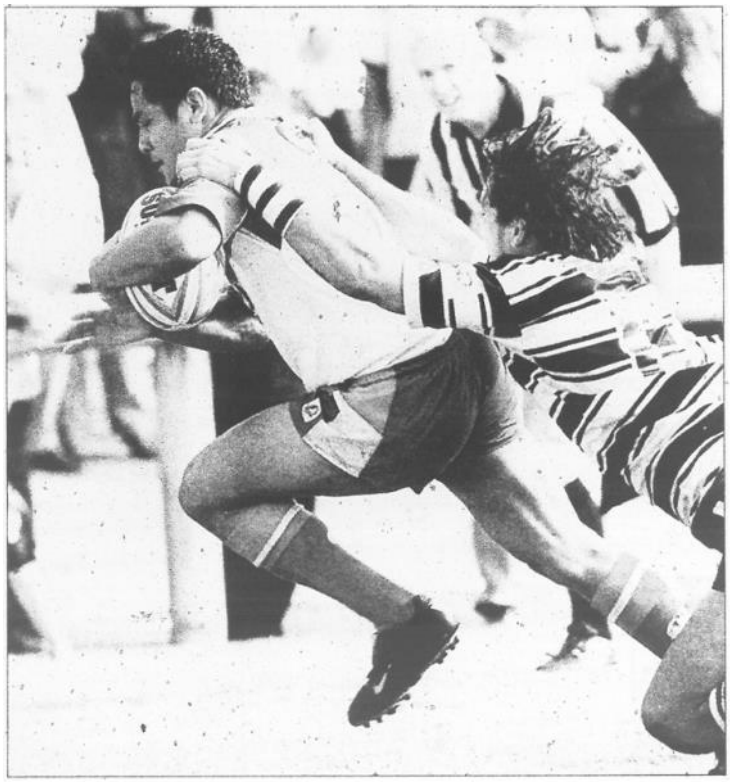
Tweed's hardworking halfback David Hicks crossed for his second try soon after but a brilliant passage of play led to the match-winning try.

Wynnum hooker Royce Simms ran into bodies in the middle of the park but laid off a deft pass to winger Damien Quinn on the burst. He strode around a couple of players to score near the posts.

Tweed coach Peter Crannage was proud of the side's effort to make the finals but obviously disappointed in the result.

He said work commitments were likely to force him not to apply for the job next season.

In the curtain-raiser, defending champion Wavell State High School were comfortable 60-10 winners over North Queensland's Abergowrie College in the Queensland Arrive Alive Cup final.



ON THE FLY: Wynnum's Jimmy Ahmat carries Tweed defender Jeremy Smith over the line

ELIMINATION FINAL

WYNNUM 40 (J Ahmat 2 B McPherson 2 D Quinn J Bruce C Durnford B Seawright tries; D Quinn 4 goals) **d TWEED HEADS 22** (D Hicks 2 L O'Dwyer E Harrison tries; J Smith 2 goals J Walker goal)

2003

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 28 v Ipswich 22

Jets' injuries prove costly

Steve Ricketts

LOCAL LEAGUE

A LATE try by Redcliffe fullback Justin McKay gave the Dolphins a 28-22 win over the Ipswich Jets at Dolphin Oval yesterday in the Queensland Cup qualifying final.

The match looked set to go into sudden-death extra time with the scores locked 22-22 after Ipswich led 20-12 at one stage, but McKay crossed with Ipswich down to 12 men because of injuries.

The Jets' injury toll is so severe coach Trevor Gillmeister – a former Queensland State of Origin skipper – was left lamenting the fact he had not registered with the QRL before the June 30 deadline.

Jay O'Doherty (cruciate ligament) is out of Saturday night's elimination final against Wynnum at Bendigo Bank Oval and Kyle Warren (neck), Ricky Bird (hamstring) and Richard Allwood (ribs) are at long odds to play.

"We just ran out of troops," Gillmeister said. "Redcliffe are our jinx team when it comes to injuries. I thought we were the better side for most of the match, but credit to Redcliffe's defence."

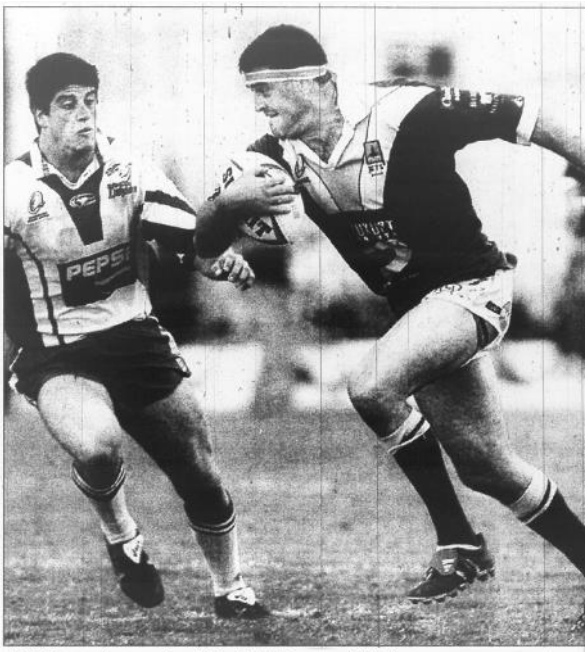
To add to the Jets' woes five-eighth Shane Williams was put on report by referee Justin Eastwood for a lifting tackle.

Gillmeister rated his lock Danny Coburn the best player on the field "by a country mile".

Redcliffe, who has interchange player Daniel Green on report for a lifting tackle, play minor premiers Burleigh at Pizzey Park on Saturday, the winner advancing to the September 20 grand final.

Key Redcliffe players Damien Richters and Michael Roberts missed the Ipswich match because of injury and they hope to be available this week.

Wynnum beat Tweed Heads 40-22 at Kougari Oval on Saturday in the first elimination final.



BEN Jones lines up Ipswich's Kyle Warren, *with ball.*

2003

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 42 v Ipswich 12

Gulls swoop

Bayside battle for final

QRL

WYNNUM SEAGULLS 42

DEFEATED

IPSWICH JETS 12

By MICHAEL WESTLAKE

WYNNUM blasted into an all-Bayside grand final qualifier next weekend against Redcliffe with a 42-12 Queensland Cup semi-final win over Ipswich at Bendigo Bank Oval last night.

The Seagulls have struggled with consistency late in the season, but were clinical in their disposal of the under-strength Jets, with winger Scott Marks and five-eighth Denny Lambert both grabbing try-scoring doubles.

Wynnum coach Kelly Egan was impressed with what he saw from his troops, particularly their incredible start where they piled on 10 unanswered points in the first four minutes.

"The Jets were under-strength and we knew that, but I was still happy that we were able to score so many points," Egan said.

Ipswich coach Trevor Gillmeister was left to lament what might have been, with a crippling injury toll putting paid to his team's chances late in the year.

So desperate were things for Gillmeister, he was forced to blood youngster Chris Scanlan on the wing for his first grade debut, despite the 17-year-old currently sitting his Grade 12 exams at St Edmund's College.

"It gets down to ifs and buts doesn't it, but I was happy with the way they hung in there," Gillmeister said. "Wynnum have been able to keep their whole team on the field for basically the entire year, and I think you just need that bit of luck with injuries to go all right.



FINAL SURGE: Wynnum's Clayton Maher powers through the Ipswich defence last night

"They got the jump on us early, but I was pleased that none of our blokes threw in the towel."

The match had a bit of fire, with referee Adam Neale having to separate players from both teams on a number of occasions as late season frustrations bubbled to the surface, but they were only easily extinguishable spotfires.

Holding a commanding 22-6 lead at half-time, Wynnum basically wrapped the game up in the 45th minute when Lambert grabbed his second try, putting the Seagulls 22 points clear and sounding the death knell for the Jets' season.

Wynnum was handed the perfect start to the game, with Ipswich squandering possession by throwing the ball over the sideline on just the second tackle of the contest.

The opportunity was too good for the Seagulls to let slip by, and from the scrum the Wynnum backs found an acre of space down the left side, with Marks scoring to put the visitors up 4-0 after only two minutes of play.

By the fourth minute, the Jets looked to be in real trouble, with Marks grabbing his second and extending Wynnum's lead to 10.

The Jets were shell-shocked, and doing their best to get themselves into the game with a very under strength line-up.

The winner of Saturday's Redcliffe versus Wynnum game will meet minor premiers Burleigh in the grand final. In the Mixwell Cup semi-final Wynnum thrashed Redcliffe 38-0.

WYNNUM 42 (S Marks 2, D Lambert 2, D Bourke, J Keough, D Seage, J Alesi tries: D Quinn 6 goals) d IPSWICH 12 (T Tomlinson, T Riggs tries: S West 2 goals).

2003

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Burleigh 26 v Redcliffe 24

Bears roll on to final destiny

BURLEIGH Bears overcame a horror start to their major semi-final to secure a Queensland Cup grand final berth with a 26-24 win over Redcliffe at Pizzey Park yesterday.

The minor premiers could have been suffering finals jitters because they made a mistake from the kick-off and were down a try after a minute.

A knock-on earned Redcliffe the scrum feed and prop Danny Burke strolled over near the posts.

The Bears, who took the minor premiership with a superior for-and-against record over Redcliffe, eventually moved up a gear to be worthy grand finalists.

Redcliffe tried to repeat its heroics of last week's qualifying final, when three late tries allowed it to come from behind to beat Ipswich 28-22.

The Dolphins again managed to score three tries in the last 14 minutes but the Bears had enough of a lead to stall them off.

The Bears took 20 minutes to find their feet before centre Reggie Cressbrook and winger Aseri Laing swung the match with two tries within six minutes.

Burleigh coach Rick Stone was happy his side was going through to Saturday week's grand final at Dolphin Oval.

"We played some dumb footy towards the end but I'm happy to be there," Stone said. "We let them back into it at the end but a 7-1 penalty count didn't help our cause."

Redcliffe gets a second chance in next Saturday's preliminary final.



BEAR HUG: Dolphin Shane Tronc is stopped by the defence

Qlfying final: BURLEIGH BEARS 26 (A Laing 2 S Berryman A Gafa tries R Cressbrook 5 goals) **d REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 24** (D Burke A Barba P Shilvock J Campbell tries J McKay 4 goals).

2003

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 46 v Wynnum 26

Dolphin power pride of bayside

RUGBY LEAGUE

QLD CUP

DOLPHINS 46

DEFEATED

SEAGULLS 26

REDCLIFFE stormed into next weekend's Queensland Cup grand final with a 46-26 win over Wynnum in the Battle of the Bayside yesterday at Dolphin Oval.

The home side crossed for nine tries in the preliminary final to send its confidence soaring ahead of a season decider against Burleigh Bears – also at Dolphin Oval – on Saturday afternoon.

Redcliffe won through to a fifth-straight grand final on the back of a masterly performance by halves Michael Roberts and Shane Perry, whose kicking and passing game ran the Seagulls ragged.

Halfback Roberts, who missed last weekend's major semi-final loss to Burleigh with a broken hand, was back at the reins, cashing in on a glut of possession in the first half on the back of a strong wind and a host of Wynnum mistakes.

Redcliffe try machine Aaron Barba looked certain to open the scoring from an intercept in the fourth minute, before fullback and Wynnum's best David Seage came from the clouds to collar him just short of the line.

But more desperate Wynnum tackling couldn't stop centre Damien Richters from scoring a few minutes later.

Then Wynnum responded with just its second crack at the Dolphin line. Playmaker Denny Lambert finished off a 40m movement to make it 4-4 in the 19th minute.

The ball went through five sets of hands down the right flank before Lambert hobbled over next to the posts. Lambert never recovered from a leg knock early in the game, greatly limiting his side's attacking options.

The Dolphins edged ahead when fullback Justin McKay knocked over a penalty from in front after a high shot, and extended it to 10-4 in the 26th minute when Richters crossed for his second try.

In almost an identical try to his first, Richters dived across in the left corner, doing well to put the ball down with one hand while being smashed into touch by Lambert.

The try came two plays after five-eighth Perry had split the Wynnum defence from inside his own half.

Perry was involved again right on half-time, throwing a bullet pass to a rumbling Danny Green who was unstoppable from 10m out.

The match was as good as finished five minutes into the second half after Wynnum forward Damien Durnford fumbled the kick-off, putting the ball into touch just metres out from the line.

Dolphin captain Roberts took advantage, stepping through weak defence to score a converted try from the ensuing set, before scooting across for a second try in as many minutes when he finished off a long run by replacement Matt Anderton.

REDCLIFFE 46 (D Richters 2, M Roberts 2, B Jellick, A Barba, B Jones, A Starr, D Green tries; Richters 5 goals) d WYNNUM 26 (D Seage 2, D Quinn, D Lambert, R Simms tries; Quinn 3 goals).



HE'S OVER: Dynamic Redcliffe half Michael Roberts celebrates after crossing Wynnum's line during the Dolphins' preliminary final win

2003

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 31 v BURLEIGH 18

Barba clips 'em

Hat-trick seals Redcliffe clean sweep of finals

RUGBY LEAGUE

By HEATH KELLY

QLD CUP

DOLPHINS 31

BURLEIGH BEARS 18

PENRITH-bound speedster Aaron Barba handed Redcliffe the perfect parting gift with a stunning three-try haul yesterday to lift his team to a 31-18 victory over Burleigh in the Queensland Cup grand final at Dolphin Oval.

In a scintillating display, Barba crossed three times in the first half to set up the win over the minor premiers, and make it back-to-back titles for the first time in Redcliffe history.

After trailing 20-6 at the break, the Bears fought bravely in the second half and at one stage came within eight points, but paid the price for a high mistake rate.

The Dolphins triumph gave Redcliffe a clean sweep of yesterday's grand finals, with the red and whites also winning the colts and reserve grade titles to go with the club championship.

Reserve grade bounced back from a 38-0 flogging by Wynnum two weeks ago, to defeat the Seagulls 19-6 while the colts triumphed 24-20 over Norths.

Redcliffe first grade coach Neil Wharton said he was extremely proud of the way the Dolphins backed up to claim the title again after having the core of the team ripped out after last year's success.

"One of the great challenges we are able to meet is that when we lose players, we are able to fill the void," Wharton said.

He held out special praise for five-eighth Shane Perry, who masterfully controlled the pace of the game in the hot conditions.

Perry almost missed the game after facing the judiciary last week on a striking charge, but he was cleared to play and sealed the win with a field goal in the dying minutes.

"That was the best I have ever seen him play," Wharton said. "He has had some brain explosions at times but he really showed his class today."

Losing coach Rick Stone lamented on his team's high mistake rate with many of their errors leading to tries.

"We only played to 60-70 per cent of our ability and against Redcliffe in a grand final you can't afford to do that," Stone said.

Burleigh could not have asked for a better start with centre Reggie Cressbrook intercepting a Barba pass after 14 seconds and then converting to give his team a 6-0 lead.

The Bears maintained the pressure throughout the opening 20 minutes but could not crack the rock solid Dolphin defence.

Midway through the first half, Barba crossed for the first of his tries after former Kiwi international Brian Jellick sliced through the Bears defence much to the delight of the 8000-strong crowd.

Soon after a flying Barba regathered a Perry chip to give the Dolphins the lead they never surrendered.

Barba's third try right on half-time was his most important, because it put the game out of Burleigh's reach.

Justin Mckay converted once again to give the Dolphins a 20-6 lead.

Jellick crossed for a try of his own 10 minutes into the second half to extend the lead.

Trent Purdon and Tony Gray reduced the lead to eight points with converted tries for Burleigh in the second half, but the Dolphins sealed victory through a try to second-rower Ben Jones.

REDCLIFFE 31 (A Barba 3, B Jellick, B Jones tries: J Mackay 5 goals; S Perry field goal) d BURLEIGH 18 (R Cressbrook, T Purdon, T Gray tries; Cressbrook 3 goals).



RAMPAGING: Redcliffe second-rower Ben Jones scores the final try in the Dolphin's convincing 31-18 Queensland Cup victory over Burleigh Picture: **ANNETTE DEW**

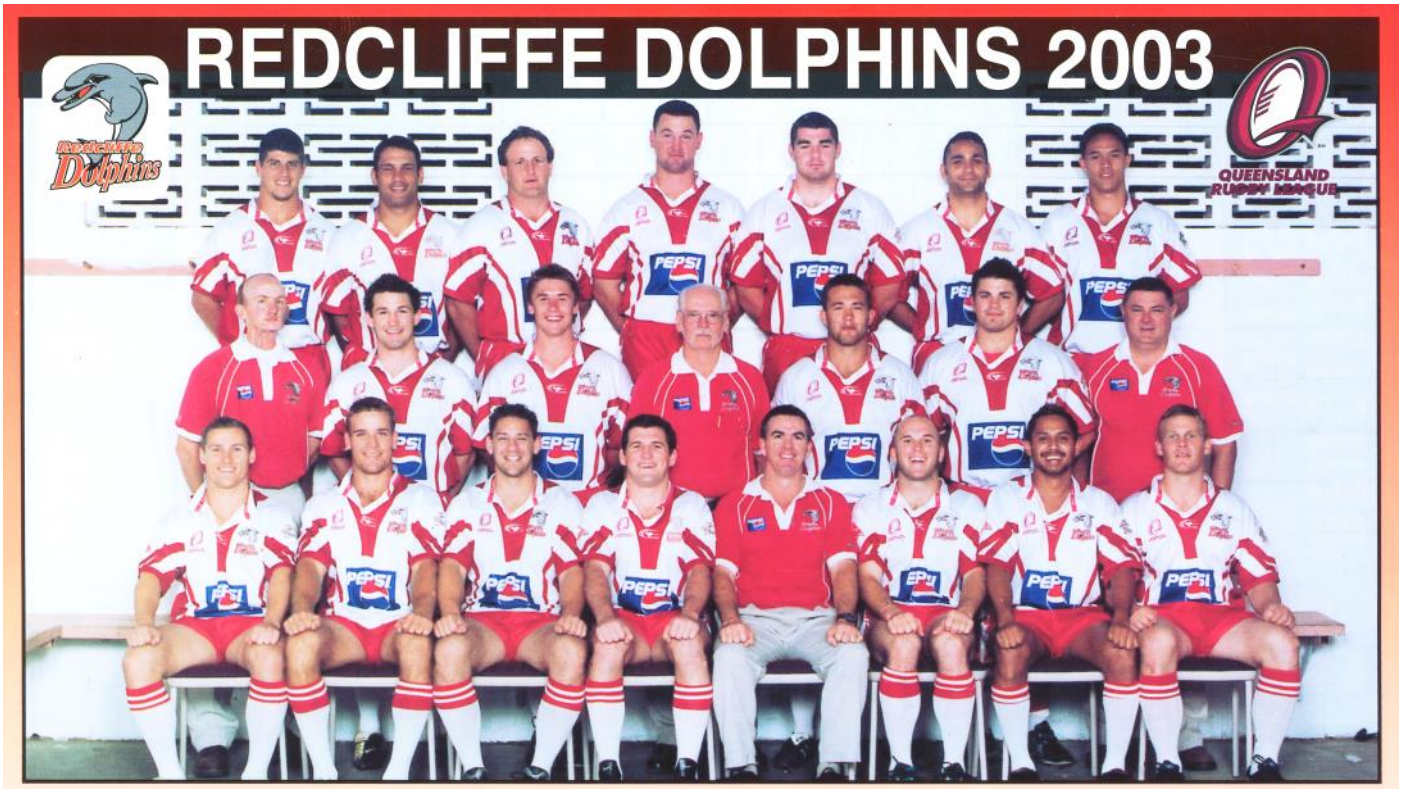


MAGIC: Aaron Barba



2003

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 31 v BURLEIGH 18



Back Row Left to Right: Ben Jones, Andrew Wynyard, Troy Lindsay, Adam Starr, Shane Tronc, Brian Jellick, Charles Viz.

Second Row Left To Right: Jon Sloan (Manager), Justin McKay, Daniel Green, Henry Holder (Manager), Danny Burke, Greg Cameron, Col Richardson (Statistician).

Front Row Left to Right: Matt Anderton, Phil Shilvock, Grant Flugge, Shane Perry, Neil Wharton (Coach), Michael Roberts, Aaron Barba, Jason Campbell.

2003 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Wynnum 40 def. Tweed Heads 22
Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 def. Ipswich 22
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 42 def. Ipswich 12
Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 26 def. Redcliffe 24
Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 46 def. Wynnum 26

2003 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 31 (Tries: A. Barba 3, B. Jellick, B. Jones; Goals: J. Mackay 5; Field Goal: S. Perry) def. BURLEIGH 16 (Tries: R. Cressbrook, T. Purdon, T. Gray; Goals: R. Cressbrook 3)

2004

QUEENSLAND CUP: BURLEIGH

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Burleigh	22	16	4	2	725	450	34
Norths	22	15	6	1	789	503	31
Easts	22	15	6	1	791	540	31
Toowoomba	22	14	7	1	770	543	29
Wynnum	22	14	7	1	634	583	29
Redcliffe	22	13	9	0	774	538	26
North Qld	22	11	10	1	717	567	23
Tweed Heads	22	9	12	1	512	657	19
Central	22	8	14	0	566	705	16
Ipswich	22	7	14	1	558	620	15
Souths Logan	22	5	17	0	538	922	10
Bros Valleys	22	0	21	1	314	1060	1

THE QUEENSLAND CUP DRAW AND RESULTS

R1:- 13/14 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Norths v Redcliffe	2.10	22 - 34
Sat.	Easts v Sths Logan	3.00	26 - 12
Sat.	Ipswich v Bros Valleys	6.00	18 - 18
Sat.	North Qld v Central	6.30	20 - 22
Sun.	Toowoomba v Tweed Hds	11.30	32 - 34
Sun.	Wynnum v Burleigh	3.00	16 - 16

R2:- 20/21 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v North Qld	2.10	24 - 34
Sat.	Toowoomba v Ipswich	4.00	40 - 22
Sat.	Central v Tweed Hds	7.00	8 - 28
Sun.	Redcliffe v Wynnum	3.00	40 - 18
Sun	Bros Valleys v Easts	3.00	10 - 44
Sun.	Sths Logan v Norths	3.00	16 - 42

R3:- 27/28 March

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Toowoomba	2.10	28 - 30
Sat.	Ipswich v Central	6.00	12 - 16
Sat.	North Qld v Wynnum	6.30	26 - 30
Sun.	Burleigh v Tweed Hds	3.00	28 - 36
Sun.	Sths Logan v Redcliffe	3.00	16 - 44
Sun.	Norths v Bros Valleys	3.00	56 - 12

R4:- 3/4 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Bros Valleys v Sths Logan	2.05	28 - 54
Sat.	Central v Easts	7.00	32 - 34
Sun.	Toowoomba v Norths	12.00	30 - 12
Sun.	Wynnum v Tweed Hds	3.00	26 - 20
Sun.	Redcliffe v North Qld	3.00	52 - 16
Sun.	Burleigh v Ipswich	3.00	34 - 30

R5:- 10/11 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Ipswich v Wynnum	2.05	12 - 20
Sat.	Easts v Burleigh	3.00	20 - 46
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Nth Qld	2.00	16 - 50
Sun.	Sths Logan v Toowoomba	3.00	6 - 50
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Redcliffe	3.00	6 - 62
Sun.	Norths v Central	3.00	42 - 16

R6:- 17/18 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Redcliffe v Tweed Hds	2.05	25 - 18
Sat.	Toowoomba v Bros Valleys	3.00	46 - 6
Sat.	North Qld v Ipswich	5.30	58 - 6
Sat.	Central v Sths Logan	7.00	32 - 14
Sun.	Wynnum v Easts	3.00	26 - 22
Sun.	Burleigh v Norths	3.00	27 - 20

R7:- 24/25 April

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v North Qld	2.05	43 - 30
Sat.	Toowoomba v Redcliffe	3.00	34 - 26
Sat.	Sths Logan v Burleigh	3.00	28 - 42
Sat.	Ipswich v Tweed Hds	6.00	38 - 8
Sun.	Norths v Wynnum	2.30	40 - 14
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Central	3.00	28 - 38

R8:- 8/9 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Redcliffe v Ipswich	2.05	34 - 8
Sat.	North Qld v Norths	5.30	44 - 4
Sat.	Central v Toowoomba	7.00	28 - 36
Sun.	Wynnum v Sths Logan	3.00	26 - 22
Sun.	Burleigh v Bros Valleys	3.00	28 - 18
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Easts	3.00	6 - 36

R9:- 14/15/16 May

			SCORE
Fri.	Toowoomba v Burleigh	4.55	10 - 22
Sat.	*Norths v Tweed Hds	2.05	56 - 16
Sat.	Easts v Ipswich	3.00	48 - 24
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Wynnum	3.00	30 - 52
Sun.	Sths Logan v North Qld	3.00	28 - 64
Sun.	Redcliffe v Central	3.00	22 - 38

R10:- 22/23 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Central	2.05	24 - 18
Sat.	North Qld v Bros Valleys	5.30	40 - 0
Sat.	Ipswich v Norths	6.00	16 - 30
Sun.	Wynnum v Toowoomba	3.00	24 - 36
Sun.	Redcliffe v Easts	3.00	24 - 44
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Sths Logan	3.00	20 - 38

R11:- 29/30 May

			SCORE
Sat.	*Toowoomba v North Qld	2.05	26 - 44
Sat.	Norths v Easts	3.00	42 - 32
Sat.	Central v Wynnum	7.00	32 - 36
Sun.	Sths Logan v Ipswich	3.00	22 - 58
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Tweed Hds	3.00	10 - 34
Sun.	Burleigh v Redcliffe	3.00	20 - 18

R12:- 5/6 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wynnum v Redcliffe	2.05	30 - 28
Sat.	Easts v Bros Valleys	3.00	86 - 0
Sat.	North Qld v Burleigh	7.30	22 - 22
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Central	2.00	30 - 22
Sun.	Norths v Sths Logan	3.00	60 - 14
Sun.	Ipswich v Toowoomba	3.00	26 - 32

R13:- 12/13 June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Toowoomba v Easts	2.05	22 - 30
Sat.	Bros Valleys v Norths	3.00	12 - 66
Sun.	Redcliffe v Sths Logan	3.00	52 - 16
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Burleigh	3.00	28 - 26
Sun.	Wynnum v North Qld	3.00	24 - 31
Sun.	Central v Ipswich	7.00	34 - 20

R14:- 19/20/26* June

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Central	2.05	38 - 20
Sat.	North Qld v Redcliffe	4.00	20 - 32
Sun.	Norths v Toowoomba	3.00	26 - 46
Sun.	Ipswich v Burleigh	3.00	20 - 48
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Wynnum	3.00	32 - 22
Sat.*	Sths Logan v Bros Valleys	2.05	54 - 26

R15:- 3/4 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Wynnum v Ipswich	2.05	28 - 22
Sat.	Central v Norths	7.00	20 - 29
Sat.	North Qld v Tweed Hds	7.30	18 - 16
Sun.	Toowoomba v Sths Logan	1230	34 - 28
Sun.	Burleigh v Easts	3.00	36 - 34
Sun.	Redcliffe v Bros Valleys	3.00	58 - 26

R16:- 10/11 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Norths v Burleigh	2.05	28 - 22
Sat.	Easts v Wynnum	3.00	30 - 22
Sat.	Ipswich v North Qld	6.00	36 - 12
Sun.	Sths Logan v Central	3.00	42 - 28
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Toowoomba	3.00	6 - 84
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Redcliffe	3.00	32 - 46

R17:- 17/18 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Redcliffe v Toowoomba	2.05	37 - 30
Sat.	North Qld v Easts	5.30	18 - 30
Sat.	Central v Bros Valleys	7.00	48 - 0
Sat.	Burleigh v Sths Logan	7.00	52 - 14
Sun.	Wynnum v Norths	3.00	34 - 32
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Ipswich	3.00	28 - 24

R18:- 24/25 July

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Tweed Hds	2.05	24 - 20
Sat.	Bros Valleys v Burleigh	3.00	0 - 58
Sat.	Sths Logan v Wynnum	3.00	16 - 48
Sat.	Toowoomba v Central	5.00	62 - 20
Sun.	Ipswich v Redcliffe	3.00	30 - 24
Sun.	Norths v North Qld	3.00	54 - 28

R19:- 31July/1 Aug

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Toowoomba	2.05	32 - 10
Sat.	North Qld v Sths Logan	5.30	66 - 8
Sat.	Wynnum v Bros Valleys	5.30	36 - 18
Sat.	Central v Redcliffe	7.00	4 - 54
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Norths	3.00	10 - 34
Sun.	Ipswich v Easts	3.00	26 - 20

R20:- 7/8 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Easts v Redcliffe	2.05	46 - 36
Sat.	Toowoomba v Wynnum	4.45	18 - 34
Sat.	Central v Burleigh	7.00	18 - 60
Sun.	Bros Valleys v North Qld	3.00	24 - 36
Sun.	Norths v Ipswich	3.00	34 - 22
Sun.	Sths Logan v Tweed Hds	3.00	42 - 20

R21:- 14/15 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Redcliffe v Burleigh	2.05	12 - 28
Sat.	Easts v Norths	3.00	24 - 24
Sat.	Ipswich v Sths Logan	5.00	52 - 14
Sat.	North Qld v Toowoomba	5.30	18 - 28
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Bros Valleys	3.00	26 - 18
Sun.	Wynnum v Central	3.30	52 - 30

R22:- 21/22 August

			SCORE
Sat.	*Burleigh v Wynnum	2.05	30 - 16
Sat.	Central v North Qld	7.00	42 - 22
Sun.	Tweed Hds v Toowoomba	3.00	34 - 34
Sun.	Redcliffe v Norths	3.00	14 - 36
Sun.	Bros Valleys v Ipswich	3.00	18 - 36
Sun.	Sths Logan v Easts	3.00	34 - 52

SATURDAY 26 JUNE
XXXX CITY 48 v XXXX COUNTRY 16
XXXX RANGERS 50 v NSW COUNTRY 22

FINAL SERIES

Semi-Finals 1:- 28/29 August

Game A NORTHS 18 v EASTS 35 (Winner to Game C, Loser to Game D)
Game B TOOWOOMBA 38 v WYNNUM 42 (Winner to Game D, Loser Out)

Semi-Finals 2:- 4/5 September

Game C BURLEIGH 17 v EASTS 16 (Winner to G/Final, Loser to Game E)
Game D NORTHS 18 v WYNNUM 36 (Winner to Game E, Loser Out)

Preliminary Final:- 11 September

Game E EASTS 50 v WYNNUM 24 (Winner to G/Final, Loser Out)

GRAND FINAL - SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
3.00pm SUNCORP STADIUM
BURLEIGH BEARS v EASTS TIGERS

2004

2004 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The end of the 2003 season and the end of this 2004 season would see the end of three great historic Brisbane rugby league clubs. Wests lost every game of the 2003 season and pulled out of the competition due to financial difficulty. Season 2004 would mark the end for two historic clubs that made a cameo return after forming a joint venture. The Brothers Valleys Diehards only managed 1 draw and had 1060 points scored against them for the season, a rather ignomious way to bow out of top grade football in Brisbane. Sadly, there was no great outcry at the loss of these great old clubs, Wests, Valleys and Brothers, as there was when South Sydney were dropped from the NRL.

Burleigh finished as minor premiers. Wynnum made a miraculous comeback from 38-22 down to score 3 tries in 12 minutes and then scored another in extra time to win the elimination semi-final 42-38. Burleigh pipped Easts 17-16 in the major semi-final before a big 50-24 win over Wynnum gave Easts another shot at Burleigh in the grand final which returned to an upgraded Suncorp Stadium and what a grand final it was!

Easts were captained by Darren Smith and included the great Steve Renouf and Darren Lockyer's brother, Matt, on the bench. Adam Hayden scored the first and set up the next try for Burleigh to take them to a 12-0 lead. After another try each, Steve Renouf scored a classy try out wide and then bombed another by spilling the ball as he was sliding towards the line which proved very costly. A last minute chip and regather try by Easts' Steve Beattie sent the game into extra time. After many field goal attempts, Burleigh's Shane O'Flanaghan crossed over to give Burleigh a 22-18 win.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Wynnum 42 v Toowoomba 38

Seagulls storm back to keep season alive



WYNNUM 42 (S Phillips 2, M Anschau 2, G Bourke 2, J Bruce, L Dalziel-Don tries; D Quinn 5 goals) d TOOWOOMBA 38 (B Czislowski, Z Chisholm, N Parfitt, C MacKenzie, N Meyers, G Booker tries; N Parfitt 7 goals).

GOING DOWN: Toowoomba prop Ben Czislowski is tackled. Picture: ANNETTE DEW

By GARRY LEGG

WYNNUM staged a miraculous comeback to keep its Queensland Cup hopes alive with a 42-38 extra-time win over Toowoomba at Clive Berghofer Stadium yesterday.

Trailing 38-22 with 12 minutes to go, the Seagulls rallied to run in three tries.

Damien Quinn converted the final try with two minutes of regular time remaining to lock the scores at 38-all.

Toowoomba lost an ideal opportunity to settle the issue in regulation time when it lost possession within easy field goal range.

The Clydesdales compounded the error by turning over possession from the kick-off in extra time.

Seagulls halfback Luke McPherson made a dashing break down the middle to set up the match-winner, with five-eighth Luke Dalziel Don crossing in the corner after just 90 seconds.

Wynnum will play the winner of today's match between Norths and Easts.

Injury-hit Toowoomba looked to its big men in a physical opening to the game, with prop Ben Czislowski regularly charging into the Wynnum defensive line.

Czislowski and Seagulls opposite Grant Wooden had a running battle, and Czislowski was rewarded for his workrate when he barged over in the eighth minute.

It was the first of four first-half tries to the Clydesdales, including one to Nick Parfitt, the competition's joint leading tryscorer with 22.

The Seagulls kept hitting back and given the weight of possession against them, would have been happy to go in only trailing 26-18 at half-time.

Simon Phillips and Nick Meyers crossed for Toowoomba immediately after the break to set up a 10-point lead which it held for most of the half until Wynnum staged its late rally.



RELIEVED: Kelly Egan

Seagulls coach Kelly Egan said he was confident of catching Toowoomba, but disappointed with his side's start.

"We know we can score points, but the thing that tests us out, is if we start games poorly we tend to take a long time to turn that around," Egan said. "Our completions were ordinary, so was our field position, so on the back of that it's hard to win any game at this level.

"We've taken a lot of confidence from this. We know we can play the game and these guys know too, it's no secret that we need to start playing the way we want to."

Clydesdales coach John Dixon said the match had been in their keeping, but they were unable to close down the visitors.

"You are out for a result in semi-finals and we had a result in our grasp," Dixon said.

"It's devastating losing. To their credit they wouldn't go away and came home strong in the end."

The Clydesdales will be boosted next season by the signing of former Redcliffe grand final hero Aaron Barba from Penrith.

The speedy winger is understood to have signed a three-year deal.

2004

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Easts 35 v Norths 18

Second-half blitz puts Tigers on collision course with Bears

Bernie Pramberg

LOCAL LEAGUE

EASTS Tigers are primed to tackle Queensland Cup minor premiers Burleigh Bears next weekend after steamrolling Norths Devils 35-18 in yesterday's major semi-final at Bishop Park.

The Tigers were behind 18-10 at the break, but from the moment giant prop Charlie Tonga carted the ball back 30m from the resumption they unleashed a powerhouse final 40 minutes to score five unanswered tries.

Norths, playing in front of the biggest Bishop Park crowd since pre-Broncos days in 1987, could not contain rampaging forwards Tonga, Scott Alo and Trevor Exton, as backrowers Darren Smith (two tries), Dallas McIllwain and slick halves Dane Campbell and Isaac Kaufman set up the outside men.

Of all the strong performances fullback Jason Barsley, who also scored two tries, and classy hooker Trent Young were probably the standouts.

Former international centre

QUEENSLAND CUP

EASTS 35 (D Smith 2, J Barsley 2, T Young, D McIlwain, W Liddell tries; D Campbell 2, L Coghill goals; D Campbell field goal) **d NORTHS 18** (G Inglis, D Fletcher, A Boyd tries; G Inglis 3 goals).



Steve Renouf (hamstring) was a late withdrawal, but coach Micheal Booth said he will definitely be fit for Saturday's clash with Burleigh on the Gold Coast.

But the Tigers will be without second-rower Matt Lockyer, who has a broken bone in the shoulder.

"Steve could have played at a pinch, but we decided it was better to wait until he was completely right," said Booth.

"Burleigh is a good side, but I'm confident we can go very well next weekend."

Easts opened a 10-0 lead through tries by Barsley (10th minute) and Young (21st), but lost concentration in the 11 minutes prior to halftime as the Devils raced in three tries to lead 18-10.

Exciting prospect Glen Inglis, a 17-year-old schoolboy endowed with the athletic poise of a Karmichael Hunt, was held up over the line in the 29th minute, but made amends 90 seconds later when he raced 70m for a spectacular try.

Inglis started the game in the centres, but switched to fullback when coach Gary Grienke replaced Quentin Laulu-Togagae before the break.

Winger Derek Fletcher (35th) and hard-working forward Anthony Boyd (40th) added tries and Norths should have had another when hooker Marty Turner split the defence but his pass went astray with two men in support.

Norths will meet Wynnum Seagulls in the elimination final at Bishop Park on Sunday.

The Seagulls defeated Toowoomba Clydesdales 42-38 in extra time on Saturday.

2004

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 36 v Norths 18

Bruce report sour note for soaring Seagulls

QLD CUP

THIS WEEK

PRELIMINARY FINAL

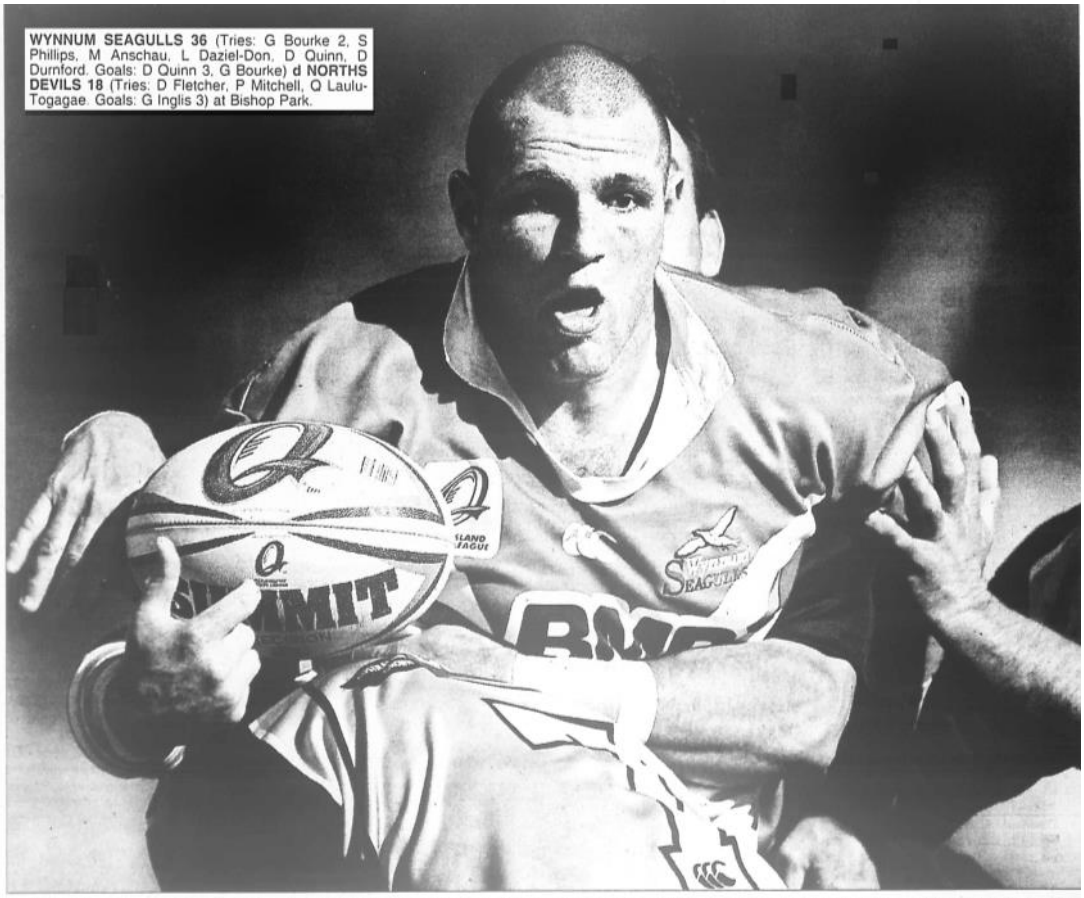
Easts Tigers v Wynnum Seagulls

Langlands Park, 2.05pm, Saturday

TV: ABC, live

Bernie Pramberg

WYNNUM SEAGULLS 36 (Tries: G Bourke 2, S Phillips, M Anschau, L Daziel-Don, D Quinn, D Durnford. Goals: D Quinn 3, G Bourke) **d NORTHS DEVILS 18** (Tries: D Fletcher, P Mitchell, Q Laulu-Togagae. Goals: G Inglis 3) at Bishop Park.



GRANT Wooden on the charge for the Wynnum Seagulls in their Queensland Cup elimination final at Bishop Park. Picture: **Darren England**

WYNNUM Seagulls coach Kelly Egan is confident in-form lock John Bruce will be cleared to play against Easts Tigers in Saturday's Queensland Cup preliminary final at Langlands Park.

Bruce, who set up two tries in the Seagulls' 36-18 win over Norths in yesterday's elimination final, was placed on report for an alleged high tackle after an incident in the 25th minute of the Bishop Park clash.

"We're not too concerned," Egan said. "I had a pretty good view of the incident and reckon John hit the top of the ball as he went into the tackle."

Egan was more concerned about the condition of teenage winger Michael Anschau who was helped from the field after the fulltime siren after what Wynnum officials described as a "late, cheap shot" by a Devils player.

Overall, Egan had reason to be satisfied with the manner of Wynnum's seven tries to three win, which featured a minimum of errors and some slick finishing. Compared with the Seagulls' last-gasp victory over the Clydesdales in extra time the previous week, this was an immeasurably more professional performance.

"We didn't want to do anything rash. We wanted to play finals-type football," Egan said.

"But we have to be realistic. Norths lost three key players at short notice before the game."

With halfback Andrew McFadden and prop Robbie Tanielu called up by the Melbourne Storm, and bustling centre Jake Webster ruled out because of illness, the Devils fielded a revamped line-up.

But they led 12-4 after 22 minutes through converted tries to winger Derek Fletcher and fullback Quentin Laulu-Togagae. The lead could have been greater had the Devils not been recalled twice for forward passes in movements that resulted in players touching down.

The Seagulls did not lose composure and crossed for three tries in the nine minutes before halftime to lead 20-12 at the break. A neat off-load by giant prop Grant Wooden sent Luke Dalziel-Don over in the 31st minute, forward Damien Durnford crashed over in the 35th and halfback Damien Quinn scored in the 37th after lock Bruce split the defence with a powerful burst.

Centre Greg Bourke scored the first of his two second-half tries in the 46th minute for a 26-12 lead and the Devils rarely threatened thereafter although centre Peter Mitchell narrowed the gap to eight points with his converted try in the 52nd minute.

The winner of this weekend's preliminary final will play Burleigh Bears in the grand final at Suncorp Stadium on September 18. Burleigh beat Easts 17-16 in the major semi-final last Saturday.

2004

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Burleigh 17 v Easts 16

Bears pay a heavy price

By GARRY LEGG

BURLEIGH, Bears coach Rick Stone faces an anxious couple of days after his side secured a Queensland Cup grand-final berth with a tenacious 17-16 major semi-final win over Easts at Pizzey Park yesterday.

Stone will be sweating on fitness tests for halfback Brent McConnell and hooker Ryan Gundry, who helped steer the Bears to a comeback victory yesterday and will be instrumental to their hopes in the grand final at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday week.

Gundry did not see out the 80 minutes because of an injured calf and McConnell was icing his injured wrist in the dressingroom after the match.

Stone was reluctant to pre-empt the extent of the injuries but admitted he had some concerns.

"Ryan has a nasty cork and 'Jockey' (McConnell) has hurt his wrist," Stone said. "Hopefully it's not too serious, possibly ligament damage, but we'll know more when he has a precautionary X-ray."

McConnell, who is headed to the North Queensland Cowboys next season, provided the spark Burleigh needed when they seemed unlikely to chase down a 16-4 deficit early in the second half, slotting in at hooker for the last 15 minutes when Gundry was off.

Despite the worries over his two key players, Stone said he had no such concerns over the Bears' prospects, even when the minor premiers fell behind the talent-laden Tigers.

"Tries were hard to come by but I always thought we could win the game," he said. "We're minor premiers, and one thing we've always done is finish games off.

"You had to wait for your chances. They did it well for the first 50 minutes and we did well the last 30 minutes. The guys rose to the occasion when they needed to."

The Tigers also have their share of injury worries, the main concern being skipper Darren Smith, who was assisted from the field clutching his right knee only a minute into the second half.

Tigers coach Michael Booth is hopeful Smith will be available for next week's preliminary final against either Wynnum or Norths.

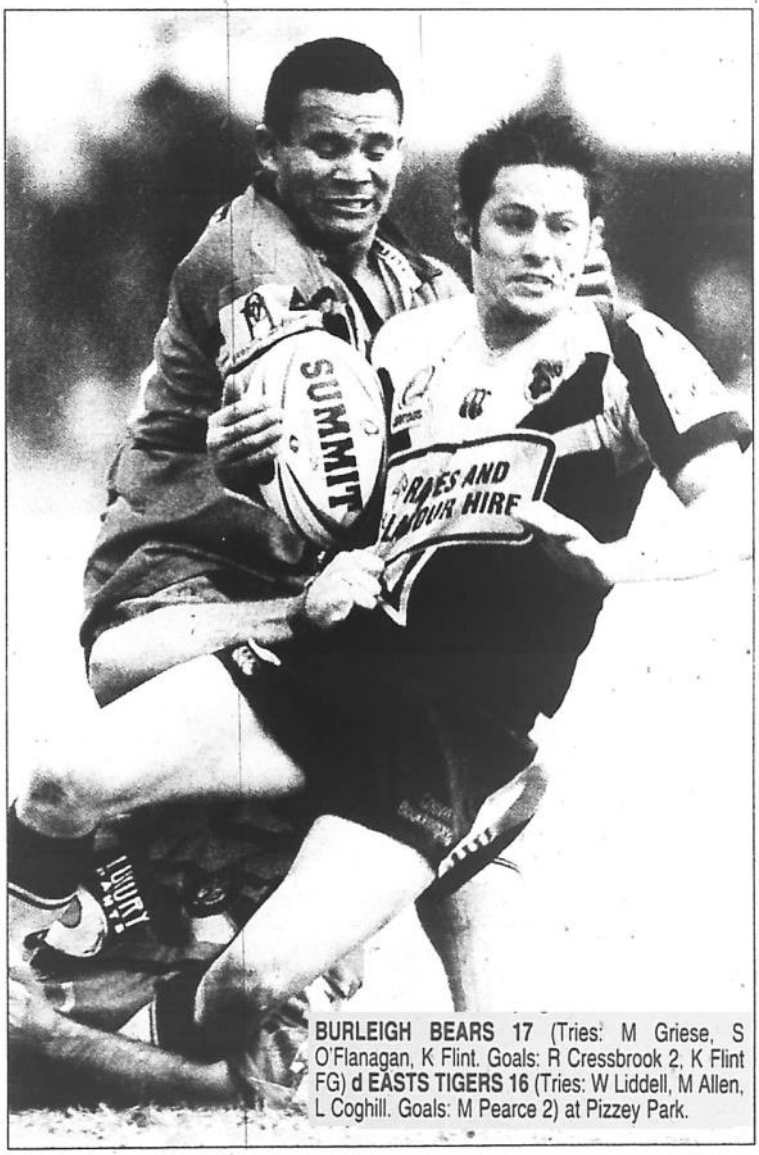
Booth wants another crack at Burleigh, and believes Smith's absence could have made the difference yesterday.

"I'm confident Darren will be OK," Booth said. "For sure if he was out there he could have given us a bit more direction.

"At the end of the day, we let ourselves down in the second half. We should have won easily, that's the disappointing thing about it.

"We beat ourselves, basically. We let them back in the game.

"We have to learn to finish games."

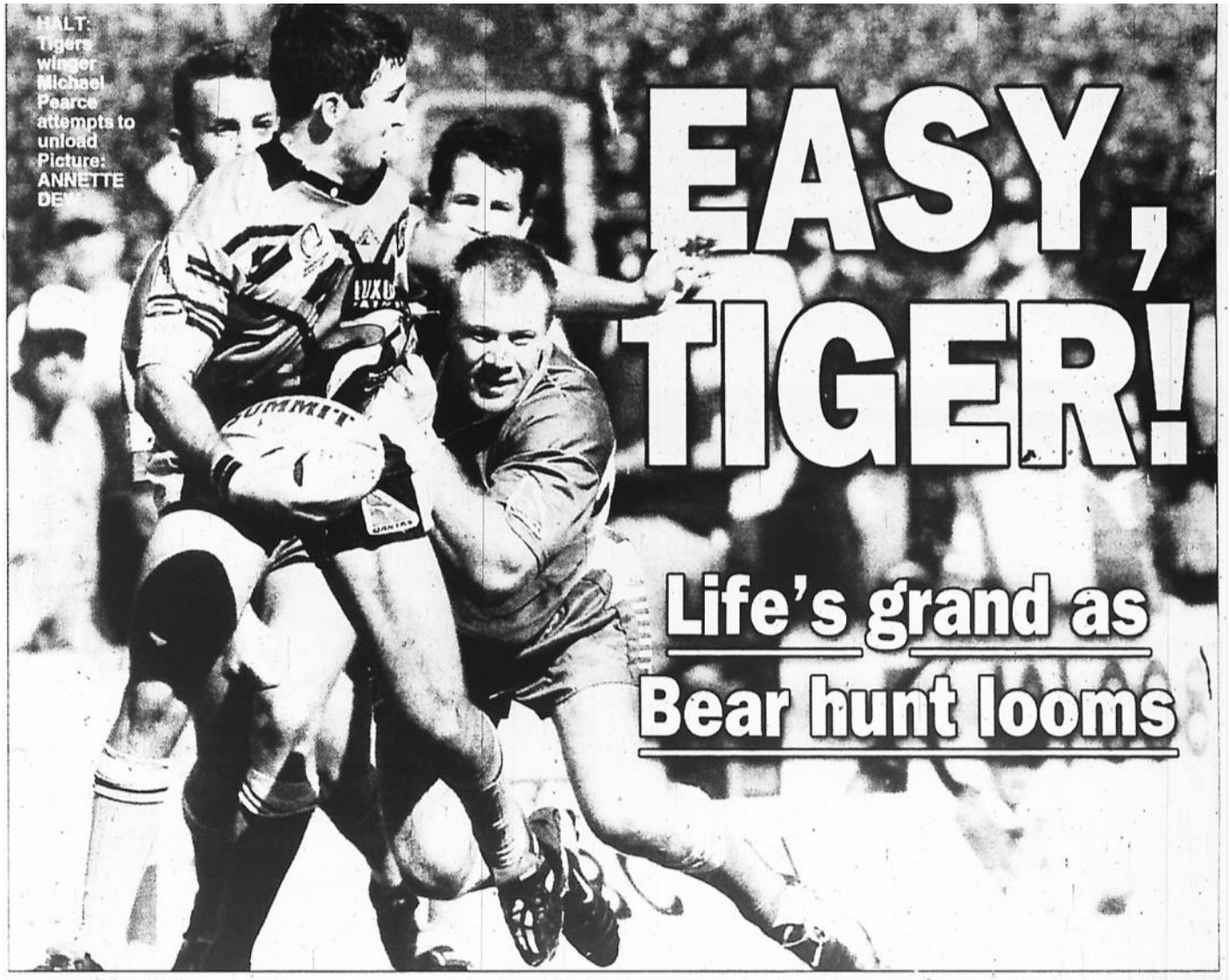


BURLEIGH BEARS 17 (Tries: M Griese, S O'Flanagan, K Flint. Goals: R Cressbrook 2, K Flint FG) **d EASTS TIGERS 16** (Tries: W Liddell, M Allen, L Coghill. Goals: M Pearce 2) at Pizzey Park.

COLLARED: Burleigh halfback Brent McConnell is felled by Tiger rivals

2004

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Easts 50 v Wynnum 24



HALT: Tigers winger Michael Pearce attempts to unload Picture: ANNETTE DE

EASY, TIGER!

Life's grand as Bear hunt looms

By GARRY LEGG

QLD CUP

EASTS 50

WYNNUM 24

A SATISFYING hat-trick that helped Easts to their first grand final since 1997 will not stop former international Steve Renouf from retiring after next week's Queensland Cup decider.

The former Test, State of Origin and Broncos centre returned to his brilliant best to score three of the Tigers' 10 tries in yesterday's 50-24 preliminary final win against Wynnum at Langlands Park.

Easts now meet Burleigh, who they lost to by a point last weekend, in Saturday's Suncorp Stadium grand final. There will be plenty of black and gold at the stadium as the Tigers also won through to the colts and reserve grade grand finals.

The big crowd, especially the two "pig pens", were in fine form yesterday, knocking over 160 cartons of beer before halftime.

Ironically the last time Easts played in all three grades was also in 1997, when they lost all of them.

Renouf, 34, decided midway through the season to end his two and a half year retirement. He said he had made his decision about next season and next week's result will not change his mind.

"This is definitely it, no matter what happens next week I'm finishing," Renouf said. "I've enjoyed my time immensely, but I've got a lot happening outside of football so I've got plenty to keep me busy.

"It'll be a terrific way to finish because these guys are a great bunch and have been playing good footy all season.

"Next week is what we've been playing for. We should have beaten them (Burleigh) last time, but it's a new ball game now and we've just got to go out and give 100 percent."

Renouf opened the scoring after four minutes and sparked Easts into action. They quickly piled on two more tries, which had Wynnum on the back foot.

Easts continued their strong first half and a late try off an error near the line gave Easts a 24-8 lead.

Apart from a brief period early in the second half the Tigers held the upper hand for most of the match.

Wynnum staged a comeback early in the second half. They ran in back-to-back tries to get within a converted try (24-18) of the home side.

However, they soon had the wind knocked out of their sails when Steve Beattie jumped on a mistake close to the line to score the first of two four pointers.

Renouf scored two more tries, his third giving Easts a 48-18 lead with about 10 minutes to go.

The heat and the fact Wynnum have been playing sudden-death football since the finals started fell on deaf ears for coach Kelly Egan.

"It wasn't a big ask and I'm sick of people telling me it was. We shot ourselves in the foot, making fundamental errors in our own half. You can't do that. Good sides will make you pay and they're a good side," Egan said.

Tigers coach Michael Booth said his side had come through unscathed. Booth will welcome back forward Matt Lockyer from injury.

Booth said he was pleased with the way his side controlled and directed play.

He praised five-eighth Isaac Kaufmann and joked about getting the ball to the hands of Renouf.

"The pivots were great and I thought Isaac Kaufmann had a top game. The only area we could improve was our kicking game, but we'll work on that.

"Having the Pearl there was a bonus, he's no dramas. The guys have finally learned to give him the ball."

EASTS 50 (S Renouf 3, S Beattie 2, W Liddell, M Pearce, D McIllwain, S Sipple, C Tonga tries; M Pearce 4, D Campbel goals) d WYNNUM 24 (J Bruce, R Taylor, S Phillips, D Quinn, G Wooden tries; D Quinn 2 goals).

2004

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 22 v EASTS 18

Bears grab thriller

Unheralded prop scores golden try

By GARRY LEGG

THE Burleigh Bears ended an epic Queensland Cup grand final with a try in the 97th minute to beat Easts 22-18 at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

The Tigers had fought back from a 12-point deficit to lock up the scores at 18-18 with a try from the last move of regulation time forcing the match into extra time.

Winger Steve Beattie gathered a chip ahead and broke two tackles to race 40m and score out wide with 25 seconds left.

Tigers halfback Dane Campbell landed the conversion to ensure the first extra time decider in a Queensland Cup grand final.

After seven field goal attempts, including four from Burleigh, unheralded prop Shane O'Flanagan finally crossed for the winner with a barging effort close to the line.

Burleigh coach Rick Stone with nails bitten to the quick, sent a message on to the field to forget the field goal and go for the four-pointer. His decision proved a winner.

"For the majority of the extra time we looked gone," Stone said. "I told them not to worry about the field goal. Taking them from poor field position is like a turnover. We had to go for the try.

"We mounted a bit more pressure and used the bomb a bit. In the end I'm just happy we got there.

Burleigh led 12-0 after 10 minutes and appeared well in control, their defence restricting the Tigers to one first half try.

In an important passage of play soon after the Tigers opened their scoring the Burleigh defence was put to an extreme test.

While the Bears defence in the opposition end of the park was strong, near the line it was devastating.

Midway through the half the Tigers got three consecutive sets of six and tried everything to pierce the Bears' defence.

The Tigers put in dangerous kicks at the end of each set, but each time a Burleigh player was on hand to stop any chance of a four-pointer.

Fullback Reggie Cressbrook and winger Aseri Laing safely held wobbly grubbers and winger Trent Purdon on the opposite wing saved a try with a desperate scramble to force the ball dead.

When the Bears worked to the other end of the park, Easts immediately paid for a defensive mistake. Fullback Jason Barsley dropped a bomb from Ryan Gundry and the Bears didn't waste their chance.

They swept the ball from right to left before a rampaging John Flint steamed on to the ball and raced over to score.

The solid back-rower was heavily involved from the kick-off and his efforts were rewarded when he was named man of the match.

Barsley made amends for his error by involving himself heavily and taking some fine catches including some pressure catches late in the second half.

There were some close decisions that could have turned the game.

Renouf was denied a try by the video referee when he grounded before the line, but it was vintage "Pearl" who scored in the second half to give the Tigers a chance.

Burleigh coach Rick Stone hopes to keep the bulk of his side together, but Brent McConnell, the halfback who steered the ship so well throughout, is happy to be going to the Cowboys with a grand final medal.

"I've been with Burleigh for about six seasons and this is my first grand final," McConnell said.

"It was fantastic the way the guys hung in there and I couldn't be happier going out like this."

Former Test star Steve Renouf said the game proved the talent of the Tigers' recent NRL recruits, halfback Dane Campbell (Newcastle) and hooker Trent Young (Souths).

Renouf said on yesterday's form, both would be successful in the top-flight.



COAST-BOUND: Burleigh captain Ali Brown prepares to take the Queensland Cup south after yesterday's thriller

GRAND final

BURLEIGH BEARS 22 d EASTS TIGERS 18

POINTS

BEARS: Tries: A Hayden, N Shaw, J Flint, S O'Flanagan. Goals: R Cressbrook 3.

TIGERS: Tries: T Young, S Renouf, S Beattie. Goals: M Pearce 2, D Campbell.

Man of Match: John Flint (Burleigh)



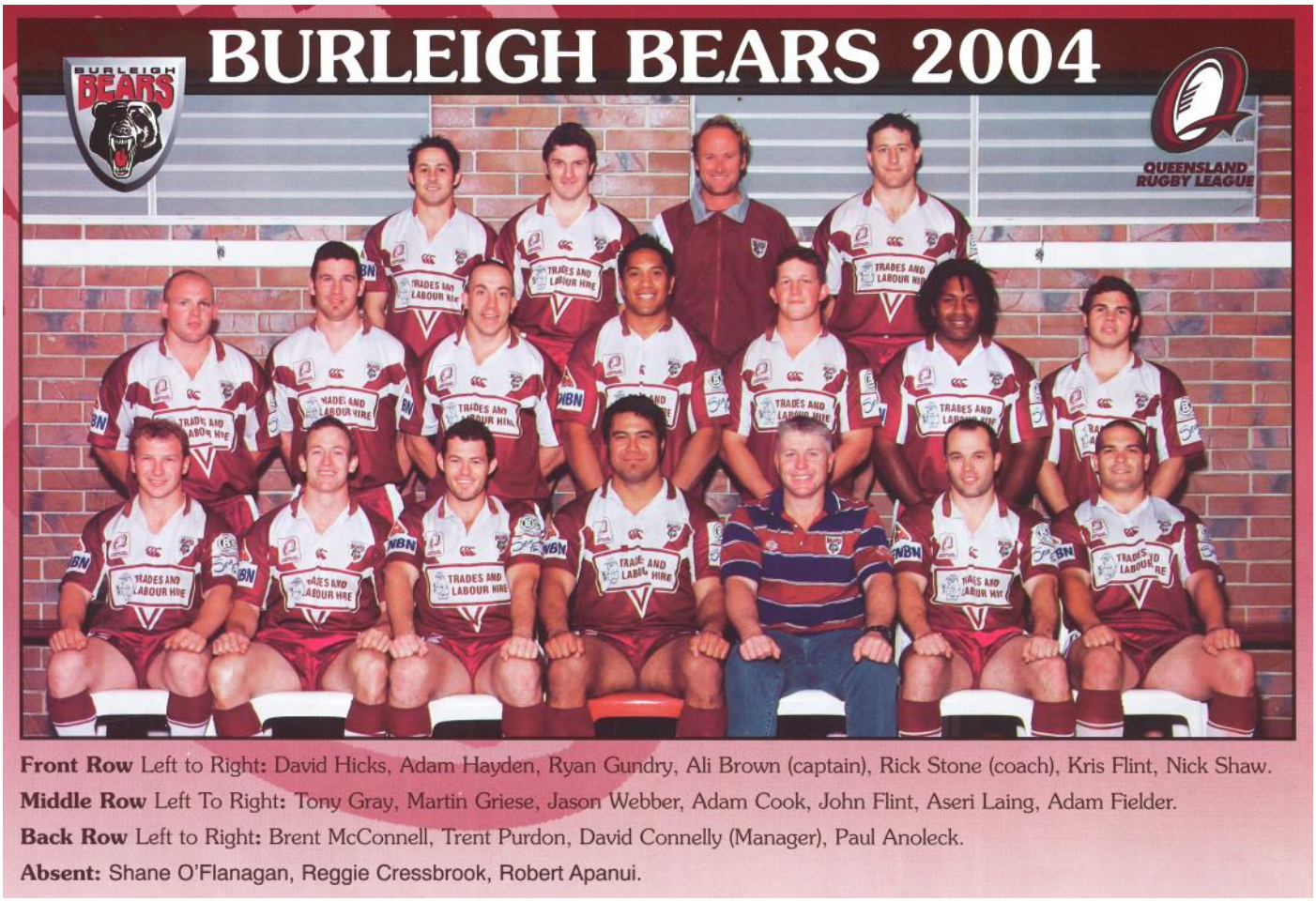


GAME OVER: Steve Renouf after the final



2004

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 22 v EASTS 18



Front Row Left to Right: David Hicks, Adam Hayden, Ryan Gundry, Ali Brown (captain), Rick Stone (coach), Kris Flint, Nick Shaw.
Middle Row Left To Right: Tony Gray, Martin Griese, Jason Webber, Adam Cook, John Flint, Aseri Laing, Adam Fielder.
Back Row Left to Right: Brent McConnell, Trent Purdon, David Connelly (Manager), Paul Anoleck.
Absent: Shane O'Flanagan, Reggie Cressbrook, Robert Apanui.

2004 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Wynnum 42 def. Toowoomba 38
Qualifying Semi-Final: Easts 35 def. Norths 18
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 36 def. Norths 18
Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 17 def. Easts 16
Preliminary Final: Easts 50 def. Wynnum 24

2004 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 22 (Tries: A. Hayden, N. Shaw, J. Flint, S. O'Flanagan; Goals: R. Cressbrook 3) def. EASTS 18 (Tries: T. Young, S. Renouf, S. Beattie; Goals: M. Pearce 2, D. Campbell)

2005

QUEENSLAND CUP: NORTH QUEENSLAND

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
North Qld	20	16	3	1	612	352	33
Norths	20	15	4	1	719	454	31
Burleigh	20	15	5	-	644	354	30
Redcliffe	20	12	8	-	582	510	24
Toowoomba	20	11	8	1	663	527	23
Wynnum	20	10	10	-	480	554	20
Tweed Heads	20	8	9	3	556	485	19
Easts	20	9	11	-	589	504	18
Ipswich	20	5	14	1	414	566	11
Souths Logan	20	3	16	1	364	834	7
Central	20	1	17	2	346	829	4

THE QLD WIZARD CUP DRAW AND RESULTS

R1:- 12 13 March

		SCORE
Sat. Easts v Sths Logan	3.00	70 - 12
Sun. Toowoomba v North Qld	11.40	36 - 10
Sun. Central v Tweed Hds	2.30	30 - 30
Sun. Norths v Redcliffe	3.00	60 - 24
Sun. Burleigh v Wynnum	3.00	28 - 14
Ipswich	BYE	

R2:- 18/19/20 March

		SCORE
Fri. North Qld v Norths	5.15	24 - 22
Sat. Ipswich v Toowoomba	5.30	22 - 22
Sun. Redcliffe v Easts	3.00	42 - 28
Sun. Sths Logan v Burleigh	3.00	22 - 28
Sun. Wynnum v Central	3.30	28 - 10
Tweed Hds	BYE	

R3:- 26/27 March

		SCORE
Sat. *Easts v North Qld	2.00	44 - 12
Sat. Sths Logan v Wynnum	3.00	16 - 26
Sat. Tweed Hds v Toowoomba	7.00	28 - 18
Sun. Burleigh v Redcliffe	3.00	32 - 22
Sun. Norths v Ipswich	3.00	30 - 12
Central	BYE	

R4:- 2 3 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Tweed Hds v Norths	2.00	28 - 28
Sat. North Qld v Burleigh	5.30	26 - 8
Sat. Ipswich v Easts	6.00	16 - 18
Sun. Central v Toowoomba	2.30	18 - 58
Sun. Redcliffe v Sths Logan	3.00	44 - 16
Wynnum	BYE	

R5:- 9/10 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Wynnum	2.00	20 - 10
Sat. Sths Logan v North Qld	3.00	8 - 48
Sat. Easts v Tweed Hds	3.00	36 - 22
Sun. Burleigh v Ipswich	3.00	30 - 12
Sun. Norths v Central	3.00	44 - 12
Toowoomba	BYE	

R6:- 16 17 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Sths Logan	2.00	30 - 26
Sat. North Qld v Redcliffe	5.30	34 - 16
Sun. Central v Easts	2.30	10 - 52
Sun Tweed Hds v Burleigh	3.00	18 - 38
Sun. Wynnum v Toowoomba	3.00	16 - 47
Norths	BYE	

R7:- 23/24 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Central	2.00	46 - 10
Sat. Sths Logan v Tweed Hds	3.00	4 - 32
Sun. Wynnum v North Qld	3.00	32 - 24
Sun. Norths v Toowoomba	3.00	44 - 34
Sun. Redcliffe v Ipswich	3.00	42 - 20
Easts	BYE	

R8:- 29 30 April/1 May

		SCORE
Fri. Toowoomba v Easts	5.15	30 - 24
Sat. *Wynnum v Norths	2.00	24 - 28
Sat. Ipswich v North Qld	7.30	26 - 28
Sun. Tweed Hds v Redcliffe	3.00	22 - 26
Sun. Central v Sths Logan	7.00	28 - 28
Burleigh	BYE	

R9:- 7/8 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Toowoomba	2.00	42 - 16
Sat. Easts v Norths	3.00	16 - 52
Sat. North Qld v Tweed Hds	7.30	14 - 14
Sun. Redcliffe v Central	3.00	34 - 24
Sun. Ipswich v Wynnum	3.00	24 - 30
Sths Logan	BYE	

R10:- 14/21/22 May

		SCORE
Sat.14North Qld v Central	5.30	56 - 14
Sat. *Norths v Burleigh	2.00	10 - 60
Sat. Toowoomba v Sths Logan	3.00	64 - 24
Sat. Ipswich v Tweed Hds	5.30	22 - 24
Sun. Wynnum v Easts	3.00	30 - 6
Redcliffe	BYE	

R11:- 28/29 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Easts	2.00	26 - 14
Sat. Ipswich v Central	6.00	22 - 20
Sun. Redcliffe v Toowoomba	3.00	35 - 22
Sun. Sths Logan v Norths	3.00	22 - 20
Sun. Tweed Hds v Wynnum	3.00	36 - 10
North Qld	BYE	

R12:- 4/5 June

		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v North Qld	2.00	8 - 46
Sat. Easts v Redcliffe	3.00	28 - 22
Sat Toowoomba v Ipswich	4.45	40 - 16
Sat. Central v Wynnum	7.00	22 - 32
Sun. Burleigh v Sths Logan	3.00	64 - 4
Tweed Hds	BYE	

R13:- 11/12 June

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Tweed Hds	2.00	22 - 34
Sat. Ipswich v Norths	6.00	14 - 40
Sat. North Qld v Easts	7.30	22 - 16
Sun. Wynnum v Sths Logan	3.00	52 - 22
Sun. Redcliffe v Burleigh	3.00	6 - 56
Central	BYE	

R14:- 18/19' June

		SCORE
Sat. *Easts v Ipswich	2.00	24 - 30
Sat. Toowoomba v Central	4.45	48 - 16
Sat. Burleigh v North Qld	6.30	10 - 14
Sun. Sths Logan v Redcliffe	3.00	10 - 42
Sun. Norths v Tweed Hds	3.00	25 - 22
Wynnum	BYE	

R15:- 2/3 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Wynnum v Redcliffe	2.00	16 - 38
Sat. North Qld v Sths Logan	5.00	28 - 20
Sat. Central v Norths	7.00	16 - 42
Sun. Tweed Hds v Easts	3.00	40 - 14
Sun. Ipswich v Burleigh	3.00	20 - 16
Toowoomba	BYE	

R16:- 9/10 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v North Qld	2.00	12 - 22
Sat. Easts v Central	3.00	60 - 6
Sat. Sths Logan v Ipswich	3.00	30 - 20
Sat. Toowoomba v Wynnum	4.45	46 - 18
Sun. Burleigh v Tweed Hds	3.00	22 - 16
Norths	BYE	

R17:- 16/17 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Tweed Hds v Sths Logan	2.00	20 - 28
Sat. Ipswich v Redcliffe	3.00	16 - 42
Sat. North Qld v Wynnum	5.30	34 - 12
Sun. Toowoomba v Norths	11.50	22 - 42
Sun. Central v Burleigh	2.30	22 - 32
Easts	BYE	

R18:- 23/24 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Easts v Toowoomba	2.00	14 - 25
Sat. Sths Logan v Central	4.00	30 - 40
Sat. North Qld v Ipswich	5.30	40 - 14
Sun. Redcliffe v Tweed Hds	3.00	40 - 22
Sun. Norths v Wynnum	3.00	50 - 22
Burleigh	BYE	

R19:- 30/31July

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Burleigh	2.00	22 - 44
Sat. Central v Redcliffe	7.00	12 - 31
Sun. Tweed Hds v North Qld	2.30	30 - 34
Sun. Wynnum v Ipswich	3.00	28 - 22
Sun. Norths v Easts	3.00	40 - 10
Sths Logan	BYE	

R20:- 6/7 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Norths	2.00	16 - 38
Sat. Easts v Wynnum	3.00	35 - 16
Sat. Central v North Qld	7.00	10 - 52
Sun. Sths Logan v Toowoomba	3.00	14 - 52
Sun. Tweed Hds v Ipswich	3.00	22 - 20
Redcliffe	BYE	

R21:- 13/14 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Redcliffe	2.00	36 - 22
Sat. Easts v Burleigh	3.00	26 - 28
Sat. Central v Ipswich	7.00	14 - 36
Sun. Norths v Sths Logan	3.00	72 - 8
Sun. Wynnum v Tweed Hds	3.00	42 - 28
North Qld	BYE	

R22:- 20/21 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Norths	2.00	22 - 24
Sat. North Qld v Toowoomba	5.30	44 - 0
Sun. Tweed Hds v Central	2.30	68 - 12
Sun. Wynnum v Burleigh	3.00	22 - 18
Sun. Sths Logan v Easts	3.00	20 - 56
Ipswich	BYE	

25 June City 58 def Country 16

FINAL SERIES

Semi-Finals 1:- 27/28 August

Game A NORTHS 18 v BURLEIGH 26 (Winner to Game C, Loser to Game D)

Game B REDCLIFFE 23 v TOOWOOMBA 22 (Winner to Game D, Loser Out)

Semi-Finals 2:- 3/4 September

Game C NORTH QLD 22 v BURLEIGH 6 (Winner to G/Final, Loser to Game E)

Game D NORTHS 18 v REDCLIFFE 33 (Winner to Game E, Loser Out)

Preliminary Final:- 10 September

Game E BURLEIGH 24 v NORTHS 19 (Winner to G/Final, Loser Out)

GRAND FINAL - SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

SUNCORP STADIUM

NORTH QUEENSLAND v BURLEIGH BEARS

2005

2005 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The sad demise of the Brothers Valleys joint venture reduced the number of Queensland Cup teams down to 11 for the next few years.

Finishing at the top of the table going into the finals as minor premiers were the North Queensland Young Guns who included future Cowboys and Queensland prop Matt Scott. Just behind them were Norths who included the electrifying Greg Inglis. Burleigh, Redcliffe and Toowoomba were the other top five teams. It was the first season that "country" teams outnumbered Brisbane teams in the finals.

Redcliffe just pipped Toowoomba 23-22 in the elimination semi-final and Burleigh beat Norths 26-18 in the qualifying semi-final. The following week Redcliffe won the minor semi-final 33-10 to see Norths bundled out of the finals in straight sets while North Queensland had a strong win against Burleigh beating them 22-6 to advance to their first grand final. They would play Burleigh again after they beat Redcliffe 24-19 in the preliminary final.

It was the first "all-country" grand final though the Gold Coast, represented by Burleigh, could hardly be considered a country town. Despite the lack of any Brisbane clubs in the decider at Suncorp Stadium there was a solid crowd of just under 7 000 fans. North Queensland raced to a 12-0 lead with tries to Myles and Muspratt before Burleigh struck back with a try to Leis set up by a break by Reggie Cressbrook at fullback. Sweeney scored for North Queensland just before half time. The scored remained 18-6 until 10 minutes to go when Clint Amos went over from dummy half. Another two late tries gave North Queensland a record 36-6 grand final win and the 2005 Queensland Cup.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Redcliffe 23 v Toowoomba 22

Fins by a nose

Redcliffe skipper boots extra-time winner

DOLPHINS	23
CLYDESDALES	22

By ANDREW DAWSON

REDCLIFFE captain Shane Perry feared his team's defensive line would have collapsed with fatigue had he not wobbled over a match-winning field goal to sink Toowoomba yesterday.

In a bumper Wizard Queensland Cup elimination semi-final, the Dolphins prevailed 23-22 after the match had travelled seven minutes into golden point extra time.

"It came down to a field goal because both sides had nothing left. Lucky we got it," Perry said. "I am over the moon. It went right down to the wire. You could not get any better than that."

The Toowoomba players were left strewn on the field, collapsed in exhaustion.

The Clydesdales went within a coat of paint of stealing the match in the 79th minute when a long range field goal attempt from Ian Lacey caught the upright and bounced away.

Minutes earlier Perry and Toowoomba fullback Nick Parfitt had launched unsuccessful field goal attempts.

There was not a struck match between the two sides in the final half an hour.

At least once in every set of six, a Toowoomba forward landed a sickening defensive blow upon a rival.

But Redcliffe's pack, outplayed in the first half, raised the bar in the second 40 minutes.

"We had to hit. We were slow to start and they got a try just on half-time. The call we had was Monday because we wanted to be alive on Monday and we are," Perry said.

Around the forward slugfest, Redcliffe fullback Ryan Cullen was sensational and Toowoomba centre Steve Michaels potent throughout.

"Ryan Cullen was magnificent. Some of the line breaks were unreal," Perry said.

Michaels was the Clydesdales' go-to man, scoring one try and threatening on numerous occasions as Toowoomba attacked Redcliffe's left side.

However, his opponent Nick Emmett, who injured his ankle early in the match, rallied in the second half to douse some of Michaels' potency.

It was Emmett's robust tackle which also forced possession from Toowoomba's Fletcher Holmes in the lead-up to Perry's winning field goal. "Nick did it tough, but he got there in the end," Perry said.

And there was also no more important tackle in the match than that produced by Redcliffe five-eighth Wayne Bond who wrapped his arms around Michaels after Lacey had attempted to isolate the slightly built Bond in the defensive line.

Toowoomba played its part in a classic, with Derrick Watkins and Ian Blake punishing in defence.

Surely not one player will raise his head this morning and ponder whether he could have given more.

REDCLIFFE 23 (Cullen, Georgetown, Perry, Shilvock tries; Georgetown 3 goals; Perry f goal) d TOOWOOMBA 22 (Parfitt 2, Michaels, Kemp tries; Parfitt 3 goals).



THUMP: Redcliffe's Damien Jentz is up-ended by Clydesdale Neale Wyatt Picture: DAVID KAPERNICK

2005

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Burleigh 26 v Norths 18

Proud Burleigh produces big finish to sink Norths

Michael Crutcher

BURLEIGH Bears avoided an embarrassing wipeout for their proud club yesterday when they steamed past a depleted Norths to win the Queensland Cup qualifying semi-final at Bishop Park.

The Bears piled on four unanswered tries for a 26-18 win, booking a showdown with minor premiers North Queensland next Saturday night for a grand-final berth.

Norths will host Redcliffe next Saturday afternoon in an elimination semi-final and the Devils will be pleased to regain key players Brandon Costin, Anthony Boyd and Rob Tanielu.

These three were absent yesterday but initially that did not seem to worry the Devils, whose team was stacked with seven teenagers. They skipped to a 12-0 halftime lead following two tries to centre Ryan Shortland.

The outlook was bleak for the Bears. The club had been flattened 64-0 by Wests in the colts semi-final and then caved in 36-0 to the Devils in the reserve grade playoff.

But first grade coach Rick Stone said he knew his players would be strong after an open discussion last week about their indifferent form, which included a loss to also-rans Wynnum.

"I knew there was plenty of character in the team but we spoke long and hard about how we had to improve, and defence was the first port of call," Stone said.

"There was a real belief out there. We've probably been individually trying to turn things around but we hadn't made a concerted effort as a team."

Burleigh opened its scoring three minutes after halftime when Robert Apanui scooped up a loose ball and sprinted 30m for a try.

Norths fought back and led 18-6 after a slick team try finished by Marc Brentnall in the 46th minute. But those were the last points for Norths, who ran against the wind in the second half and could not hold out a Bears team boosted by veteran Adrian Vowles.

Aseri Laing scored tries in the 52nd and 76th minutes and Apanui added his second in the 62nd minute as Burleigh caused havoc down the right side.

"We played against an experienced team which tried to bash us and we probably lost it in the last 10 minutes," Norths coach Wayne Treleaven said.

Qualifying Semi-Final: BURLEIGH BEARS 26 Tries A Laing (2) R Apanui (2) T Leis Goals R Cressbrook (3) **d NORTHS DEVILS 18** (Tries R Shortland (2) M Brentnall Goals J Smith (3) at Bishop Park



TRY time ... Norths Devils centre Ryan Shortland crashes over yesterday.

2005

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - North Queensland 22 v Burleigh 6 &
QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Redcliffe 33 v Norths 10

Star Dolphin back in the Nick of time

DOLPHINS	33
DEVILS	10

By ANDREW DAWSON

MOSMAN product Nick Emmett lauded his coach Anthony Griffin yesterday for luring him from retirement to Redcliffe where he is now a Queensland Wizard Cup semi-final game-breaker.

Emmett, 23, was front and centre as the Dolphins beat Norths 33-10 in the knock-out semi-final at Bishop Park.

The Dolphins will now play Burleigh next weekend for the right to meet the North Queensland Young Guns in the grand final.

Behind a tireless pack, Emmett scored a block-busting try and laid on two for winger Phil Shilvock with brilliant flick passes.

But if it was not for the faith shown in him by coach Griffin, now arguably the competition's coach of the year, Emmett may be retired and ruing a career interrupted by injury.

"I was pretty much semi-retired when Anthony brought me over to Redcliffe and I am glad he did," Emmett said.

"I had been with Parramatta for three years in Jersey Flegg and first division and had had a bad run with injuries when I ended up at Souths Logan."

In last week's first semi-final, Emmett displayed sheer grit to carry ankle and knee injuries while dousing Clydesdales ace Steve Michaels.

This week he was again defensively sound, and there was out-and-out class as well.

"I have been working on the flick pass," Emmett said.

"I have always had a pretty good grip on the ball, have always been able to do it.

But it is just a confidence thing.

"It has always been a part of my game, but I think I have just held it back, not having the confidence.

"With Phil (Shilvock) outside me, it has given me confidence he is always there."

Shilvock's reward for unbounded faith in Emmett – and an early try-saving tackle on runaway Norths centre Ryan Shilvock – was to score three tries himself.

Outside backs Shilvock, Ryan Cullen, Liam Georgetown and Emmett made the tryscoring list, but the pack deserved to have their names in neon lights.

Redcliffe set the standard in the first quarter by defending 18 tackles in a row, having the ball for four tackles itself and then defending another set of six.

"The more work we do, the more confident we get," Emmett said. "Our forwards are killing it. They are really, really tough and are making our job a lot easier."

Norths were disappointing, ruining their chances with a flood of mistakes.

REDCLIFFE 33 (Shilvock 3, Cullen, Georgetown, Emmett. Fish tries: Georgetown 2 goals, Perry field goal) d NORTHS 10 (Brentnall, Costin tries: Costin goal).



FIRE UP FRONT: Norths prop Robert Tanielu *(left)*, helped by Nathan Friend, wrestles down Dolphin Damien Jentz

Guns make Cup history

NORTH Queensland booked itself an historic berth in the Queensland Wizard Cup grand final with a 22-6 victory over Burleigh in the major semi-final at Dairy Farmers Stadium last night.

The Young Guns qualified for the decider at Suncorp Stadium on September 17 with a four-tries-to-one win over the premiers, who face Redcliffe next weekend.

North Queensland claimed the minor premiership after an undefeated home record and the Young Guns maintained that unbeaten streak with a hard-earned win in a curtain-raiser to the Cowboys-Storm NRL match.

The Young Guns led 12-0 at half-time and shot to 16-0 soon after the break when centre Gavin Cooper scored the second of his two tries.

NORTH QLD 22 (Cooper 2, Payne, Barsley tries; McConnell 2, McSweeney goal) d BURLEIGH 6 (Brown try; Trent Leis goal).

2005

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Burleigh 24 v Redcliffe 19

Bears on the bell

Injured hero in doubt as Burleigh storms into final

BEARS	24
DOLPHINS	19

By ANDREW DAWSON

BURLEIGH preliminary final hero Trent Leis woke up this morning praying he will be fit for Saturday's Queensland Wizard Cup final against the Young Guns after injuring his right knee while scoring the match-winning try against Redcliffe yesterday.

Defending premier Burleigh lifted at the death to pip Redcliffe 24-19 at Pizzey Park.

The Dolphins had appeared to be grand final bound when captain Shane Perry snapped a 40m field goal to break a dead-lock four minutes from full-time.

But Leis restarted the match with a short kick-off which was snared by teammate Martin Griese around his ankles.

Four tackles later Leis plunged over in the corner and Burleigh was celebrating one of rugby league's great escape wins.

"We had to get the ball back somehow," Leis said.

"Griesey was the one who caught it. It was a quick reaction from him."

But Leis could not finish the match, hurting his knee after a wave of desperate Redcliffe cover defenders swarmed late in a forlorn bid to prevent the former Dolphins star from scoring the match clincher.

"It did not feel good. I had a knee reconstruction a few years ago and I am just pleading it is not the same injury.

"I did not want to lose against the boys (Redcliffe). They came back tremendously well. I just hope we come up with the goods against the Young Guns."

Young Guns coach Grant Bell believes Burleigh will give his side an almighty shake despite the North Queenslanders beating the Bears 22-6 just eight days ago.

"That scoreline did not reflect the game," Bell said. "We got six points at the death. It was an arm wrestle."

But Burleigh had a culture of winning which made it potent on grand final day, he said.

"They have very clever halves, the best in the business. The big thing they bring to the game is that they are used to being successful and winning and know the way around the park."

Victory would not have been possible without powerhouse prop Ali Brown and deft touches by Adam Hayden.

The Dolphins did everything right to win. Running into the wind in the first half, they completed 16 of 17 sets and restricted the Bears to a 12-2 lead.

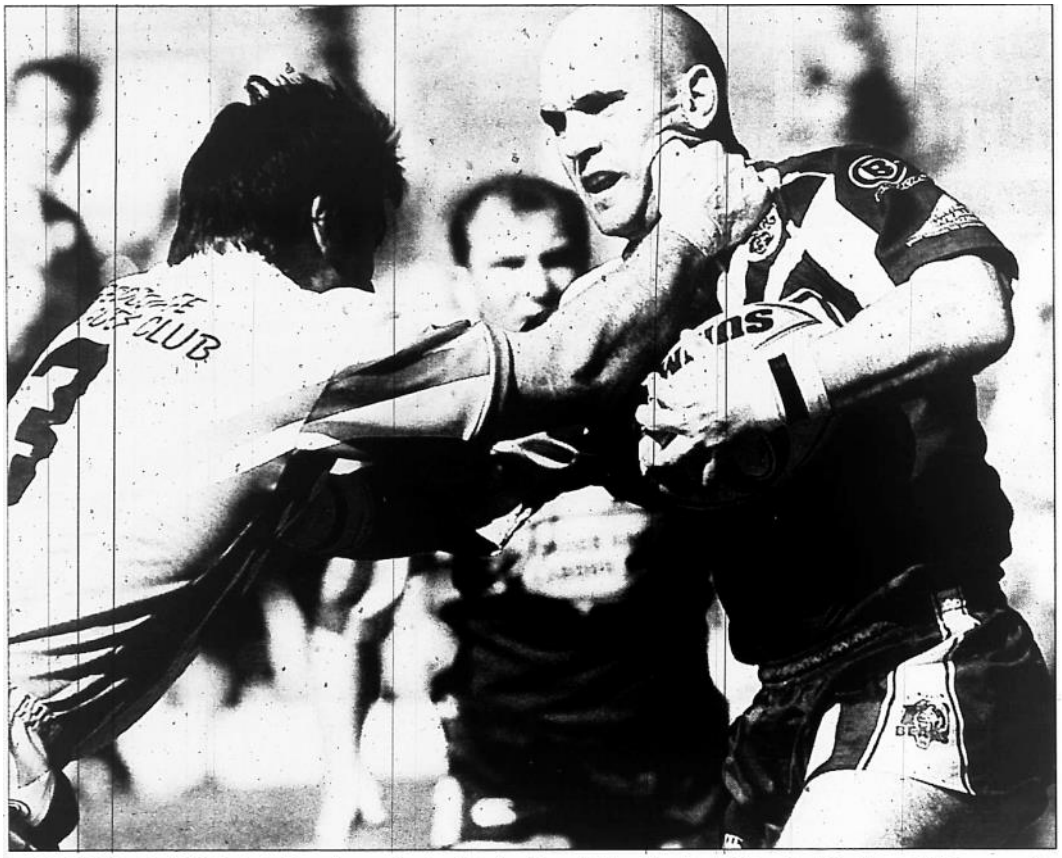
Then with the stiff wind at their back, the Dolphins produced a 40-20 kick, won a scrum against the feed and played with patience.

Nick Emmett again produced a try for Phil Shilvock with a flick pass, while an inspired Shannon Fish swept 50m to put Liam Georgetown over.

At 18-all Redcliffe controlled possession before Perry used the wind to land his field goal.

It seemed certain to be his second match-winning one-pointer of the semi-final series until Leis' quick thinking and Griese's reaction time intervened.

BURLEIGH 24 (Cressbrook 2, Leis, Hayden tries; Cressbrook 4 goals) d **REDCLIFFE 19** (Shilvock, Georgetown, Green tries; Georgetown 3 goals, Perry field goal).





RAMPAGE: Redcliffe's Greg Bourke confronts charging Bear Adrian Vowles, *(above)*, while Shane O'Flanagan's run is halted by the Dolphins defence at Pizzey Park yesterday *(below)*

2005

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTH QUEENSLAND 36 v BURLEIGH 6



DESPERATION: Young Guns halfback Brent McConnell lunges forward as Bears defenders fight to bring him down yesterday

Muspratt leads way with all Guns firing

By ANDREW DAWSON
at Suncorp Stadium

SELFLESS Shane Muspratt yesterday handed his historic premiership medal to a disabled friend after producing a try-saving tackle which set up the Young Guns' 36-6 Queensland Cup triumph over Burleigh.

The Bears, the defending premiers, were swamped in the last 10 minutes by the Young Guns, who turned a knife-edge 18-6 lead into a 30-point saunter.

It was the first premiership for the Cowboys organisation and the biggest margin in a Queensland Cup decider.

When Muspratt flew through the air to somehow prevent 105kg Aseri Laing from scoring a try 56 minutes into the match, the Young Guns led 18-6.

Burleigh had carried the ball through at least 15 pairs of hands, stringing the movement together from one sideline to the other, before Muspratt carted his weary legs across the field, lurching high towards Laing's collar and somehow dragging him on to his back.

Laing was so close to scoring that his head and shoulders fell over the try-line but the ball was left by his side, just short.

The inflated scoreline cannot erode the importance of Muspratt's tackle.

"I had to do it. He is a big man, Aseri, so I had to put my body on the line to stop the try," Muspratt said.

"It was a freakish bit of play by Burleigh.

"It was back and forth. The game was in the balance. You do not know what would have happened if they had scored then."

Muspratt's father Kevin was down from Ayr to watch his son. But even his smile paled into insignificance beside that of 13-year-old Cullam Bushell, who received Muspratt's medal.

"I have a man of the match medal. That is enough. He can have this one," Muspratt said, placing the medal around a beaming Bushell.

It was a wonderful moment which sliced through the grand final tension that had held a crowd of almost 7000 captive for 70 minutes before Burleigh's resistance broke. Muspratt's tackle on Laing, Dean Payne's tackle on Laing again, and Jaiman Lowe holding Reggie Cressbrook up over the line, were signs of the Young Guns' defensive desperation.

"Defence wins premierships and they were the better side," said Bears hooker Ryan Gundry.

Another key moment was when Young Guns winger Neil Sweeney scored 90sec before halftime when the Bears were in touch, trailing 6-12.

Laing had gone within 1m for Burleigh, but after possession changed hands the Young Guns refused to simply ruck the ball away from the tryline to wind the clock down.

Instead, Wallace Solomona backed his catch-and-pass skills under pressure and the result was a 90m counter-attacking try.

Solomona's pass put Burleigh old boy Brent McConnell away, enabling him to link with Sweeney.

"It was good sharp hands, bang, bang. We have backed ourselves throughout the year to do those types of things," Cowboys coach Grant Bell said.

Gundry added: "They were under the pump a bit just before half time and they scored that try and that broke our spirits a bit."

QRL GRAND FINAL

36 d 6

TRIES: Young Guns: D Myles 2, J Barsley, N Sweeney, S Muspratt, C Amos tries; N Sweeney 6 goals

Bears: T Leis try; R Cressbrook goal. **CROWD:** 6892



PARTY TIME: The Young Guns celebrate

Giant step for teen hero Dean

TEENAGE Young Guns winger Dean Payne refuses to be discouraged by the all-Origin backline blocking his NRL path, and is set to sign a new two-year deal with North Queensland.

Payne, whose try-saving tackle two minutes before half-time on massive Bears winger Aseri Laing was a turning point in yesterday's premiership, said his heart and head were in the north.

Standing in the way of Payne becoming an NRL regular are Cowboys wingers Matt Sing and Ty Williams, and centres Paul Bowman and Josh Hannay – all Queensland representatives.

But the grit which saw Payne haul down the 105kg Laing, a grizzly 22kg heavier than him, at a critical part of yesterday's grand final – when the Young Guns led just 12-6 – will see him stand his ground to try to muscle in on an all-star line-up.

"It is hard to break through at such a young age.

"When we have opposed (training) sessions on a Wednesday, you just learn from them," Payne, the younger brother of Cowboys hooker Aaron, said.

"They can't play forever."

Payne's crucial tackle produced a 12-point turnaround.

Seconds after Payne halted Laing, North Queensland's other winger, Neil Sweeney, swept upfield to score under the posts after quick hands by Wallace Solomona to Brent McConnell.

"It was just a spur-of-the-moment thing," Payne said about his tackle.

"We had done all the homework with Belly (coach Grant Bell). I knew (Laing) was a big boy. I looked at the program when I arrived and I saw he was 105kg. I just threw myself at him and I knew Mussey (Shane Muspratt) was there, and luckily we put him into touch."

Payne's tenacity mirrored the team's mind-set. Coach Bell said: "We did work very hard. Burleigh kept coming at us and coming at us."

— ANDREW DAWSON

Honours for past and present

THE old and the new of the Queensland Cup were recognised yesterday in the naming of the competition's team of the decade.

While the present batch of players, and incumbent Burleigh coach Rick Stone, were deservedly well represented, the competition's foundation years were not ignored.

Fittingly, Don Saunders – the Queensland Cup's first premiership captain – was rewarded with selection.

Saunders led the pre-Broncos Toowoomba side into the statewide competition in 1996, beating a favoured Redcliffe 8-6 in the decider.

Kyle Warren, the man who saved that grand final for the Clydesdales with an amazing tackle on Redcliffe's Peter Robinson, was selected on the bench in recognition of his feats as a fullback with Toowoomba and later as a tough second rower for Ipswich.

Names such as Valleys and Wests stalwart Alan Wieland, and elusive former Norths halfback Kevin Carmichael sit well alongside current stars like Trent Leis, Shane Perry and Danny McAllister.

David Maiden, another former Cowboy who qualified for this side by playing for the Cairns Cyclones between 1996-98, said he was not a patch on the "good kids" who play today.

"I see the Young Guns playing now and we were never that fit, strong and fast," Maiden said.

"Our competition was good and tough, but the professionalism now, you cannot compare it.

"I think it is a really tough comp.

"But it is nice to be honoured. I was lucky enough to make a couple of rep sides out of it.

"And from there I went to England for three years."

Maiden rates former Wests opponent Graham Strutton as his toughest Queensland Cup rival.

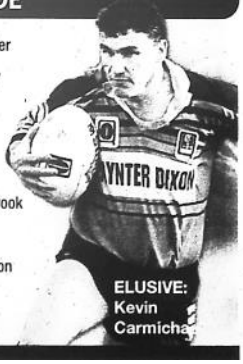
Among the players selected, Adam Mogg (Canberra) and Steve Bell (Melbourne) are currently playing in the NRL.

But many others tasted top grade football with clubs spread as far afield as the Cowboys, Perth, Adelaide, Gold Coast and the Crushers.

TEAM OF THE DECADE

1 Adam Mogg	10 Danny McAllister
2 Trent Leis	11 James Hinchey
3 David Maiden	12 Alan Wieland
4 Steve Bell	13 Don Saunders
5 Heath Egglestone	**Interchange:**
6 Shane Perry	14 Reggie Cressbrook
7 Kevin Carmichael	15 Kyle Warren
8 Troy Lindsay	16 Andrew Hamilton
9 Ryan Gundry	17 Sime Busby

Coach: Rick Stone **Ref:** Tony Maksoud



ELUSIVE: Kevin Carmicha

2005

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTH QUEENSLAND 36 v BURLEIGH 6



Front Row L to R: Jaiman Lowe, Gavin Cooper, Shane Muspratt, Daniel Strickland (c), David Myles, Mark Dalle Cort, Dean Limpus.

Middle Row L to R: Grant Bell (coach), Leigh McWilliams, Jason Barsley, Brent McConnell, Dean Payne, Clint Amos, Todd Wilson (manager), Gary Sleep (trainer)

Back Row L to R: James Anderson, Wallace Solomona, Charles Vis, Matt Scott, Scott Bolton, Rory Bromley, Neil Sweeney.

2005 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Redcliffe 23 def. Toowoomba 22
Qualifying Semi-Final: Burleigh 26 def. Norths 18
Minor Semi-Final: Redcliffe 33 def. Norths 10
Major Semi-Final: North Queensland 22 def. Burleigh 6
Preliminary Final: Burleigh 24 def. Redcliffe 19

2005 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTH QUEENSLAND 36 (Tries: D. Myles 2, J. Barsley, N. Sweeney, S. Muspratt, C. Amos; Goals: N. Sweeney 6) def. BURLEIGH 6 (Tries: T. Leis, Goals: R. Cressbrook)

2006

QUEENSLAND CUP: REDCLIFFE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Toowoomba	20	16	4	-	680	462	32
North Qld	20	14	4	2	604	392	30
Redcliffe	20	14	6	-	619	434	28
Tweed	20	11	9	-	473	455	22
Easts	20	10	8	2	505	490	22
Burleigh	20	9	8	3	429	435	21
Norths	20	8	11	1	538	570	17
Central	20	7	12	1	409	560	15
Wynnum Manly	20	5	12	3	483	562	13
Souths Logan	20	5	13	2	497	632	12
Ipswich	20	4	16	-	486	731	8

THE QLD WIZARD CUP DRAW AND RESULTS

R1:- 11/12 March

		SCORE
Sat. Easts v Central	2.30	32 - 10
Sat. Sths Logan v Norths	3.00	28 - 36
Sat. Wynnum v Tweed Hds	6.30	0 - 26
Sun. Toowoomba v North Qld	11.45	10 - 36
Sun. Burleigh v Ipswich	3.00	24 - 12
Redcliffe	Bye	

R2:- 18/19 March

		SCORE
Sat. Toowoomba v Tweed Hds	3.00	44 - 42
Sat. Ipswich v Redcliffe	4.00	12 - 34
Sat. North Qld v Sths Logan	6.30	44 - 32
Sat. Central v Burleigh	7.30	36 - 22
Sun Norths v Easts	3.00	28 - 28
Wynnum	Bye	

R3:- 25/26 March

		SCORE
Sat. Sths Logan v Tweed Hds	3.00	36 - 6
Sat. North Qld v Norths	5.30	36 - 16
Sun. Redcliffe v Central	2.30	38 - 30
Sun. Burleigh v Easts	3.00	4 - 16
Sun. Wynnum v Ipswich	3.00	10 - 18
Toowoomba	Bye	

R4:- 1/2 April

		SCORE
Sat. Easts v Redcliffe	3.00	22 - 48
Sat. Central v Wynnum	7.30	38 - 38
Sun. Tweed Hds v North Qld	2.00	54 - 16
Sun. Norths v Burleigh	3.00	24 - 18
Sun. Ipswich v Toowoomba	3.00	30 - 32
Sths Logan	Bye	

R5:- 8/9 April

		SCORE
Sat. Sths Logan v Ipswich	3.00	31 - 30
Sat. Toowoomba v Central	6.00	42 - 18
Sun. Redcliffe v Burleigh	3.00	36 - 10
Sun. Wynnum v Easts	3.00	26 - 44
Sun. Tweed Hds v Norths	3.00	20 - 14
North Qld	Bye	

R6:- 15/16 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v Redcliffe	2.00	26 - 64
Sat. Ipswich v North Qld	2.30	36 - 54
Sat. Easts v Toowoomba	3.00	24 - 30
Sat. Central v Sths Logan	7.30	16 - 26
Sun. Burleigh v Wynnum	3.00	14 - 14
Tweed Hds	Bye	

R7:- 22/23/29 April

		SCORE
Sat. *Tweed Hds v Ipswich	2.00	26 - 10
Sat. Sths Logan v Easts	3.00	30 - 18
Sun. Toowoomba v Burleigh	12.30	22 - 35
Sun. Wynnum v Redcliffe	3.00	12 - 40
Norths	Bye	
Sat. North Qld v Central	3.30	56 - 12

R8:- 6/7 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Easts v North Qld	2.00	16 - 46
Sat. Central v Tweed Hds	7.30	29 - 16
Sun. Redcliffe v Toowoomba	3.00	28 - 42
Sun. Burleigh v Sths Logan	3.00	24 - 24
Sun. Norths v Wynnum	3.00	12 - 34
Ipswich	Bye	

R9:- 13/14 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Wynnum	2.00	26 - 16
Sat. Sths Logan v Redcliffe	3.00	14 - 20
Sat. North Qld v Burleigh	4.00	20 - 12
Sun. Tweed Hds v Easts	3.00	26 - 24
Sun. Ipswich v Norths	3.00	38 - 36
Central	Bye	

R10:- 20/21 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v Tweed Hds	2.00	22 - 10
Sat. Ipswich v Central	6.15	14 - 28
Sun. Redcliffe v North Qld	3.00	16 - 14
Sun. Wynnum v Sths Logan	3.00	37 - 22
Sun. Norths v Toowoomba	3.00	10 - 42
Easts	Bye	

R11:- 27/28 May

		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Easts	2.00	24 - 38
Sat. Sths Logan v Toowoomba	3.00	18 - 44
Sat. North Qld v Wynnum	3.30	18 - 14
Sat. Norths v Central	6.30	26 - 14
Sun. Tweed Hds v Redcliffe	3.00	22 - 8
Burleigh	Bye	

R12:- 3/4 June

		SCORE
Sat. *Sths Logan v North Qld	2.00	22 - 40
Sat. Easts v Norths	3.00	18 - 36
Sat. Burleigh v Central	6.30	42 - 4
Sun. Tweed Hds v Toowoomba	3.00	24 - 32
Sun. Redcliffe v Ipswich	3.00	48 - 18
Wynnum	Bye	

R13:- 10/11 June

		SCORE
Sat. *Easts v Burleigh	2.00	42 - 10
Sat. Central v Redcliffe	7.30	6 - 24
Sun. Tweed Hds v Sths Logan	3.00	25 - 24
Sun. Norths v North Qld	3.00	12 - 22
Sun. Ipswich v Wynnum	3.00	36 - 26
Toowoomba	Bye	

R14:- 17/18 June

		SCORE
Sat. *Wynnum v Central	2.00	22 - 24
Sat. Burleigh v Norths	3.00	22 - 4
Sat. North Qld v Tweed Hds	7.30	44 - 6
Sun. Redcliffe v Easts	3.00	24 - 28
Sun. Toowoomba v Ipswich	4.10	70 - 10
Sths Logan	Bye	

R15:- 24 June 1/2 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Ipswich v Sths Logan	2.00	34 - 44
Sat. *Burleigh v Redcliffe	2.00	24 - 7
Sat. Easts v Wynnum	3.00	34 - 30
Sat. Central v Toowoomba	7.30	22 - 38
Sun. Norths v Tweed Hds	3.00	20 - 12
North Qld	Bye	

R16:- 8/9 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Easts	2.00	12 - 33
Sat. Sths Logan v Central	3.00	14 - 32
Sat. North Qld v Ipswich	4.00	42 - 36
Sun. Wynnum v Burleigh	3.00	42 - 20
Sun. Redcliffe v Norths	3.00	48 - 30
Tweed Hds	Bye	

R17:- 15/16 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Wynnum	2.00	18 - 40
Sat. Easts v Sths Logan	3.00	20 - 16
Sat. Central v North Qld	7.30	4 - 22
Sun. Burleigh v Toowoomba	3.00	4 - 26
Sun. Ipswich v Tweed Hds	3.00	10 - 38
Norths	Bye	

R18:- 22/23 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Wynnum v Norths	12.00	30 - 56
Sat. Sths Logan v Burleigh	3.00	32 - 32
Sat. Toowoomba v Redcliffe	3.00	16 - 34
Sat. North Qld v Easts	5.30	10 - 10
Sun. Tweed Hds v Central	2.00	40 - 22
Ipswich	Bye	

R19:- 29/30 July

		SCORE
Sat. *Burleigh v North Qld	2.00	24 - 22
Sat. Easts v Tweed Hds	3.00	16 - 24
Sun. Wynnum v Toowoomba	3.00	16 - 40
Sun. Redcliffe v Sths Logan	3.00	32 - 28
Sun. Norths v Ipswich	3.00	38 - 26
Central	Bye	

R20:- 5/6 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Toowoomba v Norths	2.00	42 - 34
Sat. Sths Logan v Wynnum	3.00	24 - 30
Sat. North Qld v Redcliffe	5.30	30 - 12
Sat. Central v Ipswich	7.30	40 - 20
Sun. Tweed Hds v Burleigh	3.00	20 - 24
Easts	Bye	

R21:- 12/13 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Redcliffe v Tweed Hds	2.00	40 - 10
Sat. Easts v Ipswich	3.00	30 - 50
Sat. Toowoomba v Sths Logan	3.00	48 - 22
Sat. Central v Norths	7.30	18 - 16
Sun. Wynnum v North Qld	3.00	26 - 26
Burleigh	Bye	

R22:- 19/20 August

		SCORE
Sat. *Norths v Sths Logan	2.00	64 - 10
Sat. North Qld v Toowoomba	5.30	6 - 22
Sat. Central v Easts	7.30	6 - 12
Sun. Tweed Hds v Wynnum	3.00	26 - 20
Sun. Ipswich v Burleigh	3.00	22 - 42
Redcliffe	Bye	

SATURDAY 24 JUNE — CITY 22 v COUNTRY 18

FINAL SERIES

Semi-Finals 1:- 26/27 August

Game A North Qld 8 v Redcliffe 22 (Winner to Game C, Loser to Game D)

Game B Tweed Heads 4 v Easts 12 (Winner to Game D, Loser Out)

Semi-Finals 2:- 2/3 September

Game C Toowoomba 56 v Redcliffe 22 (Winner to G Final, Loser to Game E)

Game D North Qld 18 v Easts 22 (Winner to Game E Loser Out)

Preliminary Final:- 9 September

Game E REDCLIFFE 30 v EASTS 16 (Winner to G Final, Loser Out)

GRAND FINAL - SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

TOOWOOMBA v REDCLIFFE

2006

2006 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

In the 2006 Queensland Cup the same 11 teams competed as did the previous season.

Despite their Broncos connection Toowoomba had struggled to be a premiership contending team since their Queensland Cup Grand Final win in 2001. That changed in 2006 when they surged to be minor premiers. Rounding out the top five teams were North Queensland, Redcliffe, Easts and Tweed Heads. Given their dominance it would come as a shock that this would be Toowoomba's final season in the competition.

In week one of the finals Easts knocked out Tweed Heads 12-4 and Redcliffe upset North Queensland 22-8 to advance to the major semi-final. North Queensland bowed out in straight sets when Easts beat them 28-18 in the minor semi-final. In what seemed to be a repeat of what happened in 2000 the Toowoomba Clydesdales thrashed Redcliffe 56-22 to advance to the grand final. Redcliffe set up a re-match against their great Queensland Cup rivals beating Easts 30-16 to set up the fourth grand final between Toowoomba and Redcliffe.

Like in 2000 Toowoomba would be hot favourites and, like in 2000, the underdogs would again triumph. Coached by future Broncos coach, Anthony Griffin, Redcliffe corrected their poor defence from 2 weeks earlier and defended stoicly including holding Toowoomba out for 4 repeat sets. Ben Vaeau powered over for Toowoomba to open the scoring but two tries to Turner and Cullen saw Redcliffe lead 12-6 at half time. After a Roberts field goal with 13 minutes to go two identical tries to Bromley and another to Shipway saw Redcliffe win their record 5th Queensland Cup title.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Easts 12 v Tweed Heads 4

Seagulls crash out

Ice-cool Tigers starve Murphy's men of ball

By ANDREW DAWSON

EASTS TIGERS	12
TWEED HEADS	4

TWEED Heads coach Steve Murphy has become the NRL's latest recruit, but even his expertise was unable to prevent the Seagulls' surprising exit from the Queensland Wizard Cup yesterday.

Easts toppled Tweed 12-4 in the elimination semi-final at Piggabeen, with spirited Tigers defence choking the Seagulls' aspirations in a scoreless second half.

Murphy is the Gold Coast's latest signing, joining head coach John Cartwright and his assistant Trevor Gillmeister on the Titans coaching staff for the club's NRL debut.

The highly rated Murphy coached Queensland Country earlier in the season. But yesterday was a day for veteran Easts coach Michael Booth, who lifted his charges for the occasion after wayward form leading into the match.

Just two weeks earlier Easts had conceded 50 points on their home ground to wooden-spooner Ipswich, but yesterday's defensive form belied that shock performance.

And one week before the loss to Ipswich, Easts lost 24-16 to Tweed Heads.

"We had a bit of an attitude change," Easts captain Matt Lockyer told ABC television.

"We applied ourselves a lot better at training with renewed enthusiasm and it paid off on the field."

Easts players raised their hands to make 196 tackles in the second half, 32 more than Tweed Heads had to make in the second 40 minutes.

Entering the match, Tweed Heads averaged 23.65 points a game, but yesterday was restricted to just four points, courtesy of a 50m solo try from James Wood, made possible by a Dean Allen flick pass in the 26th minute.

There was to be no other score.

In the first half the Seagulls used up much of their ball coming out of their own territory, with just two touches by dangerman Wood highlighting the Seagulls' conservative approach under pressure.

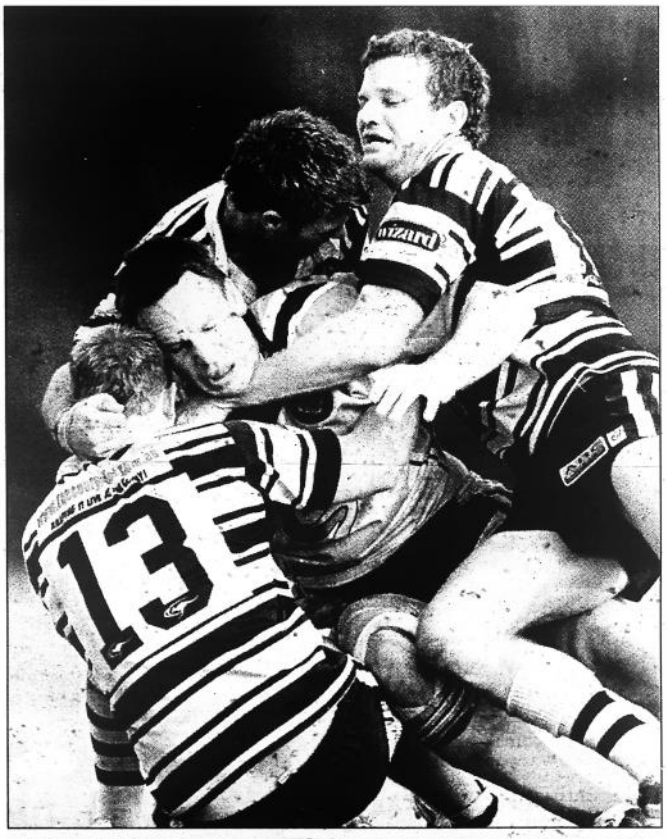
But it was a different story in the second stanza as Tweed applied enormous pressure in attacking situations.

Wood handled another nine times in the second half as Tweed went wide toward attacking aces Wood and winger Nathaneal Barnes.

But Easts had their rivals covered.

Tigers fullback Kevin Stephensen was ice cool on two occasions when tries beckoned, once tackling a stepping Brett Davis and on another occasion plucking possession away from Davis after the Tweed playmaker had threatened with a chip and chase.

EASTS 12 (Cantoni, McKenzie tries; Branighan 2 conversions) d TWEED HEADS 4 (Wood try).



HALTED: Easts' Cameron Durnford is well wrapped up by Seagulls players in yesterday's Wizard Cup elimination semi-final

2006

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 22 v North Queensland 8

Dolphins hit and run

DOLPHINS	22
YOUNG GUNS	8

Redcliffe: Ryan Cullen 3, Rory Bromley tries; Greg Bourke 3 goals.

North Queensland: Brenton Bowen, Jamie Frizzo tries.

At Townsville Sports Reserve.

Barry Dick
QLD CUP

REDCLIFFE consigned Queensland Wizard Cup premiers North Queensland to a sudden-death semi-final with a commanding 22-8 win at Townsville Sports Reserve yesterday.

Playing in hostile territory but with a couple of busloads of fans giving vocal support, the Dolphins led 6-4 at halftime before really establishing their superiority in the second 40 minutes.

Redcliffe stays on the road next week with a short turnaround before Saturday's clash with minor premiers Toowoomba in Toowoomba.

Fullback Ryan Cullen notched a hat-trick of tries for Redcliffe but coach Anthony Griffin was full of praise for his forward pack.

"The forwards were great . . . all of them," Griffin said. "They really set it up for the backs.

"We showed a lot more patience in the second half and it paid off.



SWARMING defence . . . Redcliffe centre Greg Bourke does his best to punch a hole through the Young Guns line. Picture: Cameron Laird

"We defended really well for the whole game but might have pushed things a little in attack in the first half."

The loss means the Young Guns will have to beat the improving Easts Tigers in the elimination final in Townsville on Friday night in the curtain-raiser to the Cowboys' final NRL match of the season against the Eels at Dairy Farmers Stadium.

Young Guns coach Mick Crawley said while it was "good for the club" that their two sides would be playing on the same night in Townsville, especially with the NRL clash being a farewell game for stalwarts such as Matt Sing and Travis Norton, his team would have gladly swapped it for a trip to Toowoomba to play the Clydesdales.

"We'd rather be playing in a qualifying final than a knockout final, that's for sure," Crawley said.

"Having said that, I suppose it's good that we played well enough all season to get in a position where we could afford to lose today and still be alive in the finals."

Crawley said poor ball control in the second half had cost his side.

"We went out in the second half and set ourselves to complete our sets and get to our kicks and all we managed was one completion in the first seven sets," he said.

The Tigers earned their shot at the Young Guns with a gritty 12-4 win against Tweed Heads in the elimination final at Piggabeen on Saturday.

The Tigers established a 12-0 lead after just 23 minutes and held on superbly from that point.

Easts scored after just 67 seconds when backrower Mark Cantoni crossed. There was more than a touch of controversy in the lead-up, with the Tigers awarded six more tackles from a deflected kick regathered by Marty Allen.

Halfback Luke Branighan set the platform for the second try, testing a short blindside late in the tackle count, finding winger David Tyrrell with a well-timed pass and then watching Tyrrell lob the ball inside for centre Mark McKenzie to score.

Tweed responded in the 27th minute with a long-range try to centre James Wood but the visitors recovered to make their way through to week two of the finals.

2006

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Easts 28 v North Queensland 18

Tigers to hit wall, coach warns

TIGERS	28
YOUNG GUNS	18

DEPARTING Norths coach Wayne Treleaven has commended Easts for an upset win over the Young Guns in the elimination final.

But he doubts the Tigers can beat Redcliffe into the Wizard Cup grand final when they meet next weekend.

Treleaven, in no rush to return to senior coaching ranks after leaving Norths this week, said the Tigers did well to topple the Cowboys' feeder side 28-18 on Friday.

"Easts are on a roll and you never know, but I can't see them beating Redcliffe into the grand final," Treleaven said.

"The top two sides are now Redcliffe and Toowoomba and that is a fair account of the way things are going."

However, Treleaven is well aware that momentum in finals football can move mountains and said the Dolphins did not have a guaranteed passage into the September 16 decider.

"Easts have good club spirit and Luke Branighan has a good, long kick on him. That is a strength," Treleaven said. "You get some momentum and it is good momentum.

"Easts also have a club atmosphere. They are stable whereas the Young Guns had players playing up (in the NRL)."

Treleaven, the incumbent Queensland under-19 coach, said he would like to continue in the role next season but was in no hurry to continue his Queensland Wizard Cup commitments.

EASTS 28 (David Tyrrell 2, Marty Allen, Steve Goodhew, Mark McKenzie tries; Luke Branighan 4 goals) **d NORTH QLD 18** (Mark Henry 2, Jamie Frizzo, Brent McConnell tries; Brenton Bowen goal) at Dairy Farmers Stadium.

2006

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Toowoomba 56 v Redcliffe 22

Hat-trick helps bury Dolphins

TOOWOOMBA centre Jamie Simpson yesterday celebrated his football with a stunning three-try haul — just three years after cancer threatened to claim his life.

The 20-year-old was part of a 10-try slaughter of Redcliffe in yesterday's Wizard Queensland Cup qualifying semi-final, with the Clydesdales winning 56-22 in Toowoomba.

The Clydesdales now move into the grand final to be played on September 16, with Redcliffe left to lick its wounds ahead of next Saturday's clash with a resurgent

CLYDESDALES	**56**
DOLPHINS	**22**

By ANDREW DAWSON

Easts at Dolphin Oval. In 2003 Simpson was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma while in Year 11 at St Brendan's College, Yeppoon.

Simpson had noticed lumps on his legs, but became more concerned when a lump formed in his groin.

The youngster faced the battle with such a positive attitude, that it was he who was reassuring people around him, rather than the other way around.

It is three years since his brave fight and there are no more worrying signs.

As a schoolboy Simpson had hoped to be a Cowboy, but the Broncos offered him a chance.

Two Simpson tries in three minutes just after half-time ensured there would be no Redcliffe recovery.

Yesterday Simpson finished superbly, but only after Greg Eastwood, Joe Clarke, Ben Vaeau and Joel Moon had dominated inside.

Vaeau was so dominant, he over-shadowed 17-year-old front-row sensation Dave Taylor.

Early on Eastwood, Moon and Steve Michaels looked like men playing against boys, with Moon brushing past defenders to score twice.

Toowoomba's ability to generate second-phase ball and support makes the premiership look like a one-horse race.

Another shining light was hooker John Te Reo.

TOOWOOMBA 56 (Simpson 3, Moon 2, Parfitt 2, Kemp, Michaels, Muckert tries; Parfitt 8 goals) d REDCLIFFE 22 (Turner, Flugge, Starr, Fish tries; Bourke 3 goals).



Picture: DAVID MARTINELLI

UNSTOPPABLE: Centre Joel Moon scores the opening try for the Clydesdales in Toowoomba yesterday

2006

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 30 v Easts 16

Dophins sweat on playmaker



QUICK STEP: Redcliffe's Greg Bourke moves to dodge the tackle of Tiger Cameron Durnford yesterday

REDCLIFFE is in the grand final but star playmaker Marty Turner faces a race against the clock to be fit for Saturday's Queensland Wizard Cup decider against Toowoomba at Suncorp Stadium.

The Dolphins went a step further than last season's narrow preliminary final loss to Burleigh when they downed a spirited Easts 30-16 at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

Redcliffe is now seeking to avenge last weekend's nightmare 56-22 loss to the Clydesdales, whose staggering form threatens to turn the final into a one-horse race.

Yesterday's game turned on a magnificent try-saving tackle by Redcliffe fullback Ryan Cullen on Easts No.1 Kevin Stephensen two minutes into the second half.

DOLPHINS	**30**
TIGERS	**16**

By ANDREW DAWSON

If Stephensen had scored, Easts would have hit the front, but within six minutes Redcliffe's Nick Emmett had scored his second try and the Dolphins had kicked clear.

Redcliffe may have to tunnel towards an upset victory in the grand final without halfback Turner (hamstring), an absentee yesterday for about 70 minutes.

Turner has been outstanding this season, covering for the unexpected loss of first-choice halfback Shane Perry to the Broncos.

In Turner's absence, Redcliffe's Michael Roberts was superb. Aided by Chris Fox and Danny Green, who was forced into a five-eighth role, Roberts engineered much of Redcliffe's play.

If he was not scurrying from dummy half, he was scheming at first receiver or kicking downfield.

Roberts sparked a wide right-hand shift for Rory Bromley to score, then drove a kick across the field of play to engineer Emmett's initial four-pointer.

Then in the second half Roberts sped out of dummy half to link with Fox, who put Emmett over again.

And an hour into the contest Roberts did it all himself, dummying left and right before plunging through a hole and diving over near the posts to ensure a Redcliffe victory.

It was a classy display from one of the competition's best.

"I enjoy playing a bit of first receiver because I am an old halfback," Roberts told ABC television.

Redcliffe led just 14-12 at halftime after Easts captain Matt Lockyer expertly sent Stephensen over to score five minutes before the break.

REDCLIFFE 30 (Emmett 2, Cullen, Bromley, Fox, Roberts tries; Bourke 3 goals) d EASTS 16 (Neumann, Tyrrell, Stephensen tries; Branighan 2 goals).

2006

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 27 v TOOWOOMBA 6

Heroic defence as Dolphins leap home

By ANDREW DAWSON

STOIC Redcliffe yesterday created another page in the club's proud history with one of Queensland rugby league's greatest grand final upsets at Suncorp Stadium.

Shovelling bucket loads of defence at the feet of opponent Toowoomba, the Dolphins prevailed 27-6 in a Queensland Wizard Cup decider few would have predicted.

Beaten 56-22 just two weeks earlier by the Clydesdales, the Redcliffe players tapped deep into both their own personal pride and the Dolphins' rich history, which has now netted the club five premierships in 11 years.

"We knew we had to defend well to win the game. It was what we focused on all week and it won us the game," said unheralded Redcliffe second-rower Danny Burke.

"We were going to do it for each other, keep covering inside and not let anyone down."

Redcliffe signalled its desire by keeping its line intact for 24 consecutive tackles during the first half as Toowoomba pounded away from close range.

Redcliffe's desperation was also underlined in three first half kick-chases, which pinned Toowoomba in-goal, forcing tryline drop-outs.

Twice Steve Michaels was caught by ageing centre Greg Bourke, while Clydesdales fullback Nick Parfitt was halted by an airborne Shannon Fish.

And individually, two try-saving tackles by Redcliffe fullback Ryan Cullen and hooker Michael Roberts underpinned the victory.

QUEENSLAND CUP FINAL

DOLPHINS	**27**
CLYDESDALES	**6**

Cullen dived full length to snare Jamie Simpson with an ankle-high tackle, while Roberts dislodged the ball from the grasp of Chris Muckert as he plunged over next to the posts.

"This team put on 56 points against us two weeks ago which goes to show you what a strong bunch they are," Redcliffe coach Anthony Griffin said.

Somehow there was always a Redcliffe body to confront a Clydesdales attacker any time danger threatened.

Roberts said: "That is what wins grand finals. We knew if we turned up in defence we would win the game because that is what we did not do two weeks ago."

Burke drew a target on the midriffs of boom prop David Taylor and winger Michaels, hitting the bullseye with inspiring second-half tackles when the game was in the balance. On a day of grit and grind, Dolphins centre Nick Emmett exuded sheer class.

After Redcliffe led 12-6 at halftime, a tense arm-wrestle saw it remain a six-point ball game until Roberts fired over the first field goal of his career in the 67th minute.

"It was good fun, the first one I have ever hit," Roberts said.

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 27 (Bromley 2, Turner, Shipway, Cullen tries; Bourke 3 goals; Roberts fld goal) d TOOWOOMBA CLYDESDALES 6 (Vaeau try; Parfitt goal) at Suncorp Stadium.





Pictures: DARREN ENGLAND, ANNETTE DEW

TEAM EFFORT: Delighted Dolphins players embrace after their historic win yesterday and *(inset)* celebrating with the Queensland Cup

Coach laid out simple plan to get revenge

REDCLIFFE'S upset of the decade was hatched two weeks ago, moments after the Dolphins had been beaten 56-22 by the Clydesdales in Toowoomba.

Redcliffe coach Anthony Griffin, who has established himself as a class act in the coaching stakes, did not weave any tactical masterstroke in anticipation of fronting Toowoomba again.

Instead he calmed the troops and uttered encouragement, easing any doubt which would leave the players short of confidence for the rematch.

The move was the first step in ensuring Redcliffe was mentally strong enough to put the major semi-final thrashing behind it.

"As soon as we got in the sheds two weeks ago, he (Griffin) said we will be stronger in two weeks," said Redcliffe's gun hooker, Michael Roberts, who was yesterday crowned official Queensland Wizard Cup player of the year.

"We knew we were in a strong position when we came here today.

"We have a great group of blokes here who love playing footy, and Anthony is a sensational coach."

Griffin recalled his address a fortnight back: "That was hard to take at the time, but everyone has a hack day and we just happened to have one at that time of the year," Griffin said. "But honestly, from the result, we never lost any confidence. We just dusted ourselves off and knew if we got through Easts, we would be a real good chance today.

"I just said to them at the time 'we will get them next time'."

Griffin, 40, who coached Roberts to a Redcliffe colts premiership eight years ago, has tasted NRL as an assistant coach to Mark Murray at the Melbourne Storm. His involvement again at the top level would seem a natural progression for the former Rockhampton Brothers prop.

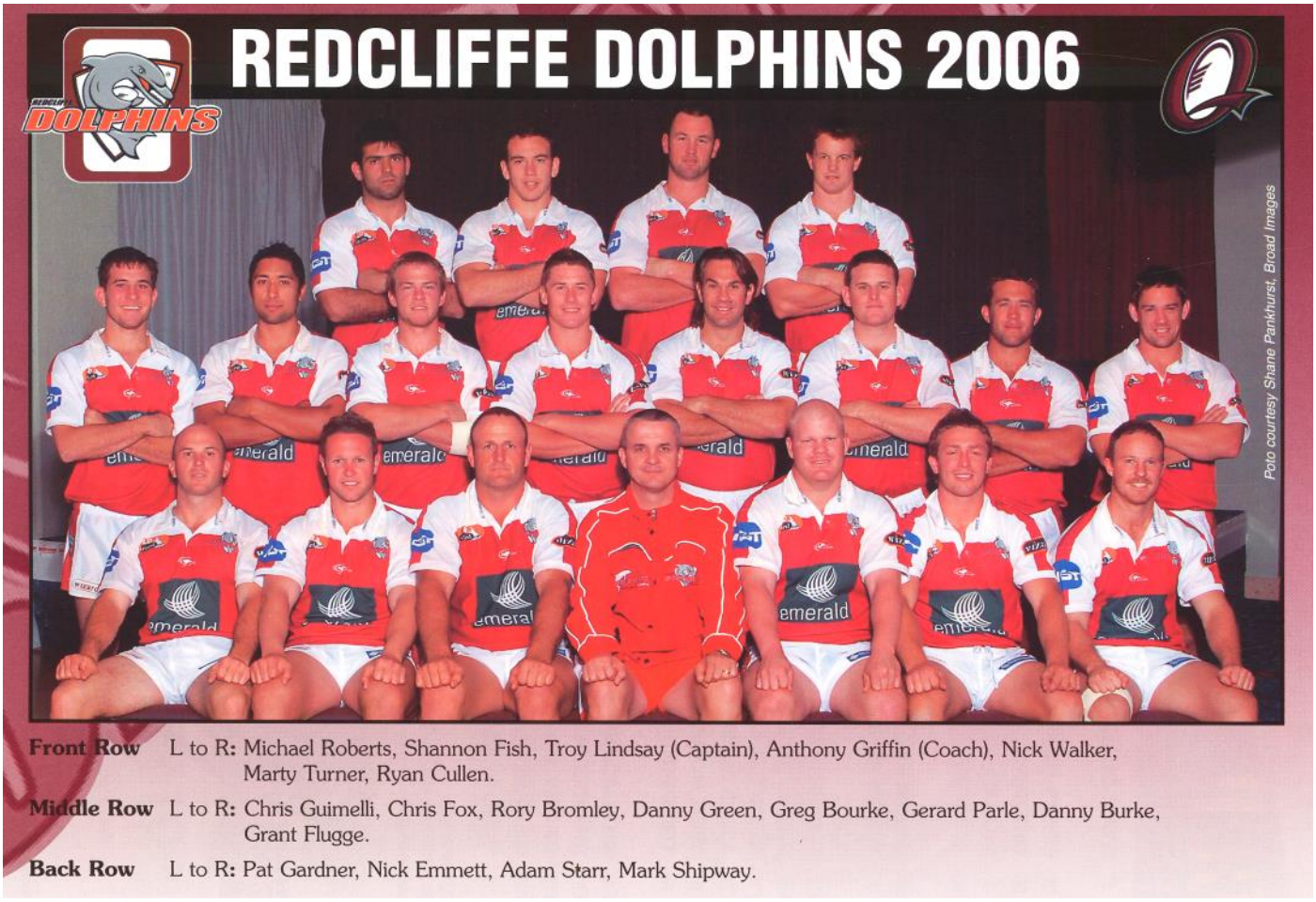
Online

Go online for more photos of yesterday's grand final action

NEWS.com.au/sundaymail

2006

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 27 v TOOWOOMBA 6



2006 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Easts 12 def. Tweed Heads 4
Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 22 def. North Queensland 8
Minor Semi-Final: Easts 28 def. North Queensland 18
Major Semi-Final: Toowoomba 56 def. Redcliffe 22
Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 30 def. Easts 16

2006 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 27 (Tries: MR. Bromley 2, M. Turner, M. Shipway, R. Cullen; Goals: G. Bourke 3; Field Goal: M. Roberts) def. TOOWOOMBA 6 (Tries: B. Vaeau; Goals: N. Parfitt)

2007

QUEENSLAND CUP: TWEED HEADS

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

		P	W	D	L	B	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Young Guns	20	15	0	5	2	566	365	**34**	+201
2	Redcliffe	20	14	0	6	2	496	338	**32**	+158
3	Tweed Heads	20	13	1	6	2	546	404	**31**	+142
4	Ipswich	20	13	1	6	2	510	400	**31**	+110
5	Easts Tigers	20	11	0	9	2	426	448	**26**	-22
6	Aspley Broncos	20	10	1	9	2	469	441	**25**	+28
7	Burleigh	20	9	0	11	2	550	478	**22**	+72
8	Norths Devils	20	8	1	11	2	507	524	**21**	-17
9	Wynnum Manly	20	8	0	12	2	399	519	**20**	-120
10	Souths Logan	20	5	0	15	2	384	580	**14**	-196
11	Central Comets	20	2	0	18	2	310	666	**8**	-356

2007 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 16-18
Fri: Aspley Broncos **12** l. North Qld Young Guns **22**
Sat: Easts Tigers **40** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **36** d. Central Comets **20**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **38** d. Ipswich Jets **12**
Sun: Tweed Heads **32** l. Norths Devils **46**
Redcliffe Dolphins bye

Round 2 - Mar 24-25
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **22** d. Aspley Broncos **12**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **40** d. Souths Logan Magpies **0**
Sat: Central Comets **8** l. Burleigh Bears **30**
Sun: Norths Devils **46** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **10**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **6** l. Easts Tigers **20**
Tweed Heads bye

Round 3 - Mar 31-Apr 1
Sat: Burleigh Bears **34** d. North Qld Young Guns **24**
Sat: Easts Tigers **42** d. Central Comets **28**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **14** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **34**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12** d. Tweed Heads **6**
Sun: Norths Devils **18** l. Ipswich Jets **38**
Aspley Broncos bye

Round 4 - Apr 7-8
Sat: Tweed Heads **34** d. Ipswich Jets **14**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **36** d. Souths Logan Magpies **18**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **38** d. Easts Tigers **18**
Sat: Norths Devils **24** d. Central Comets **18**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **16** d. Burleigh Bears **14**
Wynnum Manly Seagulls bye

Round 5 - Apr 13-15
Fri: Burleigh Bears **16** l. Aspley Broncos **29**
Sat: Easts Tigers **22** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sat: Central Comets **0** l. Tweed Heads **34**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **22** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16**
Sun: Norths Devils **22** l. North Qld Young Guns **32**
Souths Logan Magpies bye

Round 6 - Apr 21-22
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **24** l. Burleigh Bears **38**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **16** l. Easts Tigers **22**
Sun: Tweed Heads **10** l. North Qld Young Guns **26**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26** d. Central Comets **18**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **38** d. Norths Devils **22**
Ipswich Jets bye

Round 7 - Apr 28-29
Sat: Norths Devils **14** l. Aspley Broncos **42**
Sat: Easts Tigers **10** l. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **22** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **10**
Sat: Central Comets **18** l. Ipswich Jets **40**
Sun: Tweed Heads **20** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **30**
Burleigh Bears bye

Round 8 - May 5-6
Fri: Aspley Broncos **24** drew Tweed Heads **24**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **10** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **24**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **36** d. Easts Tigers **14**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **26** d. Norths Devils **24**
Mon: Ipswich Jets **25** d. North Qld Young Guns **24**
Central Comets bye

2007

Round 9 - May 12-13
Sat: Norths Devils **26** d. Burleigh Bears **18**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **52** d. Central Comets **20**
Sat: Tweed Heads **18** d. Souths Logan Magpies **16**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **12** l. Ipswich Jets **14**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18** l. Aspley Broncos **26**
Easts Tigers bye

Round 10 - May 19-20
Sat: Burleigh Bears **38** l. Tweed Heads **44**
Sat: Easts Tigers **26** d. Norths Devils **18**
Sat: Central Comets **18** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **22**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **12** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **18** l. Aspley Broncos **24**
North Qld Young Guns bye

Round 11 - May 26-27
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **46** d. North Qld Young Guns **32**
Sat: Tweed Heads **18** d. Easts Tigers **12**
Sun: Aspley Broncos **40** d. Central Comets **16**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **26** d. Souths Logan Magpies **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** d. Burleigh Bears **22**
Norths Devils bye

Round 12 - Jun 2-3
Sat: Norths Devils **24** l. Tweed Heads **30**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **26** d. Aspley Broncos **8**
Sat: Central Comets **20** d. Souths Logan Magpies **16**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **31** d. Burleigh Bears **24**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **8** l. Easts Tigers **20**
Redcliffe Dolphins bye

Round 13 - Jun 9-10
Sat: Easts Tigers **6** l. Ipswich Jets **36**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **20** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **4**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **28** d. Central Comets **10**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **20** l. Norths Devils **25**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **16** l. North Qld Young Guns **20**
Tweed Heads bye

Round 14 - Jun 16-17
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **24** d. Burleigh Bears **18**
Sat: Central Comets **10** l. Easts Tigers **30**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **26** d. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sat: Tweed Heads **52** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **30**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** drew Norths Devils **24**
Aspley Broncos bye

Round 15 - Jun 30-Jul 1
Sat: Ipswich Jets **10** l. Tweed Heads Seagulls **20**
Sat: Easts Tigers **26** d. North Qld Young Guns **22**
Sat: Central Comets **22** d. Norths Devils **18**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **20** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **38** d. Aspley Broncos **24**
Wynnum Manly Seagulls bye

Round 16 - Jul 7-8
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **40** d. Norths Devils **12**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **34** d. Burleigh Bears **28**
Sat: Tweed Heads **46** d. Central Comets **12**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **28** d. Easts Tigers **12**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26** l. Ipswich Jets **40**
Souths Logan Magpies bye

Round 17 - Jul 13-15
Fri: North Qld Young Guns **22** d. Tweed Heads Seagulls **18**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** d. Aspley Broncos **20**
Sat: Central Comets **16** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **38**
Sun: Norths Devils **14** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **28**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **38** d. Souths Logan Magpies **14**
Ipswich Jets bye

Round 18 - Jul 21-22
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** d. Central Comets **10**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **16** d. Norths Devils **8**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **28** d. North Qld Young Guns **16**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **22** d. Tweed Heads **18**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **12** l. Easts Tigers **34**
Burleigh Bears bye

Round 19 - Jul 28-29
Sat: Easts Tigers **22** l. Burleigh Bears **42**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **30** d. Ipswich Jets **12**
Sat: Tweed Heads **30** d. Aspley Broncos **10**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **30** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **10**
Sat: Norths Devils **40** d. Souths Logan Magpies **18**
Central Comets bye

Round 20 - Aug 4-5
Sat: Burleigh Bears **36** l. Norths Devils **54**
Sat: Aspley Broncos **28** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **31**
Sat: Central Comets **18** l. North Qld Young Guns **40**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **32** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **20** l. Tweed Heads Seagulls **40**
Easts Tigers bye

Round 21 - Aug 11-12
Sat: Aspley Broncos **16** l. Ipswich Jets **34**
Sat: Norths Devils **28** d. Easts Tigers **10**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** l. Souths Logan Magpies **42**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **48** d. Central Comets **0**
Sat: Tweed Heads **26** d. Burleigh Bears **20**
North Qld Young Guns bye

Round 22 - Aug 18-19
Sat: Easts Tigers **16** l. Tweed Heads Seagulls **26**
Sat: North Qld Young Guns **14** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **12**
Sat: Central Comets **28** l. Aspley Broncos **32**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **12** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **4** l. Ipswich Jets **52**
Norths Devils bye

2007

2007 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

After making their fourth grand final in 2006 Toowoomba folded after major financial difficulty. The Aspley Broncos were put into the Queensland Cup to act as the main Broncos feeder club for the 2007 season but this would be their only season.

North Queensland finished as minor premiers ahead of other finalists Redcliffe, Tweed Heads, Ipswich and Easts. The wheels fell off again like the previous season for North Queensland when they were bundled out in straight sets in the finals.

Ipswich knocked out Easts 18-16 and Redcliffe advanced to the major semi-final when they beat Tweed Heads 22-18 in extra time in week one of the finals. Tweed Heads thrashed Ipswich 40-14 in the minor semi-final and similarly knocked out North Queensland 34-10 in the preliminary final to advance to their first grand final. Their opponents would be Redcliffe who beat North Queensland 28-18 in the major semi-final and would contest their 9th grand final in 11 seasons of the Queensland Cup (Their 10th premiership grand final in 13 years counting from the 1994 BRL season).

Redcliffe opened the scoring with a try to halfback Chris Fox but Tweed Heads attacked well with the next three tries to Brad Davis and a double to David Myles to lead 18-6 at half time. A try to Emmett brought it back to 18-12. Tweed Heads' livewire fullback Shannon Walker then put the game out of Redcliffe's reach with 2 tries in 4 minutes, the second being a sizzling 80 metre try. Redcliffe fought back with a late try but in the end Tweed Heads won the grand final 28-18 to shock fans by taking the Queensland Cup south of the border into NSW for the first time in its history.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Ipswich 18 v Easts 16

One kick kills Tigers

Jets playmaker weaves miracle in final seconds

Peter Badel

THE booming right boot of Jets playmaker Josh Lewis piloted Ipswich to a miraculous 18-16 defeat of Easts in the Queensland Wizard Cup elimination final yesterday.

Contracted to NRL side Gold Coast, Lewis literally put the boot into Easts to end the Tigers' season in a sudden-death thriller at a rain-soaked QLD Group Stadium in Ipswich.

The Tigers looked to have kept their title hopes alive as they clung to a 16-12 lead inside the dying minutes of a genuine war of attrition.

But Lewis produced a magnificent 40-20 kick with 87 seconds left to give the Jets one final shot at the Tigers' tryline.

Lewis then delivered the killer blows, kicking wide for winger Ricky Dodd to score before landing the subsequent conversion to break Easts' hearts.

Playing just his second game for Ipswich, Lewis said his 40-20 attempt was a snap decision that paid off.

"I thought of it on the spot. I stepped back inside (the 40m area) and thought I'd try something and it worked out," said Lewis, who joined the Titans three months ago from the Sydney Roosters.

"Easts were probably the better side. Their kicking game was better, but hopefully we kick on from here," Lewis said.

Ipswich coach Kevin Walters' side now faces the loser of today's Redcliffe-Tweed Heads clash in next week's elimination semi-final.

In woeful conditions, Ipswich bolted out of the blocks to stun the Tigers with the first two tries.

In the 13th minute, centre Don Malone swooped on a Lewis grubber, and the Jets were in control when Jason Bulgarelli crashed over to make it 8-0 in the 25th minute.

But fifth-placed Easts hit back, with tries to Kevin Stephensen and a superb solo effort from Anthony Boyd giving the Tigers a 10-8 lead at halftime.

The Jets reclaimed the lead in the 49th minute, winger Dodd swooping on another precise grubber from Lewis for a 12-10 lead.

The seesawing continued when Easts edged clear, halfback Justin McKay lobbing a cross-kick for winger Steve Beattie to cross.

Matt Lockyer landed the conversion to give the Tigers a 16-12 advantage.

But the Jets never gave up hope and were rewarded for their grit thanks to Lewis's moment of inspiration.

IPSWICH 18 (Dodd 2, Malone, Bulgarelli tries; Lewis goal) d EASTS 16 (Stephensen, Boyd, Beattie tries; Lockyer 2 goals).



MUDBATH: A desperate wrestle at QLD Group Stadium ended in a thriller

2007

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Redcliffe 22 v Tweed Heads 18

Throw puts Dolphins in final doubt

Steve Ricketts
QUEENSLAND WIZARD CUP

FOUR Redcliffe players face nervous waits to see if they can play in Friday night's Queensland Wizard Cup major semi-final after being placed on report in Saturday's thrilling golden-point extra-time win over Tweed at Dolphin Oval.

Kaine Manihera, Daniel Green and Shannon Fish were reported by referee Clayton Sharp for a dangerous throw on Tweed winger Nathanael Barnes while forward Mark Shipway is in trouble for a high tackle.

The QRL's video review committee will look at the incidents today.If the players are charged they risk missing Friday night's clash with minor premiers North Queensland Young Guns in Townsville.

The winner will advance to the September 15 grand final.

Fish scored the winning try for Redcliffe four minutes into extra time after Redcliffe fought back from 18-10 down to level the scores through a try to winger Rory Bromley in the 71st minute and a conversion, and a 77th minute penalty goal by Alwyn Simpson.

"We could have just rolled over and died but the boys never stopped fighting," Redcliffe coach Anthony Griffin said yesterday of the 22-18 win.

"We might be underdogs against the Young Guns but we feel we can give them a run for their money," he said.

Easts is out of the premiership race after being beaten 18-16 by Ipswich in Saturday's elimination final at the North Ipswich Reserve with Ricky Dodd scoring a try on fulltime from a kick by Josh Lewis.

Lewis landed the sideline conversion to complete a memorable match for the Gold Coast Titans-contracted five-eighth.

Qualifying: REDCLIFFE 22 (M Harris, R Bromley, C Fox, S Fish tries; A Simpson 3 goals) **d TWEED HEADS 18** (J Wood, J Vaughan, T Maccan tries; B Davis 3 goals) at Dolphin Oval.

2007

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Tweed Heads 40 v Ipswich 14

Tweed flyer's triple shoots down Jets

A HAT-TRICK to Tweed Heads winger Nathanael Barnes grounded the Jets in the Queensland Cup elimination final yesterday and moved the Seagulls to within 80 minutes of a grand final berth.

Tweed Heads scored a convincing 40-14 victory over Ipswich at Piggabeen Complex with Barnes's triple, a double to centre James Wood and the radar-like boot of five-eighth Brad Davis ending the Jets' season.

The Seagulls next weekend take on minor premier North Queensland for the right to play defending champion Redcliffe in the 2007 decider.

North Queensland lost 28-18 to the Dolphins on Friday night.

The Young Guns will have to lift to repel a dangerous Seagulls outfit that showed yesterday it was capable of punishing teams below their best.

Tweed Heads raced to a 12-0 lead in as many minutes after capitalising on a number of Ipswich errors.

The Jets hit back through halfback Ricky Bird, but Barnes's second try put his side 20-4 in front at the break.

TWEED HEADS 40 (Barnes 3, Wood 2, Myles tries; Davis 8 goals) d IPSWICH 14 (Bird, Walker, Dodd tries; Lewis 1 goal).

Greg Davis

2007

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 28 v North Queensland 18

Dolphins surging as Simpson shows way

Matt Marshall
IN TOWNSVILLE

LAST year's grand final "Heartbreak Kid", Redcliffe flyer Alwyn Simpson, now stands just a fortnight away from a well-deserved taste of Suncorp Stadium.

Simpson posted two tries in just three minutes last night to help the Dolphins reach their ninth Queensland Cup grand final in 12 seasons with an impressive 28-18 win against minor premiers North Queensland in Townsville.

Simpson distressingly missed last year's title decider against Toowoomba after being hit by a car but 12 months on is poised to help Redcliffe's quest for back-to-back crowns in the September 15 title decider.

The state league's "September specialists" last night taunted the Young Guns.

A 10-minute stint with just 12 men was not enough to deny the gritty baysiders after a dazzling opening 15 minutes at Dairy Farmers Stadium caught the hosts on the back foot.

The five-time champions, buoyed by the return of hooker Michael Roberts and lion-hearted efforts from Ryan Cullen, Adam Starr and Troy Lindsay, advance straight to the grand final — yet again.

But the premiers face a nervous wait with high shots from trio Shannon Fish, Dan Joyce and Danny Burke all likely to attract attention while skipper Lindsay is nursing a shoulder injury.

"The culture of this club is phenomenal, we just seem to get stronger at this time of the year," Cullen said. "To beat the Young Guns at home any time is awesome, but to make a grand final, we're rapt."

The pulsating 10-point loss has meanwhile tossed North Queensland into next week's do-or-die preliminary final against the winner of today's knockout stoush between Ipswich and Tweed.

It was a dream start for the visitors, who found themselves ahead 16-0 just 15 minutes in, courtesy of Cullen and Simpson's quickfire double.

Tempers soon boiled over, Fish banished to the sin-bin in the 32nd minute after previous high shots landed teammates Joyce and Burke both on report.

Burke's shot forced Young Guns lock Jimmy Anderson from the field while Fish's absence allowed Young Guns winger Scott Minto to score out wide.

REDCLIFFE 28 (A Simpson 2 R Cullen M Harris C Fox tries A Simpson 4 goals) **d NORTH QUEENSLAND 18** (T Laesini S Minto J Nicolau D Backo tries J Nicolau goal).

2007

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Tweed Heads 34 v North Queensland 10

Grand Gulls stun Guns

Greg Davis

TWEED Heads stormed into its first Queensland Wizard Cup grand final with a 34-10 demolitionl of North Queensland in the preliminary final at Langlands Park yesterday.

The Seagulls earned the right to take on defending champions Redcliffe this Saturday after piling on six tries to two against the disappointing Young Guns.

Tweed Heads sent minor premier North Queensland crashing out of the playoffs with two straight losses to set-up a mouth-watering rematch with the Dolphins.

The Seagulls lost an extra-time thriller to Redcliffe a fortnight ago in the first week of the finals series and will take ominous momentum into the decider after convincing wins over Ipswich and North Queensland.

Tweed Heads led 18-10 at halftime and put the Young Guns to the sword in the 20 minutes after the break with three quick tries.

The loss signalled the Young Guns' last match in the Queensland Cup with the introduction of the national under-20 competition.

Centre James Wood, livewire fullback Shannon Walker and hooker Matt King — who claimed a double — all crossed in the second half and a penalty goal to skipper Brad Davis put the final nail in North Queensland's coffin.

Davis left the field late in the match with a suspected rib injury and the Seagulls will be desperately hoping their skipper is fit for Saturday's grand final.

The Seagulls took an eight-point buffer into halftime after scoring three soft tries against flimsy North Queensland defence.

The seesawing opening 40 minutes saw the sides trade tries in an error-riddled affair.

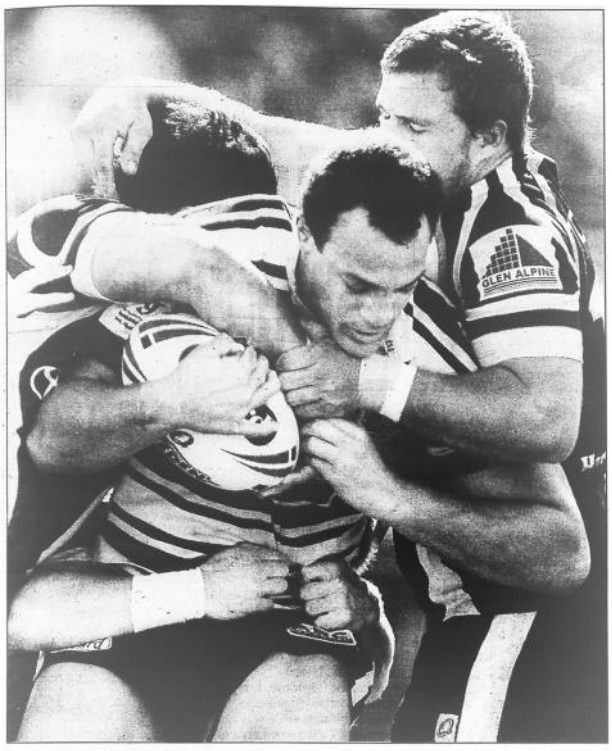
King scored in just the third minute after a lovely short pass from prop Roy Friend, but the Young Guns hit back soon after when flying winger Obe Geia burst on to a Shane Muspratt pass to cross out wide.

A simple scrumbase move reaped an easy four-pointer for Seagulls lock Matt Pow midway through the first half and handed Tweed Heads a 12-4 lead.

North Queensland backrower Keiron Lander crashed his way over to keep the Young Guns in the contest.

But that was countered by the Seagulls after a bullocking run from Chris Enahoro near halftime

TWEED HEADS 34 (King 2, Pow, Enahoro, Wood, Walker tries; Davis 5 goals) d NORTH QUEENSLAND 10 (Geia, Lander tries; Nicolau goal).



CALLING ALL HANDS: Tweed prop Chris Enahoro powers on Picture: **Nathan Richter**

2007

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TWEED HEADS 28 v REDCLIFFE 18

Upset as Cup heads south

Damien Stannard

TWEED Heads yesterday became the first team to take the Queensland Wizard Cup south of the border.

It was party time for the black-and-white faithful at Suncorp Stadium yesterday as their Seagulls upset defending premier Redcliffe 28-18.

Titans-contracted Shannon Walker exploded with a two-try, four-minute burst to turn an anxious 18-12 lead into a celebration.

It was a fitting end to the career of Tweed's David Myles who also scored a double in his last game before retirement.

However, the end was bitter for Redcliffe bookends Adam Starr and Troy Lindsay who also head into retirement.

Seagulls twin towers Chris Enahoro and Andre Amato laid the platform while unheralded five-eighth Brad Davis pulled all the right strings.

Redcliffe built its attack around the creativity of dummy-half Mick Roberts who, along with centre Nick Emmett, was eligible for the decider despite playing a handful of NRL games for the Broncos.

The Dolphins No.9 and fullback Ryan Cullen both were quick and clever enough to make easy metres around the ruck area.

Recognising this, halfback Chris Fox scored the first try of the game from a Roberts flat pass close to Tweed's line.

Elsewhere, Redcliffe's first half appeared disjointed, possibly due to the unfamiliarity of the new-look halves pairing of Fox and Daniel Green, and the recent absence of the club's Broncos-contracted players.

TWEED HEADS	28
REDCLIFFE	18

Seagulls: Myles 2, Walker 2, Davis tries; Davis 4 goals.
Dolphins: Fox, Emmett, Bromley tries; Simpson 3 goals

The Seagulls targeted Redcliffe winger Alwyn Simpson with a series of high crossfield kicks but had better luck after turning their attack back towards the centre.

Retiring centre Myles scored the first of his two tries from a Tim Maccan grubber that rolled into Redcliffe's in-goal.

And Davis, a master at underplaying his hand, challenged the Dolphins' line and came up with a strong solo try which he converted to give Tweed a 12-6 lead.

Tweed was full of steam after emerging from the break with a handy 18-6 lead.

However, it lost some of that momentum when second-rower Selasi Berdie was assisted from the field after taking a knock to his right leg.

For 54 minutes Redcliffe did a fine job of containing Tweed's livewire fullback Walker but the flyer put the game out of the Peninsula's reach with a stunning double in the space of four minutes.

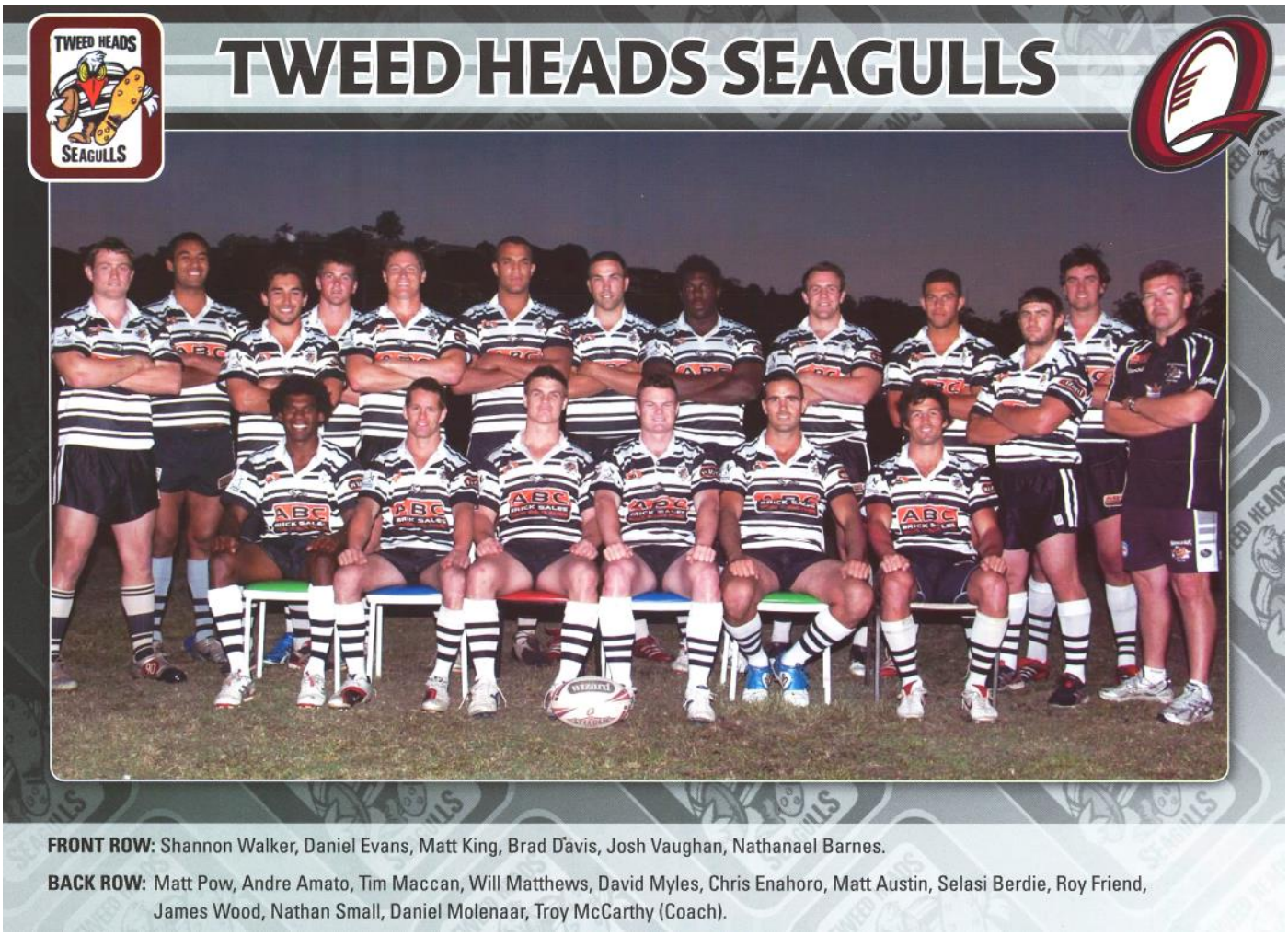
The second was classic Walker — an 80m sprint to the line by the 18-year-old.



EUPHORIA: Speedy Tweed fullback Shannon Walker *(top)* heads for the tryline, Daniel Evans *(right)* gets the edge in a kick and chase and *(above)* victorious Tweed Heads with the Cup Pictures: **David Kapernick**

2007

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - TWEED HEADS 28 v REDCLIFFE 18



FRONT ROW: Shannon Walker, Daniel Evans, Matt King, Brad Davis, Josh Vaughan, Nathanael Barnes.

BACK ROW: Matt Pow, Andre Amato, Tim Maccan, Will Matthews, David Myles, Chris Enahoro, Matt Austin, Selasi Berdie, Roy Friend, James Wood, Nathan Small, Daniel Molenaar, Troy McCarthy (Coach).

2007 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 18 def. Easts 16
Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 22 def. Tweed Heads 18
Minor Semi-Final: Tweed Heads 40 def. Ipswich 14
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 def. North Queensland 18
Preliminary Final: Tweed Heads 34 def. North Queensland 10

2007 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

TWEED HEADS 28 (Tries: D. Myles 2, S. Walker 2, B. Davis; Goals: B. Davis 4) def. REDCLIFFE 18 (Tries: C. Fox, N. Emmett, R. Bromley; Goals: A. Simpson 3)

2008

QUEENSLAND CUP: SOUTHS LOGAN

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

		P	W	D	L	B	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Ipswich	20	16	0	4	2	656	329	**36**	+327
2	Souths Logan	20	14	0	6	2	592	378	**32**	+214
3	Northern Pride	20	13	0	7	2	494	416	**30**	+78
4	Wynnum Manly	20	11	2	7	2	526	514	**28**	+12
5	Redcliffe	20	11	1	8	2	498	418	**27**	+80
6	Burleigh	20	11	0	9	2	528	506	**26**	+22
7	Easts Tigers	20	8	1	11	2	454	462	**21**	-8
8	Tweed Heads	20	7	1	12	2	507	535	**19**	-28
9	Mackay	20	7	1	12	2	416	488	**19**	-72
10	Central Comets	20	7	0	13	2	404	595	**18**	-191
11	Norths Devils	20	2	0	18	2	288	722	**8**	-434

2008 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 15-4
Sat: Tweed Heads **14** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **38**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** l. Burleigh Bears **30**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **34** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24**
Sat: Northern Pride **44** d. Mackay Cutters **16**
Sat: Central Comets **28** d. Norths Devils **18**
Souths Logan Magpies bye

Round 2 - Mar 22-23
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18** d. Mackay Cutters **10**
Sat: Easts Tigers **16** l. Souths Logan Magpies **32**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **40** d. Central Comets **10**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **18** l. Northern Pride **32**
Sun: Norths Devils **20** d. Tweed Heads **12**
Ipswich Jets bye

Round 3 - Mar 29-30
Sat: Tweed Heads **26** l. Burleigh Bears **28**
Sat: Northern Pride **46** d. Norths Devils **12**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **4** l. Ipswich Jets **16**
Sat: Central Comets **6** l. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **26** drew Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26**
Easts Tigers bye

Round 4 - Apr 5-6
Sat: Easts Tigers **40** d. Central Comets **4**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **0**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **8** l. Northern Pride **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26** d. Norths Devils **14**
Sun: Tweed Heads **20** l. Souths Logan Magpies **38**
Mackay Cutters bye

Round 5 - Apr 12-13
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **24** l. Northern Pride **34**
Sat: Easts Tigers **34** d. Tweed Heads **6**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **22** l. Mackay Cutters **24**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** l. Burleigh Bears **40**
Sun: Norths Devils **10** l. Ipswich Jets **60**
Central Comets bye

Round 6 - Apr 19-20
Sat: Burleigh Bears **20** l. Ipswich Jets **28**
Sat: Northern Pride **30** d. Easts Tigers **28**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **14** l. Norths Devils **22**
Sat: Central Comets **34** d. Tweed Heads **32**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **40** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24**
Redcliffe Dolphins bye

Round 7 - Apr 26-27
Sat: Norths Devils **10** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **44**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **18** l. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sat: Northern Pride **40** d. Central Comets **10**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **10** l. Mackay Cutters **32**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **22** drew Easts Tigers **22**
Tweed Heads bye

Round 8 - May 3-4
Sat: Easts Tigers **14** l. Ipswich Jets **36**
Sat: Tweed Heads **34** d. Northern Pride **4**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **22** d. Souths Logan Magpies **12**
Sat: Central Comets **24** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **34**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **62** d. Burleigh Bears **28**
Norths Devils bye

2008

Round 9 - May 10-11
Sat: Burleigh Bears **22** d. Norths Devils **14**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **20** l. Easts Tigers **40**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **54** d. Central Comets **16**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **14** l. Tweed Heads **64**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **26** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **6**
Northern Pride bye

Round 10 - May 17-18
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **6** d. Easts Tigers **4**
Sat: Northern Pride **16** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **12** l. Central Comets **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **8** l. Souths Logan Magpies **46**
Sun: Tweed Heads **25** d. Ipswich Jets **24**
Burleigh Bears bye

Round 11 - May 24
Sat: Ipswich Jets **16** l. Northern Pride **30**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **44** d. Burleigh Bears **12**
Sat: Easts Tigers **30** d. Norths Devils **16**
Sat: Tweed Heads **26** drew Mackay Cutters **26**
Sat: Central Comets **28** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **26**
Wynnum Manly Seagulls bye

Round 12 - Jun 7-8
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **4** l. Ipswich Jets **24**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **12** l. Northern Pride **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **18** l. Central Comets **40**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **26** d. Tweed Heads **10**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **4** l. Easts Tigers **26**
Souths Logan Magpies bye

Round 13 - Jun 14-15
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **34** d. Easts Tigers **14**
Sat: Tweed Heads **30** d. Norths Devils **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **0** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **26**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **30** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **36**
Sat: Central Comets **22** l. Burleigh Bears **29**
Ipswich Jets bye

Round 14 - Jun 21-22
Sat: Ipswich Jets **48** d. Mackay Cutters **6**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **34** d. Central Comets **24**
Sun: Norths Devils **24** l. Northern Pride **40**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **44** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **43** d. Tweed Heads **24**
Easts Tigers bye

Round 15 - Jun 28-29
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **22** d. Tweed Heads **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **28** d. Burleigh Bears **12**
Sat: Central Comets **18** l. Easts Tigers **22**
Sun: Norths Devils **6** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **34**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **24** l. Ipswich Jets **36**
Mackay Cutters bye

Round 16 - Jul 5-6
Sat: Burleigh Bears **32** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **20** d. Norths Devils **12**
Sat: Northern Pride **16** d. Souths Logan Magpies **12**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **10** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sun: Tweed Heads **32** d. Easts Tigers **12**
Central Comets bye

Round 17 - Jul 12-13
Sat: Easts Tigers **10** l. Northern Pride **26**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **22** l. Burleigh Bears **36**
Sat: Tweed Heads **20** l. Central Comets **22**
Sun: Norths Devils **24** l. Mackay Cutters **40**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **34** d. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Redcliffe Dolphins bye

Round 18 - Jul 19-20
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **16** l. Ipswich Jets **28**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **16** l. Burleigh Bears **22**
Sat: Central Comets **28** d. Northern Pride **16**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **28** d. Norths Devils **8**
Sun: Easts Tigers **20** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **42**
Tweed Heads bye

Round 19 - Jul 26-27
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **26** d. Mackay Cutters **22**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **38** d. Easts Tigers **22**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** d. Central Comets **12**
Sat: Northern Pride **20** l. Tweed Heads **34**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **24** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **30**
Norths Devils bye

Round 20 - Aug 2-3
Sat: Easts Tigers **22** l. Mackay Cutters **26**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **22** d. Souths Logan Magpies **16**
Sat: Central Comets **16** l. Ipswich Jets **38**
Sun: Norths Devils **12** l. Burleigh Bears **62**
Sun: Tweed Heads **46** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **22**
Northern Pride bye

Round 21 - Aug 9-10
Sat: Ipswich Jets **62** d. Tweed Heads **10**
Sat: Easts Tigers **32** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **26**
Sat: Central Comets **22** l. Mackay Cutters **46**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **36** d. Northern Pride **16**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **78** d. Norths Devils **8**
Burleigh Bears bye

Round 22 - Aug 16-17
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **32** d. Central Comets **22**
Sat: Northern Pride **20** l. Ipswich Jets **30**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **28** d. Tweed Heads **24**
Sun: Norths Devils **14** l. Easts Tigers **22**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **26** l. Souths Logan Magpies **32**

2008

2008 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

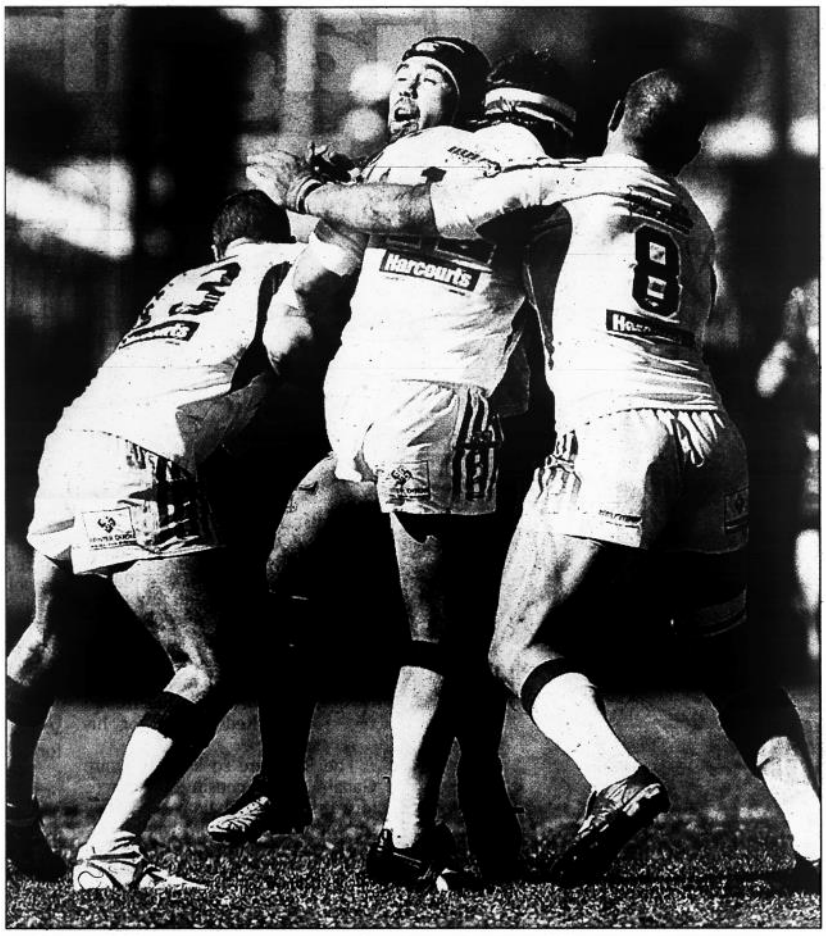
The 2008 Queensland Cup season would be the 100th season of rugby league in Brisbane following the start of the Brisbane competition in 1909. Fittingly, it would be won by the last remaining foundation club in the competition. The Aspley Broncos and North Queensland dropped out. In their place Mackay were re-admitted along with a new Cairns-based team, the Northern Pride.

Ipswich were minor premiers ahead of Souths Logan who, after finishing 10th in 2007, were finally receiving Canberra fringe players to bolster their side. One reporter noted that they had changed quicker than Superman in a phone booth. Northern Pride finished in 3rd place going into the finals and thrashed Souths Logan 40-16 in the Qualifying semi-final. Souths Logan bounced back in the minor semi-final to beat Redcliffe 16-14. Souths Logan had a great 16-12 victory against the Northern Pride in extra time to make their first Queensland Cup Grand Final against Ipswich.

In front of a passionate crowd of nearly 7 000 at North Ipswich Reserve, Souths Logan got off to a blistering start with 3 tries which saw them shoot to an early 18-0 lead. Ipswich stormed back to level scores 18-all with 10 minutes to go. On the last tackle in the last minute, halfback Alby Talipeau ran the blind side and passed to centre Kyle Lodge, who had scored the try in extra time against the Pride. He surged to the line and was almost tackled but slipped the tackle just before they both came to the ground. That brief release saw him then put the ball over the line. After what seemed an eternity, a try was awarded to give Souths Logan victory over Ipswich 24-18 to win the 2008 Queensland Cup - a great way to celebrate 100 years.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Redcliffe 50 v Wynnum 16

Dolphin demolition



PACK ATTACK: Three Dolphins shut down Wynnum's Jason Williams Picture: **Jeff Camden**

Redcliffe mauls tackle-shy Gulls

Greg Davis

A MERCURIAL display from halfback Shane Perry and a 30-point haul from winger Liam Georgetown guided Redcliffe to a shock 50-16 thrashing of Wynnum-Manly in the Queensland Wizard Cup elimination final yesterday.

The Dolphins will live to fight another day when they take on the loser of today's qualifying final between Souths Logan and the Northern Pride at Davies Park next weekend.

However, the Seagulls' 2008 campaign is over after the home side's defensive deficiencies came back to haunt them in the Battle of the Bayside at Kougari Oval.

Wynnum had the worst defensive record of the five Queensland Cup finalists going into the playoffs and the Dolphins made it pay for its 35 missed tackles with a brutal attacking display.

Redcliffe led 20-12 at halftime and it did not get any better for the Seagulls in the second half as the Dolphins went on a rampage.

The Seagulls went into the game as heavy favourites after Redcliffe only edged into the finals but the Dolphins showed why they have been a competition powerhouse for the past decade.

Perry had a hand in six of Redcliffe's eight tries. The former Broncos playmaker scored two, threw the last pass for two more and put up menacing kicks for another two.

The 2006 NRL grand final-winning halfback rated his and Redcliffe's effort as the best of the year and showed the club was a legitimate threat in the finals series.

"We believe that we can go pretty deep into the finals. We'll take next week as it comes and hopefully we can get a win and keep on going," Perry said.

"It's the best we've put things together all year."

Flying winger Georgetown had a day out on the right flank, crossing for three tries and knocking over nine goals for the Dolphins.

REDCLIFFE 50 (Georgetown 3, Perry 2, Flugge, Wapau, Cullen tries; Georgetown 9 goals) d WYNNUM MANLY 16 (Brown, Bain, Te Reo tries; Birch 2 goals).

2008

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - North Queensland 40 v Souths Logan 16

Pride outguns Magpies in finals shock

QUALIFYING SEMI-FINAL

NORTHERN PRIDE 40 (Chey Bird, Hezron Murgha, Jamie Frizzo, Josh Vaughan, Mark Cantoni, Luke Harlen tries; Chey Bird 8 goals) d **SOUTHS LOGAN 16** (Nigel Plum 2, Quentin Laulu Togagae tries; Tim Cannard 2 goals) at Davies Park.



STARTLING finals debut ... Northern Pride forward Mark Cantoni breaks through a brittle Souths Logan line during yesterday's shock 40-16 win at Davies Park. Picture: **David Kapernick**

Karl deKroo
QUEENSLAND CUP

THEY are the new kids on the Queensland Cup block, but Northern Pride showed nerves of steel in its first finals foray yesterday, scoring a shock 40-16 win over Souths Logan at Davies Park yesterday.

With experienced halfback Chris Sheppard calling the shots and Cowboys-contracted back-rower Scott Bolton in blockbusting form, the Pride set up a major semi-final meeting with minor premier Ipswich at Briggs Rd next weekend.

The Pride flew out of the gates early and led 14-0 before Souths Logan showed some fight, two tries directly after halftime handing the Magpies a 16-14 lead.

But a series of elementary errors proved costly for the home side as the Pride rallied to come away with a convincing win.

Fullback Chey Bird finished with a 20-point haul, kicking eight goals and scoring the final try of the match.

"I thought it was a really strong performance," Pride coach Andrew Dunemann said.

"Chris Sheppard guided us around really well again. I think his class showed and Bolton was outstanding.

"We normally only get him a day before the game, but he trained all three sessions this week and played a great game.

"We'll go into next week with a bit of confidence. We played Ipswich two weeks ago and I thought we were the better team for most the game."

Souths Logan must now regroup ahead of the minor semi-final meeting with a resurgent Redcliffe at Meakin Park.

After sneaking into the finals in fifth place, Redcliffe proved far too strong for Wynnum Manly, thrashing the Seagulls 50-16 in a one-sided affair at Kougari Oval on Saturday.

Week 2 finals on Saturday:
Major semi: Ipswich Jets v Northern Pride, Briggs Rd Sporting Complex, 2pm.
Minor semi: Souths Logan Magpies v Redcliffe Dolphins, Meakin Park, 3pm.

2008

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Ipswich 34 v Northern Pride 16 &
QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Souths Logan 16 v Redcliffe 14

Soaring Jets fly into grand final

Greg Davis

IPSWICH is the first team through to the Queensland Wizard Cup grand final after the Jets soared past the Northern Pride in the major semi-final at Briggs Road yesterday.

The minor premiers trailed the Cairns-based side 10-6 midway through the first half but Ipswich put on the afterburners to claim a 34-16 victory and secure a berth in the season showpiece.

The Pride will play Souths Logan in next weekend's preliminary final to decide who takes on the Kevin Walters-coached Jets in the decider at the North Ipswich Reserve on September 13.

In yesterday's elimination final, goalkicking proved to be the difference as Souths Logan downed Redcliffe 16-14 to end the Dolphins' 2008 campaign.

Both sides scored three tries but the Magpies kicked two goals to one to set up a rematch with the Pride, who beat the Magpies 40-16 in last week's qualifying final.

It will be the Jets' first appearance in the Queensland Cup grand final since 2002 and victory would give Walters — one of Ipswich's favourite sons — a fairytale farewell before he takes up the head coaching job with the Catalans Dragons in the English Super League.

The frightening proposition for the remaining teams in the competition is that the Jets barely got out of third gear yesterday, with poor handling and ill-discipline ensuring the home side was below its best.

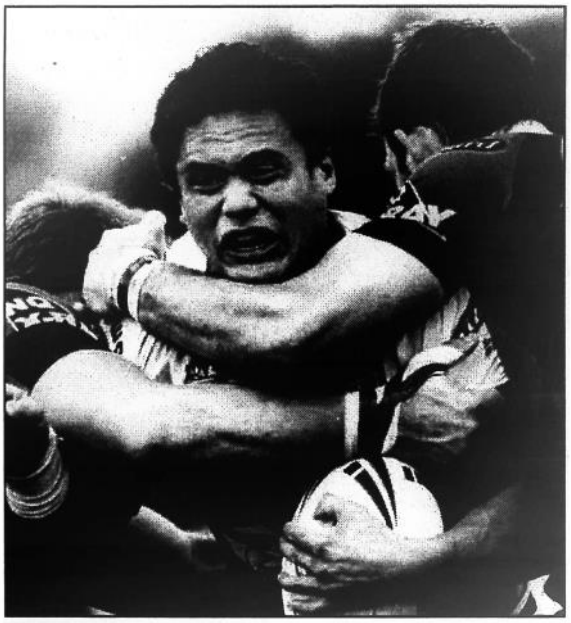
It took the best part of 20 minutes for the Jets to get rid of their rust. However, when they put it all together, they were too strong.

The Pride grabbed the early lead when winger Hezron Murgha crossed in the eighth minute but the Jets hit back when five-eighth Josh Lewis scored a 60m intercept try.

Firebrand Ipswich prop Aaron Sweeney was sent to the sin bin in the 15th minute and the Pride took full advantage with centre Josh Vaughan scoring out wide to build a 10-6 buffer.

IPSWICH 34 (Ireland 2, Lewis, Lingwoodock, Coghill, Malone tries; Lewis 5 goals) d NORTHERN PRIDE 16 (Murgha, Vaughan, Frizzo tries; Bird 2 goals).

SOUTHS LOGAN 16 (Lodge, Moylan, Cross tries. White, Cannard goals) d REDCLIFFE 14 (Cullen, Georgetown, Flugge tries. Georgetown goal).



REAL ARMFUL: Ipswich's Isaak Ah Mau tries to force his way through Picture: **David Kapernick**

2008

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Souths Logan 16 v North Queensland 12

Magpies soar in extra time

Greg Davis

A TRY in the ninth minute of golden point extra time to centre Kyle Lodge earned Souths Logan its first Queensland Wizard Cup grand final berth in a thrilling preliminary final at Langlands Park yesterday.

The Magpies defeated a brave Northern Pride 16-12 in a nail-biter to go through to this Saturday's decider against Ipswich at the North Ipswich Reserve.

Souths Logan had not beaten the Cairns-based Pride all year and lost 40-16 to the Cowboys feeder club just two weeks ago in a qualifying final.

But yesterday the Magpies were never headed by the Pride and showed more poise in the final frenetic moments to snatch victory, with Lodge taking full advantage of an overlap.

Souths Logan led 12-8 with two minutes to go but Pride centre Jackson Nicolau scored from a bomb to level the scores and send the match into extra time.

Pride fullback Chey Bird had a conversion attempt from the sideline to win the game but the blustery conditions at Langlands Park made the kick virtually impossible.

Magpies fullback Quentin Laulu Togagae was a standout for Souths Logan, scoring one try and stopping another two with last-ditch tackles.

While the Magpies will be delighted with yesterday's result, they will be sweating on the availability of two key players for the season showpiece against the Jets.

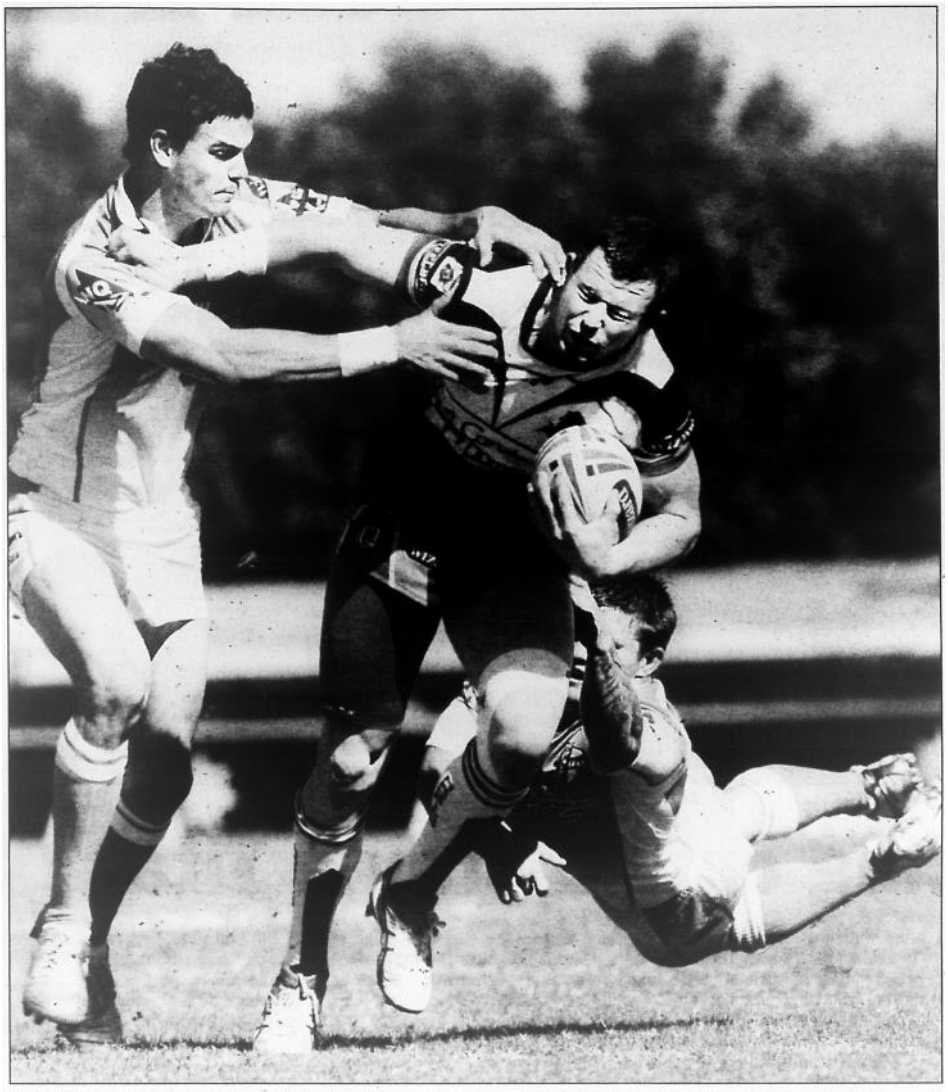
Hard-hitting back-rower Ben Jones was taken from the field with a knee injury while playmaker Phil Dennis went on report for a high tackle.

The teams were locked at 4-all at halftime after Lodge and Pride winger Hezron Murgha traded tries in a tense opening period.

Togagae's try and a penalty goal to Josh White gave the Magpies what appeared a match-winning buffer.

But Luke Harlen and Nicolau kept the Pride in the contest by crossing in the dying stages.

SOUTHS LOGAN 16 (Lodge 2, Laulu Togagae tries. Cannard, White goals) d NORTHERN PRIDE 12 (Murgha, Harlen, Nicolau tries).



GOTCHA: The Pride's Jackson Nicolau *(left)* helps bring down Chad Grintell yesterday Picture: **David Kapernick**

2008

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS LOGAN 24 v IPSWICH 18

MAG-NIFICENT

Kevvie misses his fairytale as the Jets crash

Damien Stannard

KEVIN Walters' hopes of coaching Ipswich to a Queensland Cup title will, for now, remain just a dream.

In his farewell match at the helm of the Jets, the hometown hero was denied by Souths Logan Magpies who were in raptures after claiming a 24-18 win in yesterday's grand final at North Ipswich Reserve.

The Jets trailed for most of the game but stormed back to level the scores at 18-all with less than 10 minutes remaining.

It took an act of brilliance in the 80th minute from man-of-the-match Alby Talipeau to settle the premiership.

With the rest of the Magpies prepared for a field goal attempt, the halfback ran the ball before sending centre Kyle Lodge over for a try.

"I just took a chance, looked up and saw some gaps," the Duncan Hall Medallist said.

"They didn't know I was going to do that. There was a hole and I backed myself."

Souths' punishing defence made the difference. It rattled Ipswich and the Jets did well just to ensure the game was still alive in the 80th minute.

Walters, who has signed to coach Catalans Dragons in the English Super League, had no complaints.

"We weren't up to scratch today. Souths deserved their victory," the former Broncos five-eighth said.

"We did well to get back in the game. But it didn't happen. It wasn't to be."

Front-rower Aaron Sweeney recovered from a jolting hit in the first tackle to play a gargantuan role for the Jets.

He scored a long-range try and went close to notching a double to be Ipswich's best.

While the outcome was disappointing for Ipswich supporters, the day was a winner for the city and the QRL.

Forced to move from Suncorp Stadium due to last night's Bledisloe Cup match, the QRL was beaming after more than 6000 people provided a carnival atmosphere.

Ipswich, although on its home turf, started the game nervously.

Sweeney's loose carry and dropped ball in the first set seemed to encourage the Magpies to hit even harder.

A try to Souths forward Cy Lasscock in the second minute was followed by another error when Ipswich pivot Josh Lewis put the restart out on the full.

It was not one of Lewis's best outings and he took some low-percentage options when the game was on the line.

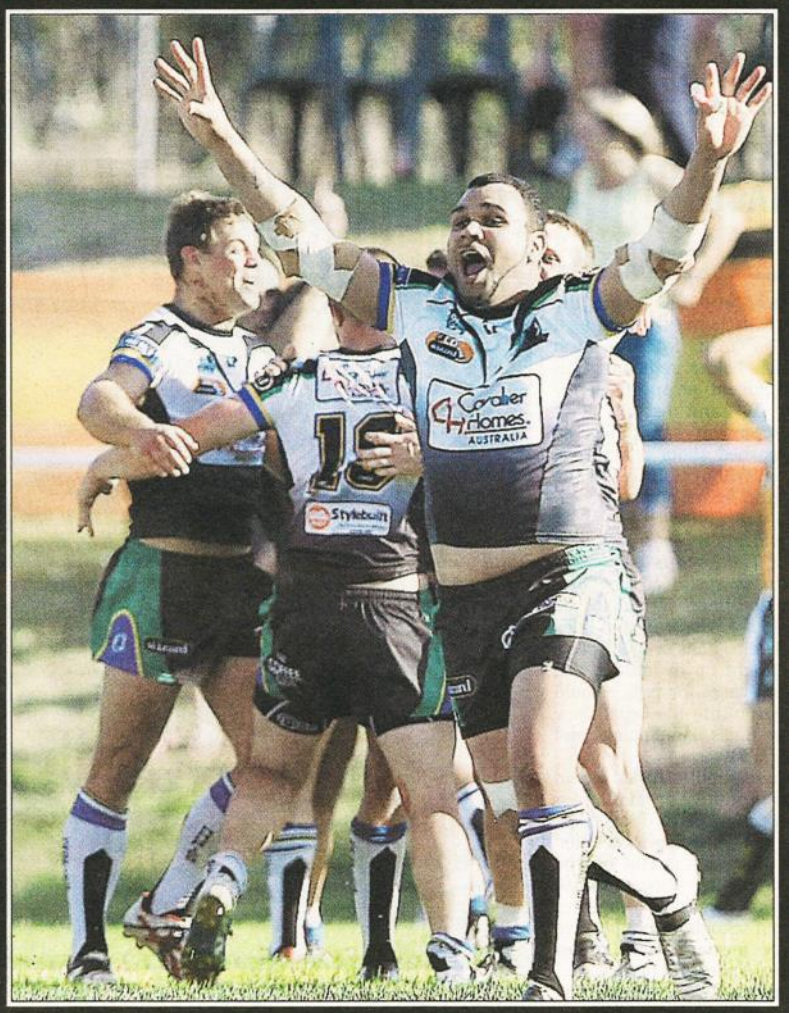
The Jets' jitters appeared over in the second half after Sweeney and hooker Michael Ryan helped settle their side.

A period of sustained pressure yielded three unanswered tries for the home side.

The Magpies bench fumed after Lewis's conversion of the second try was awarded, believing the kick had not made it through the uprights.

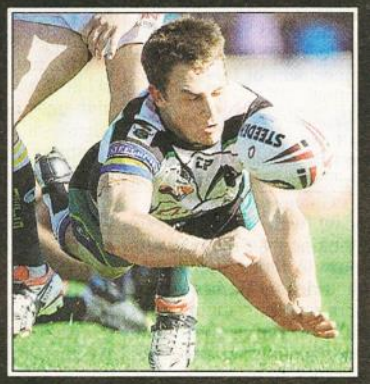
But the controversial decision did not play a lead role in the result.

SOUTHS LOGAN 24 (Lasscock, Gibson, Templeman, Lodge tries; Cannard 2, White 2 goals) d IPSWICH 18 (Ryan, Malone, Sweeney tries; Lewis 3 goals).



PHIL'S GOOD: Magpie Phil Dennis celebrates victory Pictures: Peter Wallis





ALL ACTION: Tempers flare *(left)* and McKanah Gibson takes his eyes off the ball

THE SUNDAY MAIL September 14, 2008

2008

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS LOGAN 24 v IPSWICH 18





SA152246

■ Jane Villetri, Dennis Brennan and Barry and Marion Larkin.



Below: Kyle Lodge scores the winning try in the last minute of the game on the last tackle.





2008

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS LOGAN 24 v IPSWICH 18



Above: Jim McClelland, Lyra Lister and Mohammed Allouche hold the 2008 Queensland Cup



Above: Mohammed Allouche leads the team victory song.



Above: The Queensland Cup runneth over with beer as CEO, Jim McClelland, pours in another can of XXXX.

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS LOGAN 24 v IPSWICH 18



2008 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Redcliffe 50 def. Wynnum 16
Qualifying Semi-Final: Northern Pride 40 def. Souths Logan 16
Minor Semi-Final: Souths Logan 16 def. Redcliffe 14
Major Semi-Final: Ipswich 34 def. Northern Pride 16
Preliminary Final: Souths Logan 16 def. Northern Pride 12

2008 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

SOUTHS LOGAN 24 (Tries: C. Lasscock, M. Gibson, M. Templeman, K. Lodge; Goals: T. Cannard 2, J. White) def. IPSWICH 18 (Tries: M. Ryan, D. Malone, A. Sweeney; Goals: J. Lewis 3)

2009

QUEENSLAND CUP: SUNSHINE COAST

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

		P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	**Souths Logan**	22	16	0	6	711	434	**32**	+277
2	**Pride**	22	14	0	8	564	445	**28**	+119
3	**Central Comets**	22	13	0	9	508	499	**26**	+9
4	**Sunshine Coast**	22	12	1	9	562	508	**25**	+54
5	**Norths Devils**	22	11	0	11	559	524	**22**	+35
6	**Tweed Heads**	22	11	0	11	525	515	**22**	+10
7	Burleigh	22	11	0	11	445	517	**22**	-72
8	Ipswich	22	9	1	12	445	454	**19**	-9
9	Easts Tigers	22	9	1	12	451	538	**19**	-87
10	Wynnum Manly	22	9	0	13	484	548	**18**	-64
11	Dolphins	22	7	2	13	472	518	**16**	-46
12	Mackay	22	7	1	14	315	541	**15**	-226

2009 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 14-15
Sat: Easts Tigers **14** l. Norths Devils **40**
Sat: Tweed Heads **30** d. Northern Pride **20**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **10** l. Mackay Cutters **18**
Sat: Central Comets **27** d. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **6** l. Burleigh Bears **28**

Round 2 - Mar 21-22
Sat: Ipswich Jets **20** l. Northern Pride **28**
Sat: Norths Devils **46** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **26**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **44** d. Tweed Heads **18**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26** d. Central Comets **24**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **34** d. Easts Tigers **16**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **6** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **32**

Round 3 - Mar 28-29
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **20** d. Ipswich Jets **18**
Sat: Central Comets **22** d. Tweed Heads **10**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **16** l. Mackay Cutters **22**
Sat: Northern Pride **19** d. Easts Tigers **18**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **42** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **28** d. Norths Devils **14**

Round 4 - Apr 4-5
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12** l. Norths Devils **24**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** l. Souths Logan Magpies **32**
Sat: Northern Pride **14** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **16**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **6** l. Burleigh Bears **15**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **10** l. Central Comets **34**
Sun: Tweed Heads **32** d. Ipswich Jets **20**

Round 5 - Apr 11-12
Sat: Burleigh Bears **30** d. Northern Pride **10**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **12** l. Souths Logan Magpies **36**
Sat: Easts Tigers **21** d. Tweed Heads **20**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **18** l. Central Comets **23**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** l. Mackay Cutters **26**
Sun: Norths Devils **14** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **32**

Round 6 - Apr 18-19
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **22** d. Mackay Cutters **12**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** d. Easts Tigers **22**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **58** d. Burleigh Bears **10**
Sat: Northern Pride **30** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**
Sat: Central Comets **38** d. Norths Devils **30**
Sun: Tweed Heads **28** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **12**

Round 7 - Apr 25-26
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **14** l. Ipswich Jets **34**
Sat: Northern Pride **32** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **6**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **12** l. Norths Devils **28**
Sun: Easts Tigers **20** l. Central Comets **30**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **40** d. Tweed Heads **26**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **20** l. Souths Logan Magpies **28**

Round 8 - May 2-3
Sat: Tweed Heads **20** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **40**
Sat: Easts Tigers **14** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **16**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **34** d. Burleigh Bears **26**
Sat: Central Comets **50** d. Mackay Cutters **6**
Sun: Norths Devils **18** l. Northern Pride **34**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **24** l. Souths Logan Magpies **30**

2009

Round 9 - May 9-10
Sat: Norths Devils **26** d. Souths Logan Magpies **20**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **32** l. Central Comets **34**
Sat: Northern Pride **34** d. Mackay Cutters **16**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **4** l. Easts Tigers **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** d. Ipswich Jets **8**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **42** d. Tweed Heads **32**

Round 10 - May 16-17
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **24** l. Burleigh Bears **26**
Sat: Easts Tigers **18** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **28**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **6**
Sat: Central Comets **28** d. Northern Pride **26**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **10** l. Souths Logan Magpies **44**
Sun: Tweed Heads **38** d. Norths Devils **10**

Round 11 - May 23-24
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **16** drew Easts Tigers **16**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **8** l. Central Comets **42**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **20** l. Tweed Heads **26**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **16** l. Northern Pride **30**
Sun: Norths Devils **27** d. Ipswich Jets **16**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **22**

Round 12 - May 30-31
Sat: Burleigh Bears **30** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **48** d. Central Comets **12**
Sat: Northern Pride **26** d. Tweed Heads **14**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **0** l. Ipswich Jets **30**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **6** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **10** l. Easts Tigers **20**

Round 13 - Jun 5-14
Fri: Northern Pride **22** d. Ipswich Jets **8**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **40** d. Burleigh Bears **12**
Sat: Easts Tigers **18** d. Mackay Cutters **12**
Sat: Central Comets **10** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **34** d. Norths Devils **24**
Sun: Tweed Heads **26** d. Souths Logan Magpies **24**

Round 14 - Jun 20-21
Sat: Easts Tigers **42** d. Northern Pride **12**
Sat: Tweed Heads **21** d. Central Comets **8**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **8** l. Souths Logan Magpies **32**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **22** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **26**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **6**
Sun: Norths Devils **16** l. Burleigh Bears **24**

Round 15 - Jun 27-28
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **30** d. Northern Pride **18**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **50** d. Easts Tigers **16**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **10** l. Tweed Heads **12**
Sat: Norths Devils **18** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **26**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **4** l. Mackay Cutters **10**
Sun: Central Comets **28** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **24**

Round 16 - Jul 11-12
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **16** l. Norths Devils **30**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **22** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **14**
Sat: Northern Pride **18** l. Burleigh Bears **30**
Sat: Central Comets **16** l. Ipswich Jets **28**
Sun: Tweed Heads **14** l. Easts Tigers **18**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **46** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **22**

Round 17 - Jul 18-19
Sat: Burleigh Bears **10** l. Souths Logan Magpies **23**
Sat: Norths Devils **14** l. Central Comets **26**
Sat: Easts Tigers **22** d. Ipswich Jets **11**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **6** drew Redcliffe Dolphins **6**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** l. Northern Pride **38**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **22** d. Tweed Heads **16**

Round 18 - Jul 25-26
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **24** l. Northern Pride **54**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **30** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **24** drew Sunshine Coast Eagles **24**
Sat: Central Comets **6** l. Easts Tigers **16**
Sun: Norths Devils **40** d. Mackay Cutters **12**
Sun: Tweed Heads **32** d. Burleigh Bears **12**

Round 19 - Aug 1-2
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **32** d. Tweed Heads **20**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **54** d. Easts Tigers **10**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **22** d. Norths Devils **18**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **18** l. Ipswich Jets **26**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **16** l. Central Comets **28**

Round 20 - Aug 8-9
Sat: Easts Tigers **42** d. Burleigh Bears **24**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **26** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18**
Sat: Central Comets **0** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **46**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **17** d. Northern Pride **16**
Sun: Tweed Heads **28** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **24**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **28** l. Norths Devils **44**

Index [Matches Review]

Round 21 - Aug 15-16
Sat: Norths Devils **38** d. Tweed Heads **28**
Sat: Northern Pride **32** d. Central Comets **10**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **40** d. Mackay Cutters **6**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **44** d. Easts Tigers **22**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **20** l. Ipswich Jets **30**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **24** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **16**

Round 22 - Aug 21-23
Fri: Northern Pride **29** d. Souths Logan Magpies **18**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **56** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **28**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **38**
Sat: Tweed Heads **34** d. Mackay Cutters **10**
Sat: Central Comets **12** l. Burleigh Bears **36**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **18** l. Norths Devils **30**

2009

2009 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The Sunshine Coast were re-admitted to the Queensland Cup in 2009 taking on the colours and nickname of the NRL team they were a feeder club to - Manly Warringah. NRL feeder relationships, where fringe NRL players could be fielded in Queensland Cup teams, were now becoming increasingly important.

The North Queensland Cowboys had feeder clubs in the Northern Pride and Mackay and in 2015 Townsville would become their prime feeder club. The Brisbane Broncos would feed several clubs—Wynnum Manly, Redcliffe, Norths, Easts and more recently Ipswich and Souths after the breakdown of their Canberra affiliation which had helped Souths finish as minor premiers in 2009 and 2010. The Gold Coast Titans would feed players to Burleigh and Tweed Heads. Easts would later be fed players from Melbourne which helped them make the 2013 Grand Final.

There were 12 teams this season and the finals changed to having a top 6 play over 3 weeks instead of 4 weeks. The winners of the 3 qualifying semi-finals and the highest placed loser played in the two preliminary finals and the winners of those would then contest the grand final. Sunshine Coast was the highest placed loser of week one and then upset minor premiers Souths Logan 30-26. Northern Pride beat Central Queensland 22-10 in the other preliminary final.

With another “all-country” grand final, the QRL moved the grand final to the Sunshine Coast who made the most of the home ground advantage where 2 500 fans saw them go to a 12-6 half time lead and then power away led by future NSW half, Trent Hodkinson. In their first season back they beat the Northern Pride 32-18 to become 2009 Queensland Cup premiers.

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Finals - Central Queensland 21 v Sunshine Coast 14 & Northern Pride 44 v Norths 16

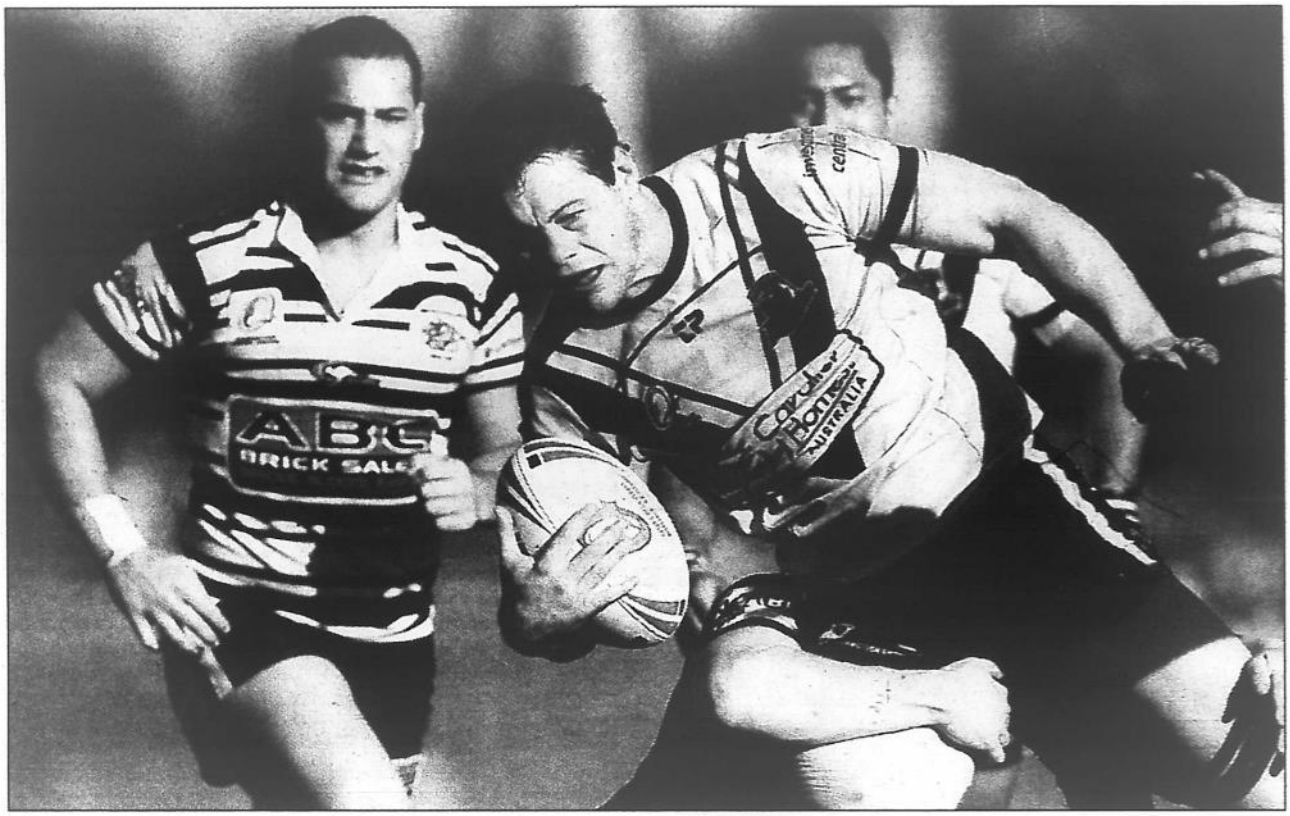
The Central Comets are guaranteed a berth in next weekend's semi-finals after beating Sunshine Coast 21-14 in last night's qualifying final in Rockhampton.

Sunshine Coast was the lucky loser, surviving for another week after Northern Pride thumped Norths 44-16 in Cairns last night.

CENTRAL 21 (Johnson, Bowman, Fickling, Rothery tries; Bowman 2 goals, field goal) d SUNSHINE COAST 14 (Chapman, Neumann, Mauro tries; Chapman goal). NORTHERN PRIDE 44 (Jensen 3, Paulson, Slyney, Millwood, Riesen, Griffin tries; Humble 6 goals) d NORTHS 16 (Davui 2, Gillett tries; Elemani 2 goals).

2009

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Souths Logan 16 v Tweed Heads 8



WE'RE HOME: Souths Logan's Shaun Fensom goes over for the clinching try against Tweed. Picture: **Jono Searle**

Magpies reign again

Peter Badel

DEFENDING premier Souths Logan is one win away from another Queensland Cup grand final after overcoming a gallant Tweed 16-8 yesterday.

In a torrid opening to the finals series, the minor premier Magpies withstood a fierce challenge to end the Seagulls' season at Meakin Park.

Sixth-placed Tweed was at long odds to produce a boilover but Steve Lacey's squad made life tough for the top dogs.

In warm conditions, both sides started nervously and struggled to create genuine try-scoring opportunities. It took 20 minutes for the first points to be registered and they came via Tweed centre Kingi Akauola, who charged on to a pinpoint pass from five-eighth Brad Davis to make it 4-0.

The home side took the lead six minutes from halftime when fullback Shea Moylan pushed off Selasi Berdie to score and Brett Kelly adding the extras for 6-4.

The Magpies kicked clear after the break, with replacement Quentin Laulu-Togagae crossing in the corner to give his side a 10-4 lead.

Tweed refused to wilt and was back in contest when Shannon Walker scored in the 60th minute to bridge the deficit to two points.

Walker, playing in jumper No.19, was a late inclusion after suffering cuts to his hands and feet in a fishing mishap.

However, the class of the Magpies told and forward Shaun Fensom crashed over two minutes from time to crush Tweed's dream.

SOUTHS LOGAN 16 (S Moylan, Q Laulu-Togagae, S Fensom tries; B Kelly 2 goals) TWEED 8 (K Akauola, S Walker tries) at Meakin Park.

2009

QLD Cup 1st Preliminary Final - Northern Pride 22 v Central Queensland 10

An elated Pride go for glory

NORTHERN Pride exorcised some demons as it sealed a maiden Queensland Cup grand final berth at Wynnum yesterday.

The Pride became the first team through to next week's season finale at the Sunshine Coast with a 22-10 victory against the Central Comets.

Last year in the preliminary final the Pride were heartbroken after losing an extra-time thriller against eventual premier Souths Logan.

But it was all smiles yesterday at Kougari Oval.

Led by Tully product Joel Reithmuller, the Pride's forwards ground their opponents down and the halves – Parramatta-bound five-eighth Tom Humble and halfback Chris Sheppard – did the rest.

Central came back after falling behind 16-0 early in the second half but the Pride held on.

Coach Andrew Dunemann's heart would have skipped a beat when his captain Sheppard was flattened with a high and arguably late hit.

But the former Cowboy and Dragon bounced back to engineer the play that gave his side a 10-0 halftime advantage.

PRIDE 22 (Slyney, Griffin, Humble, Bird tries; Humble 3 goals) d COMETS 10 (Hewitt, Williams tries; Bowman goal)



TOPS: Chris Sheppard fires for the Pride.

QLD Cup 2nd Preliminary Final - Sunshine Coast 30 v Souths Logan 26

Sunshine Coast aim for debut glory

Matt Marshall
QUEENSLAND CUP

MANLY'S pet project, state league rookies Sunshine Coast, stand only 80 minutes away from crowning a Cinderella debut season at their own fortress.

The red-hot Sea Eagles, who ended Souths Logan's back-to-back quest on Saturday, will host the Queensland Cup grand final against 2008 newcomers Northern Pride at Kawana's Stockland Park.

Their qualification caps a stellar first state league season for the Brandon Costin-coached Coast, who were widely tipped for the wooden spoon.

"I was always confident with what we could build here," said former CEO Brett Winkler, who hunted Costin as the club's foundation coach from last year's FOGS Cup.



AHEAD OF SCHEDULE: Coach Brandon Costin.

"To be in the Queensland Cup grand final so soon is not something you expect to happen but it is very deserved."

In addition to boasting homeground advantage on grand final day – a factor that helped fallen empire Redcliffe bag successive crowns at Dolphin Oval in 2002-03 – the Sea Eagles hold another key psychological edge on Saturday.

The Coast have twice claimed the Pride's scalp this season, winning in Cairns way back in March (16-14) and again at Kawana in June (30-18).

Sunshine Coast booked their place in Saturday's title finale by crushing the hopes of minor premiers Souths Logan with a 30-26 win at Meakin Park.

In hot late-season form, the Eagles are being boosted by Manly NRL squad members, including Trent Hodkinson, Adam Cuthbertson, Tony Williams, Shane Neumann, Tim Browne, Vic Mauro and Junior Palau.

Second-year club the Pride are also eyeing off early title success after burying the demons of last year's extra-time preliminary final loss to reach the club's first grand final.

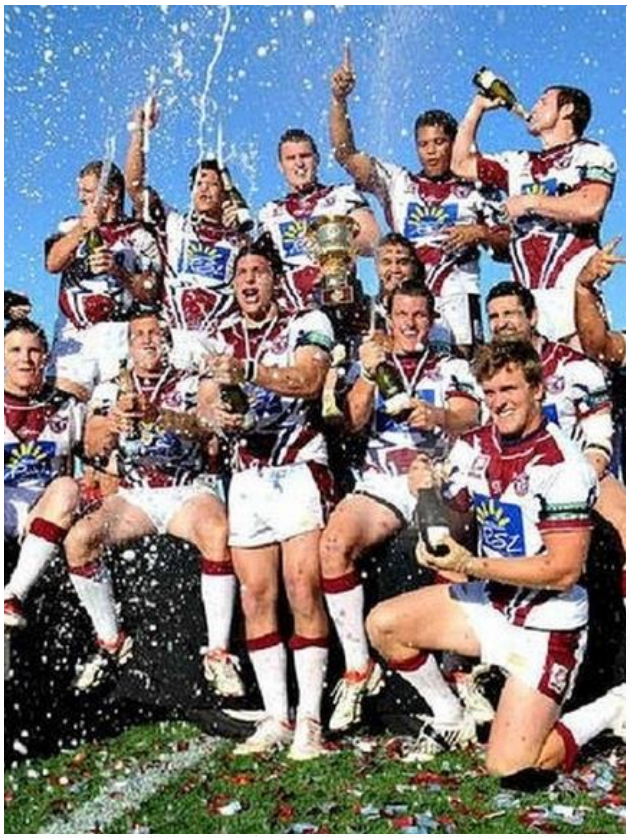
On Saturday, the Cairns-based side won a tough tussle against Central Comets (22-10) at the unlikely surrounds of Kougari Oval.

In the FOGS Cup grand final, Redcliffe meet Western Districts while the Magpies and Tigers will contest the Colts decider.

SUNSHINE COAST 30 (Rob Godfrey 2, Dennis Sandow, Ryan Walker, Adam Cuthbertson tries; Tony Williams 5 goals) **d SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES 26** (Jack Reed 2, Shea Moylan, James Stuart, Brett Kelly tries; Brett Kelly 3 goals) at Meakin Park

2009

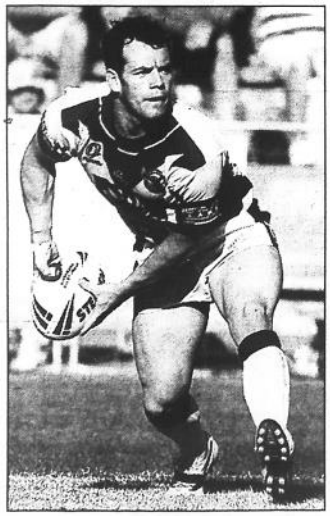
QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SUNSHINE COAST 32 v NORTHERN PRIDE 18





FLYING HIGH: Trent Hodkinson (above) scores for Queensland Cu winners Sunshine Coast (left), whc were bolstered by the appearance Manly player Heath L'Estrange (below left). Pictures: **SMP Images**

Daylight between Sunshine and rivals



Damien Stannard

AN UNTHINKABLE outcome became unstoppable yesterday at Kawana as the Sunshine Coast lifted the Queensland Cup premiership title in its first season in the competition.

The Sea Eagles, brilliantly led by halfback Trent Hodkinson, gave the Northern Pride a 6-0 headstart before dominating the visitors in the 32-18 win.

It was a remarkable feat considering the team did not even exist last year. But they dared to dream, forging a partnership with NRL premiers Manly and assembling a disciplined, talented and well-organised outfit under their coach, former NRL centre Brandon Costin.

"I thought we had it in us. I had faith in the boys 100 per cent," Costin said.

The coach said the club's affiliation with Manly was a blessing but also a testing situation for a coach to manage.

The Sea Eagles were running 10th at the halfway mark of the season.

"Credit to Manly, their blokes really bought in," Costin said.

"It took a while for us to gel. You can't just do it on one day a week.

"A lot of the sessions we just sat down and shot it out."

Centre Shane Neumann scored a hat-trick for the hosts and replacement hooker Heath L'Estrange helped spark the Sea Eagles' attack.

There was no overlooking the influence of Hodkinson, who scored a deserved late try to sink any hope of a Pride comeback.

The Campbelltown product had a hand in five of his team's seven tries, helped along by a dominant pack and his halves partner Tony Williams.

Northern's former Cowboys star Rod Jensen led a late comeback but his side had already handed the home team too much momentum and the Sea Eagles' defence was up to the task.

Sunshine Coast had the upper hand for most of the first half but went into the break with only a 12-8 lead to show for it.

A refreshed Pride pounded away at the Sea Eagles line early in the second half but to no avail.

Two Sunshine Coast tries in six minutes – one to five-eighth Williams and the second to Neumann – all but sealed the visitors' fate.

The QRL took a big chance earlier this year when it scheduled the decider at Kawana.

SUNSHINE COAST 32 (Neumann 3, Chapman, Walker, Williams, Hodkinson tries; Hodkinson 2 goals) d NORTHERN PRIDE 18 (Frizzo, Jensen, Humble tries; Humble 3 goals)

2009

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - SUNSHINE COAST 32 v NORTHERN PRIDE 18



2009 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

1st Qualifying Semi-Final: Northern Pride 44 def. Norths 16
2nd Qualifying Semi-Final: Central Queensland 21 def. Sunshine Coast 14
3rd Qualifying Semi-Final: Souths Logan 16 def. Tweed Heads 8
1st Preliminary Final: Northern Pride 22 def. Central Queensland 10
2nd Preliminary Final: Sunshine Coast 30 def. Souths Logan 26

2009 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

SUNSHINE COAST 32 (Tries: S. Neumann 3, M. Chapman, R. Walker, T. Williams, T. Hodkinson; Goals: T. Hodkinson 2) def. NORTHERN PRIDE 18 (Tries: J. Frizzo, R. Jensen, T. Humble; Goals: T. Humble)

2010

QUEENSLAND CUP: NORTHERN PRIDE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

		P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Souths Logan	22	17	0	5	604	362	**34**	+242
2	Norths	23	15	1	7	601	535	**31**	+66
3	Northern Pride	23	15	0	8	531	466	**30**	+65
4	Sunshine Coast	22	14	0	8	641	400	**28**	+241
5	Wynnum Manly	22	13	1	8	538	478	**27**	+60
6	Mackay	22	11	1	10	544	491	**23**	+53
7	Burleigh	22	11	1	10	450	484	**23**	-34
8	Redcliffe	21	9	1	11	449	524	**19**	-75
9	Tweed Heads	22	8	1	13	530	498	**17**	+32
10	Central Comets	22	6	0	16	415	624	**12**	-209
11	Easts	22	5	0	17	429	631	**10**	-202
12	Ipswich	21	5	0	16	372	611	**10**	-239

2010 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 13-14
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **0** drew Burleigh Bears **0**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **32** d. Easts Tigers **16**
Sat: Central Comets **20** d. Mackay Cutters **10**
Sat: Northern Pride **6** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **16**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **20** l. Norths Devils **22**
Sun: Tweed Heads **30** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **32**

Round 2 - Mar 20-21
Sat: Norths Devils **22** d. Tweed Heads **12**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **18** l. Central Comets **32**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **10** l. Souths Logan Magpies **24**
Sat: Northern Pride **16** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **18**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **40** d. Ipswich Jets **10**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **18** d. Easts Tigers **16**

Round 3 - Mar 27-28
Sat: Easts Tigers **32** d. Central Comets **10**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **24** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **12**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **12** l. Norths Devils **24**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **25** d. Mackay Cutters **18**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **60** d. Northern Pride **12**
Sun: Tweed Heads **4** l. Burleigh Bears **10**

Round 4 - Apr 3-4
Sat: Norths Devils **54** d. Mackay Cutters **24**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **16** d. Easts Tigers **14**
Sat: Northern Pride **38** d. Tweed Heads **6**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **34** d. Ipswich Jets **14**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **22** d. Souths Logan Magpies **16**
Sun: Central Comets **22** l. Redcliffe Dolphins **28**

Round 5 - Apr 10-11
Sat: Ipswich Jets **22** d. Northern Pride **16**
Sat: Norths Devils **48** d. Central Comets **8**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **10** l. Mackay Cutters **36**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **12** l. Souths Logan Magpies **18**
Sun: Tweed Heads **22** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **34**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **36** d. Easts Tigers **30**

Round 6 - Apr 17-18
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **30** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **24**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** l. Norths Devils **28**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **20** d. Central Comets **12**
Sat: Northern Pride **20** d. Mackay Cutters **16**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **32** d. Ipswich Jets **22**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **14** d. Tweed Heads **12**

Round 7 - Apr 24-May 1
Sat: Burleigh Bears **22** d. Easts Tigers **4**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **26** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16**
Sat: Northern Pride **26** d. Central Comets **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **20** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **16**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **20** l. Tweed Heads **32**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **14** l. Souths Logan Magpies **26**

Round 8 - May 8-9
Sat: Easts Tigers **32** d. Northern Pride **18**
Sat: Tweed Heads **38** d. Ipswich Jets **18**
Sat: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **6** l. Central Comets **30**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **28** d. Mackay Cutters **18**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **28** d. Burleigh Bears **22**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **26** l. Norths Devils **28**

2010

Round 9 - May 15-16
Sat: Easts Tigers **12** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **41**
Sat: Northern Pride **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **12**
Sat: Tweed Heads **36** d. Mackay Cutters **30**
Sat: Central Comets **16** l. Souths Logan Magpies **24**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **24** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **28**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **32** d. Norths Devils **12**

Round 10 - May 22-23
Sat: Norths Devils **26** d. Northern Pride **14**
Sat: Tweed Heads **36** d. Central Comets **0**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **6** l. Mackay Cutters **20**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **40** d. Easts Tigers **10**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **24** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **30**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **40** d. Burleigh Bears **0**

Round 11 - May 29-30
Sat: Easts Tigers **26** d. Tweed Heads **8**
Sat: Northern Pride **20** d. Burleigh Bears **6**
Sat: Central Comets **15** d. Ipswich Jets **14**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **40** d. Sunshine Coast Eagles **26**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **18** l. Souths Logan Magpies **32**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **28** l. Norths Devils **38**

Round 12 - Jun 5-6
Sat: Burleigh Bears **20** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **6**
Sat: Easts Tigers **14** l. Ipswich Jets **18**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **64** d. Northern Pride **0**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **48** d. Central Comets **12**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **26** d. Tweed Heads **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **36** l. Souths Logan Magpies **40**

Round 13 - Jun 12-13
Sat: Easts Tigers **20** l. Mackay Cutters **50**
Sat: Tweed Heads **40** d. Norths Devils **10**
Sat: Ipswich Jets v Redcliffe Dolphins
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **28** d. Burleigh Bears **26**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **14** d. Northern Pride **10**
Sun: Central Comets **26** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **34**

Round 14 - Jun 19-20
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **22** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **30**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **22** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **16**
Sat: Northern Pride **12** d. Souths Logan Magpies **4**
Sat: Central Comets **22** l. Easts Tigers **30**
Sun: Norths Devils **40** d. Ipswich Jets **22**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **32** d. Tweed Heads **22**

Round 15 - Jul 3-4
Sat: Easts Tigers **12** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **38**
Sat: Tweed Heads **18** l. Northern Pride **32**
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **20** d. Central Comets **18**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **22** l. Burleigh Bears **30**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **26** l. Norths Devils **28**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **58** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**

Round 16 - Jul 9-11
Fri: Northern Pride **36** d. Ipswich Jets **8**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **8** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **16**
Sat: Easts Tigers **17** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **16**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **28** d. Burleigh Bears **22**
Sat: Central Comets **34** d. Norths Devils **16**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16** l. Tweed Heads **42**

Round 17 - Jul 17-18
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **34** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **16**
Sat: Tweed Heads **32** d. Souths Logan Magpies **6**
Sat: Central Comets **18** l. Burleigh Bears **50**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **16** l. Northern Pride **22**
Sun: Ipswich Jets **6** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **38**
Sun: Norths Devils **28** d. Easts Tigers **12**

Round 18 - Jul 24-25
Sat: Redcliffe Dolphins **12** drew Norths Devils **12**
Sat: Easts Tigers **24** l. Burleigh Bears **36**
Sat: Central Comets **22** l. Northern Pride **42**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **16** l. Mackay Cutters **28**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **34** d. Ipswich Jets **12**
Sun: Tweed Heads **22** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **26**

Round 19 - Jul 31-Aug 8
Sat: Burleigh Bears **40** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **30**
Sat: Northern Pride **32** d. Easts Tigers **24**
Sat: Central Comets **16** l. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **28**
Sun: Mackay Cutters **10** l. Souths Logan Magpies **34**
Sat: Norths Devils **10** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **42**
Sat: Ipswich Jets **40** d. Tweed Heads **28**

Round 20 - Aug 14-15
Sat: Norths Devils **23** d. Burleigh Bears **16**
Sat: Sunshine Coast Eagles **52** d. Ipswich Jets **10**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **18** drew Tweed Heads **18**
Sat: Souths Logan Magpies **36** d. Central Comets **22**
Sun: Redcliffe Dolphins **12** l. Northern Pride **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **56** d. Easts Tigers **28**

Round 21 - Aug 21-22
Sat: Easts Tigers **6** l. Souths Logan Magpies **30**
Sat: Mackay Cutters **30** d. Ipswich Jets **6**
Sat: Central Comets **22** d. Tweed Heads **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **33** d. Norths Devils **26**
Sun: Wynnum Manly Seagulls **59** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **0**
Sun: Burleigh Bears **6** l. Sunshine Coast Eagles **35**

Round 22 - Aug 28-29
Fri: Ipswich Jets **40** d. Central Comets **20**
Sat: Tweed Heads **36** d. Easts Tigers **26**
Sat: Burleigh Bears **6** l. Northern Pride **54**
Sun: Sunshine Coast Eagles **40** d. Mackay Cutters **12**
Sun: Souths Logan Magpies **24** d. Redcliffe Dolphins **12**
Sun: Norths Devils **30** d. Wynnum Manly Seagulls **12**

2010

2010 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The same 12 teams as 2009 competed for the 2010 Queensland Cup title. Souths Logan had another strong season to finish minor premiers for the second season in a row. They would rue that they would miss another great opportunity to add to their 2008 title win when they lost the only semi-final that would count for them.

The finals format changed for 2010. It was again played over 3 weeks by the top 6 but, instead of 3 qualifying finals, there were 2 elimination semi-finals played by teams 3 to 6 to meet teams 1 and 2 in the preliminary finals. An additional semi-final in week one between teams 1 and 2 was utterly meaningless and simply served as match practice before the preliminary finals.

In the elimination semi-finals Mackay defeated the Sunshine Coast 14-4 and the Northern Pride had a 28-12 win over Wynnum. In the preliminary finals Norths had a huge win over Mackay 56-12 to make their first grand final in 12 years while, in the other preliminary final, the wheels fell off for Souths Logan as a dominant Northern Pride powered away 28-8 to knock the Magpies out of the finals.

Norths and the Northern Pride returned to Suncorp Stadium to contest the 2010 Grand Final in front of 6 300 fans. The Pride had a near perfect first half and led 18-6 at half time and went ahead to 24-6 following a barnstorming Rod Griffin try. Norths then scored two tries within 5 minutes. Pride captain, Chris Sheppard put Nick Slyney over in the 65th minute to take the Pride to a 30-16 lead. A late Norths try wasn't enough as the Northern Pride won 30-20 to take their first Queensland Cup which humourously happened to fall apart as Chis Sheppard went to raise it in front of their fans.

QLD Cup 1st Elimination Semi-Final - Mackay 14 v Sunshine Coast 4, QLD Cup 2nd Elimination Semi-Final - Northern Pride 28 v Wynnum 12 & QLD Cup Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Souths 16

Reed runs hot in new team slot

Steve Ricketts

FORMER Souths Logan utility Jack Reed scored the match-winning try for Norths against his old club at Davies Park yesterday in the Intrust Super Cup major semi-final.

Reed's try two minutes from fulltime gave Norths a 20-16 win over the minor premiers, with both sides playing quality football on a wet afternoon.

Norths coach Kevin Carmichael said it was a great team effort, but Reed's try off a clever pass from five-eighth Shane Perry was a fitting reward for a display which earned him the players' player vote.

"Jack has played a bit of centre for us, but we needed him in the second-row today after Brendon Gibb withdrew," Carmichael said.

"Jarvarn White was really good at fullback and Eddy Purcell did a great job at lock."

Souths live to fight another day under the ISC finals set-up, with the Magpies to play Northern Pride at Davies Park on Sunday after Pride beat Wynnum-Manly 28-12 in Cairns yesterday.

Norths will play Mackay at Bishop Park on Saturday in the other preliminary final with the winning sides to advance to the grand final at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday, September 19. Both preliminary finals will be televised live by the ABC.

Mackay were shock 14-4 winners over 2009 premiers Sunshine Coast at Kawana on Saturday, with Sunshine Coast joining Wynnum in planning for 2011.

Fifteen of the 17 Pride players who beat Wynnum yesterday were North Queensland products and the club was missing the Cowboys contingent of Ty Williams, Michael Bani, Clint Amos and Nick Slyney who played NRL against the Roosters on Saturday night.

All four could be available for the Souths Logan match, although Williams was hobbling after the NRL clash.

Intrust Super Cup Finals - Week 1:

MACKAY CUTTERS 14 (Donald Malone, Michael Comerford, Tyson Martin tries; Josh Hannay goal) **d SUNSHINE COAST SEA EAGLES 4** (Mark Page try) at Stockland Park.

NORTHS DEVILS 20 (Jack Reed, Matt Smith, Luke Samoa, Jay Aston tries; Luke Samoa 2 goals) **d SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES 16** (Michael Brophy, Quentin Laulu-Togagae, Nick Skinner tries; Mick Picker 2 goals) at Davies Park.

NORTHERN PRIDE 28 (Brett Anderson, Rod Jensen, Ryan Stig, Ben Spina, Rod Griffin tries; Ryan Stig 4 goals) **d WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 12** (Jake Granville, Damien Quinn tries; Matt Seamark 2 goals) at Barlow Park.



UPSET: Mackay beat 2009 premiers Sunshine Coast.

2010

QLD Cup 1st Preliminary Final - Northern Pride 56 v Mackay 12



FIERY CLASH: Norths' Eddy Purcell. Picture: Darren England

'Cocky' Devils upset Josh

Steve Ricketts

FORMER Queensland State of Origin centre Josh Hannay doesn't care who wins next Sunday's Intrust Super Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium – as long as it's not Norths.

Hannay was furious at Norths for their "lack of respect" for his Mackay Cutters side in yesterday's preliminary final at Bishop Park, which the Devils won 56-12 after leading by 38-0 at halftime.

A former North Queensland Cowboys, Cronulla and Celtic Crusaders (Britain) star, Hannay said Norths needed a lesson in winning with dignity.

"Whether you win or lose, you should do it with dignity and there was a lot of talk among that side, which I have no time for," he said.

"So, whoever plays them in the grand final, I'll be barracking for them.

"From the opening whistle, they were a cocky, mouthy, arrogant type of side. It's a part of the game, which is unnecessary.

"They should let their footy do the talking."

Norths coach Kevin Carmichael had his own issues, accusing Mackay of "cheap shots" when the result was beyond doubt.

"They were just out to knock our heads off in that last 15 or 20 minutes," Carmichael said. "That's fine. We got the last laugh."

Norths' former Cowboys second-rower Troyden Watene was man of the match, scoring a try and kicking eight goals from 10.

Devils captain Mark Leafa faces a battle to be fit for the grand final after being replaced with an ankle injury two minutes into the second half.

Norths play the winner of today's other preliminary final between Souths Logan and Northern Pride at Davies Park.

Norths 56 (J White 2, J Aston 2, J Davui, J Reed, T Watene, L Samoa, D Ogden, E Purcell tries; T Watene 8 goals) d Mackay 12 (C Giumelli, B Harris tries; J Hannay 2 goals)

QLD Cup 2nd Preliminary Final - Northern Pride 28 v Souths Logan 8

Now it's all about Pride

Steve Ricketts

THE Queensland Rugby League has its dream "City versus the Bush" grand final, after Northern Pride yesterday beat minor premiers Souths Logan 28-8 in the Intrust Super Cup preliminary final at Davies Park.

The Cairns-based Pride will play Brisbane Norths in Sunday's grand final at Suncorp Stadium, with Norths beating Mackay 56-12 in the other preliminary final on Saturday.

Yesterday's win was the Pride's 11th in a row, and they may even start as favourites on Sunday, especially as Cowboys former Queensland State of Origin winger Ty Williams is expected back from injury.

Williams was a late withdrawal yesterday, but his replacement Michael Bani, another Cowboys-contracted player, was magnificent and scored a spectacular long-range try. "I have nothing but praise for Michael, especially as he wasn't named in the side to begin with," said Pride coach Dave Maiden.

"He said to me he would keep training and would be ready to play if he was needed. I have a few selection headaches this week, but it is a good position to be in."

Pride five-eighth Ryan Stig was replaced with a shoulder injury in the first half and faces a battle to be fit for the grand final. Cowboys hooker Clint Amos took Stig's place and is set to retain the job.

Former Cowboys star Rod Jensen scored two tries while lock Joel Reithmuller was named man of the match.

Mackay yesterday announced they had signed coach Paul Bramley to a new two-year deal.

Family pass

THE Courier-Mail is giving 10 readers the chance to win a family pass of four tickets to the Intrust Super Cup grand final.

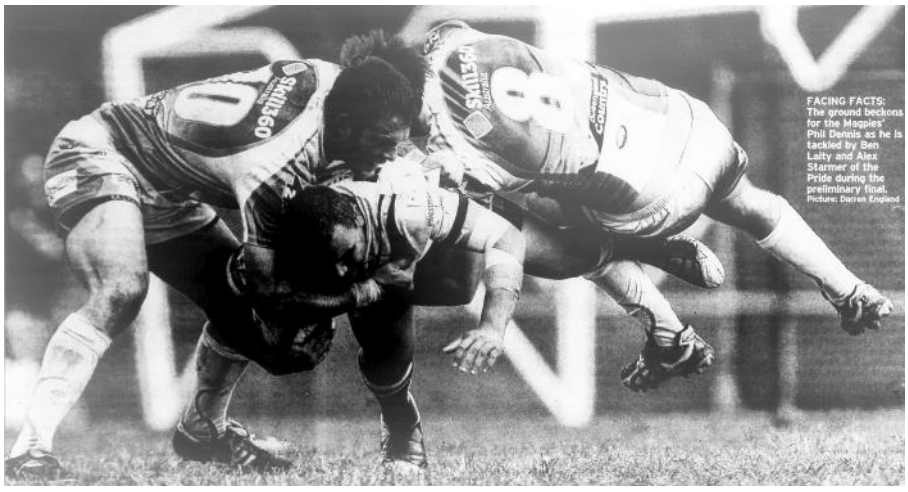
It will be played on Sunday, September 19, at Suncorp Stadium.

To enter, email your name, address, postcode and phone number to: competitions@thecouriermail.com.au. Put QRL in the subject line.



IT'S ALL GOOD: The Pride's Mark Cantoni celebrates a try.

NORTHERN PRIDE 28 (Michael Bani 2, Rod Jensen 2, Mark Cantoni tries; Chey Bird 3, Ryan Stig goals) **d SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES 8** (David Milne, Wade Liddell tries) at Davies Park.



FACING FACTS: The ground beckons for the Magpies' Phil Dennis as he is tackled by Ben Lalty and Alex Starmer of the Pride during the preliminary final. Picture: Darren England

2010

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHERN PRIDE 30 v NORTHS 20



Pride of the north

Steve Ricketts

IN THE Cowboys' year of discontent, their Cairns-based affiliate Northern Pride salvaged something for the people of North Queensland with an impressive 30-20 win over Brisbane Norths in the Intrust Super Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

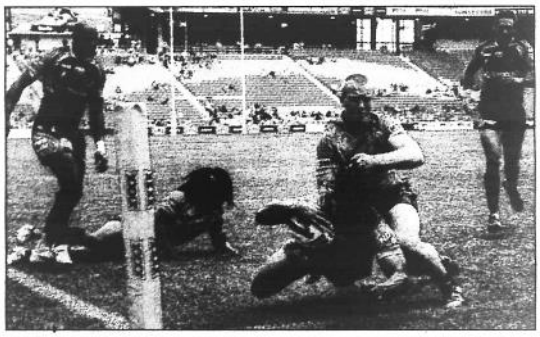
And they did it thanks largely to locals, rather than NRL stars, although Cowboys players Michael Bani and Nick Slyney were among the tryscorers.

Bani, who performed his own special dance for delighted teammates and fans after the game, was there because the Pride knew the Cairns junior wanted to be a part of history after the club was beaten by Sunshine Coast in last year's grand final.

"I'm just stoked with this group," said Pride skipper Chris Sheppard. "We had blokes leave to play NRL and blokes who left us because they didn't want to be with us. We stuck together and all the local blokes just had a dig.

"One of our players (Jay Aston) went to Norths (mid-season) because he wanted to play finals footy and he didn't think he would with us after we had a poor start. Unlucky. He played finals footy, but just didn't win.

"We just had boys who wanted to be there to have a crack. You can't ask for anything more."



OVER: Northern Pride's Rod Jensen scores in the corner.

The Pride were seventh at the halfway point of the competition and the low point was a 64-0 loss to Sunshine Coast. The following week they lost 14-10 to Wynnum before a 12-match winning streak culminating with yesterday's result.

"It was a credit to the players and I'm just happy to be tagging along for the ride," said Pride coach Dave Maiden.

While Pride boasted eight players with NRL experience, they also had the likes of interchange forward Ben Spina who played Townsville club football last year. Spina's father Laurie, who played for the Roosters, Cowboys and Cronulla, travelled from Ingham for the grand final.

"He tends to get more excited than us," Ben said.

The Pride led 18-6 at halftime after a near perfect 40 minutes with the ball and looked set for a runaway win when Rod Griffin scored a barnstorming try four minutes after the resumption.

But Devils halfback Shane Perry set up Luke Samoa for the first of his two tries in the 50th minute and gutsy second-rower Brendon Gibb delivered a sweet pass for Gideon Mzembe to score five minutes later.

The Pride got some breathing space when Sheppard put Slyney over for a try in the 65th minute to lead 30-16.

Norths coach Kevin Carmichael confirmed he was stepping down, a decision he made before the game but had kept quiet. Former Brothers and St George captain Trevor Bailey, an assistant coach at Norths, is expected to take the reins in 2011.

PARTY TIME: The Pride celebrate their grand final win over Norths Devils at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.



NORTHERN PRIDE 30

Tries: Noel Underwood, Rod Jensen, Michael Bani, Rod Griffin, Nick Slyney

Goals: Chey Bird 5

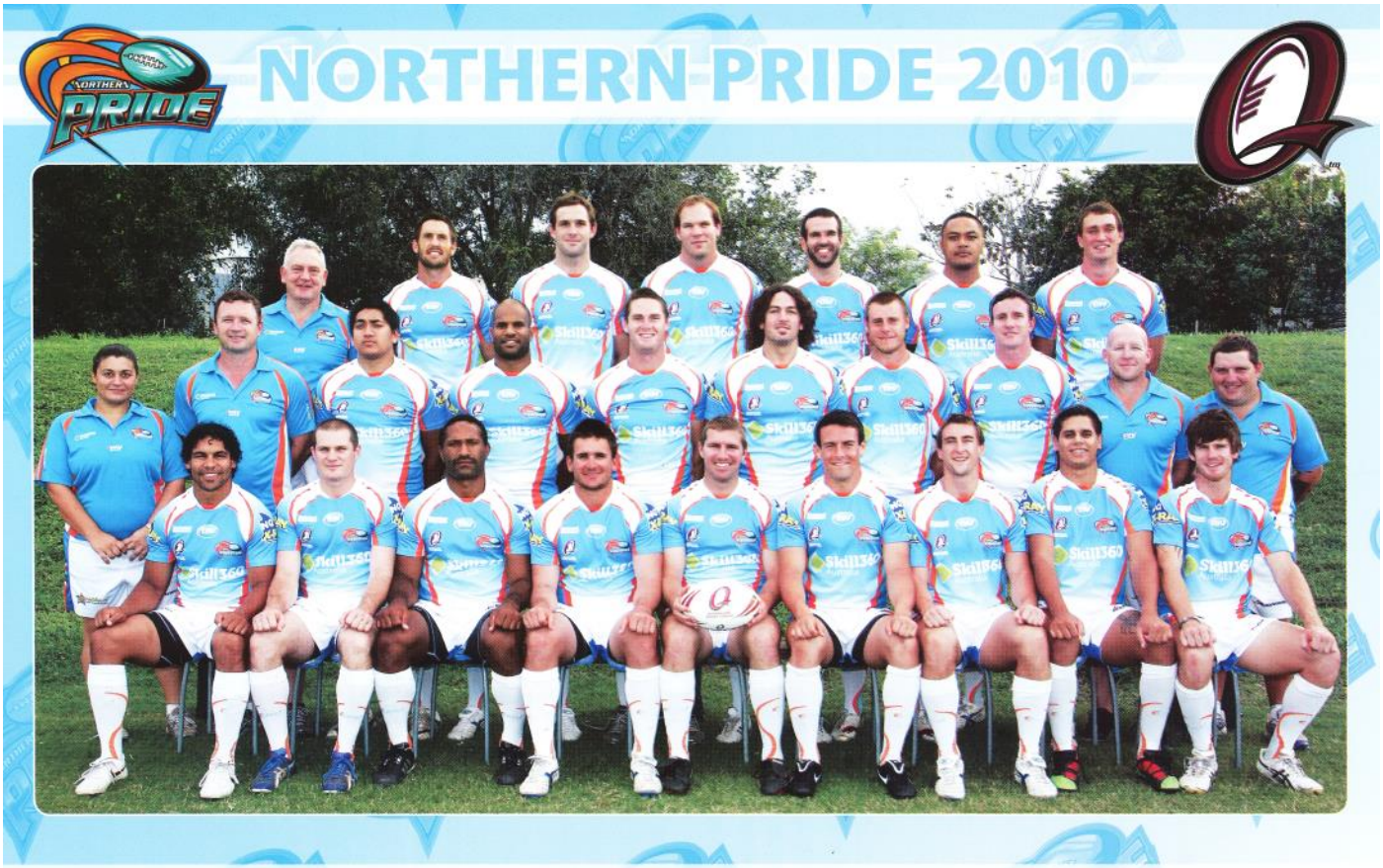
NORTHS DEVILS 20

Tries: Luke Samoa 2, Brendon Gibb, Gideon Mzembe

Goals: Troy Watene 2

2010

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHERN PRIDE 30 v NORTHS 20



FRONT ROW: Rod Jensen, Jason Roos, Rod Griffin, Joel Riethmuller, Chris Sheppard (c), Ryan Stig, Clint Amos, Noel Underwood, Ben Fitzpatrick.

MIDDLE ROW: Kristie Scikluna (trainer), David Maiden (head coach), Kaine Manihera, Michael Bani, Brett Anderson, Mark Dalle-Cort, Ben Spina, Chey Bird, Scott Callaghan (strength & conditioner), Cameron Miller (assistant coach).

BACK ROW: Rob White (Manager), Mark Cantoni, Ben Laity, Alex Starmer, Jamie Frizzo, Aisea Namoa, Nick Slyney.

2010 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

1st Elimination Semi-Final: Mackay 14 def. Sunshine Coast 4
2nd Elimination Semi-Final: Northern Pride 28 def. Wynnum 12
Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Norths 20 def. Souths Logan 16
1st Preliminary Final: Norths 56 def. Mackay 12
2nd Preliminary Final: Northern Pride 28 def. Souths Logan 8

2010 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHERN PRIDE 30 (Tries: N. Underwood, R. Jensen, M. Bani, R. Griffin, N. Slyney; Goals: C. Bird 5) def. NORTHS 20 (Tries: L. Samoa 2, B. Gibb, G. Mzembe; Goals: T. Watene 2)

2011

QUEENSLAND CUP: WYNNUM MANLY

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

		P	W	D	L	For	Agn	Pts	Diff
1	Tweed Heads	24	21	1	2	614	314	43	+300
2	Northern Pride	23	15	2	6	606	399	32	+207
3	Souths Logan	22	15	1	6	555	427	31	+128
4	Redcliffe	23	14	1	8	514	404	29	+110
5	Ipswich	22	11	4	7	560	386	26	+174
6	Wynnum Manly	24	12	1	11	540	471	25	+69
7	Burleigh	22	8	2	12	382	460	18	-78
8	Easts	22	8	1	13	428	524	17	-96
9	Mackay	22	8	1	13	369	473	17	-104
10	Norths	22	7	0	15	432	560	14	-128
11	Central Comets	22	7	0	15	425	634	14	-209
12	Sunshine Coast	22	2	0	20	350	723	4	-373

2011 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 19-20

Sat March 19 2011, 2:00PM
Norths Devils **6** Mackay **16** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Sat March 19 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **16** Ipswich **16** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat March 19 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **10** Northern Pride **36** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun March 20 2011, 3:00PM
Souths Logan **12** Tweed Heads **26** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)
Wynnum Manly **16** Redcliffe **22** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Burleigh **32** Sunshine Coast **10** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)

Round 2 - Mar 26-27

Sat March 26 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **28** Easts Tigers **24** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Sat March 26 2011, 4:00PM
Souths Logan **22** Central Comets **12** at Webb Oval, Yeppoon, QLD
Sat March 26 2011, 5:00PM
Burleigh **20** Ipswich **20** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sat March 26 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **29** Wynnum Manly **6** at Pride Oval, Mooroobool, North Queensland
Sun March 27 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **36** Sunshine Coast **12** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun March 27 2011, 3:00PM
Norths Devils **10** Tweed Heads **32** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)

Round 3 - Apr 2-3

Sat April 2 2011, 2:00PM
Wynnum Manly **24** Souths Logan **44** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sat April 2 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **16** Northern Pride **26** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat April 2 2011, 5:00PM
Ipswich **44** Sunshine Coast **6** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat April 2 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **0** Norths Devils **34** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun April 3 2011, 3:00PM
Tweed Heads **46** Mackay **20** at Piggabeen Sports Complex
Redcliffe **28** Burleigh **4** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)

Round 4 - Apr 9-10

Sat April 9 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **52** Sunshine Coast **12** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Sat April 9 2011, 3:30PM
Tweed Heads **26** Central Comets **22** at Piggabeen Sports Complex
Sun April 10 2011, 1:30PM
Ipswich **32** Mackay **12** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sun April 10 2011, 2:00PM
Burleigh **6** Northern Pride **30** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sun April 10 2011, 2:30PM
Norths Devils **20** Wynnum Manly **10** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Sun April 10 2011, 3:00PM
Souths Logan **26** Easts Tigers **32** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)

Round 5 - Apr 16-17

Sat April 16 2011, 2:00PM
Wynnum Manly **10** Tweed Heads **30** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sat April 16 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **28** Norths Devils **34** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat April 16 2011, 5:00PM
Ipswich **22** Redcliffe **44** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat April 16 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **60** Sunshine Coast **10** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sat April 16 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **24** Mackay **32** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun April 17 2011, 3:00PM
Souths Logan **4** Burleigh **24** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)

Round 6 - Apr 23-May 1

Sat April 23 2011, 2:00PM
Ipswich **12** Northern Pride **12** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat April 30 2011, 2:00PM
Burleigh **20** Norths Devils **18** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sat April 30 2011, 8:00PM
Central Comets **13** Wynnum Manly **12** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun May 1 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **16** Mackay **10** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Sun May 1 2011,
Souths Logan **62** Sunshine Coast **24** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)
Sun May 1 2011, 3:30PM
Tweed Heads **18** Easts Tigers **12** at Piggabeen Sports Complex

Round 7 - May 7-8

Sat May 7 2011, 2:00PM
Easts Tigers **22** Central Comets **26** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sun May 8 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **12** Wynnum Manly **14** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Northern Pride **36** Redcliffe **28** at Pride Oval, Mooroobool, North Queensland
Sun May 8 2011, 3:00PM
Norths Devils **30** Sunshine Coast **6** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Souths Logan **16** Ipswich **32** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)
Sun May 8 2011, 3:30PM
Tweed Heads **33** Burleigh **32** at Piggabeen Sports Complex

Round 8 - May 14-15

Sat May 14 2011, 2:00PM
Burleigh **34** Central Comets **22** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sun May 15 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **22** Northern Pride **18** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun May 15 2011, 3:00PM
Sunshine Coast **10** Tweed Heads **44** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Redcliffe **18** Souths Logan **25** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Wynnum Manly **36** Easts Tigers **6** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Norths Devils **30** Ipswich **46** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)

2011

Round 9 - May 21-22

Sat May 21 2011, 2:00PM
Norths Devils **12** Redcliffe **32** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Sat May 21 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **18** Mackay **6** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat May 21 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **36** Souths Logan **6** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sat May 21 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **34** Sunshine Coast **16** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun May 22 2011, 3:00PM
Wynnum Manly **26** Burleigh **4** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sun May 22 2011, 3:30PM
Tweed Heads **18** Ipswich **8** at Piggabeen Sports Complex

Round 10 - May 28-29

Sat May 28 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **12** Tweed Heads **22** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Sat May 28 2011, 5:00PM
Ipswich **40** Central Comets **12** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat May 28 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **24** Norths Devils **18** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sun May 29 2011, 2:30PM
Souths Logan **26** Mackay **10** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)
Sun May 29 2011, 3:00PM
Burleigh **32** Easts Tigers **0** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sunshine Coast **14** Wynnum Manly **32** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD

Round 11 - Jun 4-5

Sat June 4 2011, 2:00PM
Sunshine Coast **28** Easts Tigers **38** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Tweed Heads **26** Northern Pride **12** at Piggabeen Sports Complex, Murwillumbah (Qld)
Sat June 4 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **18** Redcliffe **44** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun June 5 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **6** Burleigh **7** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun June 5 2011, 3:00PM
Wynnum Manly **12** Ipswich **12** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Norths Devils **0** Souths Logan **40** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)

Round 12 - Jun 10-12

Fri June 10 2011, 7:00PM
Northern Pride **22** Central Comets **30** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Fri June 10 2011, 7:30PM
Sunshine Coast **6** Burleigh **24** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sat June 11 2011, 2:00PM
Ipswich **22** Easts Tigers **24** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sun June 12 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **26** Norths Devils **6** at Mackay Junior Fields, Mackay, Queensland
Sun June 12 2011, 3:00PM
Redcliffe **19** Wynnum Manly **18** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Tweed Heads **17** Souths Logan **10** at Piggabeen Sports Complex

Round 13 - Jun 17-19

Fri June 17 2011, 7:30PM
Ipswich **40** Burleigh **4** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat June 18 2011, 2:00PM
Wynnum Manly **30** Northern Pride **28** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sat June 18 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **8** Redcliffe **14** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat June 18 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **10** Souths Logan **12** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sat June 18 2011, 6:30PM
Sunshine Coast **22** Mackay **24** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sun June 19 2011, 3:00PM
Tweed Heads **38** Norths Devils **12** at Piggabeen Sports Complex

Round 14 - Jun 25-26

Sat June 25 2011, 2:00PM
Burleigh **22** Redcliffe **30** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sunshine Coast **22** Ipswich **12** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sat June 25 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **32** Easts Tigers **16** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sun June 26 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **10** Tweed Heads **10** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun June 26 2011, 2:30PM
Norths Devils **34** Central Comets **40** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Sun June 26 2011, 3:00PM
Souths Logan **22** Wynnum Manly **18** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)

Round 15 - Jul 8-10

Fri July 8 2011, 7:00PM
Northern Pride **25** Burleigh **25** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sat July 9 2011, 2:00PM
Sunshine Coast **6** Redcliffe **10** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sat July 9 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **14** Souths Logan **24** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)

Sat July 9 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **20** Tweed Heads **34** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun July 10 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **10** Ipswich **56** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun July 10 2011, 3:00PM
Wynnum Manly **54** Norths Devils **10** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)

Round 16 - Jul 15-17

Fri July 15 2011, 7:30PM
Sunshine Coast **10** Northern Pride **20** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sat July 16 2011, 2:00PM
Burleigh **6** Souths Logan **30** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sun July 17 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **24** Central Comets **12** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sun July 17 2011, 3:00PM
Norths Devils **24** Easts Tigers **14** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Tweed Heads **48** Wynnum Manly **8** at Piggabeen Sports Complex
Redcliffe **19** Ipswich **20** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)

Round 17 - Jul 23-31

Sat July 23 2011, 2:00PM
Easts Tigers **14** Tweed Heads **32** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sun July 24 2011, 2:00PM
Mackay **17** Redcliffe **16** at Shark Park Mackay, Mackay, Queensland
Sat July 30 2011, 2:00PM
Norths Devils **32** Burleigh **8** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)
Sat July 30 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **36** Ipswich **20** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sun July 31 2011, 3:00PM
Wynnum Manly **48** Central Comets **12** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sunshine Coast **18** Souths Logan **28** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD

Round 18 - Aug 6-7

Sat August 6 2011, 2:00PM
Wynnum Manly **22** Mackay **12** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Sunshine Coast **14** Norths Devils **24** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sat August 6 2011, 3:00PM
Ipswich **20** Souths Logan **26** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat August 6 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **36** Easts Tigers **22** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun August 7 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **0** Northern Pride **14** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Sun August 7 2011, 3:15PM
Burleigh **10** Tweed Heads **16** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)

Round 19 - Aug 13-14

Sat August 13 2011, 2:00PM
Souths Logan **16** Redcliffe **16** at Brandon Park, Acacia Ridge (Qld)
Sat August 13 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **36** Wynnum Manly **22** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Ipswich **26** Norths Devils **16** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat August 13 2011, 5:30PM
Northern Pride **30** Mackay **10** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sun August 14 2011, 1:30PM
Central Comets **22** Burleigh **20** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sun August 14 2011, 3:00PM
Tweed Heads **31** Sunshine Coast **20** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)

Round 20 - Aug 20-21

Sat August 20 2011, 2:00PM
Ipswich **4** Tweed Heads **11** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat August 20 2011, 4:00PM
Souths Logan **40** Northern Pride **22** at Yusia Ginau Oval, Bamaga, Queensland
Sat August 20 2011, 5:30PM
Mackay **14** Easts Tigers **16** at Mackay Junior Fields, Mackay, Queensland
Sat August 20 2011, 6:30PM
Sunshine Coast **46** Central Comets **16** at Stockland Park, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, QLD
Sun August 21 2011, 3:00PM
Burleigh **12** Wynnum Manly **32** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Redcliffe **24** Norths Devils **12** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)

Round 21 - Aug 27-28

Sat August 27 2011, 2:00PM
Tweed Heads **10** Redcliffe **4** at Piggabeen Sports Complex
Sat August 27 2011, 3:00PM
Easts Tigers **10** Burleigh **6** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat August 27 2011, 6:00PM
Central Comets **10** Ipswich **16** at Browne Park, Rockhampton (Qld)
Sat August 27 2011, 6:30PM
Mackay **20** Souths Logan **34** at Mackay Junior Fields, Mackay, Queensland
Sun August 28 2011, 3:00PM
Wynnum Manly **28** Sunshine Coast **16** at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum (Qld)
Norths Devils **22** Northern Pride **32** at Bishop Park, Nundah (Qld)

Round 22 - Sep 3-4

Fri September 2 2011, 7:00PM
Northern Pride **16** Tweed Heads **10** at Barlow Park, Cairns, Queensland
Sat September 3 2011, 2:00PM
Redcliffe **38** Central Comets **24** at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe (Qld)
Ipswich **40** Wynnum Manly **10** at North Ipswich Reserve, Ipswich (Qld)
Sat September 3 2011, 5:00PM
Easts Tigers **42** Sunshine Coast **22** at Langlands Park, Stones Corner, Brisbane (Qld)
Sat September 3 2011, 5:30PM
Burleigh **30** Mackay **20** at Pizzey Park, Miami, Gold Coast (Qld)
Sun September 4 2011, 3:00PM
Souths Logan **30** Norths Devils **28** at Davies Park, West End, Brisbane (Qld)

2011

2011 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

If you had told most Queensland Cup fans that Wynnum Manly would win the 2011 Queensland Cup after round 6 following their 6th loss in a row they would have laughed at you. Wynnum recovered to just scrape into the final six. The runaway minor premiers were Tweed Heads who only lost two games going into the finals.

The Northern Pride finished 2nd and in 3rd place, just behind, were Souths Logan. It was a courageous back half to their season after being cruelly cut from their Canberra affiliation midway due to a very poor NSWRL ruling. More bad luck would befall the Magpies in week one of the finals.

The finals format returned to what was used in the 2009 season over 3 weeks with three qualifying finals in week one with the winners and highest placed loser going into the preliminary finals. After a narrow loss to the Dolphins 22-20, the Magpies found themselves bundled out of the finals as Wynnum Manly, who finished 6th, beat the minor premiers Tweed Heads 24-12. Sanity would prevail next year with a return to a fairer 4 week finals format but it would be too late for Souths Logan.

Tweed Heads bounced back to beat the Pride 26-10 while Wynnum clicked into high gear to thrash Redcliffe 36-0 to set up an epic battle of the two Seagulls teams in the Grand Final. Tweed Heads shot out to a 10-0 lead before future Cowboys hooker, Jake Granville, dived on a grubber to score just before half time. Wynnum scored next from a bomb and then a try from a brilliant 20 metre run by Shea Moylan sealed the fairytale win 16-10 for coach Paul Green's Wynnum Manly Seagulls to claim the 2011 Queensland Cup title.

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Finals - Wynnum 24 v Tweed Heads 12, Redcliffe 22 v Souths Logan 20 & Northern Pride 30 v Ipswich 6

Wynnum stun Tweed in battle of the Gulls

Chris Garry
Queensland Cup

WYNNUM Manly produced a stunning upset by beating minor premiers Tweed Heads in the first round of Intrust Super Cup finals.

In the upset of the season, Wynnum Manly dominated at Piggabeen to win 24-12, inflicting on the second loss of the season on Tweed Heads.

Earlier in the day, Redcliffe made best use of a strong wind to defeat Souths Logan 22-20 in a thriler at Brandon Park.

The Dolphins led for most of the match but with two minutes remaining the Magpies had a chance to level the scores. Corey Thompson missed a conversion and with that the Magpies were eliminated from the finals.

With a gale at their back in the first half, the Dolphins needed a good start.

However it was Souths Logan who claimed opening points.

It went from bad to worse for the Dolphins when their giant centre Paul Ivan burst into the clear and with an open support player on his right it seemed a try was inevitable, but Ivan dummied instead of passing and was easily tackled.

However, the Dolphins showed their class in the last 20 minutes of the opening half, scoring three tries, with Justin Hunt capping off a fine first 40 with a solo 50m try that showed blistering speed.

Five-eighth Hunt is headed to South Sydney with his halves partner Ryan Carr next year and both men showed why they were signed, with excellent individual performances.

Dolphins coach John Dixon said while his club's first half was impressive, it was their goal-line defence that won them the game.

"We were really under the pump in the second half for long stretches and the way the guys defended their goal was exceptional, that won us the match," Dixon said. "The wind made things interesting, it became a strange game and the good thing was it remained for the whole game so both teams could use it."

Intrust Super Cup semi finals

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 22 (Mitch Rivett, Marty Hatfield, Liam Georgetown, Justin Hunt tries; Liam Georgetown 3 goals) **d SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES 20** (Sosaia Makisi, Travis Waddell, Andrew Edwards, Sam Gardel tries; Corey Thompson 2 goals) at Brandon Park.

WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 24 (Jason Moon 2, Reece Blayney, Luke Dalziel-Don tries; Matt Seamark 4 goals) **d TWEED HEADS SEAGULLS 12** (Cody Nelson, Will Matthews tries; Brad Davis 2 goals) at Piggabeen Sports.

NORTHERN PRIDE 30 (Rod Jensen 2, Chey Bird, Ben Spina, Jason Roos tries; Chey Bird 5 goals) **d IPSWICH JETS 6** (Ian Lacey try; Brendon Lindsay goal) at Barlow Park.

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QLD Cup 1st Preliminary Final - Tweed Heads 26 v Northern Pride 10

Seagulls soar on way to grand final

Chris Garry

MINOR premiers Tweed Heads Seagulls have triumphed over a fiery Northern Pride to earn an Intrust Super Cup grand final berth next Sunday at Suncorp Stadium.

The Tweed side dominated the first half 24-0, before holding on 26-10 at Dolphin Oval.

Captain Brad Davis, who seemingly improves with age, was again sensational while prop Josh Starling, sporting a mullet that would make Billy Ray Cyrus proud, was excellent in the middle, regularly pushing aside Pride defenders.

While the scoreline blew out early, with the match effectively over after 35 minutes, there was still a raw physical intensity throughout the game as the Pride repeatedly rushed off their line to put shots on.

Seagulls kickers Brad Davis and Matt King, in particular, took a pounding.

Coach Ben Anderson claimed the referee should have done a better job protecting his kickers.

But he said after being "flat" last week, his Seagulls were "back".

"Our first half was incredible and in the second half they held on," Anderson said.

"Our success all year has been on the back of good defence. We got some sting back today."

The second half exploded when Pride second-rower Joel Riethmuller sparked a melee by shoving a Seagull to the ground. Riethmuller was sent off while Seagulls playmaker Matt King was given 10 minutes in the bin. The Pride's scramble in defence, even in the last 10 minutes, showed why they had a successful season.

The Seagulls will tackle the winner of today's second preliminary final between Redcliffe and Wynnum-Manly in the decider next week.

Wynnum-Manly posted the upset of the season last week, toppling Tweed Heads 24-12 at Piggabeen, while the Dolphins defeated Souths Logan Magpies.

The Dolphins will start favourites against Wynnum Manly, who have rebounded from a horror start.

Tweed Heads Seagulls 26 (T Maccan 2, N Barnes, T Merritt tries; B Davis 5 goals) d Northern Pride 10 (H Murgha, N Underwood tries; C Bird goal).



Victory flight: Seagull Tom Merritt crashes over. **Picture: Mark Calleja**

QLD Cup 2nd Preliminary Final - Wynnum 36 v Redcliffe 0

Seagulls send luckless Dolphins packing

Chris Garry

DARREN Lockyer's finale is not the only rugby league fairytale being scripted this year.

The Wynnum Manly Seagulls are a true rags-to-riches team, who have defied all expectations to cement an Intrust Super Cup grand final berth on Sunday at Suncorp Stadium.

Wynnum defeated the Redcliffe Dolphins 36-0 at Dolphin Oval yesterday afternoon.

Not bad for a team that started the year with zero wins from six matches. This weekend's grand final is now a battle of the Seagulls as Wynnum Manly tackle Tweed Heads at Suncorp Stadium.

Wynnum Manly defeated Tweed Heads 24-12, just nine days ago.

In-form centre Shea Moylan, who made his NRL debut for the Brisbane Broncos this year, said his team could definitely win the grand final.

"We can. Our defeat of Tweed Heads last week showed that," Moylan said.

"We have so much confidence and we stick together out there on the field. It was a great effort to win the way we did."

Wynnum Manly came out on fire and had notched several tries before halftime. They found early success through sweeping backline ball movement.

Centre Matt Grieve scored twice in the opening 20 minutes.

"Grieve was unreal today," Moylan said. "No one could touch him."

Back-rower Kurtis Lingwoodock and fullback Jake Granville were also sensational for Wynnum. Granville is a chance of taking out the major prize in the QRL's annual awards tonight, which is supported by *The Courier-Mail*.

The former Brisbane Broncos contracted custodian is one of several players in line to win *The Courier-Mail* Best and Fairest player of the Queensland Cup. Brad Davis, Chey Bird and Ryan Simpkins are other front-runners.

Intrust Super Cup semi-final: WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 36 (Matt Grieve 2, Reece Blayney, Luke Dalziel-Don, Kurtis Lingwoodock, Ben Shea tries; Matt Seamark 6 goals) d REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 0 at Dolphin Oval.



PARTY TIME: A jubilant Ben Shea is mobbed by Wynnum Manly teammates after touching down. Picture: Glenn Barnes

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QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 16 v TWEED HEADS 10

Wynnum's late charge from zero to heroes

Chris Garry

WYNNUM Manly have completed the fairytale, winning the Intrust Super Cup premiership after coming from behind to defeat the Tweed Heads Seagulls 16-10.

On the back of livewire fullback Jake Granville, Wynnum Manly responded to a 10-0 first-half deficit to run down heavy favourites Tweed Heads in a gripping contest.

Wynnum Manly began the year with no wins from six games, yet incredibly they now stand as the season's best team.

The club's veteran second-rower Dane Carlaw, who won two NRL premierships with the Brisbane Broncos, said the club's fighting performance was driven by everyone who had doubted them.

"This proves a lot of people wrong," Carlaw said. "The turnaround has been phenomenal. It's a credit to the guys.

"To come back today and win, it's a good feeling.

"We were doing the little things wrong at the start of the year and then we started doing them right. It's a big cliché, but it's true.

"You want to be playing your best footy come the finals, not at the start of the year, and that's what we did."

Carlaw played seven games for the Broncos this year but was unable to secure an extension on his one-year deal with the NRL club.

The former Australian Test representative said he would play next year.

"I think so," he said. "I'm still sorting that out, but I'm enjoying my footy so I think I will."

Yesterday's game was played in front of 7000 predominantly Wynnum Manly fans at Suncorp Stadium.

Wynnum Manly started their previous two finals matches as heavy underdogs, and the decider was no different.

Tweed Heads were comfortably the better team early and shot out to a 10-0 lead on the back of tries to Tim McCann and Cody Nelson.

But with 30 seconds left in the first half, a Wynnum Manly set piece saw Granville dive on a first tackle grubber from Matt Seamark.

Wynnum Manly were lucky to be down just four points at halftime, but they started the second half on fire when a Reece Blayney bomb was allowed to bounce in the in-goal and halfback Matt Seamark pounced to give their team a 12-10 lead with 30 minutes remaining.

The match entered a grind for the next 20 minutes until a piece of individual brilliance from centre Shea Moylan sealed the result. In a 20m run, Moylan left four Tweed Heads defenders in his wake to score.

Brisbane Broncos coach Anthony Griffin and most of his players watched the match from their corporate box and cheered Wynnum Manly home.

Granville was awarded the Duncan Hall Medal for best player on ground.

WYNNUM MANLY 16 (Jake Granville, Shea Moylan, Matt Seamark tries; Matt Seamark 2 goals) d TWEED HEADS SEAGULLS 10 (Tim Maccan, Cody Nelson tries; Brad Davis goal) at Suncorp Stadium.



TRIUMPHANT: Wynnum Manly captain Luke Dalziel-Don holds the Intrust Super Cup aloft after their come-from-behind victory; and elated members of the winning Wynnum Manly team get together for a historic photo

Pictures: Jono Searle



2011

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 16 v TWEED HEADS 10



FRONT ROW: Matt Seamark, Shaun Cotter, Shea Moylan, Steve Darby, John Te Reo, Luke Dalziel-Don (captain), Reece Blayney, Vinnie Silulu, Jimmy O'Brien, Jake Granville, Jayden Mauai.

SECOND ROW: Paul Green (coach), Craig Hodges (assistant coach), Tim Natusch, Tyson Brookes, Willie Scanlan, Josh Jerome, Casey Rogers, Jake Ryalls, Danny Grimley (assistant coach), Kerry Crosbie (manager).

THIRD ROW: Anthony Woods (strength & training coach), Sam Te'o, Jason Moon, Dane Carlaw, Ben Shea, Rowhan Campbell (head trainer).

BACK ROW: Willie Taukafa, Matt Grieve, Charlie Gubb.

2011 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

1st Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 22 def. Souths Logan 20
2nd Qualifying Semi-Final: Wynnum 24 def. Tweed Heads 12
3rd Qualifying Semi-Final: Northern Pride 30 def. Ipswich 6
1st Preliminary Final: Tweed Heads 26 def. Northern Pride 10
2nd Preliminary Final: Wynnum 36 def. Redcliffe 0

2011 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

WYNNUM MANLY 16 (Tries: J. Granville, S. Moylan, M. Seamark; Goals: M. Seamark 2) def. TWEED HEADS 10 (Tries: T. Maccan, C. Nelson; Goals: B. Davis)

2012

QUEENSLAND CUP: WYNNUM MANLY

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	W	L	D	B	F	A	P/D	PTS
Redcliffe Dolphins	17	5	0	0	724	390	334	34
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	16	5	1	0	624	436	188	33
Tweed Heads Seagulls	14	7	1	0	530	473	57	29
Ipswich Jets	13	7	2	0	520	421	99	28
Norths Devils	12	8	2	0	654	510	144	26
Easts Tigers	13	9	0	0	621	496	125	26
Northern Pride	12	9	1	0	554	497	57	25
Mackay Cutters	10	12	0	0	488	544	-56	20
Burleigh Bears	7	14	1	0	427	479	-52	15
Central Capras	5	16	1	0	432	743	-311	11
Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	4	17	1	0	376	699	-323	9
Souths Logan Magpies	3	17	2	0	422	684	-262	8

W: Won, L: Lost, D: Draw, B: Byes, F: For, A: Against, P/D: Points Difference (For - Against), PTS: Points

2012 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 - Mar 10-11
Sat: Easts Tigers **38** d. Souths Logan **16**
Sat: Northern Pride **22** d. Ipswich **14**
Sun: CQ Capras **40** d. Sunshine Coast **22**
Sun: Redcliffe **28** d. Mackay **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **26** d. Tweed Heads **24**
Sun: Burleigh **36** d. Norths Devils **24**

Round 2 - Mar 17-18
Sat: Ipswich **14** l. Easts Tigers **15**
Sat: Mackay **6** l. Northern Pride **14**
Sun: Sunshine Coast **35** d. Souths Logan **22**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **84** d. CQ Capras **6**
Sun: Norths Devils **12** drew Tweed Heads **12**
Sun: Burleigh **6** l. Redcliffe **32**

Round 3 - Mar 24-25
Sat: Easts Tigers **30** d. Northern Pride **22**
Sat: Sunshine Coast **6** l. Tweed Heads **7**
Sat: Mackay **30** d. Norths Devils **28**
Sat: Souths Logan **44** d. CQ Capras **6**
Sun: Redcliffe **30** d. Ipswich **10**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **18** d. Burleigh **14**

Round 4 - Mar 31-Apr 1
Sat: Mackay **24** l. Tweed Heads **36**
Sat: Northern Pride **22** l. Souths Logan **32**
Sat: Norths Devils **6** l. Wynnum Manly **24**
Sun: CQ Capras **28** l. Ipswich **36**
Sun: Burleigh **12** l. Easts Tigers **24**
Sun: Sunshine Coast **36** d. Redcliffe **20**

Round 5 - Apr 5-8
Thu: CQ Capras **28** d. Northern Pride **18**
Sat: Burleigh **12** l. Mackay **26**
Sun: Sunshine Coast **12** l. Norths Devils **42**
Sun: Tweed Heads **28** d. Ipswich **14**
Sun: Redcliffe **70** d. Souths Logan **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **24** d. Easts Tigers **20**

Round 6 - Apr 14-22
Sat: Ipswich **18** d. Burleigh **8**
Sat: Sunshine Coast **20** l. Wynnum Manly **36**
Sun: Tweed Heads **24** d. Northern Pride **22**
Sun: Souths Logan **6** l. Norths Devils **28**
Sun: CQ Capras **12** l. Redcliffe **46**
Sun: Easts Tigers **20** l. Mackay **34**

Round 7 - Apr 27-29
Fri: Mackay **42** d. CQ Capras **12**
Sat: Easts Tigers **32** d. Norths Devils **28**
Sat: Northern Pride **26** d. Sunshine Coast **12**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **20** d. Redcliffe **12**
Sun: Souths Logan **16** l. Ipswich **30**
Sun: Tweed Heads **22** d. Burleigh **14**

Round 8 - May 5-6
Sat: Ipswich **30** d. Sunshine Coast **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **20** d. Wynnum Manly **18**
Sun: CQ Capras **25** d. Burleigh **22**
Sun: Souths Logan **12** l. Mackay **24**
Sun: Tweed Heads **34** d. Easts Tigers **26**
Sun: Redcliffe **50** d. Norths Devils **18**

2012

Round 9 - May 12-13
Sat: Easts Tigers **58** d. Sunshine Coast **18**
Sat: Northern Pride **24** d. Burleigh **22**
Sat: Mackay **10** l. Ipswich **32**
Sat: Norths Devils **32** d. CQ Capras **28**
Sun: Tweed Heads **12** l. Redcliffe **32**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **36** d. Souths Logan **20**

Round 10 - May 19-20
Sat: Easts Tigers **14** l. Redcliffe **20**
Sat: Ipswich **28** l. Wynnum Manly **32**
Sun: Sunshine Coast **10** l. Mackay **36**
Sun: CQ Capras **19** l. Tweed Heads **22**
Sun: Burleigh **24** d. Souths Logan **12**
Sun: Norths Devils **26** d. Northern Pride **14**

Round 11 - May 26-27
Sat: Ipswich **42** d. Norths Devils **30**
Sat: Northern Pride **32** d. Redcliffe **18**
Sat: Burleigh **46** d. Sunshine Coast **14**
Sun: CQ Capras **26** d. Easts Tigers **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **48** d. Mackay **6**
Sun: Tweed Heads **23** d. Souths Logan **16**

Round 12 - Jun 2-3
Sat: Sunshine Coast **20** drew CQ Capras **20**
Sat: Mackay **28** l. Redcliffe **32**
Sun: Ipswich **38** d. Northern Pride **14**
Sun: Tweed Heads **30** d. Wynnum Manly **16**
Sun: Souths Logan **12** l. Easts Tigers **18**
Sun: Norths Devils **36** d. Burleigh **12**

Round 13 - Jun 10
Sun: Northern Pride **36** d. Mackay **10**
Sun: CQ Capras **18** l. Wynnum Manly **24**
Sun: Easts Tigers **28** d. Ipswich **20**
Sun: Tweed Heads **10** l. Norths Devils **32**
Sun: Redcliffe **22** d. Burleigh **4**
Sun: Souths Logan **30** d. Sunshine Coast **16**

Round 14 - Jun 15-17
Fri: Ipswich **14** d. Mackay **10**
Sat: Sunshine Coast **14** l. Easts Tigers **38**
Sun: Burleigh **34** d. Northern Pride **16**
Sun: CQ Capras **24** l. Norths Devils **40**
Sun: Redcliffe **46** d. Tweed Heads **10**
Sun: Souths Logan **20** l. Wynnum Manly **36**

Round 15 - Jun 23-24
Sat: Northern Pride **14** l. Tweed Heads **30**
Sun: Mackay **10** l. Easts Tigers **36**
Sun: Norths Devils **42** d. Souths Logan **16**
Sun: Redcliffe **48** d. CQ Capras **14**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **28** d. Sunshine Coast **10**
Sun: Burleigh **12** l. Ipswich **16**

Round 16 - Jul 7-8
Sat: Easts Tigers **28** l. Wynnum Manly **34**
Sat: Ipswich **24** d. Tweed Heads **10**
Sat: Northern Pride **38** d. CQ Capras **26**
Sun: Mackay **22** d. Burleigh **12**
Sun: Norths Devils **52** d. Sunshine Coast **8**
Sun: Souths Logan **10** l. Redcliffe **40**

Round 17 (Country Weekend) - Jul 14-15
Sat: CQ Capras **12** l. Ipswich **26**
Sat: Souths Logan **26** l. Northern Pride **28**
Sat: Tweed Heads **28** d. Mackay **22**
Sun: Easts Tigers **34** d. Burleigh **16**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **24** d. Norths Devils **18**
Sun: Redcliffe **22** d. Sunshine Coast **8**

Round 18 - Jul 21-22
Sat: Ipswich **20** drew Souths Logan **20**
Sat: Sunshine Coast **21** d. Northern Pride **18**
Sun: CQ Capras **20** l. Mackay **24**
Sun: Redcliffe **38** d. Wynnum Manly **6**
Sun: Norths Devils **30** d. Easts Tigers **22**
Sun: Burleigh **32** d. Tweed Heads **12**

Round 19 - Jul 29-Aug 5
Sun: Wynnum Manly **16** l. Northern Pride **44**
Sat: Sunshine Coast **14** l. Ipswich **32**
Sat: Burleigh **23** d. CQ Capras **10**
Sun: Easts Tigers **30** d. Tweed Heads **24**
Sun: Mackay **40** d. Souths Logan **20**
Sun: Norths Devils **32** l. Redcliffe **40**

Round 20 - Aug 11-12
Sat: Northern Pride **28** drew Norths Devils **28**
Sat: Mackay **36** d. Sunshine Coast **22**
Sat: Souths Logan **18** drew Burleigh **18**
Sun: Wynnum Manly **16** drew Ipswich **16**
Sun: Tweed Heads **34** d. CQ Capras **10**
Sun: Redcliffe **32** d. Easts Tigers **14**

Round 21 - Aug 18-19
Sat: Burleigh **32** d. Wynnum Manly **26**
Sat: Northern Pride **44** d. Easts Tigers **10**
Sat: CQ Capras **36** d. Souths Logan **12**
Sun: Ipswich **30** d. Redcliffe **18**
Sun: Tweed Heads **44** d. Sunshine Coast **12**
Sun: Norths Devils **40** d. Mackay **24**

Round 22 - Aug 25-26
Sat: Mackay **6** l. Wynnum Manly **32**
Sun: Redcliffe **28** l. Northern Pride **38**
Sun: Easts Tigers **68** d. CQ Capras **12**
Sun: Norths Devils **30** d. Ipswich **16**
Sun: Sunshine Coast **28** d. Burleigh **16**
Sun: Souths Logan **24** l. Tweed Heads **54**

2012

2012 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The two teams that would lead the way in the 2012 Queensland Cup would be the two teams that would share the bulk of the fringe NRL players from the Broncos. Season 2012 would be contested by the same 12 teams as 2011 and the competition would receive a major boost following the latest NRL broadcast deal. The ABC telecast games on Saturday afternoons up to 2011. From 2012 Channel Nine took over as telecaster and have telecast games on Sunday afternoon before their NRL Sunday afternoon game which has helped to increase the profile and interest in the competition.

Sanity would prevail this season with a return to the fairer 4 week finals format used in the seasons up to 2009 when it changed to a 3 week format for 3 seasons. Tweed Heads scored an upset win over last year's premiers Wynnum Manly 19-16 in the Qualifying semi-final. Wynnum reversed the result over Tweed Heads in the preliminary final winning 30-4 after Tweed Heads lost to the minor premiers Redcliffe in the major semi-final 32-16.

The Grand Final was a battle of the Bayside—Redcliffe v Wynnum. The two well supported Brisbane sides drew a crowd just under 10 000. After Georgetown scored for Redcliffe, Wynnum put on three tries to Fauid, Moon and Peter Gubb to go to a 14-6 lead before a sensational Redcliffe try by Berryman. A late Charlie Gubb try converted by retiring former Bronco, Dane Carlaw, sealed the victory 20-10 to Wynnum to be the first team since Redcliffe nine years earlier to score back-to-back Queensland Cup titles under coach Paul Green. He would go onto to coach the North Queensland Cowboys to their first NRL premiership with Jake Granville who played in Wynnum's double.

QLD Cup Elimination Semi-Final - Norths 26 v Ipswich 20

BLISTERING START GETS DEVILS OVER LINE



A BLISTERING opening onslaught propelled the Norths Devils to a 26-20 victory over the Ipswich Jets in Saturday's bruising Intrust Super Cup elimination final at the North Ipswich Reserve.

The Devils scored the bulk of their points inside the first 20 minutes, with early tries from Jay Aston, Keiran English and Lachlan Maranta handing the visitors a commanding 16-0 lead.

After a sloppy opening, the Jets gradually worked their way into the contest on the back of some strong charges from Nat Neale and Ramon Filipine. Tries from young hooker Matt Parcell and Neale brought the Jets back into the contest in front of a big home crowd. But the Devils still went into half-time with a 16-12 lead, and despite a strong start to the second half by a Lorenzo Maafu-inspired Jets team, Norths grabbed the first try upon the resumption through crafty hooker Kurt Baptiste.

Norths then made a basic error from the kick off, allowing the Jets to go on the attack in a desperate bid to cut down the Devils' 10-point lead. Electric Ipswich fullback Javarn White did the damage with a well constructed try which was soon followed by a strong surge from Kurtis Lingwoodock and back-to-back four pointers. But the Jets missed both conversions, leaving the Devils clinging to a 22-20 advantage with 10 minutes remaining.

With the match in the balance, Baptiste manufactured the play of the game when he kicked a brilliant 40/20. Forced to defend for their lives, the Jets were hanging on desperately until another repeat set provided an opportunity for Aston who burrowed over in the left corner to kill off Ipswich's 2012 premiership dream. Aston was simply outstanding for the Devils.

He set the tone for Norths with the opening try and it regularly took three defenders to bring him to ground. Norths now loom as a genuine title threat but still need to win two more games to qualify for the September 23 grand final at Suncorp Stadium.

For Ipswich, it was a bitter pill to swallow after an excellent campaign which saw them narrowly miss out on a top three berth. The Jets can take plenty of positives from the season however, with a host of players blossoming under the coaching of Ben and Shane Walker.

NORTHS DEVILS 26 (Jay Aston 2, Lachlan Maranta, Keiran English, Kurt Baptiste tries; Joel Bailey 3 goals) defeated
IPSWICH JETS 20 (Javarn White, Nathaniel Neale, Matt Parcell, Kurtis Lingwoodock tries; Brendon Lindsay 2 goals) at North Ipswich Reserve.

2012

QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Tweed Heads 19 v Wynnum 16

GRITTY TWEED UPSET DEFENDING PREMIERS



TWEED Heads booked a major semi-final showdown with minor premiers Redcliffe next weekend after overcoming Wynnum Manly in an enthralling tussle at BMD Kougari Oval yesterday.

The Tweed withstood an early barrage from a physical Wynnum Manly outfit to record a stunning 19-16 victory. Ben Anderson's team is now just one win away from securing a berth in the September 23 grand final at Suncorp Stadium. Tweed barely rated a mention amongst most pundits in the lead up to the opening week of the finals, but they made a major statement yesterday in their quest to avenge last year's grand final defeat.

Converted tries from Cory Blair and Matt King, followed by a Beau Henry field goal on the bell, put the Seagulls from south of the border in front 13-6 at half-time. Wynnum's only points of the first half came from a Matt Seamark penalty goal and a superb try from Peter Gubb, who finished off a brilliant movement featuring Jacob Fauid and Sean Loxley.

Loxley nearly gave the home side a perfect start to the second half but he lost the ball in what proved to be a turning point. The Tweed made no mistake at the other end of the field when big forward Aaron Cannings crashed over to extend the Seagulls' lead to 17-6. Neither side was giving an inch at this stage and with plenty of niggle creeping in, the match threatened to explode. But with the likes of Ryan James and Blair setting the platform in the middle, the Tweed was able to push further in front courtesy of a Brad Davis penalty goal.

Wynnum threw caution to the wind in the closing 15 minutes and came up with a smart try to centre Dan Wallace from a grubber kick in behind the line. But the defending premiers squandered a number of other attacking opportunities and only got it right in the very last play of the game when Jason Moon crossed for a consolation try while James was in the sin-bin for a professional foul.

Wynnum Manly's season will now go on the line against the giant-killing Norths Devils in Saturday's elimination final at BMD Kougari Oval.

TWEED HEADS SEAGULLS 19 (Cory Blair, Aaron Cannings, Matt King tries; Brad Davis 2, Beau Henry goals; Beau Henry field goal) defeated
WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 16 (Peter Gubb, Dan Wallace, Jason Moon tries; Matt Seamark 2 goals) at BMD Kougari Oval.

2012

QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wynnum 30 v Norths 22

Seagulls March On In Quest For Title Two

A REJUVANTED Wynnum Manly Seagulls have stayed in the hunt for back-to-back Intrust Super Cup premierships with a hard-fought 30-22 victory over the Norths Devils at BMD Kougari Oval. With their season on the line, the Seagulls lifted in front of their home fans to book a spot in next Sunday's preliminary final against the loser of this afternoon's qualifying final between Redcliffe and Tweed Heads.

Forwards Tim Natusch, John Te Reo and Luke Dalziel Don all played key roles for the Seagulls in a strong first-half display. Natusch set the tone with several powerful surges and clever off-loads, while Dalziel Don was at his menacing best on the left edge. Te Reo was also hard to contain on occasions, and when the former Bronco burnt off a number of defenders to score a great solo try, the Seagulls had kicked out to an 18-10 half-time lead.

The Seagulls made the early running in the second half, but the Devils held firm before a number of penalties and cheap turnovers from the home side gifted the visitors the field position they had been craving. The reward came when Jay Aston swooped on a clever grubber in behind the goal-line to score the Devils' third of the afternoon. Young winger Joel Bailey made no mistake with the conversion and all of a sudden the Devils were back within two points.

However, Wynnum Manly responded almost immediately when Dalziel Don combined with hard-running centre Dan Wallace to set up a stunning try for five-eighth Jacob Fauid, another one of the Seagulls' best. Matt Seamark landed the conversion to take the Seagulls back out to an eight buffer but it was soon cut to two points again when Devils centre Namila Davui grabbed an intercept and raced away to score under the posts.

With players from both teams beginning to fatigue in the energy-sapping heat, it was perhaps going to take a piece of individual brilliance to separate the teams. And it came through that man Dalziel Don, who broke the hearts of Devils fans when he showed great composure under pressure to pick up a loose ball that had been charged down by Norths. The veteran Seagulls skipper then threw a long ball onto the chest of flyer Nat Barnes and he scorched away to score a crucial try. The Devils tried in vain to again bridge an eight point buffer.

Classy hooker Kurt Baptiste tried hard all day but he was well contained by the surging Seagulls defence. Opposite number Jake Granville won a clear points decision in the key hooking duel, with his probing runs from dummy half and solid defence a feature of Wynnum Manly's performance.

WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 30 (Sean Loxley, Peter Gubb, Nathanael Barnes, Jacob Fauid, John Te Reo tries; Matt Seamark 5 goals) def NORTHS DEVILS 22 (Joel Bailey, Namila Davui, Chris McLean, Jay Aston tries; Joel Bailey 3 goals) at BMD Kougari Oval

2012

QLD Cup Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 32 v Tweed Heads 16



Dolphins Lose Skipper But Win Match

THE Redcliffe Dolphins overcame the early loss of skipper Chris Farrell to confirm their spot in Sunday week's grand final with a 32-16 victory over Tweed Heads at Dolphin Oval today. Farrell suffered a suspected broken jaw after being met front on by a heavy Ryan James shoulder charge. The tackle went unpunished but it may yet come in for scrutiny by the competition's match review panel.

A fired up James was in everything for the Seagulls in the physical opening exchanges. But the Dolphins fired the first shot on the scoreboard when strapping centre Aaron Whitchurch fielded a grubber kick from deep inside his own territory and skipped out of two tackles before setting sail down field. He had enough speed to beat Tweed's Shaun Carney across the line for the opening try of the match. Liam Georgetown added the extra two points and the Dolphins bagged a further four in the 16th minute when Troy Giess and Marty Hatfield combined to put Luke Capewell on his way.

Capewell used his clever footwork to evade Carney's last ditch tackle to cross in the right corner for a 10-0 lead. But in what became the theme of the afternoon, the Tweed just wouldn't go away and when Beau Henry kicked a great 40/20, Brad Davis stepped up and delivered a beautiful ball to James Wood for the Seagulls' opening try.

Redcliffe however had the last laugh before the break when the electric Tommy Butterfield broke through the middle and linked with Delroy Berryman who did the rest for a 16-4 half-time lead.

The second half was a scrappy contest at times but it came alive when a slick backline movement saw Berryman cross for his second. Now with a handy 20-4 lead, the Dolphins appeared to be coasting into the September 23 grand final but a never-say-die Seagulls outfit worked its way back into the contest with a Blake Anderson try and Davis conversion.

The Tweed needed to be the next team to score but instead it was the Dolphins who answered, with a stunning solo run and classic one hand put down from Troy Giess giving his team further breathing space at 26-10. Henry pulled a try back for the Seagulls when he outjumped a swarming pack hovering under a well-placed Davis bomb.

Henry nearly came up with a second from a similar Tweed play but the try was denied with the video referee correctly ruling that he had placed his foot on the touch line before grounding the ball. With the clock winding down, prolific scorer Georgetown put his stamp on the game with a try that continued his astonishing run of success in the Intrust Super Cup this year. The Queensland Residents flyer has now scored one or more tries in his last 16 games for the Dolphins.

While Redcliffe will now prepare for the September 23 grand final at Suncorp Stadium, Tweed will need to regroup before tacking Wynnum Manly in next Sunday's preliminary final at BMD Kougari Oval.

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 32 (Delroy Berryman 2, Aaron Whitchurch, Liam Georgetown, Luke Capewell, Troy Giess; Liam Georgetown 4 goals) def TWEED HEADS 16 (James Wood, Beau Henry, Blake Anderson tries; Brad Davis 2 goals) at Dolphin Oval

2012

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Wynnum 30 v Tweed Heads 4

Coach says reported trio have nothing to fear

Marco Monteverde

WYNNUM Manly coach Paul Green is adamant reported trio Mitchell Dodds, Charlie Gubb and Jason Moon should avoid suspension for Sunday's Intrust Super Cup decider against Redcliffe at Suncorp Stadium.

Citing the controversial decision that allowed Tweed Heads firebrand Ryan James to play in yesterday's preliminary final – won 30-4 by Wynnum – Green said Dodds, Gubb and Moon would have nothing to worry about despite earning the ire of referee Clayton Sharpe at Kougari Oval.

Green was furious James was free to play yesterday, believing he should have been suspended for a shoulder charge-gone-wrong on Redcliffe skipper Chris Farrell a week earlier.

Despite Farrell suffering concussion and a double fracture of his jaw, the QRL judiciary found James not guilty of dangerous conduct, saying there was no clear evidence the Tweed prop made contact with Farrell's head.

"If Ryan James can get off for what he got off for last week, I'm not worried one bit (about Dodds, Gubb and Moon being suspended)," said Green, before adding he "didn't at all" think James should have been cleared to play yesterday.

James' availability ensured a hostile atmosphere yesterday, with the crowd baiting him.

Dodds was placed on report when his swinging arm caught the jaw of a falling James, while Gubb and Moon were reported for lifting Dodds into a dangerous position in a gang tackle.

But Green said he did not tell his players to focus on James.

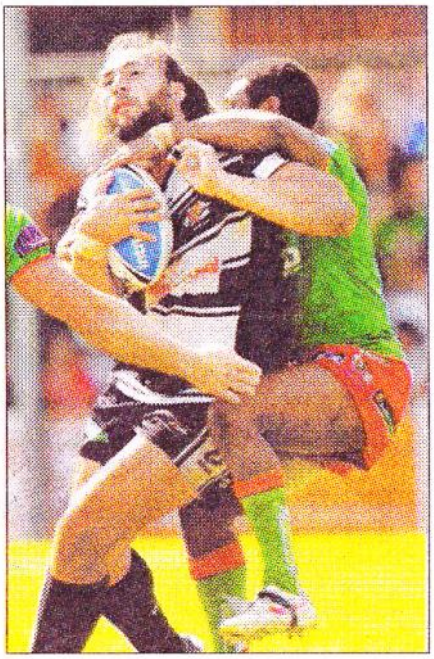
"Both teams were playing for their season so it was always going to be a fiery encounter," he said. "He wasn't spoken about before the game."

Inspired by a commanding display from five-eighth Jacob Fauid, the defending premiers were rarely troubled by a Tweed side that had beaten them just two weeks earlier.

In contrast to Fauid, Tweed halfback Beau Henry had an afternoon to forget, with his error-riddled performance compounded when he was placed on report for a high shot on Wynnum skipper Luke Dalziel-Don.

QRL officials are hopeful of a crowd of more than 15,000 at Sunday's grand final.

WYNNUM MANLY 30 (Nathanael Barnes 2, Peter Gubb, Dan Wallace, Jacob Fauid tries; Matt Seamark 5 goals) d TWEED HEADS 4 (Tom Merritt try) at BMD Kougari Oval.



FIERY CLASH: Tweed's Ryan James gets hit.



ON REPORT: Wynnum Manly's Mitchell Dodds was reported when his arm caught the jaw of falling Tweed player Ryan James. **Picture: Ric Frearson**

2012

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM MANLY 20 v REDCLIFFE 10



Coach looking for greener pastures



MOVING ON: Coach Paul Green with the Intrust Super Cup.

Steve Ricketts

WYNNUM-MANLY are resigned to losing coach Paul Green to the NRL after the former Queensland State of Origin star presided over their defence of the Intrust Super Cup title in a stirring 20-10 grand final win over Redcliffe at Suncorp Stadium yesterday.

Redcliffe played the last 10 minutes with 12 men, such was the injury count for the Dolphins with former Broncos forward Derrick Watkins taken to hospital with a broken ankle.

Skipper Isaak Ah Mau (broken ribs) and Penrith-bound five-eighth Maurice Kennedy (anterior cruciate) were the other big casualties.

Wynnum skipper Luke Dalziel Don received the Duncan Hall Medal as man of the match, but finished with suspected cruciate ligament damage.

Dalziel Don had been invited by Broncos coach Anthony Griffin to train with the NRL outfit during the summer, but his hopes may have been shot with surgery looming.

Green was an assistant on the Broncos staff when Ivan Henjak was the boss, but quit to test himself as a head coach.

He has done that with honours and is ready to return to the NRL although it may have to be in an assistant capacity again.

Wynnum Manly chairman Rick Green expects his little brother to be in demand.

"We'd like to keep him, but I don't know how we keep him after two premierships, just what he's done with this team," Rick said.

Paul Green said he had nothing definite in the pipeline.

"I'd like to go on to bigger and better things," he said. "The trouble is a lot of that stuff is out of your hands. I've done all I can do.

"I know the next couple of days there's probably a few headaches involved.

"That's as far as I can see at the moment.

"To be the first Wynnum side to go back-to-back is a feather in our cap. Everyone wrote us off when we went through a patch where our form wasn't great.

"But I knew we had got through that flat patch and we were building. Our last two semis were tough defensively and that's what won us the game."

The score was 6-6 at halftime, but tries to Jason Moon and Peter Gubb after the break put Wynnum in the box seat at 14-6.

Redcliffe never gave up and a try to winger Delroy Berryman five minutes from time gave them hope before prop Gubb, brother of winger Peter, crashed over between the posts.

SEAGULLS 20 (Peter Gubb, Jason Moon, Jacob Fauid, Charlie Gubb tries; Matt Seamark, Dane Carlaw goals) d DOLPHINS 10 (Delroy Berryman, Liam Georgetown tries; Georgetown goal).

Fans show their colours)) P7

2012

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM MANLY 20 v REDCLIFFE 10

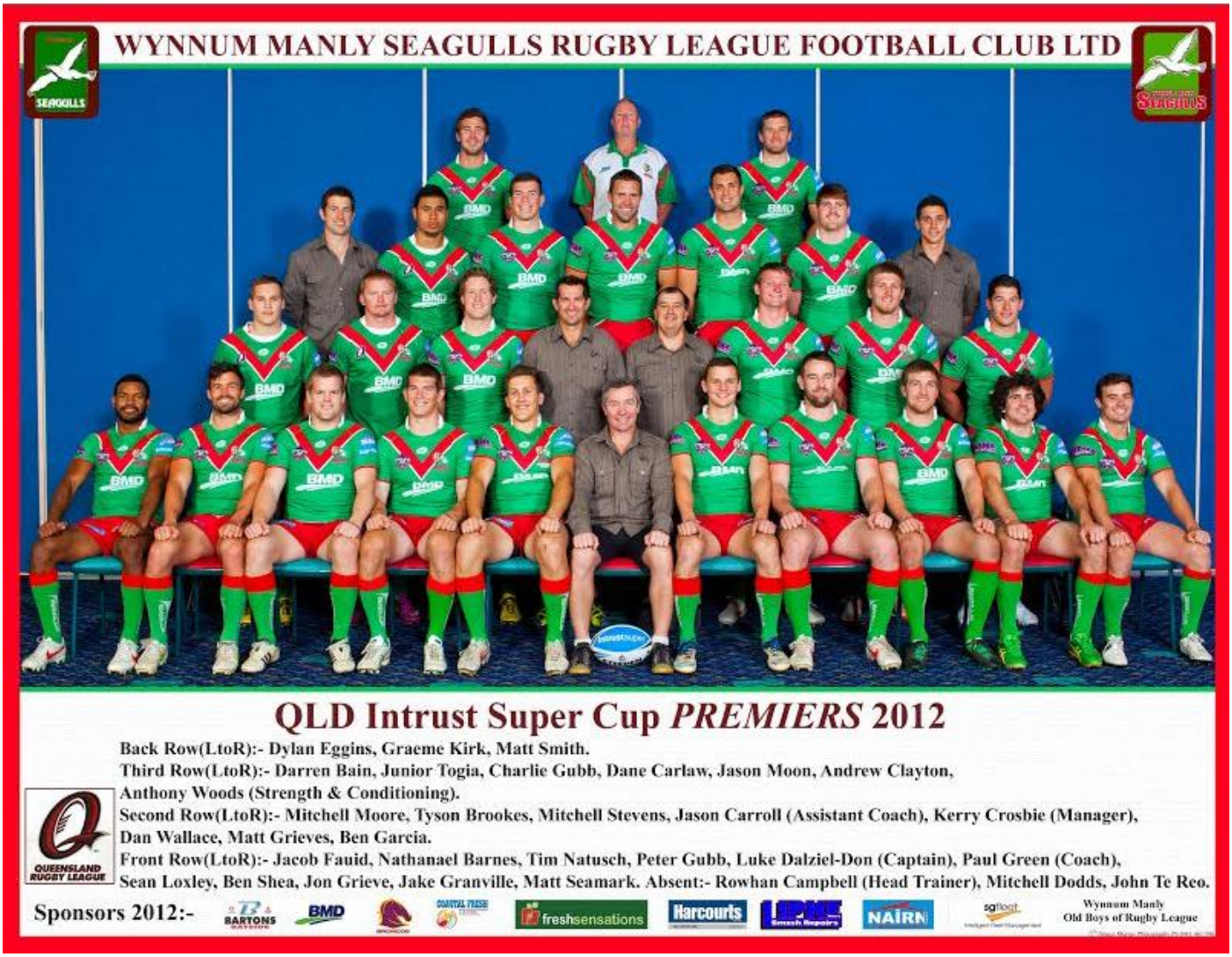


TRY TIME: Wynnum players celebrate Charlie Gubb's scoring effort just before the fulltime siren. Pictures: Getty Images



2012

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM MANLY 20 v REDCLIFFE 10



2012 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Norths 26 def. Ipswich 20
Qualifying Semi-Final: Tweed Heads 19 def. Wynnum 16
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 30 def. Norths 22
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 32 def. Tweed Heads 16
Preliminary Final: Wynnum 30 def. Tweed Heads 4

2012 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

WYNNUM MANLY 20 (Tries: P. Gubb, J. Moon, J. Fauid, C. Gubb; Goals: M. Seamark, D. Carlaw) def. REDCLIFFE 10 (Tries: D. Berryman, L. Georgetown; Goals: L. Georgetown)

2013

QUEENSLAND CUP: MACKAY

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Agst	Points
Northern Pride	22	17	0	5	2	703	296	38
Mackay Cutters	22	14	2	6	2	577	483	34
Easts Tigers	22	13	0	9	2	628	371	30
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	22	13	0	9	2	521	452	30
Ipswich Jets	22	12	1	9	2	494	520	29
Norths Devils	22	11	2	9	2	507	571	28
Redcliffe Dolphins	22	10	3	9	2	537	413	27
Tweed Heads Seagulls	22	11	1	10	2	458	494	27
Souths Logan Magpies	22	11	0	11	2	415	554	26
CQ Capras	22	7	1	14	2	462	569	19
Burleigh Bears	22	5	2	15	2	434	548	16
Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	22	2	0	20	2	325	790	8

2013 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 16 Mar	3:00 PM	Ipswich Jets	**Norths Devils**	North Ipswich Reserve	4 - 22
Sat, 16 Mar	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Mackay Cutters	Barlow Park	44 - 12
Sat, 16 Mar	7:30 PM	**Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles**	Central Caprass	Stockland Park	24 - 16
Sun, 17 Mar	2:00 PM	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	BMD Kougari Oval	10 - 38
Sun, 17 Mar	3:00 PM	Souths Logan Magpies	**Easts Tigers**	Davies Park	6 - 28
Sun, 17 Mar	3:00 PM	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Burleigh Bears	-	26 - 20

Round 2

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 23 Mar	6:00 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Central Capras	Virgin Australia Stadium	38 - 12
Sun, 24 Mar	2:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	**Easts Tigers**	Dolphin Oval	10 - 24
Sun, 24 Mar	2:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Northern Pride**	Pizzey Park	22 - 24
Sun, 24 Mar	3:00 PM	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Norths Devils	Davies Park	28 - 18
Sun, 24 Mar	3:00 PM	Tweed Heads Seagulls	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Piggabeen Sports	22 - 42
Sun, 24 Mar	4:00 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Ipswich Jets**	Stockland Park	26 - 32

Round 3

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Thu, 28 Mar	7:00 PM	**Central Capras**	Burleigh Bears	Browne Park	24 - 18
Sat, 30 Mar	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Souths Logan Magpies	Barlow Park	50 - 16
Sun, 31 Mar	2:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Easts Tigers	North Ipswich Reserve	28 - 10
Sun, 31 Mar	2:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Mackay Cutters	BMD Kougari Oval	36 - 10
Sun, 31 Mar	3:00 PM	Norths Devils	**Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles**	Bishop Park	16 - 17
Sun, 31 Mar	3:00 PM	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Dolphin Oval	24 - 0

Round 4

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 6 Apr	6:00 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Easts Tigers	Virgin Australia Stadium	14 - 6
Sat, 6 Apr	6:00 PM	Central Capras	Redcliffe Dolphins	Browne Park	24 - 24
Sat, 6 Apr	7:00 PM	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Northern Pride	Innisfail	24 - 14
Sun, 7 Apr	2:00 PM	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Davies Park	36 - 10
Sun, 7 Apr	2:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Ipswich Jets	BMD Kougari Oval	20 - 16
Sun, 7 Apr	3:00 PM	**Norths Devils**	Burleigh Bears	Bishop Park	16 - 12

Round 5

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 13 Apr	3:30 PM	**Burleigh Bears**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Pizzey Park	24 - 22
Sat, 13 Apr	6:00 PM	**Norths Devils**	Central Capras	Clermont	44 - 26
Sat, 13 Apr	7:00 PM	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Ipswich Jets	Brandon Park	20 - 14
Sun, 14 Apr	2:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	**Mackay Cutters**	Dolphin Oval	18 - 34
Sun, 14 Apr	2:30 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Northern Pride**	Stockland Park	6 - 48

Round 6

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 20 Apr	3:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Northern Pride	North Ipswich Reserve	22 - 20
Sat, 20 Apr	6:00 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Norths Devils	Virgin Australia Stadium	34 - 16
Sun, 21 Apr	2:00 PM	Easts Tigers	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Langlands Park	20 - 23
Sun, 21 Apr	3:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Pizzey Park	4 - 30
Sun, 21 Apr	3:00 PM	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Dolphin Oval	50 - 10

Round 7

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 27 Apr	6:00 PM	Central Capras	**Ipswich Jets**	Browne Park	26 - 32
Sat, 27 Apr	6:00 PM	Mackay Cutters	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Virgin Australia Stadium	22 - 22
Sun, 28 Apr	2:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	BMD Kougari Oval	20 - 12
Sun, 28 Apr	2:00 PM	Souths Logan Magpies	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Davies Park	12 - 26
Sun, 28 Apr	2:10 PM	Easts Tigers	**Burleigh Bears**	Langlands Park	26 - 28

Round 8

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 4 May	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Redcliffe Dolphins	Barlow Park	18 - 0
Sun, 5 May	2:00 PM	Norths Devils	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Bishop Park	26 - 28
Sun, 5 May	2:00 PM	**Easts Tigers**	Central Capras	Langlands Park	38 - 14
Sun, 5 May	3:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Ipswich Jets**	Pizzey Park	10 - 20
Sun, 5 May	3:00 PM	Tweed Heads Seagulls	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Piggabeen Sports	26 - 38

2013

2013 Queensland Cup Results

Round 9

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 11 May	2:30 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Easts Tigers**	Stockland Park	20 - 28
Sat, 11 May	6:00 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Virgin Australia Stadium	20 - 12
Sat, 11 May	6:00 PM	**Central Capras**	Northern Pride	Gladstone	24 - 22
Sun, 12 May	2:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Tweed Heads Seagulls	North Ipswich Reserve	16 - 6
Sun, 12 May	3:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	**Norths Devils**	Dolphin Oval	16 - 24

Round 10

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 18 May	7:00 PM	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Central Capras	Biloela	18 - 14
Sun, 19 May	2:00 PM	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**Northern Pride**	BMD Kougari Oval	6 - 20
Sun, 19 May	2:00 PM	Easts Tigers	**Norths Devils**	Langlands Park	18 - 20
Sun, 19 May	3:00 PM	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Mackay Cutters	Davies Park	23 - 22
Sun, 19 May	3:00 PM	**Burleigh Bears**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Pizzey Park	38 - 20

Round 11

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 25 May	3:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Redcliffe Dolphins	North Ipswich Reserve	22 - 18
Sat, 25 May	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Norths Devils	Barlow Park	30 - 10
Sun, 26 May	2:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Souths Logan Magpies	BMD Kougari Oval	29 - 20
Sun, 26 May	2:00 PM	**Tweeds Heads Seagulls**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Piggabeen Sports	44 - 24
Sun, 26 May	2:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Mackay Cutters**	Pizzey Park	24 - 42

Round 12

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 1 Jun	6:00 PM	Mackay Cutters	**Ipswich Jets**	Virgin Australia Stadium	16 - 28
Sat, 1 Jun	6:00 PM	Central Capras	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Browne Park	12 - 22
Sun, 2 Jun	2:00 PM	Easts Tigers	**Northern Pride**	Langlands Park	8 - 24
Sun, 2 Jun	3:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	Burleigh Bears	Dolphin Oval	16 - 16
Sun, 2 Jun	3:00 PM	**Norths Devils**	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Bishop Park	16 - 14

Round 13

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 8 Jun	3:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	North Ipswich Reserve	24 - 18
Sat, 8 Jun	6:00 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Redcliffe Dolphins	Virgin Australia Stadium	26 - 20
Sat, 8 Jun	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Barlow Park	32 - 4
Sun, 9 Jun	2:00 PM	**Easts Tigers**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Langlands Park	55 - 6
Sun, 9 Jun	2:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Central Capras**	Pizzey Park	20 - 30

Round 14

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 15 Jun	3:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Norths Devils	BMD Kougari Oval	34 - 14
Sat, 15 Jun	6:00 PM	Souths Logan Magpies	**Burleigh Bears**	Davies Park	12 - 42
Sun, 16 Jun	11:45 AM	**Northern Pride**	Ipswich Jets	Barlow Park	44 - 12
Sun, 16 Jun	2:00 PM	**Central Capras**	Easts Tigers	Browne Park	22 - 20
Sun, 16 Jun	2:30 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Stockland Park	12 - 46

Round 15

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 22 Jun	2:30 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Burleigh Bears**	Stocklands Park	16 - 38
Sat, 22 Jun	6:00 PM	Central Capras	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Browne Park	6 - 46
Sun, 23 Jun	2:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	**Northern Pride**	Dolphin Oval	16 - 32
Sun, 23 Jun	2:00 PM	**Easts Tigers**	Mackay Cutters	Langlands Park	40 - 16
Sun, 23 Jun	3:00 PM	**Norths Devils**	Souths Logan Magpies	Bishop Park	34 - 22
Sun, 23 Jun	3:00 PM	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Ipswich Jets	Piggabeen Sports	44 - 22

Round 16

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 29 Jun	5:00 PM	Ipswich Jets	**Mackay Cutters**	North Ipswich Reserve	18 - 20
Sat, 29 Jun	6:00 PM	**Souths Logan Magpies**	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Brandon Park	20 - 12
Sat, 29 Jun	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Central Capras	Barlow Park	38 - 12
Sun, 30 Jun	2:00 PM	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Burleigh Bears	BMD Kougari Oval	24 - 10
Sun, 30 Jun	2:00 PM	**Easts Tigers**	Redcliffe Dolphins	Langlands Park	22 - 10
Sun, 30 Jun	2:00 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Norths Devils**	Stockland Park	10 - 30

Round 17

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 6 Jul	2:30 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Souths Logan Magpies	North Ipswich Reserve	44 - 10
Sat, 6 Jul	6:00 PM	**Central Capras**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Browne Park	54 - 0
Sun, 7 Jul	12:30 PM	**Mackay Cutters**	Northern Pride	Virgin Australia Stadium	26 - 16
Sun, 7 Jul	3:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Pizzey Park	8 - 24
Sun, 7 Jul	3:00 PM	Norths Devils	**Easts Tigers**	Bishop Park	16 - 70
Sun, 7 Jul	3:00 PM	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Dolphin Oval	18 - 16

Round 18

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 20 Jul	5:00 PM	Ipswich Jets	**Central Capras**	Blackwater	16 - 32
Sat, 20 Jul	7:30 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Mackay Cutters**	Stockland Park	18 - 38
Sun, 21 Jul	2:00 PM	Norths Devils	**Northern Pride**	Bishop Park	6 - 38
Sun, 21 Jul	3:00 PM	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	Easts Tigers	Piggabeen Sports	14 - 10
Sun, 21 Jul	3:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Pizzey Park	12 - 14
Sun, 21 Jul	3:00 PM	Souths Logan Magpies	**Wynnum Manly Seagulls**	Davies Park	12 - 30

Round 19

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 27 Jul	6:00 PM	Mackay Cutters	Burleigh Bears	Virgin Australia Stadium	26 - 26
Sat, 27 Jul	6:00 PM	Central Capras	**Norths Devils**	Browne Park	22 - 24
Sat, 27 Jul	6:30 PM	**Northern Pride**	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Barlow Park	50 - 16
Sun, 28 Jul	2:00 PM	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**Tweed Heads Seagulls**	BMD Kougari Oval	0 - 24
Sun, 28 Jul	2:00 PM	**Easts Tigers**	Ipswich Jets	Langlands Park	38 - 18
Sun, 28 Jul	3:00 PM	**Redcliffe Dolphins**	Souths Logan Magpies	Dolphin Oval	33 - 30

Round 20

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 3 Aug	2:00 PM	Burleigh Bears	**Easts Tigers**	Pizzey Park	18 - 24
Sat, 3 Aug	4:00 PM	Redcliffe Dolphins	**Central Capras**	Roma	18 - 24
Sat, 3 Aug	4:00 PM	Norths Devils	**Mackay Cutters**	Whitsundays	24 - 38
Sun, 4 Aug	2:00 PM	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	**Tweed Head Seagulls**	Woodford	24 - 34
Sun, 4 Aug	2:00 PM	**Ipswich Jets**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Clive Berghofer Stadium	28 - 22
Sun, 4 Aug	2:30 PM	Souths Logan Magpies	**Northern Pride**	Yarrabah	0 - 42

Round 21

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue	Result
Sat, 10 Aug	6:00 PM	Mackay Cutters	Souths Logan Magpies	Virgin Australia Stadium	12 - 22
Sun, 11 Aug	2:00 PM	Tweed Heads Seagulls	Norths Devils	Piggabeen Sports	30 - 31
Sun, 11 Aug	2:00 PM	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Central Capras	BMD Kougari Oval	34 - 18
Sun, 11 Aug	2:00 PM	Easts Tigers	Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles	Langlands Park	50 - 10

2013

2013 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The runaway minor premiers the 2013 season were the Northern Pride. The next two teams, Mackay and Easts met in Mackay and it was Easts that blitzed the Cutters winning 31-18 after leading at one stage by 26-0. Ipswich knocked Wynnum out of the finals race beating them 33-6 to put an end to the Seagulls hopes of winning three premierships in a row. Easts continued their red hot form beating the minor premiers, Northern Pride, 29-16.

Given the dominance of the Northern Pride throughout the season it came as quite a shock to see them bow out in straight sets when Mackay proved very solid in their 20-6 defeat of them in the preliminary final.

Easts were strong favourites to win the Grand Final which was moved out to North Ipswich Reserve which created a great carnival atmosphere with the near 7 000 fans. The Tigers scored first when Junior Sa'u scored following a Tom Butterfield break. Two quick tries from winger Bureta Faraimo sparked a comeback for the Cutters with his second try being quite impressive. Junior Sa'u was on the spot to claim his second try after a ball was allowed to bounce. The Tigers reclaimed the lead with the conversion from Cody Walker giving them a 14-10 lead at halftime.

The sides exchanged tries in a highly entertaining game including an impressive try to Mackay by future Cowboys star, Michael Morgan. Easts levelled the game 20-all with 11 minutes to go. Matt Minto scored a field goal for Mackay before a dummy half run by Mitchell sealed the game 27-20 to Mackay who claimed their first Queensland Cup to go with their 1993 and 1994 State League titles.

QLD Cup Elimination Final - Ipswich 33 v Wynnum Manly 6

Jets quash Seagulls' brave hat-trick bid

THE Ipswich Jets have booked a semi-final showdown with the Mackay Cutters after toppling the Wynnum Manly Seagulls 33-6 in yesterday's elimination final at BMD Kougari Oval.

Ipswich's emphatic victory ended the Seagulls' bid for a third-straight Intrust Super Cup title, a goal that looked quite achievable after the baysiders dismantled the Northern Pride in the final round of the regular season.

However, the Seagulls couldn't re-produced the same form yesterday against the Jets, who made the early running on the back of impressive displays from XXXX man of the match Nat Neale and livewire fullback Javarn White.

Ipswich stunned the hosts with first half tries from Rod Griffin, White and Brendon Marshall, who landed all three conversions to put the Jets in front 18-0.

The Jets nearly added a fourth try on the stroke of half-time when White went tantalisingly close to getting over for his second of the afternoon.

But the Jets were able to add to their points tally when Marshall booted a penalty goal for a 20-0 advantage at the break.

Spurred on by a vocal home crowd, the Seagulls came out with renewed vigour in the second half and were rewarded with a try to Corey Norman from close range.

But the Seagulls were unable to break the line again as the Jets steadied before producing a classic counter punch with a superb try from Matt Parcell.

The young hooker swooped on the ball in the in-goal after Ian Lacey toed through a Dane Phillips kick behind the line.



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The young hooker swooped on the ball in the in-goal after Ian Lacey toed through a Dane Phillips kick behind the line.

Lacey capped off a strong performance for the Jets with a solo try, while Marshall added a second penalty goal before Phillips popped over a field goal to round out the scoring.

The Jets will now travel to Mackay on Saturday night to play the Cutters, who went down to the Easts Tigers 31-18 in their qualifying semi-final.

The winner will be playing for a grand final berth in the following week's preliminary final against the loser of this weekend's major semi-final between the Northern Pride and Easts Tigers in Cairns.

IPSWICH JETS 33 (Javarn White, Brendon Marshall, Ian Lacey, Rodney Griffin, Matt Parcell tries; Brendon Marshall 6 goals; Dane Phillips field goal) def **WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 6** (Corey Norman try; Matt Seamark goal) at BMD Kougari Oval.

2013

QLD Cup Qualifying Final - Easts 31 v Mackay 18

Blistering surge puts Tigers in control

Ethan James
9/09/2013

A blistering first half paved the way for Easts Tigers 31-18 victory over Mackay Cutters in yesterday's qualifying final at Virgin Australia Stadium.

The visiting Tigers started the match firing on all cylinders and with a mountain of possession on their side opened up a 26-0 lead at the break.

However, inspired by a vocal home crowd, the Cutters mustered a second half comeback to reduce the deficit to 12 points.

But Easts held their nerve in the dying stages and iced the win when playmaking utility Grant Giess landed a field goal in the 77th minute.

The Tigers will now play the Northern Pride in Cairns this Sunday for a place in the grand final.

One focal point prior to the match was the inclusion of Melbourne Storm five-eighth Gareth Widdop, with the England international making his comeback from a dislocated hip via the Intrust Super Cup.



"I've been through two to three weeks of solid training now, there were a few nerves there… but I was quietly confident and things came up alright," Widdop said.

"We had two sessions (before the match) and we kept them fairly simple but the boys played really well today and I'm just happy I contributed in some way towards the win."

Regardless of Widdop's presence, it was the Tigers' pack that set the tone early.

Starting at hooker, Giess dived over at dummy half to open the scoring before Easts went on to post three tries in a scintillating 11 minute period.

Fullback Ben Hampton was heavily involved, touching down off a second man play while also setting up Cody Walker with a long-range break from the Tigers' half.

Trailing 26-0, the Cutters drew first blood after the interval when mammoth centre Michael Koko barged through the defence.

They then went back-to-back to cut the margin to 30-18 with 18 minutes to play.

But a miracle victory remained out of reach, with execution during the crucial moments letting the Cutters down.

Mackay coach Kim Williams provided a brutally honest post-game assessment and admitted his side hasn't been at the top of their game for "about a month".

"In that first half we were very lazy on the inside… we didn't work hard enough in the kick chase, we were very poor in the reload out of the tackle and (didn't show) urgency to get back on-side," he said.

"It wasn't the performance I had expected... I'm hoping the threat of sudden death next weekend turns things around because it wasn't acceptable for a finals game."

The Cutters will be looking to keep their 2013 campaign alive against the Ipswich Jets at Virgin Australia Stadium on Saturday night.

EASTS TIGERS 31 (Ben Hampton, Maeli Seve, Cody Walker, Dane Hogan, Grant Giess tries; Cody Walker 5 goals; Grant Giess field goal) def **MACKAY CUTTERS 18** (Michael Koko 2, Sam Hoare tries; Liam Taylor 3 goals) at Virgin Australia Stadium.

2013

QLD Cup Minor Semi Final - Mackay 27 v Ipswich 16

Minto magic ignites Mackay Cutters

QRL Media
15/09/2013

Mackay sharp-shooter Matt Minto produced a near flawless performance last night as the Cutters booked a preliminary final berth with a 27-16 victory over the Ipswich Jets at Virgin Australia Stadium.

Minto tormented the Jets all evening, with his precision kicking in general play almost single-handedly booting the Jets out of the Intrust Super Cup premiership race.

Three of the Cutters' four tries came directly from attacking kicks from the former Central Queensland playmaker.

Minto also produced a stunning second-half 40-20 that put the Cutters deep on the attack. The Cutters immediately came up with points with a slashing try from Liam Taylor extending their lead to 24-10.

It was a remarkable scoreline so early in the second half given that the two sides had gone into the half-time break locked at 10-10.

The Jets made the early running in the first half, with tries from Keiron Lander and Jarrod McInally putting the visitors in front 10-4.

But errors slowly started to creep into the Jets' game and the Cutters were good enough to capitalise, with a Minto grubber producing a try in the right corner for Bureta Faraimo.

Faraimo notched an early second-half double when he chased through another superbly weighted kick from Minto.

The Cutters produced an enthusiastic chase for every kick, a facet of their game that impressed coach Kim Williams.

Their desperation in defence in the final 20 minutes also pleased Williams, whose team endured a few anxious moments in a tense finish.

The Jets closed the gap to eight points when Troy O'Sullivan was the first to a Dane Phillips grubber kick.

A brilliant passing movement saw Ipswich fullback Javarn White cross the line with eight minutes to play, but he was ruled to have lost the ball over the line.

The near miss virtually killed off Ipswich's brave comeback bid, as the Cutters went on to seal the win with a penalty goal and field goal.

MACKAY CUTTERS 27 (Bureta Faraimo 2, Liam Taylor, Kalifa FaiFai Loa tries; Liam Taylor 3, Matt Minto 2 goals; Matt Minto field goal) def **IPSWICH JETS 16** (Jarrod McInally, Troy O'Sullivan, Keiron Lander tries; Brendon Marshall 2 goals) at Virgin Australia Stadium.

2013

QLD Cup Major Semi Final - Easts 29 v Northern Pride 16

Gritty Tigers secure grand final berth

Ethan James
16/09/2013

Easts Tigers are the first team through to the Intrust Super Cup grand final after an upset 29-16 victory over the Northern Pride at Barlow Park.

Having never won in Cairns in six previous attempts and with key forwards Dane Hogan, Liam McDonald and Lagi Setu sidelined, the odds were stacked against the Tigers for their trip north.

However, in a performance built on defensive resolve, the Tigers handed the Pride just their fifth loss in their past 43 games on home turf.

Hooker Tommy Butterfield, who received the XXXX man of the match award, summed up the underdog sentiment within the Tigers' camp.

"From where we've come from… no one gave us a chance but Trigger (coach Craig Ingebrigtsen) gave us belief right through and we believed in ourselves. We're here now and just one game away (from a premiership)," he said after the match.

Butterfield was a constant threat from dummy half and struck a crucial blow when a sneaky short-side play set up centre Shane Neumann with the scores locked at 16-all.

That piece of nous gave the Tigers a 22-16 lead which they extended further thanks to Grant Giess, who put rampaging second rower Tim Glasby into space.

They then iced the win with a field goal from Cody Walker in the final minute.

It was an uncharacteristic error-riddled performance from the Pride, who now face Mackay Cutters at Langlands Park next Sunday in an elimination semi-final.

The Cairns-based club were stunned by the visitors early, with Easts notching two tries in the opening ten minutes.

A barging run from Matt Zgrajewski gave Easts a 16-6 advantage at the break but the Pride reloaded in an enthralling second half.

The competition's leading try scorer Davin Crampton stepped though some weary defence and when Kyle Feldt scored in the 70th minute it looked as if the Tigers were on the ropes.

But the Tigers rebounded themselves thanks to the Butterfield/Neumann combination, securing the club's first appearance in a top grade grand final since the epic 2004 extra time loss to Burleigh Bears.

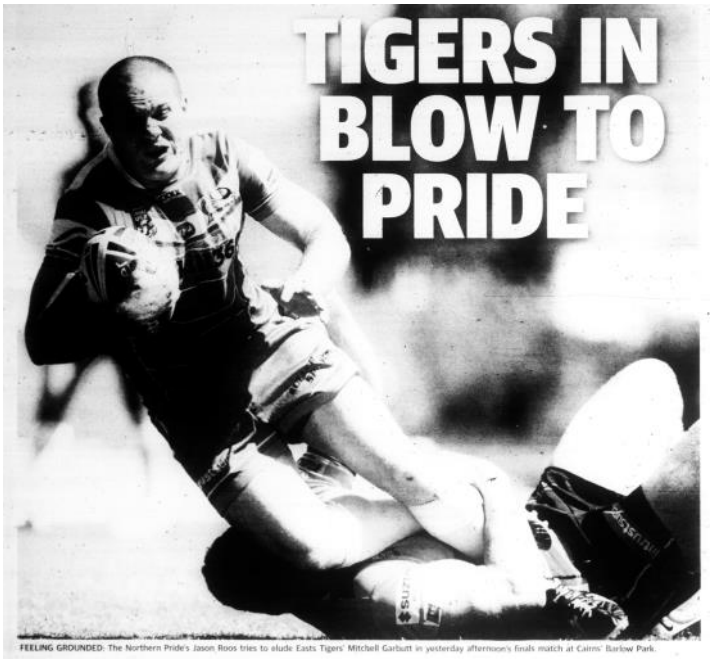
Meanwhile, the Tigers FOGS Cup side have the chance to defend their 2012 premiership after also progressing to the decider with a come-from-behind 22-16 win over Norths.

Easts touched down for three tries in the final 15 minutes, with winger Ryan Pooley grabbing the match winner.

In the Colts Challenge, the Tigers went down 13-12 to Redcliffe in golden point. The boot of Dolphins' five-eighth John Brady proved the difference.

They now face Wynnum Manly at 12noon at Langlands Park on Sunday in the preliminary final.

EASTS TIGERS 29 (Maeli Seve, Shane Neumann, Cody Walker, Matthew Zgrajewski, Tim Glasby tries; Cody Walker 4 goals; Cody Walker field goal) def **NORTHERN PRIDE 16** (Kyle Feldt, Davin Crampton, Semi Tadulala tries; Ethan Lowe 2 goals) at Barlow Park.



FEELING GROUNDED: The Northern Pride's Jason Roos tries to elude Easts Tigers' Mitchell Garbutt in yesterday afternoon's finals match at Cairns' Barlow Park.

2013

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Mackay 20 v Northern Pride 6

Cutters march into Intrust Super Cup grand final

QRL Media
23/09/2013



The Mackay Cutters are fast making a habit of proving their critics wrong.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that many Intrust Super Cup followers were predicting an early exit from the premiership race in the wake of their 31-18 loss to the Easts Tigers in week one of the finals.

But with their season on the line the following week, the Cutters responded with a stirring win over the Ipswich Jets to book a preliminary final showdown against the minor premiership-winning Northern Pride at Langlands Park.

The Cutters were again outsiders in today's match, but they fed off the underdog tag in a gritty 80 minute display to stun the Pride.

The memorable 20-6 win elevated the Cutters into their first Intrust Super Cup grand final.

The Kim Williams-coached team will now confront the Easts Tigers at the North Ipswich Reserve next Sunday.

The star-studded Tigers will start favourites – but you get the feeling it won't bother Williams or his players one bit.

The Cutters went about their business with a minimum of fuss today, grinding down the Pride in a physical encounter.

There were moments of brilliance along the way, but for the most part it was a workmanlike performance where all 17 players did their job.

The Cutters struggled to get out of their own half in the opening 25 minutes as the Pride made the early running with a simple shift to the left providing the space for Semi Tadulala to open the scoring.

Pride five-eighth Shaun Nona converted for a 6-0 lead.

But the Pride failed to trouble the scorers again as the Cutters gradually took control.

Their push for victory was kick-started by a superb try from Liam Taylor, who combined wonderfully with Kalifa FaiFai Loa.

The Cutters then took a 10-6 lead into half-time when winger Bureta Faraimo latched onto a Matt Minto cross kick.

Little went right for the Pride in the second half, with a disallowed try shortly upon the resumption of play summing up their frustrating afternoon.

Mackay did all of the little things right and continually built pressure, wrapping up the win with second-half tries from FaiFai Loa and Jason Taumalolo.

Giant Cowboys enforce Taumalolo received the XXXX man of the match award and looms a as a major trump card for the Cutters in next weekend's grand final.

MACKAY CUTTERS 20 (Liam Taylor, Bureta Faraimo, Kalifa Fai Fai Loa, Jason Taumalolo tries; Liam Taylor 2 goals) def **NORTHERN PRIDE 6** (Semi Tadulala try; Shaun Nona goal) at Langlands Park.

2013

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - MACKAY 27 v EASTS 20

Cutters win maiden Intrust Super Cup title

QRL Media
29/09/2013



THE Mackay Cutters have earned themselves a fairytale finish to the season - claiming this year's Intrust Super Cup title with a 27-20 win over a gallant Easts Tigers at North Ipswich Reserve this afternoon.

In a classic game of rugby league where the lead changed several times and the match went right down to the wire – it was the Cutters who managed to hold their nerve and go on to claim their first ever Intrust Super Cup title.

The Tigers were the first team on the board when Junior Sa'u scored following a Tom Butterfield break. Easts had previously thought they had scored the opener – but winger Maeli Seve was denied by the video referee after he was ruled to have dropped the ball over the line.

Easts were then able to take their lead out beyond a converted try when Cody Walker kicked a penalty goal.

However, two quick tries from winger Bureta Faraimo sparked a comeback for the Cutters – with his second try especially impressive.

After taking a ball out on his wing, he ran hard, fending off two Tigers defenders on his run to the line. The conversion from Taylor was a much better than his first attempt and saw Mackay take the lead for the first time in the match.

It was short-lived however, and while the video referee was again called upon; this time it was awarded when a bomb was allowed to bounce and Salford-bound Sa'u was on the spot to claim his second.

The Tigers reclaimed the lead with the conversion from Walker giving them a handy 14-10 buffer at halftime.

Easts nearly scored in the opening minute of the second half when centre Shane Neumann crashed over – but video referee Tony Maksoud found the Tigers players to be offside and disallowed the try.

Mackay, sparked back into action, hit back through retiring winger David Milne, who accepted a pass from big centre Kalifa Faifai Loa. Taylor's conversion missed, leaving the sides deadlocked at 14-14 with just over 30 minutes left to play to decide this year's premier.

What followed was a tense and hard-fought contest, with the Tigers going close again through Neumann, before Mackay fullback Liam Taylor was given 10 minutes in the sin-bin for a professional foul.

Feelings were running high around the ground and on the field – and every error was proving crucial.

Easts were on the attack, but dropped the ball, allowing Mackay's Michael Morgan to scoop it up off the deck and complete an amazing try, putting the ball down just inside the line.

With the Cutters out to a 20-14 lead – impressive Tigers prop Mitchell Garbutt took it into his own hands to get his side back on the scoreboard, winding up for a massive run which dragged defenders with him over the line.

The ever-reliable Walker converted the try with scores again level, this time at 20-20 with 11 minutes to go.

With the pressure on and the clock winding down – Matt Minto was put in a good position to kick a field goal thanks to a strong run from Jason Taumalolo to put his team ahead. But with seven minutes still left – the crowd got the feeling it was not enough.

In the end, it was the Cutters who were able to claim an emotional victory that was fuelled by the memory of their lost team-mate Alex Elisala and it was only fitting to see his good friend and Duncan Hall Medallist Anthony Mitchell run in from dummy half to score the match winning try.

MACKAY CUTTERS 27 (Bureta Faraimo 2, Michael Morgan, David Milne, Anthony Mitchell tries; Liam Taylor, David Milne, Matt Minto goals; Matt Minto field goal) **def EASTS TIGERS 20** (Junior Sa'u 2, Mitchell Garbutt tries; Cody Walker 4 goals) at North Ipswich Reserve

Dunan Hall Medal: Anthony Mitchell (Mackay Cutters)

Halftime Score: Easts Tigers 14 - Mackay Cutters 10

Crowd: 6706

2013

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - MACKAY 27 v EASTS 20



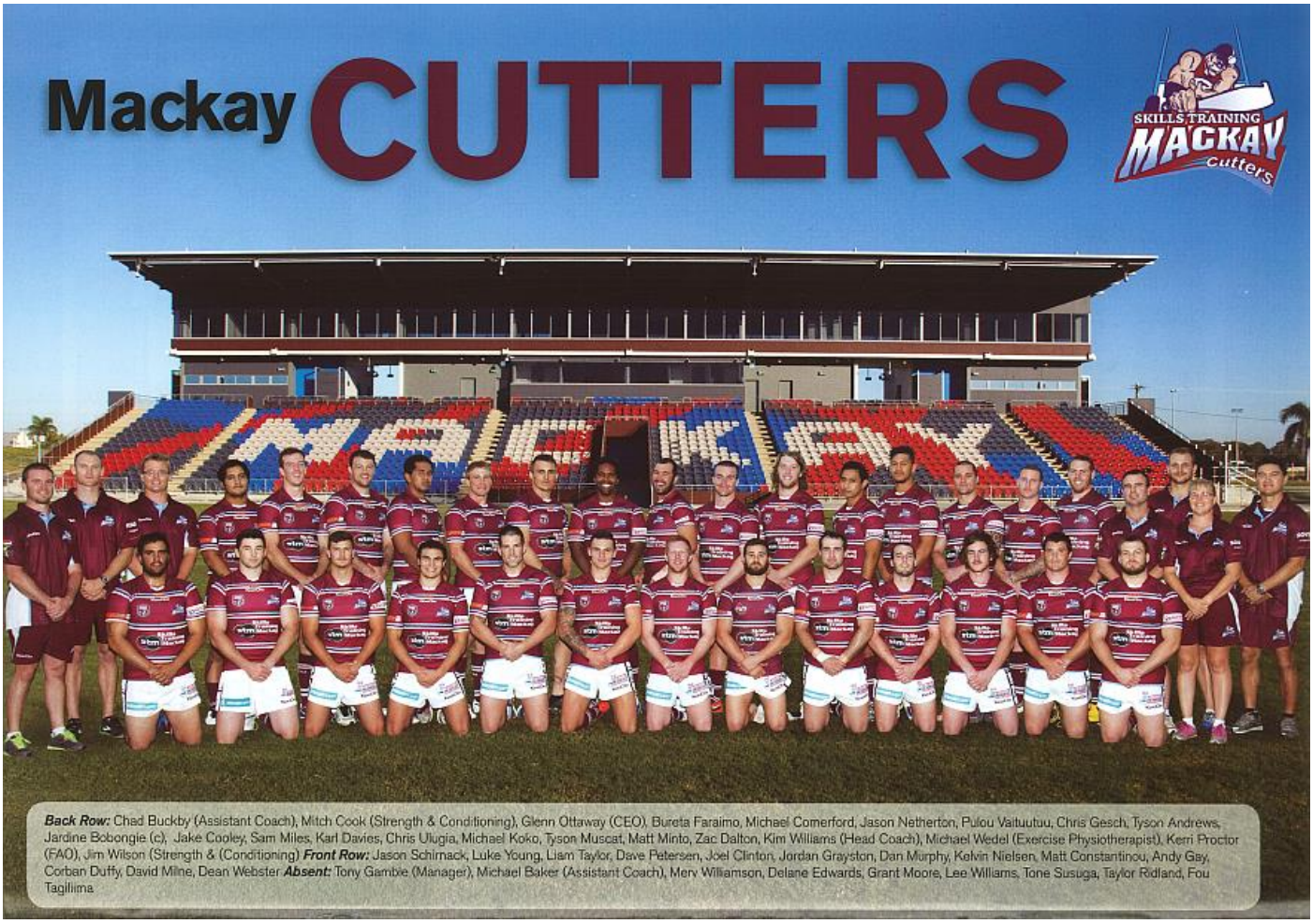
PARTY TIME: Mackay captain Jardine Bobongie can't hide his joy after leading the Cutters to their maiden Intrust Super Cup premiership at Ipswich yesterday.

Right: Future Cowboys star Michael Morgan scored one of Mackay's grand final tries.



2013

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - MACKAY 27 v EASTS 20



2013 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 33 def. Wynnum 6
Qualifying Semi-Final: Easts 31 def. Mackay 18
Minor Semi-Final: Mackay 27 def. Ipswich 16
Major Semi-Final: Easts 29 def. Northern Pride 16
Preliminary Final: Mackay 20 def. Northern Pride 6

2013 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

MACKAY 27 (Tries: B. Faraimo 2, M. Morgan, D. Milne, A. Mitchell; Goals: L. Taylor, D. Milne, M. Minto; Field Goal: M. Minto) def. EASTS 20 (Tries: J. Sa'u 2, M. Garbutt; Goals: C. Walker 4)

2014

QUEENSLAND CUP: NORTHERN PRIDE

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Team	Pld	W	D	L	B	PF	PA	PD	Pts
1	Northern Pride	24	20	0	4	2	677	414	263	**44**
2	Wynnum Manly Seagulls	24	17	0	7	2	690	400	290	**38**
3	Easts Tigers	24	16	1	7	2	667	409	258	**37**
4	Tweed Heads Seagulls	24	15	1	8	2	617	511	106	**35**
5	Ipswich Jets	24	15	0	9	2	642	514	128	**34**
6	Papua New Guinea Hunters	24	14	1	9	2	648	557	91	**33**
7	Burleigh Bears	24	11	1	12	2	549	599	-50	**27**
8	Norths Devils	24	11	0	13	2	572	544	28	**26**
9	Mackay Cutters	24	11	0	13	2	472	546	-74	**26**
10	Souths Logan Magpies	24	10	0	14	2	535	620	-85	**24**
11	Redcliffe Dolphins	24	8	1	15	2	566	617	-51	**21**
12	Central Queensland Capras	24	4	1	19	2	415	773	-358	**13**
13	Sunshine Coast Falcons	24	1	0	23	2	230	776	-546	**6**

2014 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1

Home	Score	Away
Ipswich Jets	16 - **22**	Norths Devils
Northern Pride	**36** - 0	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Mackay Cutters	12 - **40**	Easts Tigers
Redcliffe Dolphins	18 - **24**	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Burleigh Bears	**36** - 24	Central Queensland Capras
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**32** - 28	Tweed Heads Seagulls

Bye: *Souths Logan Magpies*

Round 2

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	**24** - 16	Mackay Cutters
Ipswich Jets	**25** - 18	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Central Queensland Capras	26 - **38**	Northern Pride
Sunshine Coast Falcons	14 - **38**	Souths Logan Magpies
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**32** - 24	Easts Tigers
Norths Devils	**18** - 12	Burleigh Bears

Bye: *Redcliffe Dolphins*

Round 3

Home	Score	Away
Ipswich Jets	**32** - 22	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Papua New Guinea Hunters	**46** - 14	Central Queensland Capras
Northern Pride	**20** - 12	Redcliffe Dolphins
Souths Logan Magpies	**28** - 26	Burleigh Bears
Tweed Heads Seagulls	12 - **24**	Norths Devils
Easts Tigers	**50** - 6	Sunshine Coast Falcons

Bye: *Mackay Cutters*

Round 4

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	18 - **34**	Northern Pride
Mackay Cutters	**12** - 4	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Burleigh Bears	**36** - 28	Ipswich Jets
Redcliffe Dolphins	**24** - 12	Easts Tigers
Souths Logan Magpies	**32** - 14	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Norths Devils	**38** - 0	Sunshine Coast Falcons

Bye: *Central Queensland Capras*

Round 5

Home	Score	Away
Central Queensland Capras	14 - **36**	Souths Logan Magpies
Tweed Heads Seagulls	18 - **32**	Redcliffe Dolphins
Norths Devils	**30** - 10	Mackay Cutters
Easts Tigers	20 - 20	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	**46** - 6	Burleigh Bears
Ipswich Jets	**38** - 16	Sunshine Coast Falcons

Bye: *Northern Pride*

Round 6

Home	Score	Away
Northern Pride	**24** - 22	Norths Devils
Mackay Cutters	8 - **12**	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Sunshine Coast Falcons	6 - **30**	Burleigh Bears
Redcliffe Dolphins	16 - 16	Central Queensland Capras
Souths Logan Magpies	14 - **22**	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Ipswich Jets	**25** - 12	Papua New Guinea Hunters

Bye: *Easts Tigers*

Round 7

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	**36** - 26	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Northern Pride	4 - **16**	Easts Tigers
Central Queensland Capras	8 - **38**	Norths Devils
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	*36* - 0	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Burleigh Bears	**22** - 14	Mackay Cutters
Redcliffe Dolphins	**34** - 6	Souths Logan Magpies

Bye: *Ipswich Jets*

- The match between the Northern Pride and Easts Tigers was postponed due to tropical cyclone Ita

Round 8

Home	Score	Away
Central Queensland Capras	**26** - 18	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Ipswich Jets	**24** - 18	Northern Pride
Mackay Cutters	**22** - 12	Redcliffe Dolphins
Sunshine Coast Falcons	4 - **16**	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Easts Tigers	**48** - 20	Burleigh Bears
Norths Devils	10 - **26**	Souths Logan Magpies

Bye: *Tweed Heads Seagulls*

2014

Round 9

Home	Score	Away
Burleigh Bears	26 - 22	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Central Queensland Capras	28 - 34	Mackay Cutters
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	30 - 10	Norths Devils
Northern Pride	24 - 22	Souths Logan Magpies
Tweed Heads Seagulls	23 - 14	Easts Tigers
Redcliffe Dolphins	14 - 30	Ipswich Jets

Bye: *Sunshine Coast Falcons*

Round 10 - Rivalry Round

Home	Score	Away
Northern Pride	22 - 18	Mackay Cutters
Sunshine Coast Falcons	0 - 36	Central Queensland Capras
Easts Tigers	14 - 18	Norths Devils
Souths Logan Magpies	10 - 18	Ipswich Jets
Burleigh Bears	0 - 28	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	22 - 16	Redcliffe Dolphins

Bye: *Papua New Guinea Hunters*

Round 11

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	32 - 22	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Ipswich Jets	36 - 14	Central Queensland Capras
Mackay Cutters	22 - 12	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Tweed Heads Seagulls	29 - 26	Northern Pride
Easts Tigers	28 - 24	Souths Logan Magpies
Redcliffe Dolphins	36 - 22	Norths Devils

Bye: *Burleigh Bears*

Round 12

Home	Score	Away
Ipswich Jets	12 - 22	Easts Tigers
Northern Pride	26 - 10	Burleigh Bears
Central Queensland Capras	12 - 42	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Redcliffe Dolphins	34 - 14	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Souths Logan Magpies	42 - 22	Mackay Cutters
Norths Devils	32 - 24	Papua New Guinea Hunters

Bye: *Wynnum Manly Seagulls*

Round 13

Home	Score	Away
Sunshine Coast Falcons	10 - 38	Easts Tigers
Northern Pride	36 - 24	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Central Queensland Capras	12 - 16	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Tweed Heads Seagulls	32 - 16	Souths Logan Magpies
Mackay Cutters	12 - 36	Ipswich Jets
Burleigh Bears	28 - 30	Redcliffe Dolphins

Bye: *Norths Devils*

Round 14

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	42 - 12	Souths Logan Magpies
Tweed Heads Seagulls	36 - 18	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Redcliffe Dolphins	22 - 24	Northern Pride
Burleigh Bears	24 - 22	Norths Devils
Easts Tigers	22 - 14	Mackay Cutters
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	26 - 20	Ipswich Jets

Bye: *Central Queensland Capras*

Round 15

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	43 - 36	Redcliffe Dolphins
Ipswich Jets	12 - 50	Burleigh Bears
Sunshine Coast Falcons	14 - 15	Northern Pride
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	16 - 18	Mackay Cutters
Central Queensland Capras	4 - 34	Easts Tigers
Norths Devils	16 - 30	Tweed Heads Seagulls

Bye: *Souths Logan Magpies*

Round 16

Home	Score	Away
Mackay Cutters	20 - 4	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Souths Logan Magpies	30 - 22	Central Queensland Capras
Tweed Heads Seagulls	32 - 28	Ipswich Jets
Burleigh Bears	60 - 6	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Easts Tigers	20 - 44	Northern Pride
Norths Devils	12 - 52	Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Bye: *Redcliffe Dolphins*

Round 17

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	16 - 22	Easts Tigers
Northern Pride	42 - 4	Central Queensland Capras
Sunshine Coast Falcons	10 - 38	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Tweed Heads Seagulls	16 - 16	Burleigh Bears
Souths Logan Magpies	30 - 20	Redcliffe Dolphins
Norths Devils	10 - 36	Ipswich Jets

Bye: *Mackay Cutters*

Round 18

Home	Score	Away
Central Queensland Capras	19 - 18	Burleigh Bears
Sunshine Coast Falcons	2 - 10	Ipswich Jets
Mackay Cutters	28 - 4	Norths Devils
Redcliffe Dolphins	22 - 30	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Northern Pride	36 - 18	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	38 - 18	Souths Logan Magpies

Bye: *Easts Tigers*

Round 19

Home	Score	Away
Ipswich Jets	40 - 42	Souths Logan Magpies
Sunshine Coast Falcons	26 - 24	Redcliffe Dolphins
Mackay Cutters	20 - 28	Burleigh Bears
Tweed Heads Seagulls	60 - 28	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	40 - 10	Central Queensland Capras
Norths Devils	20 - 27	Easts Tigers

Bye: *Northern Pride*

Round 20

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	25 - 24	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Mackay Cutters	24 - 22	Souths Logan Magpies
Central Queensland Capras	14 - 34	Ipswich Jets
Easts Tigers	52 - 16	Redcliffe Dolphins
Northern Pride	52 - 18	Norths Devils
Burleigh Bears	10 - 28	Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Bye: *Tweed Heads Seagulls*

2014

Round 21

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	56 - 12	Burleigh Bears
Tweed Heads Seagulls	35 - 24	Central Queensland Capras
Redcliffe Dolphins	20 - 30	Mackay Cutters
Easts Tigers	18 - 22	Ipswich Jets
Souths Logan Magpies	31 - 24	Norths Devils
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	20 - 28	Northern Pride

Bye: *Sunshine Coast Falcons*

Round 22

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	32 - 22	Norths Devils
Ipswich Jets	62 - 10	Mackay Cutters
Central Queensland Capras	40 - 12	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Northern Pride	22 - 18	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Redcliffe Dolphins	10 - 44	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Souths Logan Magpies	20 - 28	Easts Tigers

Bye: *Burleigh Bears*

Round 23 - Country Week

Home	Score	Away
Papua New Guinea Hunters	40 - 22	Ipswich Jets
Redcliffe Dolphins	38 - 16	Burleigh Bears
Easts Tigers	34 - 12	Central Queensland Capras
Sunshine Coast Falcons	20 - 28	Mackay Cutters
Souths Logan Magpies	8 - 30	Northern Pride
Tweed Heads Seagulls	4 - 32	Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Bye: *Norths Devils*

Round 24

Home	Score	Away
Burleigh Bears	20 - 6	Souths Logan Magpies
Sunshine Coast Falcons	0 - 36	Norths Devils
Mackay Cutters	16 - 18	Northern Pride
Central Queensland Capras	10 - 42	Redcliffe Dolphins
Easts Tigers	40 - 4	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	28 - 10	Papua New Guinea Hunters

Bye: *Ipswich Jets*

Round 25

Home	Score	Away
Sunshine Coast Falcons	4 - 26	Tweed Heads Seagulls
Northern Pride	30 - 6	Ipswich Jets
Mackay Cutters	40 - 20	Central Queensland Capras
Souths Logan Magpies	14 - 44	Papua New Guinea Hunters
Burleigh Bears	14 - 30	Easts Tigers
Norths Devils	48 - 14	Redcliffe Dolphins

Bye: *Wynnum Manly Seagulls*

Round 26

Home	Score	Away
Ipswich Jets	30 - 24	Redcliffe Dolphins
Easts Tigers	14 - 18	Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Tweed Heads Seagulls	26 - 22	Mackay Cutters
Burleigh Bears	29 - 28	Northern Pride
Souths Logan Magpies	26 - 12	Sunshine Coast Falcons
Norths Devils	56 - 6	Central Queensland Capras

Bye: *Papua New Guinea Hunters*

2014

2014 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

In 2014 the Queensland Cup expanded to 13 teams with the introduction of the PNG Hunters who had enormous crowd support wherever they played. They started very strongly only to just fall short of making the finals in their first season. The Northern Pride were minor premiers for the second season in a row. In week one of the finals Ipswich knocked out Tweed Heads winning the elimination final 28-10. Easts beat Wynnum in the qualifying final 18-12 and advanced to play the minor premiers Northern Pride who they came within a whisker of beating in the major semi-final going down 8-7. Wynnum beat Ipswich 34-22 to have another crack at Easts in the preliminary final. Cody Walker was on fire and scored 2 tries as the Tigers beat Wynnum 30-12.

It looked like Easts would seriously challenge the Pride in the Grand Final but it was one to truly forget for the Tigers fans as Easts slumped to their 7th grand final defeat since their last premiership in 1991. The Northern Pride brought their A game to thrash Easts 36-4 with Javed Bowen scoring a double and the Northern Pride scoring 6 tries to 1 in a record biggest ever grand final win to win their second Queensland Cup title.

They advanced to the first ever State Championship game against the NSW Cup winners Penrith which was highly entertaining. One freakish play in the game was when Penrith's Wes Naiqama looked certain to be bundled into touch by two Pride defenders, then spun around with the defenders going into touch and then passing for Capewell to score. Javed Bowen went one better than the week before to score 3 tries for the Pride to win 32-28 and take the inaugural State Championship.

QLD Cup Elimination Final - Ipswich 28 v Tweed Heads 10

Ipswich targets grand final after beating Tweed

The Ipswich Jets found the perfect way to end their Tweed Heads hoodoo yesterday.

A 28-10 elimination semi-final win ended Tweed's season and gave the Jets their first win south of the border in 14 games. It has set up another elimination semi for the Jets, against Wynnum Manly at Wynnum on Sunday.

"It was a good team effort," Jets captain Keiron Lander said.

"Now our focus is on next week."

The Jets set up the win in the first half, leading 14-4 at the break despite running into a gale in wet conditions. The Jets defended grimly and showed much better ball control than in last week's win over Redcliffe.

"It was a bit of a grind for the first 30 minutes," Lander said.

"We stuck to it," he said.

"We weren't pushing passes and defending errors."

When the opportunities came the Jets took them, with two tries just before half time following some breathtaking lead up work.

The Jets began the second they way they finished the first, with a Marmin Barba try making it 20-4.

"It all came from our play, turning balls under and giving our little fellas room to play," Lander said.

When Wes Conlon stripped the ball from an opponent and raced 70m to score with 13 minutes left it was game as good as over. Only then did Lander allow himself to think the game might be won.

"I don't think you can take it out of teams in semis," Lander said.

"You've got to play for the full 80 minutes.

"I've never beaten Tweed at Tweed in any team I've played for."

Lander rated the performance as "up there" with the best the Jets had played all year.

Just as pleasing was that it was a full team performance, with the skipper struggling to single out individuals for praise. Lander hoped to have all players on deck for the trip to Wynnum, but believed the Jets were in good shape with whoever was available.

"At this stage it's not about who's fit," he said.

"It's about doing what you've trained for all season."

Intrust Super Cup, Finals – Week 1

Elimination Final

IPSWICH JETS 28 (Marmin Barba, Kurt Capewell, Rod Griffin, Liam Capewell, Wes Conlon tries; Marmin Barba 3, Kurtis Lingwoodock goals) d **TWEED HEADS SEAGULLS 10** (Ricardo Parata, Jamal Fogarty tries; Blake Anderson goal) at Piggabeen Sports.

2014

QLD Cup Qualifying Final - Easts 18 v Wynnum Manly 12

EASTS WANT REVENGE

Second-half blitz gives Tigers shot against Pride for grand-final spot

TIGERS	18
SEAGULLS	12

GREG DAVIS
INTRUST SUPER CUP

EASTS are 80 minutes away from a shot at grand final redemption after finishing over the top of Wynnum Manly in the Intrust Super Cup qualifying final at BMD Kougari Oval yesterday.

The Tigers claimed a hard-earned 18-12 win over the Seagulls to set up a major semi-final showdown with the Northern Pride in Cairns this Saturday night.

Wynnum will take on Ipswich in the sudden-death minor semi-final at Kougari Oval on Sunday after the Jets were too good for Tweed Heads yesterday with a 28-10 win at Piggabeen.

The winner of the Pride-Tigers clash will go straight through to the September 28 decider at Suncorp Stadium.

Easts lost last year's thrilling grand final to Mackay and the memory of that loss still motivates the Tigers.

"It drives us. It drives me every day," Easts coach Craig Ingebrigtsen said.

"I know it drives the group too.

"We've earned the right to go to Cairns next weekend to play the best team in the comp and we'll see what happens.

"I'm so proud of the boys today. They showed great resilience late in the game when we were down to nobody on the bench."

The Tigers dominated field position and possession in the first half but the gutsy Seagulls defended brilliantly and took a 6-4 lead into halftime.



TRY IN VAIN: The Wynnum Manly Seagulls' Jake Granville scores a try against Easts Tigers at Kougari Oval yesterday. Picture: Darren England

Easts came out with all guns blazing in the second half.

Winger Richie Kennar scored from a Cody Walker cross-field kick soon after the resumption of play and fullback Cameron Munster then claimed a four-pointer after a slashing angled run left the Seagulls clutching at air.

An outstanding sideline conversion from Donald Malone into the tricky bayside breeze handed the visitors a 14-6 buffer.

The Seagulls stormed home with a Jake Granville try giving Wynnum a chance to repeat last week's last-gasp win over the Tigers but Easts' defence held firm with a brace of late penalties giving them valuable breathing space.

Both sides will count the cost of the physical affair.

Seagulls lock Mitchell Frei and five-eighth Ben Cronin will come under the microscope for a lifting tackle on Munster in the first half.

Wynnum captain Tim Natusch was also placed on report for a high shot on Malone in the dying minutes.

Tigers captain Steven Thorpe made an on-field allegation that Seagulls interchange player Ben Shea bit him but opted not to proceed with the matter after fulltime.

The Tigers will be without backrower Dean Hogan (popped rib) for the major semi-final while five-eighth Jacob Fauid (hamstring) is under a cloud for the trip to Cairns after leaving the game in the second half yesterday.



HIT IT UP: Tiger Steven Thorpe crashes into the defence.

Qualifying Final

EASTS TIGERS 18 (Cameron Munster, Richie Kennar, Donald Malone tries; Donald Malone 2, Cody Walker goals) d **WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 12** (Jake Granville, Mitchell Frei tries; Matthew Seamark 2 goals) at BMD Kougari Oval.

2014

QLD Cup Minor Semi Final - Wynnum Manly 34 v Ipswich 22



TRIPLE TREAT: Wynnum Manly's Mitchell Buckett dives over to score one of his three tries against the Jets yesterday. Picture: Peter Wallis

Seagulls cash in on Buckett-load of spirit

GREG DAVIS
INTRUST SUPER CUP

SEAGULLS	34
JETS	22

WYNNUM MANLY
Tries: M Buckett 3, P Gubb 2, B Bowie 2
Goals: M Seamark 2, J Granville 1

IPSWICH
Tries: M Barba, N Valekapa, C Anderson, M Parcell
Goals: M Barba 2, W Conlon 1

HAT-TRICK hero Mitchell Buckett says Wynnum Manly's famed fighting spirit lifted the Seagulls to a stunning comeback victory over Ipswich in a thrilling minor semi-final at BMD Kougari Oval yesterday.

The Seagulls will take on Easts at Langlands Park this Sunday for a place in Sunday week's grand final against Northern Pride after claiming a remarkable 34-22 win over the Jets.

Wynnum Manly trailed 22-12 with 19 minutes left on the clock in the sudden-death affair but stormed home to set up a third meeting with the Tigers in just four weeks.

Buckett, a hard-running centre playing his 50th Intrust Super Cup match, scored three tries in the space of 12 minutes to be the central figure in the stirring finish. He then threw the last pass for the final two tries to send the "Chook Pen" into hysterics.

"We left it a bit late there but we always had faith," Buckett said.

"We have great belief in each other and we never, ever give up.

"We know if we put it all together, we can fight back from anywhere.

"Once our forwards got on a roll in the second half, we were unstoppable.

"To get a hat-trick was a bit ridiculous but I was just finishing off the work of our forwards."

Buckett said the Seagulls will go to Langlands Park with a spring in their step and legitimate hopes of a third grand final berth in four years.

"We will go there with plenty of confidence but we know they are a great team with great individual players so it will be tough," he said.

Seagulls captain Tim Natusch was a tower of strength in the middle of the park while hooker Jake Granville sniped away from dummy-half in his last game for the club at Kougari.

Wingers Peter Gubb and Ben Bowie cashed in, with both speedsters claiming a brace of tries.

Ipswich led 16-8 at half-time with Bronco-bound teenager Carlin Anderson scoring one try and throwing the last pass for two more.

When Ipswich interchange player Matt Parcell streaked away in the 61st minute after swooping on a chip kick, the Jets seemed home and hosed.

2014

QLD Cup Major Semi Final - Northern Pride 9 v Easts 8

Pride close to restoring Cup order

RHYS O'NEILL

THE Northern Pride have taken their first step towards finals redemption, edging Easts 8-7 last night to become the first team into the Intrust Super Cup decider.

Twelve months after the Cairns club bowed out of the finals in straight sets, a gutsy defensive display at Barlow Park ensured there would be no 2014 repeat.

A penalty goal with 20 minutes remaining to Pride pivot Shaun Nona proved the difference in a preliminary final dominated by defence.

"It was finals footy and finals footy goes down to the wire," Pride coach Jason Demetriou said.

"At times we put ourselves under a lot of pressure.



VITAL GOAL: Shaun Nona.

"We're really happy to be in the grand final but we've got to be better."

The northern giants pulled a surprise before the game by including Cowboys pair Ben Spina and Joel Riethmuller.

The match started perfectly for the hosts when co-captain Brett Anderson backed up a break to cross untouched after six minutes.

From then on the Pride were anything but clinical in attack.

As off as their offence was, their defence was on. It needed to be after handling errors gave Easts ample chances.

Eventually that weight of possession paid off after 25 minutes, with centre Shane Neumann able to convert on the Tigers' left edge that looked a constant menace.

The rest of the half was an arm wrestle as both sides relied on superb defence to counter their spluttering attacks.

Easts will now face the winner of today's clash between Wynnum and Ipswich for the right to face the Pride in the decider in a fortnight.

Intrust Super Cup, Finals Week 2

Major Semi Final

NORTHERN PRIDE 8 (Brett Anderson try; Shaun Nona 2 goals) d **EASTS TIGERS 7** (Shane Neumann try; Liam Tyson goal; Cody Walker field goal) at Barlow Park.

2014

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Easts 30 v Wynnum Manly 12



ON THE RUN: Easts Tigers' Cody Walker scores a try against Wynnum-Manly. Picture: Mark Calleja

Inspired Walker turns it on to give Easts one final shot

CHRIS GARRY
INTRUST SUPER CUP

CODY Walker has overcome family tragedy to deliver a playmaking masterclass and send the Easts Tigers to the Intrust Super Cup grand final.

Walker was superb in yesterday's preliminary final, scoring two tries and setting up three more as the Tigers defeated Wynnum Manly 30-12 in front of more than 3000 fans at Langlands Park.

The Tigers face minor premiers Northern Pride in Sunday's premiership decider which features the two most consistent teams of the past 24 months.

South-Sydney Rabbitohs bound Walker was inspirational for the Tigers after halves partner Jacob Fauid succumbed to a hamstring injury in the 10th minute.

Wynnum Manly were up 6-0 and the dominant team in the opening 35 minutes but on the eve of halftime Walker swooped on a Jordan Kahu grubber and ran 90m for a try against the run of play.

The Seagulls did not score for another 35 minutes as the Tigers marched to their second straight grand final.

Walker's performance comes three weeks after his young niece died in a tragic car accident. It would be understandable for Walker to take time away from football.

Instead, Walker is reminding everyone why he was chased hard by Melbourne and South Sydney for next season. He is freakishly talented and tough.

"Cody Walker is amazing for this team," Tigers coach Craig Ingebrigtsen said. "To do what he did today ... he's a bit busted at the moment but he showed a lot of courage.

"He's had a hard time with the death of his niece. I just really feel for him.

"He's really been battling away. Instead of making it an issue he just wants to play footy."

Walker said he knew his niece would be looking down on him as he quested for a premiership triumph.

"It has been an up and down year ... I'm in a grand final now though," he said.

"This has been my home for the last three years and it doesn't get better than winning at home.

"I love putting on this Easts Tigers jersey.

"The Pride are a tough footy side. They have been minor premiers the last two years and you can't do that by just flying under the radar.

"We are up against it."

Ingebrigtsen said his team's scramble defence in the opening half won them the game.

"We kept turning up and I think we broke their resolve," he said. "Our courage today was outstanding."



CHARGE: Tom Butterfield tries to break a tackle.

TIGERS	30
SEAGULLS	12

EASTS
Tries: C Walker 2, S Neumann, R Kennar, T Butterfield, D Malone
Goals: D Malone 3

WYNNUM MANLY
Tries: J Granville 2
Goals: M Seamark 2

2014

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHERN PRIDE 36 v EASTS 4

Pride cap dominant season

THE Northern Pride have claimed their second Intrust Super Cup premiership in five years with a record 36-4 victory over the Easts Tigers in front of 7135 fans at Suncorp Stadium this afternoon.

The 32-point margin is the highest ever in a Queensland / Intrust Super Cup grand final, and caps off an outstanding year for the North Queensland side.

After falling short in last year's decider – and buoyed by their strong showing in their narrow 8-7 loss to the Pride only two weeks ago – many expected the Tigers to take it up to the minor premiers in attack. It was not to be however, with the Pride - who last won the premiership in 2010 - dominating across the park.

The minor premiers had more intensity from the kick-off, and it showed early in attack. Late-inclusion Kyle Feldt opened the scoring for the northerners after 16 minutes. After moving the ball to the left, Jason Roos changed direction to catch the Tigers defence napping, and after two quick passes Feldt only had to step inside a defender to put first points on the board.

With Easts unable to complete their sets, the Pride took full advantage. Given their strike power, they don't often need many chances to score, and when a forced dropout gave the Cairns outfit a second shot at the Tigers goal line, it was Javid Bowen who took advantage, receiving from fullback Hezron Murgha to go over in the left corner.

Easts' only real opportunity of the first half came through a Cody Walker kick, but winger Jarrod McInally was denied his claim on the ball.

While the Tigers rued what could have been, the Pride continued to work their way into attack. Ryan Ghietti almost did it all himself when a grubber through the line was killed by Cameron Munster, forcing the Pride's third dropout of the half.

The continuing pressure eventually took its toll. Moving the ball from left to right, Feldt took possession on the wing before cutting back inside and putting Davin Crampton – who started on the bench to make way for Feldt's inclusion – into a hole to score beside the uprights. Shaun Nona added the extras to send the Pride into the break ahead 18-0.

It was important for Easts to come out strongly after halftime if they were to prevent the score-line and the match getting further away from them. Instead it was Pride co-captain Brett Anderson who opened the second half scoring, with Nona pouncing on a deflection to cut through the line and find his skipper on the left.

If the match wasn't all over after Anderson's try, it certainly seemed the case when Ghietti added himself to the scorer's sheet for the Pride's fifth try in under 50 minutes.

After finally gaining repeated attacking sets, the Tigers were able to isolate a three-on-two on the left wing, allowing McInally to cross in the corner and avoid being held scoreless. Two minutes later, a collision in midfield gifted Kenny Bromwich a scoring opportunity, however on review it was deemed to have come forward off a Tigers player.

In a heated final few minutes which saw both sides finish the match with 11 on the field, Bowen added to his tally in the final minute of play to ice the victory and rewrite the record books.

For the Tigers, it was a disappointing end to their season but they can still feel proud of their achievement of reaching two consecutive grand finals.

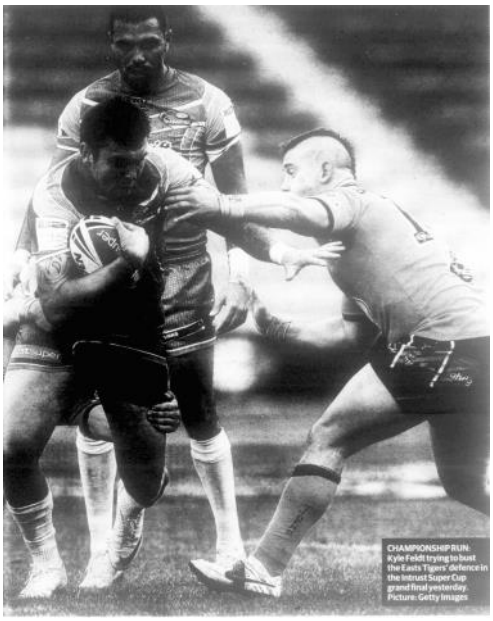
Before the match, many people asked whether it was better to be rested or battled hardened – but it seemed the tough games the Tigers played against Wynnum Manly (in Week 1 and Week 3 of the finals) and the Pride in Week 2 used up a lot of their energy.

The Pride will now prepare for their next challenge – the NRL State Championship match against the winner of the NSW Cup final the Penrith Panthers.

Coach Jason Demetriou said his team were focused on the job ahead and had always marked the October 5 date as the final game of their season.



NORTHERN LIGHTS: Pride's Javid Bowen scores a try in the Intrust Super Cup grand final. Picture: Getty Images



CHAMPIONSHIP RUN: Kyle Feldt trying to bust the Easts Tigers' defence in the Intrust Super Cup grand final yesterday. Picture: Getty Images

Grand Final

NORTHERN PRIDE 36 (Javid Bowen 2, Brett Anderson, Davin Crampton, Ryan Ghietti, Kyle Feldt tries; Shaun Nona 6 goals) def **EASTS TIGERS 4** (Jarrod McInally try) at Suncorp Stadium.

Duncan Hall Medal: Shaun Nona (Northern Pride)

Northern Pride: 1. Hezron Murgha 2. Javid Bowen 3. Brett Anderson (c) 4. Davin Crampton 5. Semi Tadulala 6. Shaun Nona 7. Sam Obst 8. Ricky Thorby 9. Jason Roos (c) 10. Ethan Lowe 11. Blake Leary 12. Tyrone McCarthy 13. Ben Spina 14. Ryan Ghietti 15. Sheldon Powe-Hobbs 16. Joel Riethmuller 20. Kyle Feldt

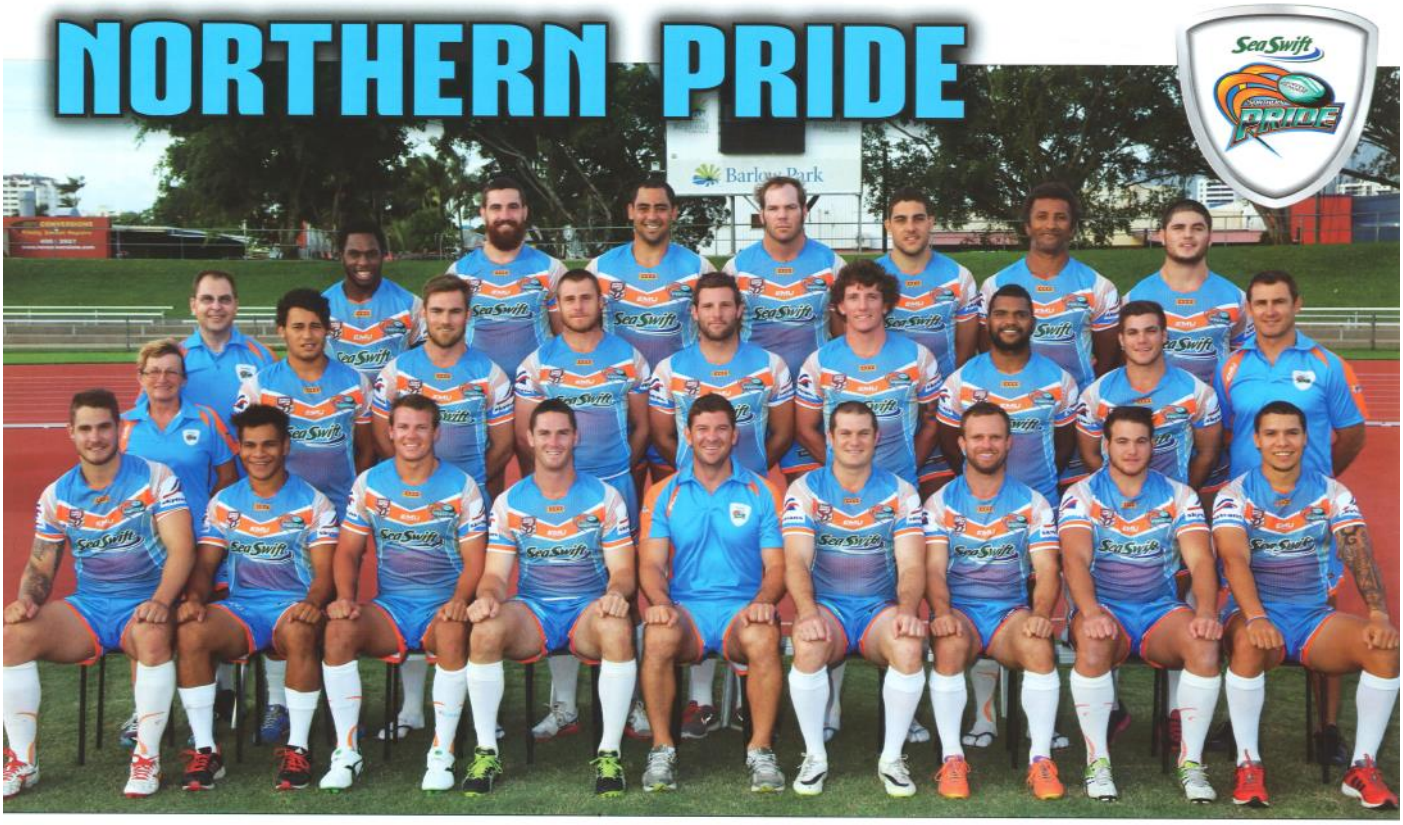
Easts Tigers: 1. Cameron Munster 2. Jarrod McInally 3. Shane Neumann 4. Donald Malone 5. Richie Kennar 6. Liam Tyson 7. Cody Walker 8. Steven Thorpe (c) 9. Tommy Butterfield 10. Mitchell Garbutt 11. Dane Hogan 12. Troy Giess 14. Liam McDonald 15. Felise Kaufusi 16. Matthew Zgrajewski 20. Kenny Bromwich 18. Hymel Hunt



The Northern Pride celebrate their 2014 grand final win over Easts Tigers at Suncorp Stadium. SMP Images

2014

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - NORTHERN PRIDE 36 v EASTS 4



Back Row: Dr Anthony Kresevic, Eddie Daniels, Tyrone McCarthy, Latu Fifita, Alex Starmer, Justin Castellaro, Semi Tadulala, PJ Webb
Middle Row: Deb Gallop (FAO), Jordan Biondi-Odo, Tom Hancock, Ben Spina, Blake Leary, Sheldon Powe-Hobbs, Davin Crampton, Maddie Oosen, Ben Rauter (assistant coach)
Front Row: Jack Svendsen, Keelan White, Ryan Ghietti, Brett Anderson, Jason Demetriou (head coach), Jason Roos, Sam Obst, Brent Oosen, Shaun Nona
Absent: Jared Allen, Joe O'Callaghan (assistant coach)

2014 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 28 def. Tweed Heads 10
Qualifying Semi-Final: Easts 18 def. Wynnum 12
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 34 def. Ipswich 22
Major Semi-Final: Northern Pride 8 def. Easts 7
Preliminary Final: Easts 30 def. Wynnum 12

2014 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHERN PRIDE 36 (Tries: J. Bowen 2, B. Anderson, D. Crampton, R. Ghietti, K. Feldt; Goals: S. Nona 6) def. EASTS 4 (Tries: J. McInally)

2014

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - NORTHERN PRIDE 32 v PENRITH 28

Northern Pride simply the best



The Northern Pride are the inaugural 2014 NRL State Champions after staging a stunning second half comeback to topple hot favourites the Penrith Panthers 32-28 at ANZ Stadium today.

Seemingly down and out after falling behind 28-16, the Pride somehow found the energy to claw their way back in a stirring finish that epitomised Queensland's fighting spirit.

Tries to Semi Tadulala and Javid Bowen – his third of the day – saw the Pride close the gap to 28-26 in front of a huge crowd on NRL grand final day.

In the 72nd minute, Northern Pride co-captain Jason Roos put the ball on the chest of back-rower Tryone McCarthy, who crashed over to the left of the posts.

Bowen booted the conversion for a four point lead, and the northerners kept their cool in a thrilling finish to score a memorable victory.

Despite the enormity of the occasion, the Northern Pride weren't overawed in the first half. They got off to a dream start in the seventh minute when Blake Leary swooped on a Shaun Nona grubber kick.

Nona missed the simple conversion attempt, but he made amends soon after when he kicked behind the line again and this time Bowen was on the spot to score in the left corner.

The Pride were right on top until Panthers winger Eto Nabuli broke out of a tackle and found five-eighth Luke Capewell in support.

The Panthers pounced again through a Nabuli try, with Wes Naiqama adding the extras from the sideline to put the NSW Cup champions in front 12-8.

But just when the Panthers looked like pulling away, Nona pulled out a magical play when he stripped the ball in a tackle and delivered a perfect long ball to Bowen, who ran away untouched to score under the posts.

Nona's conversion had the underdogs from Far North Queensland back in front 14-12. But their lead was short lived after flying Panthers centre Waqa Blake scored in the right corner with a stunning one-handed put down for a 16-14 scoreline.

Nona slotted a penalty goal right on the half-time buzzer to level the score at 16-16.

NORTHERN PRIDE 32 (Javid Bowen 3, Tyrone McCarthy, Semi Tadulala, Blake Leary tries; Shaun Nona 2, Javid Bowen 2 goals) def **PENRITH PANTHERS 28** (Kieran Moss, Kierran Moseley, Waqa Blake, Eto Nabuli, Luke Capewell tries; Wes Naiqama 4 goals) at ANZ Stadium

Half-time: 16-all

Man of the match: Javid Bowen (Northern Pride)

2015

QUEENSLAND CUP: IPSWICH

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	Total							
Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1. Townsville Blackhawks	23	19	3	1	870	363	507	43
2. PNG Hunters	23	18	3	2	718	487	231	42
3. Ipswich Jets	23	16	7	0	700	502	198	36
4. Wynnum Manly Seagulls	23	16	7	0	623	440	183	36
5. Easts Tigers	23	13	8	2	632	428	204	32
6. Northern Pride	23	14	9	0	523	447	76	32
7. Redcliffe Dolphins	23	10	12	1	671	574	97	25
8. Mackay Cutters	23	10	12	1	547	497	50	25
9. Burleigh Bears	23	10	13	0	401	674	-273	24
10. Tweed Heads Seagulls	23	9	13	1	510	585	-75	23
11. Sunshine Coast Falcons	23	7	15	1	452	599	-147	19
12. Souths Logan Magpies	23	7	15	1	506	664	-158	19
13. Norths Devils	23	5	16	2	420	727	-307	16
14. Central Queensland Capras	23	1	22	0	330	882	-552	6

2015 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1

- Ipswich Jets (16) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (18) — Sat 7 Mar 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Townsville Blackhawks (30) v Mackay Cutters (16) — Sat 7 Mar 4:30PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (18) v Norths Devils (24) — Sat 7 Mar 6:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Easts Tigers (20) v Northern Pride (12) — Sun 8 Mar 1:50PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (42) — Sun 8 Mar 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (18) v PNG Hunters (40) — Sun 8 Mar 2:00PM at Davies Park
- Central Queensland Capras (22) v Burleigh Bears (14) — Sun 8 Mar 3:00PM at Browne Park

Round 2

- Souths Logan Magpies (48) v Central Queensland Capras (12) — Sat 14 Mar 4:00PM at Gary Larson Oval
- Mackay Cutters (34) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18) — Sat 14 Mar 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Ipswich Jets (36) v Townsville Blackhawks (24) — Sun 15 Mar 1:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (18) v Easts Tigers (14) — Sun 15 Mar 1:45PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Norths Devils (20) v Burleigh Bears (12) — Sun 15 Mar 2:30PM at Bishop Park
- PNG Hunters (30) v Redcliffe Dolphins (26) — Sun 15 Mar 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval
- Northern Pride (34) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (10) — Sun 3 May 2:00PM at Barlow Park

Round 3

- Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye
- Souths Logan Magpies have a bye
- Easts Tigers (14) v PNG Hunters (8) — Sat 21 Mar 3:30PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Burleigh Bears (28) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (12) — Sat 21 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10) v Mackay Cutters (28) — Sat 21 Mar 5:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Central Queensland Capras (26) v Ipswich Jets (28) — Sat 21 Mar 6:00PM at Browne Park
- Northern Pride (10) v Townsville Blackhawks (52) — Sun 22 Mar 1:40PM at Barlow Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (34) v Norths Devils (10) — Sun 22 Mar 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 4

- Burleigh Bears (18) v Northern Pride (10) — Sat 28 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Townsville Blackhawks (50) v Central Queensland Capras (12) — Sat 28 Mar 5:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Mackay Cutters (30) v Easts Tigers (8) — Sat 28 Mar 7:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Norths Devils (20) v Redcliffe Dolphins (44) — Sun 29 Mar 1:40PM at Bishop Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (38) v Souths Logan Magpies (20) — Sun 29 Mar 1:45PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (10) v Ipswich Jets (36) — Sun 29 Mar 2:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- PNG Hunters (38) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (10) — Sun 29 Mar 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Round 5

- Central Queensland Capras have a bye
- Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye
- Townsville Blackhawks (28) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) — Sat 4 Apr 4:30PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Ipswich Jets (26) v Northern Pride (22) — Sat 4 Apr 5:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Mackay Cutters (13) v Norths Devils (12) — Sat 4 Apr 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Easts Tigers (52) v Souths Logan Magpies (0) — Sun 5 Apr 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Redcliffe Dolphins (18) v Burleigh Bears (32) — Sun 5 Apr 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (36) v PNG Hunters (10) — Sun 5 Apr 3:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Round 6

- Northern Pride (18) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16) — Sat 11 Apr 5:30PM at Barlow Park
- Central Queensland Capras (12) v Mackay Cutters (14) — Sat 11 Apr 6:00PM at Browne Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (36) v PNG Hunters (18) — Sun 12 Apr 1:40PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (20) v Townsville Blackhawks (46) — Sun 12 Apr 2:00PM at Davies Park
- Burleigh Bears (20) v Easts Tigers (22) — Sun 12 Apr 2:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Norths Devils (18) v Ipswich Jets (24) — Sun 12 Apr 2:30PM at Bishop Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (24) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) — Sun 12 Apr 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

2015

Round 7

Easts Tigers (56) v Central Queensland Capras (6)
Sat 18 Apr 4:30PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (10) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (23)
Sat 18 Apr 5:00PM at Pinklands Sporting Complex

Northern Pride (42) v Norths Devils (10)
Sat 18 Apr 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Ipswich Jets (18) v Burleigh Bears (28)
Sun 19 Apr 1:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Redcliffe Dolphins (10) v Townsville Blackhawks (40)
Sun 19 Apr 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

PNG Hunters (26) v Mackay Cutters (24)
Sun 19 Apr 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (24) v Souths Logan Magpies (0)
Sun 19 Apr 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 8

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Burleigh Bears (32) v PNG Hunters (38)
Sat 25 Apr 3:30PM at Pizzey Park

Townsville Blackhawks (40) v Easts Tigers (12)
Sat 25 Apr 5:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Northern Pride (36) v Souths Logan Magpies (18)
Sun 26 Apr 1:40PM at Barlow Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v Ipswich Jets (42)
Sun 26 Apr 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Central Queensland Capras (24) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (32)
Sun 26 Apr 2:00PM at Browne Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (66) v Norths Devils (4)
Sun 26 Apr 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 9

Ipswich Jets (32) v Easts Tigers (24)
Sat 9 May 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Townsville Blackhawks (78) v Burleigh Bears (6)
Sat 9 May 4:30PM at Jack Manski Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (12)
Sat 9 May 5:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Mackay Cutters (50) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sun 10 May 1:40PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Souths Logan Magpies (28) v Redcliffe Dolphins (34)
Sun 10 May 2:00PM at Davies Park

PNG Hunters (36) v Northern Pride (16)
Sun 10 May 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Norths Devils (26) v Central Queensland Capras (24)
Sun 10 May 2:30PM at Browne Park

Round 10

Northern Pride have a bye

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Easts Tigers (12) v Redcliffe Dolphins (19)
Sat 16 May 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (4) v Souths Logan Magpies (35)
Sat 16 May 3:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Mackay Cutters (20) v Ipswich Jets (36)
Sat 16 May 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (16) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (34)
Sat 16 May 7:00PM at Marley Brown Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (0) v Townsville Blackhawks (28)
Sun 17 May 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

Norths Devils (16) v PNG Hunters (34)
Sun 17 May 2:30PM at Bishop Park

Round 11

Ipswich Jets (32) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (16)
Sat 23 May 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Townsville Blackhawks (16) v PNG Hunters (22)
Sat 23 May 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (20) v Northern Pride (21)
Sat 23 May 5:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Redcliffe Dolphins (68) v Central Queensland Capras (16)
Sun 24 May 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Souths Logan Magpies (42) v Norths Devils (4)
Sun 24 May 2:00PM at Davies Park

Easts Tigers (60) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (12)
Sun 24 May 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Burleigh Bears (23) v Mackay Cutters (22)
Sun 24 May 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Round 12 (Rivalry Round)

PNG Hunters have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Souths Logan Magpies (20) v Ipswich Jets (50)
Sat 30 May 3:00PM at Jack O Chin Oval

Central Queensland Capras (24) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (36)
Sat 30 May 6:00PM at Browne Park

Norths Devils (6) v Easts Tigers (50)
Sun 31 May 1:40PM at Bishop Park

Northern Pride (10) v Mackay Cutters (12)
Sun 31 May 2:00PM at Barlow Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (12) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22)
Sun 31 May 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (50) v Burleigh Bears (4)
Sun 31 May 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 13

Easts Tigers have a bye

Norths Devils have a bye

Mackay Cutters (12) v Townsville Blackhawks (14)
Fri 5 Jun 7:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v Redcliffe Dolphins (12)
Sat 6 Jun 3:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Northern Pride (24) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
Sat 6 Jun 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Souths Logan Magpies (32) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (40)
Sun 7 Jun 1:40PM at Ron Stark Oval

Burleigh Bears (28) v Central Queensland Capras (12)
Sun 7 Jun 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

PNG Hunters (40) v Ipswich Jets (28)
Sun 7 Jun 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Round 14

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Mackay Cutters (28) v Redcliffe Dolphins (18)
Sat 13 Jun 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

PNG Hunters (34) v Souths Logan Magpies (12)
Sat 13 Jun 7:00PM at Sir John Guise Stadium

Central Queensland Capras (6) v Townsville Blackhawks (46)
Sat 13 Jun 7:30PM at Browne Park

Burleigh Bears (19) v Norths Devils (12)
Sun 14 Jun 1:40PM at Pizzey Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (6) v Northern Pride (28)
Sun 14 Jun 2:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Tweed Heads Seagulls (24) v Easts Tigers (24)
Sun 14 Jun 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 15

Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye

Souths Logan Magpies have a bye

Norths Devils v Sunshine Coast Falcons
Sat 20 Jun 4:00PM at Bishop Park

Ipswich Jets (52) v Central Queensland Capras (6)
Sat 20 Jun 4:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Townsville Blackhawks (42) v Northern Pride (24)
Sat 20 Jun 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (24) v Burleigh Bears (25)
Sun 21 Jun 1:40PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Easts Tigers (30) v Mackay Cutters (16)
Sun 21 Jun 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (24) v PNG Hunters (32)
Sun 21 Jun 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 16

Northern Pride (20) v Ipswich Jets (14)
Sat 27 Jun 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Mackay Cutters (16) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (26)
Sat 27 Jun 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Souths Logan Magpies (24) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (22)
Sun 28 Jun 1:40PM at Davies Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (32) v Norths Devils (20)
Sun 28 Jun 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Townsville Blackhawks (20) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (0)
Sun 28 Jun 2:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Easts Tigers (24) v Burleigh Bears (2)
Sun 28 Jun 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

PNG Hunters (68) v Central Queensland Capras (4)
Sun 28 Jun 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Round 17

Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye

Central Queensland Capras have a bye

Burleigh Bears (12) v Townsville Blackhawks (46)
Sat 4 Jul 3:00PM at Pizzey Park

Northern Pride (24) v Easts Tigers (12)
Sat 4 Jul 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (14) v Mackay Cutters (32)
Sat 4 Jul 6:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v PNG Hunters (28)
Sun 5 Jul 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Ipswich Jets (52) v Souths Logan Magpies (34)
Sun 5 Jul 2:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Norths Devils (16) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (40)
Sun 5 Jul 2:30PM at Bishop Park

Round 18

PNG Hunters have a bye

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks (50) v Norths Devils (6)
Sat 11 Jul 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Souths Logan Magpies (17) v Northern Pride (8)
Sat 11 Jul 5:00PM at Tully Showgrounds

Easts Tigers (18) v Ipswich Jets (16)
Sun 12 Jul 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (49) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (10)
Sun 12 Jul 2:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (36) v Central Queensland Capras (14)
Sun 12 Jul 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Burleigh Bears (6) v Redcliffe Dolphins (64)
Sun 12 Jul 3:00PM at Pizzey Park

2015

Round 19

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (12) v Ipswich Jets (16)
Sat 18 Jul 5:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Mackay Cutters (46) v Burleigh Bears (4)
Sat 18 Jul 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (4) v Redcliffe Dolphins (28)
Sat 18 Jul 7:00PM at Marley Brown Oval

Easts Tigers (40) v Townsville Blackhawks (40)
Sun 19 Jul 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (12) v Northern Pride (24)
Sun 19 Jul 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

PNG Hunters (24) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (20)
Sun 19 Jul 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Norths Devils (28) v Souths Logan Magpies (28)
Sun 19 Jul 2:30PM at Bishop Park

Round 20

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Northern Pride have a bye

Ipswich Jets (36) v Norths Devils (22)
Sat 25 Jul 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Redcliffe Dolphins (40) v Mackay Cutters (18)
Sun 26 Jul 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Central Queensland Capras (22) v Easts Tigers (56)
Sun 26 Jul 2:00PM at Browne Park

Burleigh Bears (18) v Souths Logan Magpies (14)
Sun 26 Jul 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

PNG Hunters (28) v Townsville Blackhawks (26)
Sun 26 Jul 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (30) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16)
Sun 26 Jul 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 21

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Northern Pride (16) v Burleigh Bears (4)
Sat 1 Aug 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Central Queensland Capras (6) v Norths Devils (38)
Sun 2 Aug 1:40PM at Browne Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (24) v Mackay Cutters (20)
Sun 2 Aug 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Souths Logan Magpies (18) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (26)
Sun 2 Aug 2:00PM at Davies Park

PNG Hunters (24) v Easts Tigers (22)
Sun 2 Aug 2:30PM at Kalabond Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (30) v Redcliffe Dolphins (22)
Sun 2 Aug 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 22

Easts Tigers have a bye

Norths Devils have a bye

Ipswich Jets (14) v PNG Hunters (32)
Sat 8 Aug 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Townsville Blackhawks (52) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (12)
Sat 8 Aug 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Mackay Cutters (22) v Northern Pride (26)
Sat 8 Aug 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Sunshine Coast Falcons (36) v Central Queensland Capras (16)
Sun 9 Aug 1:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Burleigh Bears (24) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (46)
Sun 9 Aug 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (46) v Souths Logan Magpies (6)
Sun 9 Aug 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Round 23 (Country Week)

Townsville Blackhawks (36) v Ipswich Jets (28)
Sat 15 Aug 5:00PM at Bill Lewis Oval

Central Queensland Capras (16) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (20)
Sat 15 Aug 6:30PM at Salter Oval

Norths Devils (40) v Mackay Cutters (28)
Sat 15 Aug 7:00PM at Dalby Sports Ground

Easts Tigers (20) v Souths Logan Magpies (18)
Sat 15 Aug 7:00PM at Blackall

Sunshine Coast Falcons (16) v Burleigh Bears (18)
Sun 16 Aug 1:40PM at Sullivan Oval

Redcliffe Dolphins (34) v Northern Pride (26)
Sun 16 Aug 2:00PM at Billy Slater Oval

PNG Hunters (36) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (13)
Sun 16 Aug 2:30PM at Sir John Guise Stadium

Round 24

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons (13) v Townsville Blackhawks (20)
Sat 22 Aug 2:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Mackay Cutters (28) v PNG Hunters (28)
Sat 22 Aug 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (12) v Souths Logan Magpies (22)
Sat 22 Aug 7:30PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (22) v Easts Tigers (32)
Sun 23 Aug 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Norths Devils (10) v Northern Pride (26)
Sun 23 Aug 2:00PM at Yusia Ginau Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (12) v Ipswich Jets (34)
Sun 23 Aug 3:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 25

Ipswich Jets (34) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sat 29 Aug 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Northern Pride (46) v Central Queensland Capras (18)
Sat 29 Aug 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Souths Logan Magpies (32) v Mackay Cutters (18)
Sat 29 Aug 6:00PM at Brandon Park

Townsville Blackhawks (46) v Redcliffe Dolphins (22)
Sun 30 Aug 1:40PM at Jack Manski Oval

Easts Tigers (10) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (17)
Sun 30 Aug 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Norths Devils (22) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (40)
Sun 30 Aug 2:30PM at Bishop Park

PNG Hunters (44) v Burleigh Bears (24)
Sun 30 Aug 2:30PM at Sir John Guise Stadium

Finals Wk 1

Ipswich Jets (54) v Northern Pride (26)
Sun 6 Sep 1:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (24) v Easts Tigers (32)
Sun 6 Sep 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Semi Finals

Townsville Blackhawks (26) v PNG Hunters (12)
Sat 12 Sep 5:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Ipswich Jets (44) v Easts Tigers (18)
Sun 13 Sep 1:35PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Preliminary Final

PNG Hunters (12) v Ipswich Jets (28)
Sun 20 Sep 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Grand Final

Townsville Blackhawks (20) v Ipswich Jets (32)
Sun 27 Sep 3:55PM at Suncorp Stadium

2015

2015 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The Queensland Cup expanded again in 2015 with the inclusion of the Townsville Blackhawks who would be the prime feeder team for the North Queensland Cowboys. The Blackhawks stunned everybody with their dominance during the regular season easily finishing at the top of the table as minor premiers. Also impressing was the new side from last year, the PNG Hunters who improved enough to finish the regular season second behind the Blackhawks. In the major semi-final Townsville booked themselves a place in the final beating the PNG Hunters 26-12. After the PNG Hunters led 8-6 in the preliminary final, Ipswich scored 3 quick tries and dominated the remainder of the game to win 28-12 to advance to the grand final.

After some early nerves, the speed of Marmin Barba lit up the game in the favour of the Jets, with his bust down the sideline and pass inside to Dane Phillips. He scored one of his own soon after following an awful error from the Blackhawks. Townville scored another try before Carlin Anderson scored just before half time to have the Jets ahead 16-8. The Jets started the second half with one of their customary short kick-offs leading to a try to Keiron Lander before another by Valekapa. Townsville's Robert Lui's try brought the score back to 26-20 before Matt Parcell sealed the game with a late try. Ipswich won 32-20 to take their first Queensland Cup title after four losing grand finals since their 1986 “re-admission” to the BRL.

They made it 2 out of 2 for Queensland sides in the State Championship. Ipswich, coached by Ben and Shane Walker, won 26-12 against Newcastle (who won the NSW Cup from 7th place) with Ipswich hooker Matt Parcell the man of the match.

QLD Cup Elimination Final 1 - Ipswich 54 v Northern Pride 26

Ipswich Blast Past the Pride in Emphatic Style

There is a scene in Cool Runnings where Sanka explains that he can't bobsled like the Swiss because he's Jamaican and if he does everything else Jamaican, then he has to bobsled Jamaican and not copy anyone.

“Well the right foot for us is not the Swiss foot. I mean come on Derice, we can't be copying nobody else's style. We have our own style.”

Finals football has long been understood to involve a certain type of football; you grind it out and take your chances, prey on mistakes and produce clinical football that strangles your opponents.

You can imagine Ben and Shane Walker saying 'the best we can be is Ipswich' and 'play our style'.

If the ball is passed too low; kick it, kick it again and kick it again to score ... it's finals football Ipswich Jets 2015 style.

The Jets' finals campaign started against the reigning premiers and national champions at the North Ipswich Reserve yesterday.

They exploded out of the blocks with an 18-0 lead after Billy McConnachie showed his footwork to score a great try, Matt Parcell scooted over and Carlin Anderson combined with Marmin Barba in the left corner.

'Our' style; Jets style.

The Pride showed how resilient they are and came back with two tries; the first by Brett Anderson in the left hand corner followed by a second to Javid Bowen who took advantage of a hole in the Jets' defence.

The Pride had fought back to 18-10 after 27 minutes.

Josh Cleeland backed himself running to the right and scored while the Pride scored again through Ben Spina to take it to the break at 24-16 in favour of the home team.

Five minutes into the second half, the Jets' style struck again; Nemani Valekapa with the break and an around the corner pass to Marmin Barba, who kicked in-field to find Dane Phillips for a stunning try.

The Pride came back again to make it 30-20 after 52 minutes when Anderson scored try number two.

Ipswich then pulled more than two converted tries in front when Carlin Anderson displayed some freakish soccer skills to score an incredible try that had the crowd on its feet.

Brett Anderson crossed for his third soon after to keep the Pride in the hunt, but the Jets were able to close out the game 54-26 with further tries to XXXX man of the match Parcell, skipper Keiron Lander and Barba.

IPSWICH JETS 54 (Carlin Anderson 2, Matt Parcell 2, Marmin Barba, Josh Cleeland, Dane Phillips, Keiron Lander, Billy McConnachie tries; Carlin Anderson 9 goals) def **NORTHERN PRIDE 26** (Brett Anderson 3, Javid Bowen, Ben Spina tries; Justin Castellaro 3 goals) at North Ipswich Reserve.



2015

QLD Cup Elimination Final 2 - Easts 32 v Wynnum 24

Easts Hold Firm Against Wynnum Comeback

There can be fewer tougher tests in the Intrust Super Cup than facing the Wynnum Manly Seagulls at Kougari Oval on a Sunday afternoon, with a packed crowd and the Chook Pen in full voice. This was the challenge the Tigers faced and passed yesterday as they came away with a hard fought 32-24 win.

Led by Liam McDonald who was celebrating his 150th Intrust Super Cup game, club captain Matt Zgrajewski and Felise Kaufusi; the Tigers forwards dominated the highly-rated Wynnum pack (which was missing skipper Tim Natusch due to suspension and workhorse forward David Stagg) and ensured that with the defence rolling backwards, the Tigers creative triumvirate of Shaun Nona, Brentt Warr and Tom Butterfield would have time and space to weave their magic.

And weave magic they certainly did, between the three of them they either scored or threw the last pass for all of the Tigers six tries.

One player who was much more heavily involved this week was Warr who is quickly becoming known as a mesmerising runner of the ball. This was exactly how he scored his try when off a scrum win in their own half, Mahe Fonua surged 30m upfield, McDonald then made 15m before Warr took the ball at first receiver and jinked 25m through the Wynnum defence to score.

Wynnum contributed one try to the half with Matthew Smith dotting down after a long run from Patrick Templeman. Tigers fullback Donald Malone put his body on the line and sent Templeman flying into touch, but not before he threw the ball back in for Mitch Buckett to toe it in-goal for Smith to pounce.

The Tigers were not done with the first half though, with Shaun Nona finding a hard-running Kaufusi on the left and putting him into a gap to score beside the posts. Nona converted two of the Tigers first half tries and the teams went to the sheds with the scores at 26-6.

The second half was only five minutes old when the Tigers resumed normal service, with Nona this time finding Jake Foster looking for work on the left edge who was rewarded with a try.

Soon after, Wynnum were penalised and Nona slotted the goal to take the Tigers out to a 32-6 lead.

Tiger's fans could have been forgiven for celebrating at this point, however it is unlikely many were; as the Seagulls are well known for tenacious comebacks from exactly this sort of position.

In an exhilarating 10 minute period, they scored three converted tries to take the score from 32-6 to 32-24 and ensure that none of the packed crowd was leaving early.

The first was a near length-of-the-field effort between Templeman and his winger Peter Gubb before Matthew Grieve trailing on the inside took the pass to score under the posts.

There was an element of luck in their next try when an Easts dropped ball sat up nicely in goal for big Mitch Frei who only had to dive on it to claim the points.

Wynnum's last try was another long-range effort, started by an offload from John Te Reo who was one of their best all day. Te Reo found Greg Eden unmarked on the left and he made 30m before passing in-field to Smith, following up, as all good halves do, to take the return pass and score under the posts.

However, the Tigers defence then held strong in the closing stages of the match as Wynnum Manly threw everything they had at the their opposition. Cheered on by an incredibly vocal crowd Smith, Seamark and Te Reo tried every trick in the book, but in the end; they were unable to break their finals duck against Easts.

EASTS TIGERS 32 (Richard Kennar, Mahe Fonua, Brentt Warr, Tommy Butterfield, Felise Kaufusi, Jake Foster tries; Shaun Nona 4 goals) def **WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS 24** (Matthew Smith 2, Matthew Grieve, Mitchell Frei tries; Mathew Seamark 4 goals) at BMD Kougari Oval.



2015

QLD Cup Minor Semi Final - Ipswich 44 v Easts 18

Jets Demolition Earns Them Crack at Grand Final Spot

This final series was always going to reveal how much the Jets had evolved as a team.

At full time yesterday in the elimination final between the Jets and Tigers it was exactly one day short of a year since the Jets were bundled out by the Wynnum Seagulls in the exact same game in 2014.

Last year Matt Parcell scored in the 60th minute to take the Jets lead to 22-12 with 19 to go. The Jets got run down and lost 34-22.

Yesterday at the North Ipswich Reserve, Parcell scored an Intrust Super Cup finals-record five times and the Jets didn't let the Tigers back into the game at all, not for a second.

Parcell showed speed, awareness, game sense and support play; his first try was on the back of a Kurt Capewell run from right to left then Capewell used his big left foot step to go straight through the defence. Looming up on the inside was Parcell with great support play.

The Jets had started the game with the first try and led 6-0.

All week the Jets had spoken of the dangers of Tom Butterfield. He scored the Tigers first try when he found a way over despite plenty of defence and grounded the ball under the sticks after an off-load against a retreating defence.

It was 6-6 after 14 minutes.

The Jets went the short kick off and it didn't pay this time when big Felise Kaufusi found the crumbs and rampaged down field to find Brandon Downey who scored for the Tigers to lead 12-6 after 17 minutes.

This was the tipping point for the Jets; in a final, behind by six and 10 minutes to the break.

Dane Phillips took control of the situation and placed a neat grubber behind the line for Parcell to score, grounding the ball at speed scoring his second try. It was now 12 all.

Down the left hand side Marmin Barba spotted a gap and took off at speed, he centre kicked which hit the posts. That man Parcell scooped it up at speed and scored for his third try and the Jets now led 18-12 after 31 minutes.

Parcell's first three tries showed his support play and ability to read and position him to back up his team mates.

His fourth showed what a smart player he is; one marker, everyone expects you to go open- go blind and get over the line for four tries before half time.

The Jets were in front 24-12 at the half time break after enjoying 61% of the ball and missing only six tackles in the first 40 minutes.

The Tigers scored the first try of the second half when Felise Kaufusi reached out with momentum and scored for the Tigers to be back to 24-18 after 13 minutes of the second half.

Parcell snuck under the posts after a smart one on one strip; running 50m to equal a Jets' club record set in 2008 of five tries in a game.

It was now 30-18 after 55 minutes.

Carlin Anderson scored 26 points last week and 16 this week when he got over the line to take the Jets to 36-18.

The Jets were against the right hand side line but with three passes they found Anderson on the left who stepped back inside off his left foot and scored the try.

Kurtis Lingwoodock crashed and bashed his way over for try number one this year and number 10 for the Jets in his 92nd game for the club.

Nemani Valekapa scored to ice the win after great work from Sam Martin doing his best Gene Miles one handed over head pass to take the Jets to 44-18 winners and into their first preliminary final since 2008.

IPSWICH JETS 44 (Matt Parcell 5, Carlin Anderson, Nemani Valekapa, Kurtis Lingwoodock tries; Carlin Anderson 6 goals) def **EASTS TIGERS 18** (Brandon Downey, Tommy Butterfield, Felise Kaufusi tries; Shaun Nona 2, Brandon Downey goals) at North Ipswich Reserve.



2015

QLD Cup Major Semi Final - Townsville 26 v PNG 12

Townsville Earn Grand Final Spot in Second Season

Just over one year ago, the Townsville & Districts Mendi Blackhawks were announced as the 14th team to join the Intrust Super Cup at the QRL's annual Gala Dinner. Three hundred and sixty-seven days later, the new club qualified for the competition's grand final with a clinical win over the in-form PNG Hunters. It's been one hell of an inaugural year for the North Queensland club.

Fans from both clubs came in droves to Jack Manski Oval on Saturday for the major semi-final between teams 1 and 2 in the Intrust Super Cup. Initial estimates put the crowd at around 5000 which exceeds the season's previous largest crowd in Townsville by around 1500 people.

The fans were certainly not disappointed as the two clubs produced an exciting spectacle well worthy of a finals football.

It was a committed and ruthless Blackhawks side who took to the field at their home ground without the services of captain Daniel Beasley and fellow front row partner Ricky Thorby, who was a late withdrawal on game day.

It was Glenn Hall, Neville Costigan and Kelepi Tanginoa working hard in the initial stages of the match to get the team moving forward. Hooker Anthony Mitchell was exceptional out of dummy half, ensuring his team got the ball in great field position.

The home side not only starved the Hunters of possession for the first 10 minutes of the match, but they also used their own plays wisely, crossing the line twice inside the first seven minutes, with try-scoring star Zac Santo coming up with a double running off two Mosese Pangai try assists.

Santo was not the only one relishing having the hulking centre back in the regular line up, the entire team benefited greatly from his return. Not only was Pangai a handful on the edges, but his heavy-hitting tackles surely would have given the Hunters nightmares.

The Hunters hit back just after the 25th minute through Adex Wera, taking the score to 8-6 after the visitors finally gained some much-needed possession. It became an intense battle between the two heavyweight sides as the Hunters began to look dangerous with the ball towards the end of the first half.

Momentum again swung back in favour of the home side though when Rob Lui and Jahrome Hughes combined to put Tom Humble over the line to extend the lead to 14-6.

It was a nail-biting final ten minutes of the first half as the Hunters tried to even up the score and the Blackhawks held on valiantly in defence of their own line. The halftime differential remained eight points.

The second stanza began with a tense arm wrestle and it was a familiar face who eventually scored the first points of the half after Santo lined up for yet another Pangai try assist and tiptoed down the sideline for his hat-trick at the 50th minute.

It only took seven minutes for the Hunters to hit back, this time through Adam Korave who used brute force to push his way over the line and narrow the gap to six points.

It seemed Santo was far from finished after he found himself perfectly positioned to catch a high ball that was knocked on by the Hunters and he became the first player in history to score four tries in an Intrust Super Cup final.

A feat that was bested only 24 hours later by a red-hot Matt Parcell of the Ipswich Jets who scored five tries in their big semi-final win over the Easts Tigers.

The visitors did their best to get back into the game, but the Hunters showed their nerves in their maiden finals appearance with dropped ball and some questionable decisions, whilst the Blackhawks were outstanding in defence.

In a fitting end to an outstanding comeback, Pangai crossed for the final points of the match in the left hand corner sending the crowd into a frenzy and taking the final score to 26-12 to Townsville.

Whilst Santo and Pangai were both explosive, it was Lui and Michael Parker-Walshe who combined brilliantly in the halves to steer the team around the paddock and youngsters Corey Jensen and Samsen O'Neil backing up their fantastic Round 25 performances with more of the same.

Coach Kristian Woolf was delighted with his side's effort, saying: "It was an excellent performance from our men on a fittingly big night for us as a club in our inaugural season.

"While we are very proud and excited to be playing in the grand final in our 1st year, the job is far from done. There is a lot of hard work ahead of us," he said.

TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS 26 (Zac Santo 4, Tom Humble, Mosese Pangai tries; Robert Lui goal) def **PNG HUNTERS 12** (Adex Wera, Adam Korave tries; Noel Zeming 2 goals) at Jack Manski Oval.



2015

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Ipswich 28 v PNG 12

Jets soar into Intrust Super Cup final



Carlin Anderson (1) and Marmin Barba celebrate Ipswich's advancement to the Intrust Super Cup Grand Final. Credit: Wendy Van Den Akker. Copyright: SMP Images/QRL Media.

The Ipswich Jets have soared into the Intrust Super Cup grand final after overcoming a spirited PNG Hunters side 28-12 in a highly entertaining preliminary final at Wynnum's Kougari Oval.

In a game played at a breathtaking pace for the entire 80 minutes, the Jets overcame an early PNG try to open up a 22-8 half-time lead before producing some desperate late defence to book a place in next Sunday's Suncorp Stadium decider against the Townsville Blackhawks.

The Hunters had their chances during the second stanza, but couldn't put themselves into a position to mount a comeback due to a 64-percent completion rate compounded by 10 errors.

Despite winning the penalty count 12-4 and dominating field position during the dying stages, PNG's lack of fluency inside the opposition 20 allowing the Jets to cruise into their first decider under coaches Ben and Shane Walker.

Having averaged 30 points during the regular season on the back of their free-flowing and improvised style of play, it was the defensive performance by the entire Ipswich side that impressed Man of the Match Rod Griffin the most.

"We knew our attacking ability was there we just needed to brush up on our defence," the Ipswich prop told Channel Nine.

"Even though I got Man of the Match all of the boys play out of their skin across the park and I think we deserved it even though the PNG boys stuck in there with near us."

The 16-point victory sees the Jets qualify for only their third Queensland Cup grand final since the competition begun in 1996.

Ipswich has never won a decider but based on their recent form – including elimination final wins against 2014 premiers Northern Pride, Easts Tigers and the Hunters – minor premiers Townsville won't have it all their way next Sunday afternoon.

The Hunters opened the scoring at Kougari Oval after 10 minutes when hooker Wartovo Puara, who was lively throughout the match, made a probing run from dummy-half to send fullback Stargroth Amean over the line for his 16th try of the season and a 6-0 PNG lead.

Ipswich fullback Carlin Anderson had a try disallowed in the 15th minute due to a contentious double movement decision but it didn't take long for the entertaining Jets to get on the scoreboard.

On 20 minutes Jets halfback Dane Phillips collected his own grubber kick from close to the line to level the score at 6-6.

Noel Zeming's penalty gave the Hunters a two-point lead before the Jets regathered their second short kick-off of the half which eventually led to Matt Parcell's 30th-minute try.

Four minutes later Ipswich ran the ball on the last allowing Phillips to send Marmin Barba over in the corner for his 29th try of the season and a 16-8 lead.

Barba's error shortly after the restart sent PNG on the attack close to the Jets' line only for Anderson to pluck an intercept out of thin air in front of his own goal posts and streak away for a 98-metre try.

Anderson's conversion brought an end to the first half with the Jets up by 14 points.

The Jets created another opportunity midway through the second half through Parcell which led to a try to five-eighth Josh Cleeland and a 28-8 advantage.

Mistakes continued to haunt the Hunters as they searched for an elusive second-half try and they were eventually rewarded when Willie Minoga crossed out wide on the stroke of full-time.

Ipswich Jets 28 (Matt Parcell, Dane Phillips, Marmin Barba, Carlin Anderson, Josh Cleeland tries; Carlin Anderson 4 goals) def. **PNG Hunters 12** (Stargroth Amean, Willie Minoga tries; Noel Zeming 2 goals) at BMD Kougari Oval, Wynnum. Half-time: Ipswich Jets 22-8. Man of the Match: Rod Griffin (Ipswich Jets).

2015

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - IPSWICH 32 v TOWNSVILLE 20

Jets Claim Maiden Cup Title

The result was in the balance until the final minute – but the Ipswich Jets held out a tenacious Townsville Blackhawks to claim their maiden Intrust Super Cup premiership with a 32-20 win.

It was a grandstand finish with Townsville pressing until the end – but they could not pin back the Jets who inflated the score line with a try to Manly Sea Eagles-bound hooker Matt Parcell in the final seconds of the game.

One of only three foundation clubs to have not won the Queensland / Intrust Super Cup – the Jets claimed their first major silverware in style – despite being on the back foot early.

The North Queensland side started well with Tom Humble over to open the scoring for the game and the Blackhawks looked like they were handling the grand final nerves better than their opposition.

However, the speed of Marmin Barba helped light up a sodden Suncorp Stadium and turned the game in the favour of the Jets, with his bust down the sideline and pass inside to Dane Phillips coming up with points.

He scored one of his own soon after following an error from the Blackhawks, with Jahrome Hughes throwing the ball into his path in his attempt to keep the ball from going over the sideline.

Fellow speedster Zac Santo picked up his customary try, speeding away to peg the scores back to 12-8; with the Blackhawks missing both conversions.

However, as the clock was winding down for halftime – the Jets made sure they had ample breathing space at the break, with Carlin Anderson scoring from a set play from a scrum – giving his side a 16-8 lead at halftime.

The Jets started the second half with short kick-off – and after two previous ones were unsuccessful – this one came up with the goods – eventuating in a try to retiring skipper Keiron Lander before Nemani Valekapa added to the points tally with a try of his own.

However, despite uncharacteristic errors blotting their play throughout the match; the Blackhawks were never going to die wondering and hit back with Hughes finding some redemption to go over to reduce the deficit to 10 points at 24-14; but a penalty goal to the Jets took the gap out to two converted tries once again.

The excitement kept on coming and with just over six minutes left in the game – Robert Lui got his team back in the game with a chip-kick ahead for himself which he pounced on to score.

However, despite pressing until the end, that was the last of their points for the day – while Parcell brought his tally of tries in the finals to 12 – a record for the Cup.

It was a remarkable performance from the Jets who were down to two on the bench for most of the second half, with Kurt Capewell and Josh Seage unable to return with injury.

For the Townville Blackhawks, the disappointment of defeat was etched on the faces of the players – but they had achieved remarkable success already this year, having claimed the minor premiership and a grand final berth in their first season.

The Ipswich Jets will face off against the winners of the NSW Cup the Newcastle Knights in next week's NRL State Championship at ANZ Stadium on NRL grand final day.

Final teams...

Townsville Blackhawks: 1. Jahrome Hughes 2. Zac Santo 3. Tom Humble 4. Mosese Pangai 5. Samsen O'Neill 6. Robert Lui 7. Michael Parker-Walshe 8. Glenn Hall 9. Anthony Mitchell 10. Daniel Beasley (c) 11. Rhyse Martin 12. Kelepi Tanginoa 13. Neville Costigan 15. Lorenzo Ma'afu 16. Chris McLean 18. Rhys Matsen 19. Ricky Thorby

Ipswich Jets: 1. Carlin Anderson 2. Marmin Barba 3. Liam Capewell 4. Nemani Valekapa 5. Richard Pandia 6. Josh Cleeland 7. Dane Phillips 8. Josh Seage 9. Matt Parcell 10. Rod Griffin 11. Sam Martin 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Keiron Lander (c) 14. Landon Hayes 15. Kurtis Lingwoodock 16. Billy McConnachie 22. Fakahoko Teutau

IPSWICH JETS 32 (Carlin Anderson, Marmin Barba, Nemani Valekapa, Dane Phillips, Matt Parcell, Keiron Lander tries; Carlin Anderson 2, Marmin Barba, Keiron Lander goals) def **TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS 20** (Jahrome Hughes, Zac Santo, Tom Humble, Robert Lui tries; Robert Lui 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: 8,086

Duncan Hall Medal for Man of the Match: Billy McConnachie - Ipswich Jets



2015

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - IPSWICH 32 v TOWNSVILLE 20



Back Row: Josh Seage, Haydan Lipp, Gerico Cecil, Pat McCallum
Third Row: Brandon McGrady, Fakahoko Teutau, Rod Griffin, Sam Martin, Liam Capewell, Kurt Capewell, Tyson Lofipo, Kurtis Lingwoodock, Billy McConnachie.
Second Row: Jessica Crear (trainer), Chris Ash, Carlin Anderson, Joshua Chandler (welfare officer), Phil Brady (trainer) , Wade Glass (manager), Justin Holland (strength & conditioning trainer), Landon Hayes, Josh Cleeland, James Devin (strength & conditioning trainer).
Front Row: Marmin Barba, Chris Walker, Rickie Dodd (strength & conditioning trainer), James Landy (assistant manager), Shane Walker (co-coach), Keiron Lander (c), Wayne Wendt (Jets CEO), Dane Phillips, Ben Walker (co-coach), Dean Arbuthnot (head trainer), Richard Pandia.
Absent: Wes Conlon, Matt Parcell, Nemani Valekapa, Daniel Vidot, Joe Ofahengaue.

2015 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Ipswich 54 def. Northern Pride 26
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 32 def. Wynnum 24
Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 44 def. Easts 18
Major Semi-Final: Townsville 26 def. PNG 12
Preliminary Final: Ipswich 28 def. PNG 12

2015 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

IPSWICH 32 (Tries: C. Anderson, M. Barba, N. Valekapa, D. Phillips, M. Parcell, K. Lander; Goals: C. Anderson 2, M. Barba, K. Lander) def. TOWNSVILLE 20 (Tries: J. Hughes, Z. Santo, T. Humble, R. Lui; Goals: R. Lui 2)

2015

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - IPSWICH 26 v NEWCASTLE 12

Jets Win State Championship Title



Billy McConnachie crashes over for the Jets. Photo: NRL Photos

The Ipswich Jets burst out of the blocks with their electrifying style – but it was some gritty defence which earned them this year's NRL State Championship, posting a 26-12 win over the Newcastle Knights.

It was an entertaining first half with some trademark "Jets" football thrilling the pro-Queensland crowd early.

Manly Sea Eagles bound hooker and man of the match Matt Parcell added to his finals try scoring tally in the opening minutes, proving too quick with his darts from dummy half.

While the Jets have a reputation of running sideways, last week's Duncan Hall Medallist Billy McConnachie decided to run straight and hard over the line and was rewarded with a try.

However, the Knights kept themselves in the game with a try to George Ndaira who was one of the best for Newcastle before he left the field injured.

But in typical Jets style, a try right before halftime had them in the box seat – with Rod Griffin picking up a loose ball and passing it to speedster Marmin Barba who ran almost the length of the field to score; giving his side a 20-6 lead at halftime.

In the second however, the Knights threw everything they had at the Queensland side – and the Jets also made the sort of errors their style of football can sometimes produce.

An Ipswich error at one end was punished at the other, with Jaelen Feeney running over to score to start the second half, bringing the scores to within eight points 20-12.

However, while the Knights would consider themselves unlucky to have not posted more points in the second half considering their efforts – they were held up twice over the line and a forward pass ruling also denied them a try – there is no denying the defensive effort of the Jets to hold them out.

Richard Pandia's effort to hold up a certain Knights try with just over half an hour remaining in the match typified the efforts of the Jets throughout the afternoon.

After soaking up wave after wave of Knights attack, as they so often do, Ipswich were able to turn the tables, with forward Rod Griffin charging over to put the icing on the cake for the Jets to produce th final scoreline of 26-12.

Both skippers were looking for one more fairytale to end their careers, and while skipper Jets Keiron Lander got to hold the trophy aloft, Knights captain Clint Newton leaves the game having acheived at the highest level.

The Jets followed the lead of last year's inaugural winners the Northern Pride to ensure the silverware stays in Queensland.

IPSWICH JETS 26 (Marmin Barba, Matt Parcell, Rod Griffin, Billy McConnachie tries; Carlin Anderson 5 goals) def **NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS 12** (Jaelen Feeney, George Ndaira tries; George Ndaira 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium, Sydney (Halftime: Ipswich 20-6).

Man of the Match: Matt Parcell (Ipswich Jets)

Final Teams:

Ipswich Jets: 1. Carlin Anderson 2. Marmin Barba 3. Liam Capewell 4. Nemani Valekapa 5. Richard Pandia 6. Josh Cleeland 7. Dane Phillips 15. Kurtis Lingwoodock 9. Matt Parcell 10. Rod Griffin 11. Sam Martin 16. Billy McConnachie 13. Keiron Lander (c) Interchange: 8. Josh Seage 14. Landon Hayes 17. Chris Walker 22. Fakahoko Teutau

Newcastle Knights: 1. Jake Mamo 2. Honeti Tuha 3. Kerrod Holland 4. Joseph Tapine 5. Ken Tofilau 6. Carlos Tuimavave 7. Jaelen Feeney 8. Damian Sironen 9. Danny Levi 10. Sam Mataora 11. Lachlan Fitzgibbon 12. Jacob Saifiti 13. Clint Newton (c) Interchange: 14. George Ndaira 15. Marvin Filipo 16. Michael Steele 27. Tama Koopu

2016

QUEENSLAND CUP: BURLEIGH

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

Team	Total							
	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1. Redcliffe Dolphins	23	18	5	0	728	345	383	40
2. Burleigh Bears	23	17	5	1	680	497	183	39
3. Townsville Blackhawks	23	16	6	1	694	403	291	37
4. PNG Hunters	23	15	8	0	541	421	120	34
5. Sunshine Coast Falcons	23	12	10	1	501	462	39	29
6. Easts Tigers	23	11	10	2	563	520	43	28
7. Souths Logan Magpies	23	11	10	2	587	590	-3	28
8. Northern Pride	23	11	12	0	516	495	21	26
9. Ipswich Jets	23	11	12	0	562	555	7	26
10. Wynnum Manly Seagulls	23	10	13	0	547	561	-14	24
11. Norths Devils	23	8	14	1	532	686	-154	21
12. Central Queensland Capras	23	6	16	1	440	756	-316	17
13. Tweed Heads Seagulls	23	6	17	0	393	728	-335	16
14. Mackay Cutters	23	4	18	1	468	733	-265	13

2016 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1 Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation Round

- Ipswich Jets (38) v Norths Devils (24)
  Sat 5 Mar 3:15PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Townsville Blackhawks (18) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16)
  Sat 5 Mar 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Mackay Cutters (10) v Central Queensland Capras (24)
  Sat 5 Mar 8:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (25) v Northern Pride (24)
  Sun 6 Mar 12:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (28) v Easts Tigers (24)
  Sun 6 Mar 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports
- Souths Logan Magpies (18) v PNG Hunters (36)
  Sun 6 Mar 2:05PM at Davies Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22) v Burleigh Bears (44)
  Sun 6 Mar 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 2

- Easts Tigers (24) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (6)
  Sat 12 Mar 5:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Central Queensland Capras (24) v Norths Devils (32)
  Sat 12 Mar 8:00PM at Browne Park
- Ipswich Jets (18) v Townsville Blackhawks (30)
  Sun 13 Mar 12:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Burleigh Bears (36) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (26)
  Sun 13 Mar 2:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Northern Pride (44) v Mackay Cutters (24)
  Sun 13 Mar 3:00PM at Barlow Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10) v PNG Hunters (24)
  Sun 13 Mar 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (24) v Redcliffe Dolphins (18)
  Sun 13 Mar 3:00PM at Davies Park

Round 3

- Burleigh Bears (14) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (36)
  Sat 19 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Townsville Blackhawks (46) v Souths Logan Magpies (26)
  Sat 19 Mar 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Norths Devils (28) v Northern Pride (20)
  Sat 19 Mar 6:00PM at Bishop Park
- Central Queensland Capras (23) v Ipswich Jets (14)
  Sat 19 Mar 6:00PM at Browne Park
- PNG Hunters (20) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
  Sat 19 Mar 7:30PM at National Football Stadium
- Mackay Cutters (22) v Easts Tigers (26)
  Sun 20 Mar 12:40PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (6) v Redcliffe Dolphins (38)
  Sun 20 Mar 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 4

- Northern Pride have a bye
- Central Queensland Capras have a bye
- Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye
- Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye
- Easts Tigers (14) v Norths Devils (14)
  Sat 26 Mar 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Burleigh Bears (36) v Mackay Cutters (18)
  Sat 26 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Townsville Blackhawks (50) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10)
  Sat 26 Mar 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (20) v Ipswich Jets (28)
  Sun 27 Mar 12:40PM at Davies Park
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v PNG Hunters (20)
  Sun 27 Mar 2:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Round 5

- Ipswich Jets (24) v Northern Pride (26)
  Sat 2 Apr 5:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (12) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16)
  Sat 2 Apr 6:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Mackay Cutters (20) v PNG Hunters (34)
  Sat 2 Apr 6:05PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Central Queensland Capras (10) v Easts Tigers (30)
  Sat 2 Apr 7:00PM at Marley Brown Oval
- Norths Devils (6) v Burleigh Bears (26)
  Sun 3 Apr 1:40PM at Bishop Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (8) v Townsville Blackhawks (42)
  Sun 3 Apr 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (20) v Souths Logan Magpies (21)
  Sun 3 Apr 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 6

- Redcliffe Dolphins (38) v Ipswich Jets (12)
  Sat 9 Apr 2:00PM at South Pine Sports Complex
- Mackay Cutters (16) v Norths Devils (32)
  Sat 9 Apr 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Central Queensland Capras (22) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (38)
  Sat 9 Apr 6:00PM at Browne Park
- Easts Tigers (30) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (18)
  Sun 10 Apr 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Northern Pride (48) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (0)
  Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM at Barlow Park
- Souths Logan Magpies (32) v Burleigh Bears (38)
  Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM at Davies Park
- PNG Hunters (11) v Townsville Blackhawks (10)
  Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

2016

Round 7

Burleigh Bears (32) v Central Queensland Capras (38)
Sat 16 Apr 4:00PM at Pizzey Park

Mackay Cutters (20) v Redcliffe Dolphins (26)
Sat 16 Apr 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

PNG Hunters (38) v Norths Devils (22)
Sat 16 Apr 6:30PM at National Football Stadium

Sunshine Coast Falcons (10) v Townsville Blackhawks (40)
Sun 17 Apr 1:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Souths Logan Magpies (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (10)
Sun 17 Apr 3:00PM at Davies Park

Northern Pride (30) v Easts Tigers (16)
Sun 17 Apr 3:00PM at Barlow Park

Ipswich Jets (22) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (30)
Sun 17 Apr 3:30PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Round 8 ANZAC Round

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Norths Devils have a bye

Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v Easts Tigers (26)
Sat 23 Apr 2:00PM at Burpengary Sports Complex

Sunshine Coast Falcons (6) v Ipswich Jets (20)
Sat 23 Apr 6:30PM at Stafford Park

Souths Logan Magpies (16) v Central Queensland Capras (28)
Sat 23 Apr 7:00PM at Maurie Webb Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (37) v Mackay Cutters (24)
Sun 24 Apr 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

Townsville Blackhawks (26) v Northern Pride (13)
Sun 24 Apr 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Burleigh Bears (20) v PNG Hunters (18)
Mon 25 Apr 3:35PM at Pizzey Park

Round 9

Mackay Cutters (38) v Ipswich Jets (36)
Fri 29 Apr 7:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Tweed Heads Seagulls (38) v Central Queensland Capras (4)
Sun 1 May 1:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Burleigh Bears (28) v Townsville Blackhawks (28)
Sun 1 May 1:40PM at Pizzey Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v Norths Devils (4)
Sun 1 May 3:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Northern Pride (6) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (34)
Sun 1 May 3:00PM at Barlow Park

Easts Tigers (38) v Souths Logan Magpies (32)
Sun 1 May 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

PNG Hunters (22) v Redcliffe Dolphins (18)
Sun 1 May 3:05PM at National Football Stadium

Round 10 Indigenous Appreciation Round

Easts Tigers have a bye

PNG Hunters have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks (34) v Central Queensland Capras (16)
Sat 14 May 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Ipswich Jets (18) v Burleigh Bears (30)
Sat 14 May 4:15PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Northern Pride (20) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16)
Sun 15 May 1:40PM at Barlow Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (22) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sun 15 May 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Norths Devils (20) v Souths Logan Magpies (42)
Sun 15 May 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (62) v Mackay Cutters (16)
Sun 15 May 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 11

Townsville Blackhawks (52) v Mackay Cutters (8)
Sat 21 May 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Ipswich Jets (20) v Easts Tigers (52)
Sat 21 May 4:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Northern Pride (14) v Burleigh Bears (24)
Sat 21 May 7:00PM at Atherton

Central Queensland Capras (27) v PNG Hunters (20)
Sun 22 May 1:40PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (52) v Norths Devils (10)
Sun 22 May 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (16) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (30)
Sun 22 May 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Sunshine Coast Falcons (16) v Souths Logan Magpies (16)
Sun 22 May 3:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Round 12

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (50) v Central Queensland Capras (28)
Sat 28 May 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Ipswich Jets (30) v PNG Hunters (12)
Sun 29 May 1:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Redcliffe Dolphins (32) v Burleigh Bears (14)
Sun 29 May 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Norths Devils (46) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
Sun 29 May 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Northern Pride (18) v Souths Logan Magpies (24)
Sun 29 May 3:00PM at Barlow Park

Easts Tigers (29) v Townsville Blackhawks (20)
Sun 29 May 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Round 13

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sat 4 Jun 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

PNG Hunters (22) v Northern Pride (6)
Sat 4 Jun 7:30PM at National Football Stadium

Townsville Blackhawks (32) v Norths Devils (12)
Sun 5 Jun 1:40PM at Jack Manski Oval

Redcliffe Dolphins (40) v Central Queensland Capras (4)
Sun 5 Jun 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Burleigh Bears (20) v Easts Tigers (12)
Sun 5 Jun 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Souths Logan Magpies (18) v Mackay Cutters (18)
Sun 5 Jun 2:05PM at Davies Park

Ipswich Jets (12) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (22)
Sun 5 Jun 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Round 14

Norths Devils (14) v Ipswich Jets (16)
Sat 11 Jun 4:00PM at Bishop Park

Easts Tigers (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (10)
Sat 11 Jun 5:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Central Queensland Capras (24) v Mackay Cutters (20)
Sat 11 Jun 6:00PM at Browne Park

PNG Hunters (22) v Souths Logan Magpies (20)
Sat 11 Jun 7:30PM at Sir John Guise Stadium

Burleigh Bears (32) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10)
Sun 12 Jun 1:40PM at Pizzey Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (18) v Townsville Blackhawks (16)
Sun 12 Jun 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Northern Pride (32) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (12)
Sun 12 Jun 3:00PM at Barlow Park

Round 15

Souths Logan Magpies have a bye

Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons (26) v Easts Tigers (6)
Sat 18 Jun 3:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Townsville Blackhawks (12) v Ipswich Jets (24)
Sat 18 Jun 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Norths Devils (40) v Central Queensland Capras (24)
Sat 18 Jun 6:00PM at Salter Oval

Mackay Cutters (18) v Northern Pride (22)
Sat 18 Jun 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Tweed Heads Seagulls (4) v Burleigh Bears (36)
Sun 19 Jun 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

PNG Hunters (18) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (4)
Sun 19 Jun 3:05PM at National Football Stadium

Round 16

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Easts Tigers (26) v Northern Pride (24)
Sat 25 Jun 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Townsville Blackhawks (22) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (12)
Sat 25 Jun 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Central Queensland Capras (20) v Burleigh Bears (44)
Sat 25 Jun 6:00PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (36) v Mackay Cutters (28)
Sun 26 Jun 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (30) v Souths Logan Magpies (48)
Sun 26 Jun 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Norths Devils (24) v PNG Hunters (8)
Sun 26 Jun 3:05PM at Bishop Park

Round 17

Northern Pride have a bye

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Ipswich Jets (34) v Central Queensland Capras (20)
Sat 2 Jul 4:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Mackay Cutters (26) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (18)
Sat 2 Jul 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Redcliffe Dolphins (10) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (11)
Sat 2 Jul 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Norths Devils (16) v Easts Tigers (40)
Sun 3 Jul 1:40PM at Bishop Park

Souths Logan Magpies (30) v Townsville Blackhawks (12)
Sun 3 Jul 2:00PM at Davies Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (10) v PNG Hunters (40)
Sun 3 Jul 2:05PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 18

PNG Hunters have a bye

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons (8) v Redcliffe Dolphins (28)
Sat 9 Jul 3:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Souths Logan Magpies (26) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (36)
Sun 10 Jul 1:40PM at Davies Park

Burleigh Bears (36) v Norths Devils (32)
Sun 10 Jul 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Easts Tigers (24) v Central Queensland Capras (24)
Sun 10 Jul 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Northern Pride (10) v Ipswich Jets (30)
Sun 10 Jul 3:00PM at Barlow Park

2016

Round 19 Men of League Round

Norths Devils (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (26)
Sat 16 Jul 4:00PM at Bishop Park

Townsville Blackhawks (20) v Burleigh Bears (26)
Sat 16 Jul 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Ipswich Jets (38) v Mackay Cutters (6)
Sat 16 Jul 4:30PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (28) v Northern Pride (8)
Sat 16 Jul 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Central Queensland Capras (16) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
Sun 17 Jul 12:30PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (24) v PNG Hunters (20)
Sun 17 Jul 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Souths Logan Magpies (20) v Easts Tigers (10)
Sun 17 Jul 2:05PM at Davies Park

Round 20 Country Round

Souths Logan Magpies (32) v Norths Devils (24)
Sat 23 Jul 3:00PM at Barcaldine Showground

Burleigh Bears (46) v Ipswich Jets (26)
Sat 23 Jul 3:00PM at Charleville Showground

Townsville Blackhawks (74) v Central Queensland Capras (12)
Sat 23 Jul 4:00PM at Alex Inch Oval

Mackay Cutters (28) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (10)
Sat 23 Jul 5:30PM at Daryl Burke Oval

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (16)
Sun 24 Jul 1:40PM at Albert Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (36) v Northern Pride (6)
Sun 24 Jul 2:00PM at Ravenshoe

PNG Hunters (38) v Easts Tigers (8)
Sun 24 Jul 3:05PM at National Football Stadium

Round 21

Central Queensland Capras have a bye

Easts Tigers have a bye

Mackay Cutters (14) v Townsville Blackhawks (16)
Fri 29 Jul 7:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

PNG Hunters (18) v Ipswich Jets (16)
Sat 30 Jul 4:00PM at National Football Stadium

Burleigh Bears (24) v Northern Pride (25)
Sat 30 Jul 4:30PM at Pizzey Park

Souths Logan Magpies (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (48)
Sun 31 Jul 1:40PM at Davies Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (34) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (14)
Sun 31 Jul 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Redcliffe Dolphins (60) v Norths Devils (16)
Sun 31 Jul 4:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Round 22 Women in League Round

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Mackay Cutters (30) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (10)
Sat 6 Aug 5:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (22) v Souths Logan Magpies (24)
Sat 6 Aug 7:00PM at Browne Park

Easts Tigers (22) v Redcliffe Dolphins (28)
Sun 7 Aug 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Norths Devils (38) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (26)
Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Northern Pride (20) v Townsville Blackhawks (22)
Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM at Barlow Park

PNG Hunters (30) v Burleigh Bears (20)
Sun 7 Aug 3:05PM at National Football Stadium

Round 23

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Souths Logan Magpies have a bye

Norths Devils (44) v Mackay Cutters (22)
Sat 13 Aug 4:00PM at Bishop Park

Ipswich Jets (24) v Redcliffe Dolphins (34)
Sat 13 Aug 4:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Townsville Blackhawks (24) v PNG Hunters (20)
Sat 13 Aug 4:05PM at Jack Manski Oval

Sunshine Coast Falcons (52) v Central Queensland Capras (14)
Sun 14 Aug 1:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Tweed Heads Seagulls (4) v Northern Pride (30)
Sun 14 Aug 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (42) v Easts Tigers (18)
Sun 14 Aug 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 24

Norths Devils have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Ipswich Jets (34) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (28)
Sat 20 Aug 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Mackay Cutters (22) v Souths Logan Magpies (40)
Sat 20 Aug 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (0) v Redcliffe Dolphins (42)
Sat 20 Aug 7:00PM at Marley Brown Oval

Easts Tigers (12) v Burleigh Bears (24)
Sun 21 Aug 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (30) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (28)
Sun 21 Aug 3:00PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Northern Pride (40) v PNG Hunters (16)
Sun 21 Aug 3:05PM at Barlow Park

Round 25 Turn to Me Round

Central Queensland Capras (16) v Northern Pride (30)
Sat 27 Aug 6:00PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (74) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (6)
Sat 27 Aug 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) v Ipswich Jets (28)
Sun 28 Aug 1:40PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Easts Tigers (48) v Mackay Cutters (20)
Sun 28 Aug 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Burleigh Bears (30) v Souths Logan Magpies (18)
Sun 28 Aug 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Norths Devils (22) v Townsville Blackhawks (48)
Sun 28 Aug 3:00PM at Bishop Park

PNG Hunters (34) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (4)
Sun 28 Aug 3:05PM at National Football Stadium

Finals Wk 1 Elimination Finals

Townsville Blackhawks (46) v Easts Tigers (4)
Sun 4 Sep 1:40PM at Jack Manski Oval

PNG Hunters (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (18)
Sun 4 Sep 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Finals Wk 2

Townsville Blackhawks (10) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (18)
Sat 10 Sep 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Redcliffe Dolphins (24) v Burleigh Bears (40)
Sun 11 Sep 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Finals Wk 3

Redcliffe Dolphins (38) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sun 18 Sep 2:30PM at Dolphin Oval

Grand Final

Burleigh Bears (26) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16)
Sun 25 Sep 3:55PM at Suncorp Stadium

2016

2016 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The 2016 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season. Redcliffe were the minor premiers. Burleigh, Townsville, PNG Hunters and Sunshine Coast also made the finals. Easts and Souths duked it out to make the 6th spot with Easts prevailing. That's as far as they went with Townsville smashing them out of the finals with a 46-4 demolition. In the other elimination final a beefed up Sunshine Coast Falcons eliminated the PNG Hunters from their 2nd finals appearance in 3 seasons.

The Sunshine Coast proved their win was not a fluke by beating the highly fancied Townsville Blackhawks 18-10 in the minor semi-final. Burleigh stunned the minor premiers with a big 40-24 win against the Dolphins to advance first to the grand final. Redcliffe fought back and thumped the Sunshine Coast 38-16 in the preliminary final to set up a rematch against the Burleigh Bears.

Redcliffe were in their 11th Queensland Cup grand final but going against them was the extraordinary fact that only once in the past decade have the minor premiers gone on to win the Queensland Cup. Kurtis Rowe scored first for Burleigh in the 12th minute. Not long after, a slicing run by Cameron Cullen set up another try. Redcliffe stayed in the game all the way until Cullen, who's father Wayne was in Souths 1985 premiership team, scored the winning try in the 70th minute for Burleigh to take their 3rd Queensland Cup title.

The following week was a forgettable game for the State Championship as Illawarra strengthened by quite a number of Dragons NRL players thrashed Burleigh 54-12 as they became the first NSW team to win the State Championship.

QLD Cup Elimination Final 1 - Townsville 46 v Easts 4

Townsville prove too strong for Easts

The Townsville & Districts Mendi Blackhawks proved far too strong for the Easts Tigers, producing a points-filled performance at Jack Manski Oval in Townsville in yesterday's Intrust Super Cup elimination final.

Despite a shaky start and some uncharacteristic errors, the third-placed Blackhawks bounced back with some outstanding defence to effectively shut out the sixth-placed Tigers during the second half of the match.

The first half however was a tight affair with the Blackhawks getting out to a 16-4 lead thanks to treis from Delouise Hoeter, Moses Pangai and Andrew Niemoeller.

Veteran centre Shane Neumann was the sole scorer for the Tigers.

The game finished up at 46-4 to the Blackhawks who will now face the Sunshine Coast Falcons on Saturday, September 10 at 4pm at Jack Manski Oval.

The match will be live streamed by QRL Media with full details to come in following days.

The second home semi in a row is a fitting reward for the side who sent out a warning to the rest of the competition with their impenetrable defence and exciting attacking play.

The middle men laid the platform for the home side with both starting props, Corey Jensen and Brendan Santi, playing out of their skin.

Jensen was rewarded with the XXXX Man of the Match honours for his efforts in the game.

The Blackhawks spine were also incredibly effective and created chances almost every set in the second stanza.

Woolf's men proved that the finals are the beginning of a whole new season as they shook off the shackles of their injury-riddled season to produce a determined defensive effort.

However, they will want to work on their completion rates and cut down their errors when they face the Falcons who are full of confidence after producing a stunning upset to down the Hunters.

For the Tigers, it was a disappointing end to the season – but it was an immense effort to get to the finals under coach Scott Sipple in his first year in the head coaching role.

They struggled in the weeks leading up to September, but produced a great performance when it mattered in Round 25 to defeat the Cutters and confirm their finals berth.

TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS 46 (Moses Pangai 2, Michael Parker-Walshe 2, Jonathon Reuben 2, Delouise Hoeter, Andrew Niemoeller, Corey Jensen tries; Corey Jensen 2, Rhyse Martin 2, Kyle Laybutt goals) def **EASTS TIGERS 4** (Shane Neumann try) at Jack Manski Oval.



Jahrome Hughes tries to shake the defence of the Tigers. Photo: Alix Sweeney

2016

QLD Cup Elimination Final 2 - Sunshine Coast 18 v PNG 12

Falcons upset Hunters in PNG



The Sunshine Coast Falcons produced one of their best performances and created history in the process, becoming the first team to defeat the Hunters at home this season as they eliminated them from the finals with an 18-12 win.

The do-or-die match began as an entertaining and quality affair as both sides produced strong defence and big collisions.

The visitors were the first to score in the 19th minute through halfback Ryley Jacks who stepped past defenders to score after a loose ball from Hunters forward Enock Maki gave them possession. Joe Stimson converted the try to give his side an early 6-0 lead.

The Hunters were on attack after a drop ball from the Falcons, only for Jacks to make a try-saving tackle on a rampaging Justin Olam just inches away from the try line.

However, the Hunters were on attack again with just five minutes before halftime and this time it was a success, with winger Butler Morris scoring off an Ase Boas grubber kick. Noel Zeming missed the conversion and the Falcons led 6-4.

The second half began with the Hunters on attack again after an error from the Falcons gave them possession.

They launched a last-minute attack on the Falcons try line, but the defence was like a brick wall as Jacks made another try saving play, catching the ball on his try line after a short kick from the Hunters, allowing the visitors to take a 6-4 lead into the halftime break.

The second half begin in a tight affair as the Falcons forwards led by Tui Kamikamica and Mark Nicolls stood up to match the Hunters forward pack led by Esau Siune, Maki and Brandy Peter.

A Hunters error in their own territory gave the visitors possession and they made it count, scoring first in the second half via winger Samuel Wright after some good backline movement.

The Falcons were not done yet and this time it was interchange forward Jye Ballinger who found an opening through the lazy Hunters defenders before offloading to Alex Bishop who attracted the fullback before sending an unmarked Jacks in to score his second, despite some PNG protests about the pass.

The home side hit back in the 66-minute mark with Morris crossing for his second try after a loose ball from the Falcons gave them opportunity.

Winger Stargroth Amean ran across the field before knocking the ball backwards for Morris to scoop up to score.

As it went to the final 10 minutes the pressure and frustration started to build up as the Hunters were penalised 20m from their own line. The Falcons opted to kick a penalty goal with Stimson successful in his attempt.

The Hunters produced a short kick-off and tall fullback Bland Abavu soared above everyone to offload it to Morris who ran away for score his hat-trick.

Ase Boas misses the conversion kick with two minutes before fulltime, meaning the Hunters were unable to convert any of their three tries.

The Falcons defence was strong and they made the Hunters work from their own territory up and forced mistakes as they defended their way to victory.

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 18 (Ryley Jacks 2, Samuel Wright tries; Joe Stimson 3 goals) def **PNG HUNTERS 12** (Butler Morris 3 tries) at National Football Stadium, Port Moresby.

2016

QLD Cup Minor Semi Final - Sunshine Coast 18 v Townsville 10

Falcons fight on for another week



The Sunshine Coast have continued their dream finals run, upsetting the Blackhawks 18-10 in Townsville on Saturday.

Strom back Ryan Morgan score three of the Falcons four tries, including the sealer three minutes from fulltime.

The visitors trailed by two points at halftime, but addressed their ball security to run out winners and set up a preliminary final against Redcliffe Dolphins at Dolphin Oval this Sunday.

"I couldn't be any prouder of blokes like Ryan Morgan, Felise Kaufusi and Mark Nicholls, they did an outstanding job on the weekend," Falcons coach Craig Ingebrigtsen said.

"Joe Stimson was easily our man of the match and I'm sure he is destined for bigger things.

"He made a couple of really big try-saving tackles and he certainly made Ray Thompson work really hard defensively on their edge.

"He ran hard, tackles hard and does all the things you ask players to do.

"We don't win those sort of games without Joey Stimson."

Sunshine Coast will now prepare to travel for their fourth week in a row when for their preliminary final against Redcliffe on Sunday afternoon.

For Townsville, their 2016 season is over after a season plagued with injury and player availability issues.

They came into this elimination final with a number of positional changes. The absence of Intrust Super Cup Centre of the Year Moses Pangai was noticeable as the reshuffled line up did their best to form combinations on the run.

The changes appeared to have affected the team's cohesion as they struggled to gain any traction in the first 20 minutes of the match against a strong Falcons side.

In a tense first half, the sinbinning of Kyle Laybutt after he saved a certain Falcons try at the end of the first 40, did not prevent the Blackhawks from going into the break with a 10-8 lead.

However, despite having plenty of possession in the second stanza, the home side were unable to find the line at all in what became their final half of the 2016 season.

The Falcons on the other hand took their opportunities with both hands as they scored an 10 unanswered points to take the win.

Prop Corey Jensen was again a leader for the Blackhawks with his tireless work in the middle, whilst back rowers Rhyse Martin and Andrew Niemoeller made plenty of tackles.

The Blackhawks were gutsy in defence, especially during the period Laybutt was off the field, but their attacking options were not up to their usual standards.

Coach Kristian Woolf praised his troops following the match for their tenacity and willingness to dig in for each other in the face of a season riddled with injury and disruptions.

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 18 (Ryan Morgan 3, Jye Ballinger tries; Joe Stimson goal) **def TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS 10** (Delouise Hoeter, Michael Parker-Walshe tries; Matt Bowen goal) at Jack Manski Oval,

2016

QLD Cup Major Semi Final - Burleigh 40 v Redcliffe 24

Bears book place in grand final



The I Luv Coffee Burleigh Bears have qualified for their first Intrust Super Cup grand final since 2005 thanks to a 40-24 win over Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

Burleigh were the underdogs coming up against the minor premiers at a ground where they had won just once in their past 11 outings, but a flawless first half saw them jump to a 28-0 lead that the Dolphins couldn't run down.

The Bears exuded intensity with every run and the decision-making was spot on in what was the best half of football they have played all season.

Coach Jim Lenihan said starting well was always going to be the key if the Bears were to secure the win and advance to the grand final.

"I was always hopeful of that, for sure, because we were certainly prepared for them," he said of the dream start.

"We did everything right in the first half; we fought well, competed well and our energy was great.

"Obviously that first half was great, but it was a lot tighter than the score indicated and if anything, they were far more favoured to win the game coming in.

"But we did get to a good jump; our forwards did a good job and we made all the right choices early and came up with the points. We were desperate, which was good."

With their home crowd cheering them on, the Phins threw everything they had at Burleigh in the second half and tried to claw back the huge deficit as the Bears lost several players to injury.

"We finished with just one on the bench in that second half," Lenihan said.

"We took a big injury toll. Two went down right before halftime and then we lost another one in the first minute of the second half.

"We just had to make do with what we had, but we held on, which was great.

"We were a little bit more lethargic and the tank emptied and we struggled with our replacements.

"I had used my last replacement with 20 to go so had to fight for 20 minutes and (Redcliffe) were still shuffling on fresh blokes at the end. I thought our courage and honesty was great today."

Burleigh fired the first shot of the day in just the fourth minute when Pat Politoni caught the defence napping from dummy half.

It was absorbing in the early exchanges as both sides hit hard in defence, but the Bears came out the other side when Politoni played short to Vaivai.

He crashed over close to the posts and the Bears jumped to a 12-0 lead.

From there, the Bears got on a roll. On the very next set, Politoni was again the instigator as he scooted out of dummy half in the middle of the field.

He got the ball to Vaivai who threw a lovely short pass to XXXX mon of the match Jamal Fogarty who found himself in the backfield. He turned in inside to Kurtis Rowe and suddenly it was 18-0.

In the 36th minute, it was Josh Ailaomai's turn to add to the scoreboard thanks to an inside ball from Fogarty.

They went in again in the dying seconds of the first half when Waka Wanahi refused to give up on the play.

A long kick was bouncing in the in-goal and the Redcliffe defenders were willing it over the dead ball line as Wanahi snuck around to ground the ball and take the lead to 28-0 at the break.

The minor premiers were shell-shocked, but it was clear they would fire up in the second half and it took them just one minute to get the comeback started thanks to Jack Ahearn from dummy half.

Five minutes later, they went back-to-back as Brandon Lee scored in the corner to give the Redcliffe faithful a sniff.

Burleigh steadied the ship over the next 20 minutes and when Connor Broadhurst muscled over in the 64th minute, they again had some breathing space.

However, the late injection of Christian Hazard breathed new life into the Dolphins and they finished with a wet sail.

Hazard broke through the middle in the 68th minute to set up a try for Zach Strasser, before doubling up five minutes later, this time doing the groundwork for a Joshua Beehag try.

It was a remarkable put-down from Beehag and the Dolphins were alive; trailing by 10 with five minutes to go.

They peppered the Burleigh line, but the Bears held on until Broadhurst plucked the ball out of the air to score a 90m intercept try and seal the win.

The Bears now advance to Intrust Super Cup grand final at Suncorp Stadium, where they will play either Redcliffe or the Sunshine Coast Falcons on September 25.

BURLEIGH BEARS 40 (Connor Broadhurst 2, Pat Politoni, Paterika Vaivai, Kurtis Rowe, Josh Ailaomai, Waka Wanahi tries; Jamal Fogarty 6 goals) def **REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 24** (Jack Ahearn, Brandon Lee, Zach Strasser, Joshua Beehag tries; Darren Nicholls 4 goals) at Dolphin Oval.

2016

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Redcliffe 38 v Sunshine Coast 16

Phins win their way into the decider



The Redcliffe Dolphins are through to the Intrust Super Cup grand final after a great second half performance against the Sunshine Coast Falcons yesterday, winning 38-16.

The Falcons started off strongly, scoring two tries in the first half and producing some great defensive work to lead 6-12 going into the halftime break.

"I wasn't worried by the score line, I knew they would focus, we assessed a couple things at halftime and I knew would be better in the second half," Dolphins coach Adam Mogg said.

"It was the boys that put in the hard work, it was a tough week, they got over their hurdles and focused on what they needed to do."

In the second half, the Dolphins defensive effort was fantastic and Mogg said he was pleased with the improvements his side has made over the past few weeks.

"We have made big improvements on our defence and they had a couple lapses through the game which led to tries; but overall I thought it was a solid effort from the boys," Mogg said.

Redcliffe second rower Daniel Bridge scored back-to-back tries to start the second half, with Mogg praising his performance in the match.

"He played well and has improved on his game. He still hasn't played his best footy, but his contribution was good," Mogg said.

Dolphins winger Joshua Beehag scored a try and also kicked five goals to extend the lead for his side and Mogg could not praise Beehag enough for his performance.

"He had a great game. He has gotten better each week. He is a bit of a success story, he is originally a fullback but he learns, listens and his performance was great," Mogg said.

This weekend, the Dolphins will take on the Burleigh Bears for the Intrust Super Cup grand final.

The Bears have a lot of experience in finals games, but the Dolphins have been improving each week and will be tough competition.

"We will focus on what we can control. They are a big and physical team and it will be a challenge," Mogg said.

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 38 (Daniel Bridge 2, Zach Strasser, Joshua Beehag, Harley Aiono, Daniel Randall, Aaron Whitchurch tries; Joshua Beehag 5 goals) def **SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 16** (Troy Giess, Samuel Wright, Eddie Tautali tries; Joe Stimson 2 goals) at Dolphin Oval.

2016

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 26 v REDCLIFFE 16

Bear hugs as drought finally ends

BEARS	26
DOLPHINS	16

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
THE WINNERS

IT has been 12 years since Burleigh last won a premiership but as coach Jim Lenihan put it yesterday, the club now "has something to cheer about".

The Bears finally claimed their greatly desired Intrust Super Cup trophy at Suncorp Stadium, beating a gutsy Redcliffe 26-16.

It was a tough-fought win for the Bears and one which summed up their season. After 11 years having not played a single final, there was nothing that was going to stop them from taking home the title.

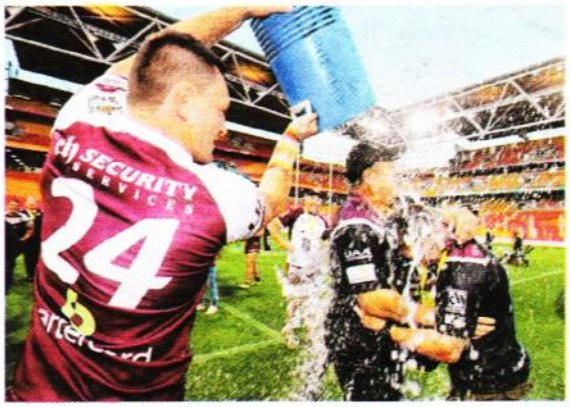
Not even Dolphins coach Adam Mogg and his star-studded minor premiers.

Lenihan, who has been with the club since mid-2014, cleaned out the playing group and staff at the start of the year to give the Bears a fresh start. As he watched his side race home yesterday, with star half Cameron Cullen scoring the winning try in the 70th minute, that decision was justified.

"It's been a long time between drinks and we haven't had much to cheer about, especially last year (when the Bears slumped to ninth)," Lenihan said.

"In 12 months, to turn that around and get a premiership is outstanding. We've never really considered ourselves a bulletproof team but we are a team that really works hard at working hard.

"For us to take some risks this year ... I was only going to get sacked at the end of the year anyway if we didn't go well. There's nothing lost. Sometimes when you've got nothing to lose, you play like you've got everything to win."



SOAKED: Jim Lenihan is doused by Bears player Jeff Lynch; and (below right) Jamie Dowling and captain Jamal Fogarty lift the trophy. Pictures: SMP Images.com/QRL Media

Both teams predicted it would be an arm-wrestle yesterday and it was.

In front of a crowd of 6611, Burleigh flexed their muscle first with a try to fullback Kurtis Rowe in the 12th minute. Despite a constant barrage from Redcliffe, they managed to hold on.

The effort took its toll, with a number of Burleigh's big men struggling to make it back into the attacking line in the dying stages.

But this is when Cullen took control, slicing past Dolphins backrower Aaron Whitchurch and injured halfback Darren Nicholls to seal the game.

Burleigh will celebrate long and hard but there is one more game that awaits next week when they will take on NSW Intrust Super Premiership winners, the Illawarra Cutters, on NRL grand final day for the State Championship.

Lenihan said they would focus on that game at some point later this week.

"I'm so happy for everyone," he said. "This playing group won't play together again. For this day and this year, we've all done a job together.

"The result shows it's not our skill so much but our ability to fight for each other and hang in there and keep turning up, which is the missing ingredient a lot of times."



BURLEIGH BEARS 26 (Kurtis Rowe 2, Sami Sauiluma, Cameron Cullen tries; Jamal Fogarty 5 goals) d REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 16 (Jonus Pearson, Tyson Cleal, Darren Nicholls tries; Darren Nicholls 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium.



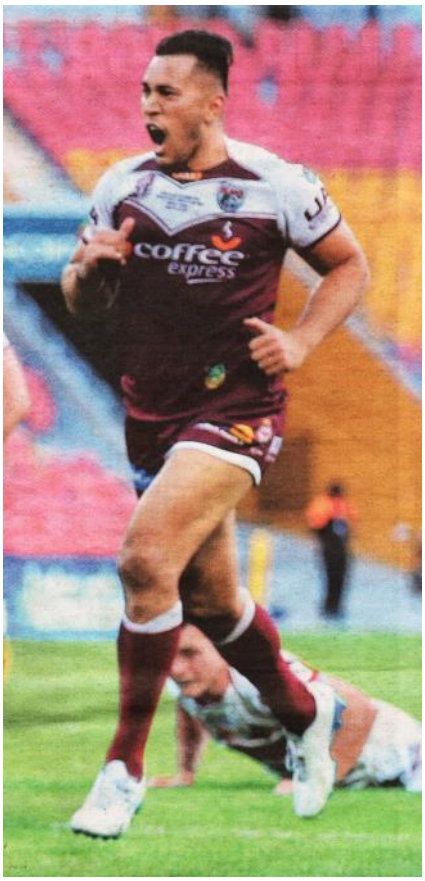
CHEERS BRO: Five-eighth Cameron Cullen scores for Burleigh Bears in their grand final win over Redcliffe.

2016

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 26 v REDCLIFFE 16

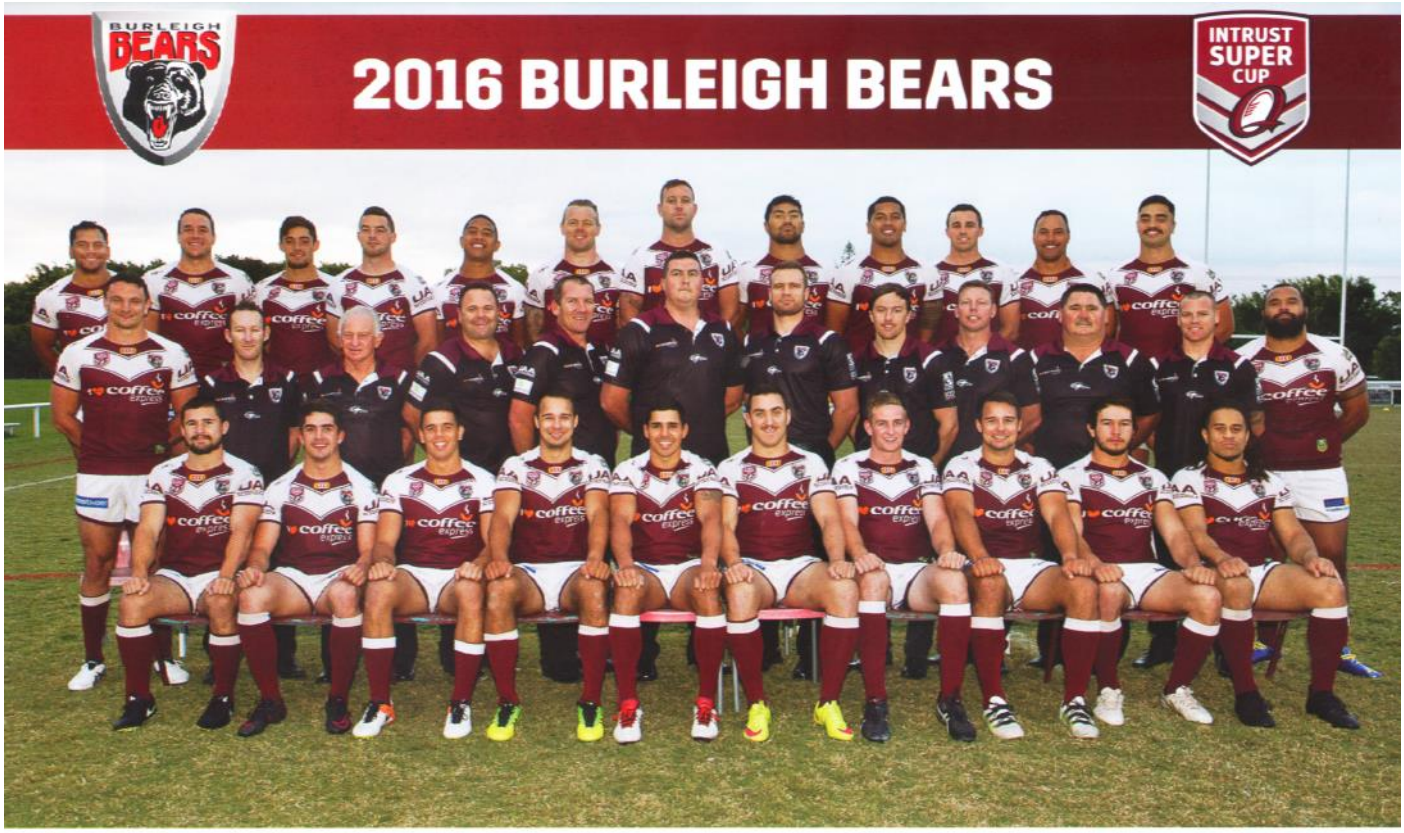


Right: A Bears player watches on excitedly as Cameron Cullen powers on to score one of his two tries.



2016

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - BURLEIGH 26 v REDCLIFFE 16



Front Row: Cameron Cullen, Oliver Regan, Rhys Duke, Hayden Schwass, Jamal Fogarty (Co-Captain), Jamie Dowling (Co-Captain), Josh Berkers, Daniel Schwass, Kurtis Rowe, Waka Wanahi.
Middle Row: Jeff Lynch, Brent Corin (Trainer), John Newton (Head Trainer), Jimmy Lenihan (Head Coach), Robert Campbell (Assistant Coach), Chris Mikkelson (Assistant Strength & Conditioning), Ben Jansen (Club Doctor), John Melrose (Physiotherapist), Jamie Windley (Trainer), John Davis (Manager), Matt Keating (Assistant Coach), Josh Allaomai.
Back Row: Pat Politoni, Lachlan Burr, Parahi Wilson, Connor Broadhurst, Sami Sauiluma, Luke Page, Darren Griffiths, Paterika Vaivai, Louis Fanene, Tyler Chadburn, Jarrod Tua, Anthony Gray.
Absent: Simon Bruxton (Head Strength & Conditioner)

2016 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Townsville 46 def. Easts 4
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Sunshine Coast 18 def. PNG 12
Minor Semi-Final: Sunshine Coast 18 def. Townsville 10
Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 40 def. Redcliffe 24
Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 38 def. Sunshine Coast 16

2016 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 26 (Tries: K. Rowe 2, S. Sauiluma, C. Cullen; Goals: J. Fogarty 5) def. REDCLIFFE 16 (Tries: J. Pearson, T. Cleal, D. Nicholls, Goals: D. Nicholls 2)

2016

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - ILLAWARRA 54 v BURLEIGH 12

Illawarra steamrolls shocked Bears back into hibernation

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

QUEENSLAND'S State Championship domination and Burleigh's fairytale season came to a disappointing end when the Bears stumbled at the final hurdle yesterday.

The Intrust Super Cup premiers were humiliated by the Illawarra Cutters, losing 54-12 at ANZ Stadium.

After last week coming out of grand final hibernation to win their first trophy in 12 years, the Bears added a new chapter to rugby league history yesterday – but not a happy one.

The Northern Pride and Ipswich Jets were the proud winners of the past two State Championships, but Burleigh could not continue that form as the Cutters became the first NSW side to win the clash.

It was not the thrilling grand final curtain-raiser that rugby league fans were promised, with the Bears never in the game.

Burleigh became renowned for their forward pack this year, but were outmuscled by Illawarra yesterday as the Cutters' big men steamrolled their opposition from the kick-off.

Whether the Bears were shell-shocked by the speed of their opponents or struggled to find motivation after last Sunday's premiership was unclear.

But Jim Lenihan's side was a shadow of the team it had been all season, putting in an error-riddled and fatigued performance.

Lenihan said he had been left with a "hollow feeling".

"We were a little bit behind the eight ball to start with," he said. "It's not one you're playing for all year, that's for sure. But there's no excuses. We were certainly prepared for it.

"Illawarra didn't do anything we didn't expect today but we just didn't get our best foot forward ... it is what it is now.

"I'm over the moon with the year. We had a great year. It's a hollow feeling today but we live and learn by everything we do every year."

The only good news for Queensland was the form of Illawarra five-eighth Shaun Nona, who is Townsville-bound in 2017.

The flashy half was outstanding for the Cutters two years after he won the inaugural trophy with the Pride.

Nona made his presence known quickly, handing his side back-to-back sets with a 40/20 in the fourth minute.

He continued this perfect kicking form, setting up Chris Lewis minutes out from half-time before putting Kurt Mann over in the 56th.



FIRST CUT: Cutter Shaun Nona starred against the Bears.

ILLAWARRA CUTTERS 54 (Shannon Wakeman, Damien Sironen, Adam Quinlan, Jacob Host, Chris Lewis, Drew Hutchinson, Siliva Havili, Kurt Mann, Taane Milne tries; Shaun Nona 9 goals) d BURLEIGH BEARS 12 (Josh Ailaomai, Kurtis Rowe tries; Jamal Fogarty, Luke Page goals) at ANZ Stadium.

2017

QUEENSLAND CUP: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

QLD CUP PREMIERSHIP LADDER

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1. PNG Hunters	23	17	5	1	550	378	172	39
2. Redcliffe Dolphins	23	17	6	0	604	332	272	38
3. Easts Tigers	23	16	6	1	596	422	174	37
4. Sunshine Coast Falcons	23	15	7	1	645	418	227	35
5. Souths Logan Magpies	23	15	8	0	580	484	96	34
6. Townsville Blackhawks	23	12	9	2	575	473	102	30
7. Ipswich Jets	23	12	11	0	536	539	-3	28
8. Mackay Cutters	23	10	11	2	531	566	-35	26
9. Burleigh Bears	23	10	13	0	446	510	-64	24
10. Wynnum Manly Seagulls	23	9	14	0	433	465	-32	22
11. Norths Devils	23	9	14	0	502	570	-68	22
12. Northern Pride	23	6	17	0	400	555	-155	16
13. Tweed Heads Seagulls	23	5	18	0	337	710	-373	14
14. Central Queensland Capras	23	4	18	1	416	729	-313	13

2017 QUEENSLAND CUP RESULTS

Round 1

- Sunshine Coast Falcons (7) v Easts Tigers (7)
  Sat 4 Mar 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Mackay Cutters (4) v Northern Pride (24)
  Sat 4 Mar 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Central Queensland Capras (16) v PNG Hunters (22)
  Sat 4 Mar 6:00PM at Browne Park
- Redcliffe Dolphins (26) v Burleigh Bears (8)
  Sun 5 Mar 12:40PM at Dolphin Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (4) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (17)
  Sun 5 Mar 2:00PM at Davies Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (6) v Ipswich Jets (34)
  Sun 5 Mar 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports
- Norths Devils (16) v Townsville Blackhawks (18)
  Sun 5 Mar 3:30PM at Bishop Park

Round 2

- Burleigh Bears (14) v Norths Devils (26)
  Sat 11 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (12) v Souths Logan Magpies (22)
  Sat 11 Mar 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Central Queensland Capras (20) v Redcliffe Dolphins (41)
  Sat 11 Mar 5:00PM at Browne Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (20) v Northern Pride (18)
  Sat 11 Mar 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Mackay Cutters (38) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (6)
  Sat 11 Mar 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Ipswich Jets (26) v Townsville Blackhawks (39)
  Sun 12 Mar 12:40PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- PNG Hunters (30) v Easts Tigers (20)
  Sun 12 Mar 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Round 3 Play NRL Round

- Townsville Blackhawks (60) v Mackay Cutters (12)
  Sat 18 Mar 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Central Queensland Capras (12) v Burleigh Bears (10)
  Sat 18 Mar 5:00PM at Browne Park
- Northern Pride (10) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (22)
  Sat 18 Mar 5:30PM at Barlow Park
- Easts Tigers (18) v Redcliffe Dolphins (10)
  Sat 18 Mar 6:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (18) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (24)
  Sun 19 Mar 12:40PM at Ron Stark Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (20) v PNG Hunters (22)
  Sun 19 Mar 2:05PM at Davies Park
- Norths Devils (32) v Ipswich Jets (10)
  Sun 19 Mar 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Round 4

- Ipswich Jets (4) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (34)
  Sat 25 Mar 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Burleigh Bears (18) v Souths Logan Magpies (19)
  Sat 25 Mar 4:00PM at Pizzey Park
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (16) v Central Queensland Capras (30)
  Sat 25 Mar 5:45PM at Cbus Super Stadium
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (18) v Mackay Cutters (22)
  Sat 25 Mar 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Redcliffe Dolphins (18) v Townsville Blackhawks (6)
  Sat 25 Mar 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval
- Easts Tigers (42) v Northern Pride (12)
  Sun 26 Mar 12:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park
- PNG Hunters (18) v Norths Devils (32)
  Sun 26 Mar 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Round 5 Zaidee's Foundation Round

- Norths Devils (36) v Central Queensland Capras (12)
  Sat 1 Apr 3:30PM at Bishop Park
- Townsville Blackhawks (22) v Easts Tigers (35)
  Sat 1 Apr 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (12) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (8)
  Sat 1 Apr 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Northern Pride (18) v Burleigh Bears (6)
  Sat 1 Apr 5:30PM at Barlow Park
- Mackay Cutters (16) v PNG Hunters (36)
  Sat 1 Apr 6:05PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay
- Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v Ipswich Jets (20)
  Sun 2 Apr 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval
- Tweed Heads Seagulls (12) v Souths Logan Magpies (44)
  Sun 2 Apr 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 6 XXXX Rivalry Round

- Ipswich Jets (20) v Easts Tigers (22)
  Sat 8 Apr 4:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve
- Sunshine Coast Falcons (38) v PNG Hunters (14)
  Sat 8 Apr 4:35PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium
- Northern Pride (18) v Townsville Blackhawks (28)
  Sat 8 Apr 5:30PM at Barlow Park
- Central Queensland Capras (22) v Mackay Cutters (38)
  Sat 8 Apr 6:00PM at Browne Park
- Burleigh Bears (22) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (16)
  Sun 9 Apr 1:40PM at Pizzey Park
- Wynnum Manly Seagulls (0) v Redcliffe Dolphins (24)
  Sun 9 Apr 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval
- Souths Logan Magpies (42) v Norths Devils (22)
  Sun 9 Apr 3:00PM at Davies Park

2017

Round 7 Easter

Townsville Blackhawks (18) v Burleigh Bears (20)
Sat 15 Apr 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Northern Pride (10) v Ipswich Jets (24)
Sat 15 Apr 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Easts Tigers (19) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (11)
Sun 16 Apr 1:40PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Souths Logan Magpies (42) v Mackay Cutters (24)
Sun 16 Apr 2:00PM at Davies Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (38) v Central Queensland Capras (14)
Sun 16 Apr 2:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

PNG Hunters (12) v Redcliffe Dolphins (10)
Sun 16 Apr 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Norths Devils (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (34)
Sun 16 Apr 3:30PM at Bishop Park

Round 8 ANZAC Round

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22) v Central Queensland Capras (34)
Sat 22 Apr 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Mackay Cutters (33) v Easts Tigers (10)
Sat 22 Apr 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Souths Logan Magpies (30) v Ipswich Jets (36)
Sun 23 Apr 1:40PM at Davies Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (46) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (28)
Sun 23 Apr 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Burleigh Bears (6) v PNG Hunters (42)
Sun 23 Apr 2:05PM at Pizzey Park

Norths Devils (20) v Northern Pride (22)
Sun 23 Apr 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Townsville Blackhawks (48) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
Sun 23 Apr 3:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Round 9

PNG Hunters (26) v Northern Pride (10)
Sat 29 Apr 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Ipswich Jets (18) v Burleigh Bears (12)
Sat 29 Apr 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Easts Tigers (36) v Central Queensland Capras (24)
Sat 29 Apr 5:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) v Townsville Blackhawks (22)
Sat 29 Apr 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Mackay Cutters (10) v Norths Devils (34)
Sun 30 Apr 1:40PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Redcliffe Dolphins (52) v Souths Logan Magpies (12)
Sun 30 Apr 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (0) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (58)
Sun 30 Apr 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 10

PNG Hunters have a bye

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks (6) v Souths Logan Magpies (22)
Sat 13 May 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Northern Pride (6) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (4)
Sat 13 May 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Central Queensland Capras (16) v Ipswich Jets (30)
Sat 13 May 6:00PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (14) v Mackay Cutters (6)
Sat 13 May 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Burleigh Bears (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (24)
Sun 14 May 1:40PM at Pizzey Park

Easts Tigers (32) v Norths Devils (36)
Sun 14 May 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Round 11

Ipswich Jets (12) v PNG Hunters (32)
Sat 20 May 3:05PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v Mackay Cutters (18)
Sat 20 May 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Townsville Blackhawks (26) v Central Queensland Capras (26)
Sun 21 May 1:40PM at Jack Manski Oval

Souths Logan Magpies (42) v Northern Pride (28)
Sun 21 May 2:00PM at Davies Park

Burleigh Bears (4) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (28)
Sun 21 May 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (22) v Norths Devils (12)
Sun 21 May 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Tweed Heads Seagulls (16) v Easts Tigers (28)
Sun 21 May 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Round 12

Ipswich Jets (30) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (18)
Sat 27 May 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Mackay Cutters (28) v Burleigh Bears (34)
Sat 27 May 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (10) v Northern Pride (4)
Sat 27 May 6:00PM at Browne Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (21) v Redcliffe Dolphins (4)
Sun 28 May 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

PNG Hunters (42) v Townsville Blackhawks (4)
Sun 28 May 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Norths Devils (18) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (35)
Sun 28 May 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Easts Tigers (12) v Souths Logan Magpies (19)
Sun 28 May 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Round 13

Sunshine Coast Falcons (36) v Ipswich Jets (16)
Sat 3 Jun 2:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Northern Pride (28) v Easts Tigers (32)
Sat 3 Jun 6:30PM at Barlow Park

Mackay Cutters (20) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (14)
Sat 3 Jun 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (28) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (36)
Sun 4 Jun 1:40PM at Browne Park

Souths Logan Magpies (25) v Burleigh Bears (12)
Sun 4 Jun 2:00PM at Davies Park

Norths Devils (18) v PNG Hunters (40)
Sun 4 Jun 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Townsville Blackhawks (25) v Redcliffe Dolphins (16)
Sun 4 Jun 3:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Round 14

Ipswich Jets (44) v Norths Devils (24)
Sat 10 Jun 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Burleigh Bears (28) v Central Queensland Capras (18)
Sat 10 Jun 4:00PM at Pizzey Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (46) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (8)
Sat 10 Jun 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Mackay Cutters (20) v Townsville Blackhawks (20)
Sat 10 Jun 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Sunshine Coast Falcons (37) v Northern Pride (16)
Sun 11 Jun 1:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Redcliffe Dolphins (22) v Easts Tigers (12)
Sun 11 Jun 2:00PM at Dolphin Oval

PNG Hunters (12) v Souths Logan Magpies (8)
Sun 11 Jun 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

2017

Round 15

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Central Queensland Capras have a bye

Easts Tigers have a bye

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Northern Pride have a bye

Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye

Souths Logan Magpies have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks (38) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (14)
Sat 17 Jun 4:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

PNG Hunters (10) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (14)
Sat 17 Jun 5:00PM at National Football Stadium

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) v Norths Devils (6)
Sun 18 Jun 1:40PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 16

Northern Pride (14) v PNG Hunters (18)
Sat 24 Jun 5:35PM at Barlow Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (30)
Sat 24 Jun 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Central Queensland Capras (26) v Easts Tigers (34)
Sat 24 Jun 6:00PM at Browne Park

Burleigh Bears (44) v Ipswich Jets (0)
Sun 25 Jun 1:40PM at Pizzey Park

Souths Logan Magpies (12) v Redcliffe Dolphins (19)
Sun 25 Jun 2:00PM at Davies Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (8) v Townsville Blackhawks (50)
Sun 25 Jun 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Norths Devils (4) v Mackay Cutters (52)
Sun 25 Jun 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Round 17 Indigenous Round

Ipswich Jets (40) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (14)
Sat 1 Jul 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Easts Tigers (17) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (16)
Sat 1 Jul 5:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) v Souths Logan Magpies (22)
Sat 1 Jul 6:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Northern Pride (18) v Mackay Cutters (26)
Sun 2 Jul 1:40PM at Barlow Park

Burleigh Bears (16) v Redcliffe Dolphins (32)
Sun 2 Jul 2:00PM at Pizzey Park

PNG Hunters (30) v Central Queensland Capras (10)
Sun 2 Jul 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Townsville Blackhawks (12) v Norths Devils (6)
Sun 2 Jul 3:30PM at Jack Manski Oval

Round 18

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye

Easts Tigers (34) v Mackay Cutters (10)
Sat 8 Jul 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) v Redcliffe Dolphins (24)
Sat 8 Jul 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Northern Pride (14) v Norths Devils (30)
Sat 8 Jul 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Central Queensland Capras (18) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (36)
Sat 8 Jul 6:00PM at Browne Park

Souths Logan Magpies (22) v Ipswich Jets (30)
Sun 9 Jul 1:40PM at Davies Park

PNG Hunters (20) v Burleigh Bears (12)
Sun 9 Jul 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Round 19

PNG Hunters have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks (32) v Northern Pride (10)
Sat 15 Jul 6:00PM at Jack Manski Oval

Mackay Cutters (38) v Central Queensland Capras (20)
Sat 15 Jul 6:00PM at DD Print Stadium Mackay

Redcliffe Dolphins (12) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (13)
Sat 15 Jul 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Norths Devils (18) v Souths Logan Magpies (19)
Sun 16 Jul 1:40PM at Bishop Park

Tweed Heads Seagulls (22) v Burleigh Bears (30)
Sun 16 Jul 2:00PM at Piggabeen Sports

Easts Tigers (24) v Ipswich Jets (20)
Sun 16 Jul 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Round 20 'Get in the Game' Country Week

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16) v Northern Pride (40)
Sat 22 Jul 3:00PM at Yuzo Ginou Oval

Central Queensland Capras (6) v Redcliffe Dolphins (42)
Sat 22 Jul 5:00PM at Bear Park, Clermont

Ipswich Jets (22) v Townsville Blackhawks (20)
Sat 22 Jul 6:00PM at Eric Lenton Memorial Recreation Ground

Easts Tigers (34) v Norths Devils (12)
Sun 23 Jul 1:40PM at Archer Park

Souths Logan Magpies (32) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (18)
Sun 23 Jul 2:00PM at Ken Barnett Oval

Burleigh Bears (32) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (26)
Sun 23 Jul 2:00PM at Rowden Park

PNG Hunters (22) v Mackay Cutters (22)
Sun 23 Jul 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

2017

Round 21

Mackay Cutters have a bye

Norths Devils have a bye

Souths Logan Magpies have a bye

Tweed Heads Seagulls have a bye

Ipswich Jets (32) v Northern Pride (22)
Sat 29 Jul 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Burleigh Bears (28) v Townsville Blackhawks (22)
Sat 29 Jul 5:45PM at Pizzey Park

Central Queensland Capras (26) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (44)
Sat 29 Jul 6:00PM at Browne Park

Redcliffe Dolphins (28) v PNG Hunters (12)
Sun 30 Jul 1:40PM at Dolphin Oval

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22) v Easts Tigers (6)
Sun 30 Jul 3:00PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Round 22 Women in League Round

PNG Hunters (20) v Ipswich Jets (4)
Sat 5 Aug 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Northern Pride (24) v Souths Logan Magpies (28)
Sat 5 Aug 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Mackay Cutters (30) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (26)
Sat 5 Aug 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Central Queensland Capras (14) v Townsville Blackhawks (26)
Sat 5 Aug 7:00PM at Browne Park

Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22) v Burleigh Bears (38)
Sun 6 Aug 1:40PM at BMD Kougari Oval

Norths Devils (24) v Redcliffe Dolphins (44)
Sun 6 Aug 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Easts Tigers (44) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (4)
Sun 6 Aug 3:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Round 23

Central Queensland Capras have a bye

Ipswich Jets have a bye

Northern Pride have a bye

Wynnum Manly Seagulls have a bye

Burleigh Bears (28) v Mackay Cutters (16)
Sat 12 Aug 4:00PM at Pizzey Park

Townsville Blackhawks (16) v PNG Hunters (24)
Sat 12 Aug 4:05PM at Jack Manski Oval

Sunshine Coast Falcons (10) v Norths Devils (18)
Sat 12 Aug 4:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Redcliffe Dolphins (30) v Tweed Heads Seagulls (4)
Sat 12 Aug 7:00PM at Dolphin Oval

Souths Logan Magpies (10) v Easts Tigers (46)
Sun 13 Aug 1:40PM at Davies Park

Round 24

Burleigh Bears have a bye

Easts Tigers have a bye

Norths Devils have a bye

Redcliffe Dolphins have a bye

Sunshine Coast Falcons have a bye

Townsville Blackhawks have a bye

Ipswich Jets (20) v Mackay Cutters (30)
Sat 19 Aug 3:00PM at North Ipswich Reserve

Tweed Heads Seagulls (16) v Northern Pride (18)
Sun 20 Aug 1:40PM at Piggabeen Sports

Souths Logan Magpies (52) v Central Queensland Capras (10)
Sun 20 Aug 2:00PM at Davies Park

PNG Hunters (28) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22)
Sun 20 Aug 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Round 25 Turn To Me Round

Ipswich Jets (44) v Central Queensland Capras (4)
Sat 26 Aug 5:00PM at Cahill Park

Northern Pride (16) v Redcliffe Dolphins (40)
Sat 26 Aug 5:30PM at Barlow Park

Easts Tigers (32) v Burleigh Bears (12)
Sat 26 Aug 6:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Mackay Cutters (18) v Souths Logan Magpies (32)
Sat 26 Aug 6:00PM at BB Print Stadium Mackay

Sunshine Coast Falcons (42) v Townsville Blackhawks (16)
Sun 27 Aug 1:40PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Tweed Heads Seagulls (26) v PNG Hunters (18)
Sun 27 Aug 2:05PM at Piggabeen Sports

Norths Devils (30) v Wynnum Manly Seagulls (16)
Sun 27 Aug 3:00PM at Bishop Park

Finals Week 1

Sunshine Coast Falcons (26) v Souths Logan Magpies (18)
Sun 3 Sep 1:30PM at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Easts Tigers (20) v Townsville Blackhawks (16)
Sun 3 Sep 2:00PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

Semi Finals

Easts Tigers (22) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (26)
Sun 10 Sep 1:30PM at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

PNG Hunters (6) v Redcliffe Dolphins (4)
Sun 10 Sep 3:00PM at National Football Stadium

Preliminary Final

Redcliffe Dolphins (8) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (34)
Sun 17 Sep 2:30PM at Dolphin Oval

Grand Final

PNG Hunters (12) v Sunshine Coast Falcons (10)
Sun 24 Sep 3:25PM at Suncorp Stadium

2017

2017 QUEENSLAND CUP SEASON SUMMARY

The 2017 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season. In the two elimination finals Sunshine Coast got off to a big start against Souths and held on to win 26-18 while Easts staged a remarkable comeback from 16-nil down to win 20-16 against Townsville. In a hard fought minor semi final Easts were not able to replicate their heroics of the previous week as the Sunshine Coast Falcons won 26-22. In the major semi final the PNG Hunters played a strong defensive game to hold out against Redcliffe in a low scoring game 6-4. Redcliffe were bundled out by Sunshine Coast who thrashed the Dolphins 34-8 in the preliminary final to make their second grand final.

The PNG Hunters just missed the semis in their first year (2014), were beaten in the preliminary final in 2015 and were bundled out in one of the elimination finals in 2016. After securing the minor premiership for 2017 they were into their first Queensland Cup grand final and had the expectations of 8 million people in Papua New Guinea on their shoulders. Their rugby league mad followers made up the bulk of the record Queensland Cup grand final crowd of 11 260.

In the Grand Final Sunshine Coast got off to a flyer exposing some poor defence out wide going out to an early 10-0 lead. The Hunters held on, defended their hearts out and went to the break 10-0 down. Early in the second half Ase Boas scored for PNG from a grubber kick which was converted. Despite some awful handling by both sides, the rest of the game was intense and gripping. Willie Minoga became the hero for PNG when he pounced on a kick through to score with just over a minute to go which was converted for the PNG Hunters to win their first title and be the second non-Queensland team to win the Queensland Cup. Unfortunately poor defence and great attack by their professional opponents, Penrith, saw PNG thrashed 42-18 in the fourth State Championship game as Penrith levelled up the number of titles that NSW Cup winners had won 2-all.

QLD Cup Elimination Finals - Easts 20 v Townsville 16 & Sunshine Coast 26 v Souths 18

Croft blow takes gloss off his Tigers' triumph

TIGERS	20
BLACKHAWKS	16

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
@rikkileea

STAR halfback Brodie Croft's finals campaign with Easts is in doubt after he suffered a suspected torn hamstring in the Tigers' stunning win over the Blackhawks.

Easts yesterday set the stage for a thrilling Intrust Super Cup semi-final against Sunshine Coast next week after they snatched a last-minute 20-16 win over Townsville.

After trailing 16-0 at half-time, Scott Sipple's men kept their season alive with a superb second-half comeback.

It was hooker Tommy Butterfield who sealed the win for Easts in the 77th minute, with the No.9 barging toward the line off a perfectly timed offload from five-eighth Billy Walters.

However, they may have lost fellow spine member in Croft, with the young playmaker taken from the field with 10 minutes to go.

Sipple said he was not expecting to have Croft for the semi because of a torn left hamstring.

"It looks like we'll be without Brodie Croft next week," Sipple said. "He's torn his hamstring. I don't know how bad it is but I don't think he'll be up for next week.

"We have a handy replacement with Brayden Torpy."

Croft left Langlands Park yesterday on crutches and with his left hamstring heavily iced.

Easts will meet their great rivals Sunshine Coast on Sunday after the Falcons claimed a convincing 26-18 win over the Souths Logan Magpies yesterday.

Souths Logan's and Townsville's seasons are now over, with the Papua New Guinea Hunters and Redcliffe Dolphins the only two sides remaining alongside Easts and Sunshine Coast.

Sipple said despite the first-half scare yesterday, he was confident his side would be ready for the showdown on their home turf.

"We were very poor in the first half," Sipple said.

"We were confident at half-time that if we held the ball we had 20 points or more in us.

"We'll be better prepared after today."

Townsville coach Kristian Woolf was disappointed by his side's errors and the number of penalties they copped in the second half.

"I thought our blokes had a real go out there today and that's something we can be really proud of, but we just had too many errors and I'm not sure about some of those penalties," Woolf said.



KNOCKOUT FOOTY: Townsville's Davin Crampton is tackled by Tigers Matt Zgrajewski (left) and Jack Foster in yesterday's ISC elimination final at Langlands Park. Picture: AAP/Regi Varghese)

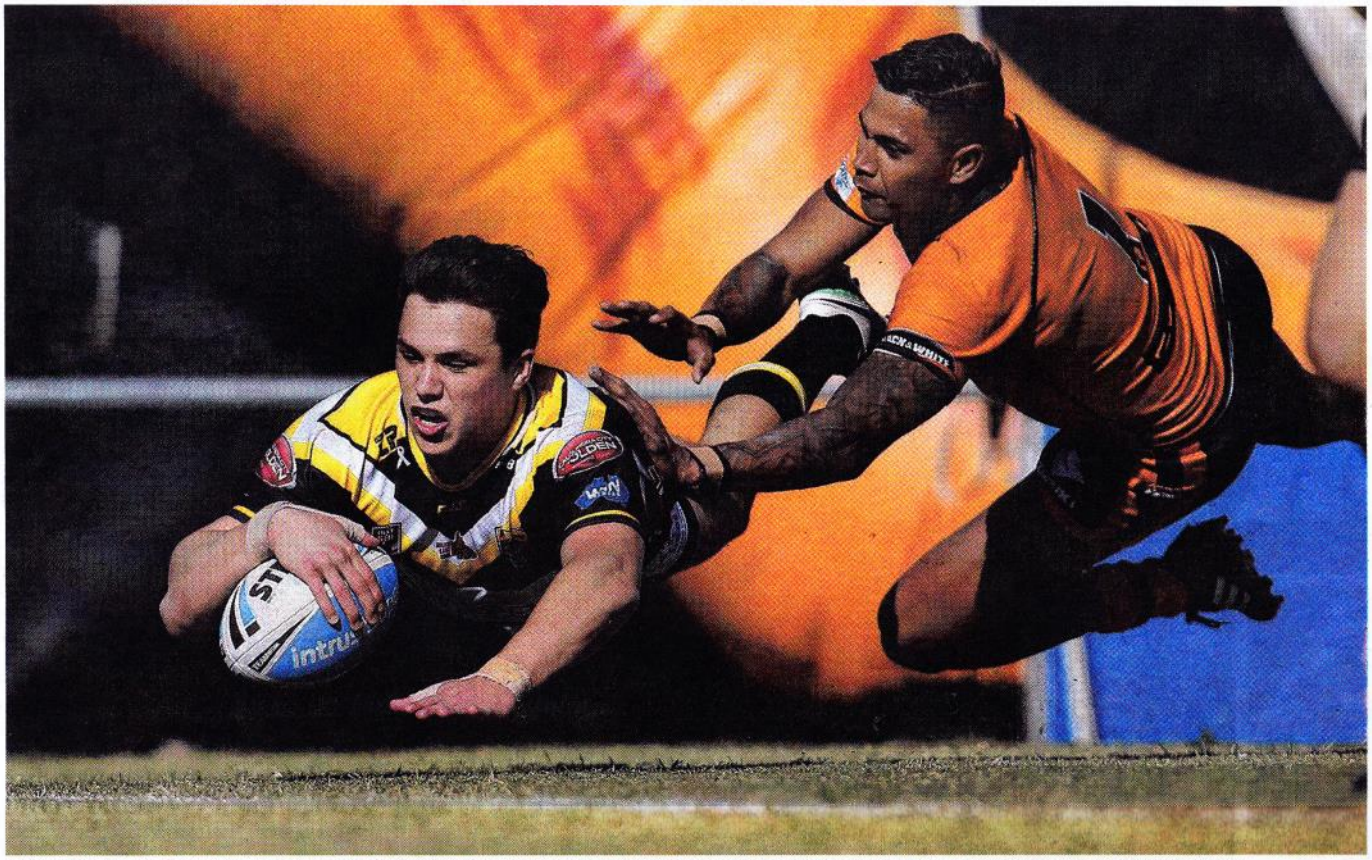
SUNSHINE COAST 26 (M Soper-Lawler, Ryley Jacks, Guy Hamilton, Scott Drinkwater, Christopher Lewis tries G Hamilton 3 goals) d SOUTHS LOGAN 18 (S Lavea, T Waddell, S Scarlett tries; J Isaako 3 goals).

EASTS TIGERS 20 (J McInally, B Walters, J Svendsen, T Butterfield tries; B Walters 2 goals) d TOWNSVILLE 16 (J Reuben 2, P Byrnes tries; K Laybutt 2 goals).

2017

QLD Cup Minor Semi Final - Sunshine Coast 26 v Easts 22 &
QLD Cup Major Semi Final - PNG 6 v Redcliffe 4

Brave Hunters reach their first grand final



DOWN TO THE WIRE: Sunshine Coast half Scott Drinkwater scores against Easts Tigers at Langlands Park. Picture: AAP/Marc Robertson

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
@rikkileea

PNG Hunters made Intrust Super Cup history yesterday when they advanced to their first grand final with a gritty 6-4 victory over Redcliffe.

Michael Marum's side put on a defensive masterclass in Port Moresby, denying the Dolphins the chance to score any tries in front of a packed stadium.

Redcliffe's points all came from penalty goals, while PNG skipper Ase Boas scored the only four-pointer of the game to send the Dolphins back to Queensland without the much-needed win.

The massive effort from the Hunters will see them play in their first grand final on September 24 at Suncorp Stadium.

Redcliffe will host the Sunshine Coast in a preliminary final on Sunday.

The Falcons moved one step closer to the grand final yesterday after claiming a hard-fought 26-22 win over Easts Tigers.

The two Melbourne feeder clubs battled it out until the dying seconds at Langlands Park, but the Falcons' defence was simply too good for the Tigers.

Easts had three repeat sets in the dying minutes, but Sunshine Coast did well to hold them out before a spilt ball from Tigers fullback Linc Port gave the Falcons possession with just a minute left on the clock.

Sunshine Coast coach Craig Ingebrigtsen was extremely proud of his side's determination and courage, and said it meant a lot to the club to be one game away from the grand final.

He also praised the defensive efforts of skipper Dane Hogan and the work of three-try hero Jye Ballinger.

"I'm over the moon," Ingebrigtsen said.

"I'm really happy for Dane Hogan and blokes like that who bust their guts. They're closer to winning the premiership.

"(Easts) had all the ball on our tryline there and it just shows how brave our footy team is for us to absorb that pressure.

"People like Dane Hogan, they're unbelievable human beings.

"To be in this position, it's a fantastic feeling. We're one win away from being in the grand final and all the hard work we've done for 10 months has paid off."

Redcliffe and Sunshine Coast met at the same stage of the competition last year, with the Dolphins advancing to the grand final with a 38-16 win over the Falcons.

Ingebrigtsen said they were determined to avoid a similar fate this season and knew they had to work on their discipline.

"We have to work harder and stop giving the ball back," he said. "That's what we did (yesterday). We gave them a lot of opportunities."

INTRUST SUPER CUP FINALS WEEK 2

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 26 (J Ballinger 3, C Lewis, S Drinkwater tries; J Stimpson 3 goals) **d EASTS TIGERS 22** (M Pitman, M Zgrajewski, J Mcinally, R Rochow tries; B Walters 2 goals).

PNG HUNTERS 6 (A Boas try; 1 goal) **d REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 4** (J Pearson, H Pratt goals).



2017

QLD Cup Preliminary Final - Sunshine Coast 34 v Redcliffe 8

SOARING FALCONS SET SIGHTS ON PNG AFTER DUMPING DOLPHINS

GRAND DESIGNS



WELL ON TOP: Justin Olam scores for the Sunshine Coast in their rout of Redcliffe; and (below) the Falcons celebrate making the grand final. Pictures: AAP/Josh Woning

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
@rikkileea

SUNSHINE Coast Falcons have set up a grand final showdown with PNG Hunters after they smashed Redcliffe 40-14 at Dolphin Oval yesterday.

In a stunning performance, Craig Ingebrigtsen's side ran riot in the second half to secure their first Intrust Super Cup grand final appearance since 2009.

The Falcons scored four tries to one in the second stanza, with star halfback Ryley Jacks bagging a double.

Former Hunter Justin Olam also claimed two tries, including the game's opener in the sixth minute.

The final score from the Falcons was one that few could have predicted given Redcliffe's form this year.

But Ingebrigtsen said his side executed perfectly to leave the Dolphins crushed.

"It's a bit surreal," he said.

"You start in the middle of November and you think of this as your goal, that you want to play in the grand final.

"Obviously only two teams go there so I'm really happy and proud of our group.

"We made sure we were clinical about what we did. The boys were outstanding in their execution.

"I can't wait for next Sunday. I wish it was here now ... we're up for the challenge. Momentum is a wonderful thing."

The Falcons have only won the competition once in the Queensland Cup-era, in 2009.

It has taken a lot of work to reach this point – they almost folded before becoming a Melbourne Storm feeder club in 2015.

That hard work and determination was on show yesterday when player-captain Dane Hogan pushed through injury to help the Falcons win.

It was revealed yesterday that Hogan fractured his cheekbone in the semi-final against Easts last week while playmaker Jacks had battled a minor groin injury before the Redcliffe clash.

Jacks played down his issue, saying it was much better now than last weekend against Easts, but he said that need to put the team first was crucial at this time of year.

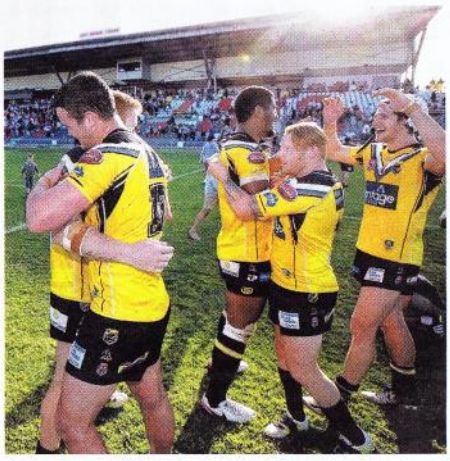
"Last week I had a bit of a groin injury but everyone is playing with little injuries at the moment," he said.

"There's a lot of boys at every club at this time of year with injuries. I'm not the only one getting needles and stuff.

"It's just what you have to do. You're one game away from the grand final, so it's all worth it."

The Falcons take on the Hunters in the grand final on Sunday at Suncorp Stadium.

FALCONS 40 (Jack 2, Olam 2, Stimson 2, Drinkwater tries; Hamilton 6 goals) d DOLPHINS 14 (Giess, Pearson tries; Gamble 3 goals)



2017

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - PNG 12 v SUNSHINE COAST 10

INTRUST SUPER CUP GRAND FINAL



HUNTERS ARE COLLECTORS

HOLY GRAIL: Willie Minoga (top left) celebrates with his teammates, Ase Boas holds the cup (left)

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
@rikkileea

THE PNG Hunters have completed their fairytale run to their first Intrust Super Cup premiership after cult hero Willie Minoga delivered his team the historic victory over the Sunshine Coast yesterday

The 12-10 win came in the dying minutes of the thrilling showdown at Suncorp Stadium, with fans on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

It was a match that had it all – big hits, flashy plays, wasted opportunities and those moments that would go down in rugby league folklore.

For the Hunters, this match was one for the history books.

But the moment that summed it all up belonged to Minoga.

With one minute left on the clock, skipper Ase Boas put through a grubber for the veteran to tie the match.

Boas then added the two points and it was done – the Hunters had won their first Intrust Super Cup premiership after just four seasons in the competition.

Coach Michael Marum was lost for words. While he did think for one terrifying second that Minoga hadn't grounded the ball, the impact player delivered in the exact way that he should.

"He's been one of our best players from the start," Marum said. "We've put him back on the bench as one of our impact players. He is someone we can go to when the going gets tough.

"To see him score that try ... first of all I thought he dropped it. He fumbles a few balls at training but luckily the bounce went his way."

The win did not come easily for the fan favourites, who battled it out with Sunshine Coast in front of a record 11,260-strong crowd.

The Falcons raced out to a 10-0 lead after seven minutes, with tries to Matthew Soper-Lawler and Joe Stimson, but then struggled to put points on the board as the Hunters defence strengthened.

Sunshine Coast themselves were almost unstoppable with their defensive game but PNG finally broke through in the 41st minute.

Halfback Watson Boas pounced on a grubber from his brother Ase to put the team's first points on the board.

The next 38 minutes were a nervous, nail-biting wait for both teams. But it was the Hunters who were given their fairytale finish.

There is no doubt Papua New Guinea will be celebrating this victory all week.

The word in Port Moresby was that today would become an "unofficial public holiday" and the Hunters would walk into the airport to a massive reception.

"That wasn't only for the team, but the country celebrating right now," Marum said. "It's going to change the whole game up there.

"These young kids will be now looking up that one day they will be a Hunters or Kumuls player. That's going to inspire everyone else."

The Hunters progress to the Intrust Super Championship in Sydney next week where they will meet the Penrith Panthers from the NSW Cup.

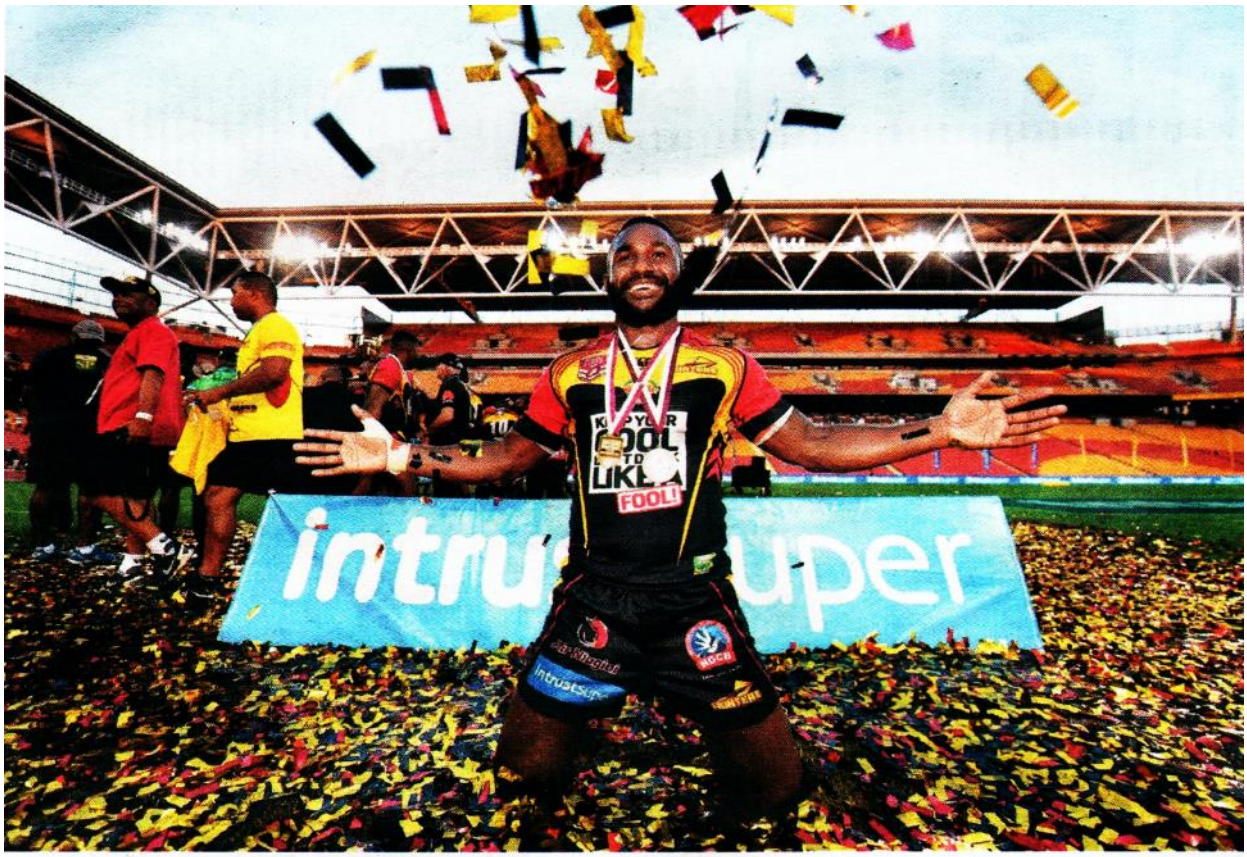
Their only concern was Watson, who suffered a serious concussion in the 74th minute.

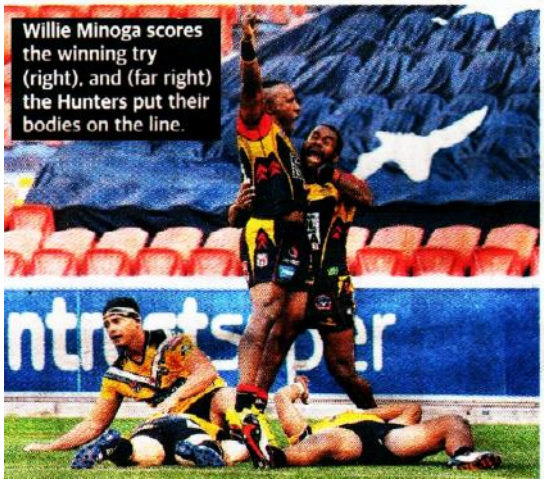
PNG HUNTERS 12 (Watson Boas, Willie Minoga tries; Ase Boas 2 goals) d SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 10 (Matthew Soper-Lawler, Joe Stimson tries; Joe Stimson 1 goal).

2017

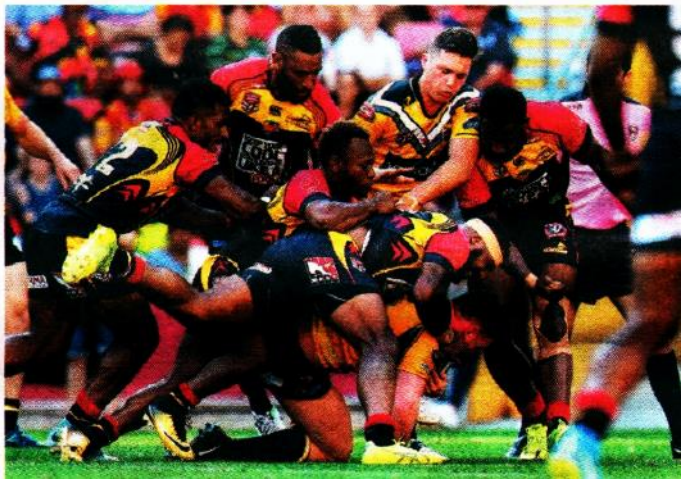
QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - PNG 12 v SUNSHINE COAST 10

HUNTERS 12 d FALCONS 10





Willie Minoga scores the winning try (right), and (far right) the Hunters put their bodies on the line.



BOAS AN ARROW TO HEARTS OF RIVALS

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD

"JUST give it to Ase" – that was the message from Hunters coach Michael Marum in the dying minutes of yesterday's grand final win.

It was a message that was heard loud and clear.

With the Hunters down 10-6, they needed to find some magic to claim their first ISC premiership.

While Willie Minoga may have been the man who scored the much-needed try, it was a cool and calm Boas who set it all up.

After earlier putting through the kick for his brother Watson to score, Boas delivered yet again when his team needed it the most.

"In that last 10 minutes down the end there, I was especially saying, 'Just give the ball to Ase'," Marum said.

"That's a player who can just do something.

"He does a lot of work with the players by himself. Everyone responds to him."

Boas claimed the Duncan Hall Medal for player of the match yesterday after also winning *The Courier-Mail*'s best and fairest medal at the QRL Awards last month.



NATIONAL PRIDE: PNG Hunters coach Michael Marum celebrates with his players and staff at Suncorp Stadium.

It's been a big season for the first-time skipper.

But yesterday afternoon's win was the cherry on top of everything else.

Marum knew Boas was his go-to man and at Suncorp Stadium – a place where many last-ditch victories have been claimed before – the five-eighth showed why he is one of the best.

"I was looking up at the clock and I saw five minutes to go and we just made a mistake," Boas said.

"I was not panicking. I was just calm and telling the boys that we still had time to go.

"We have to hang in there and we have to fight to the last second.

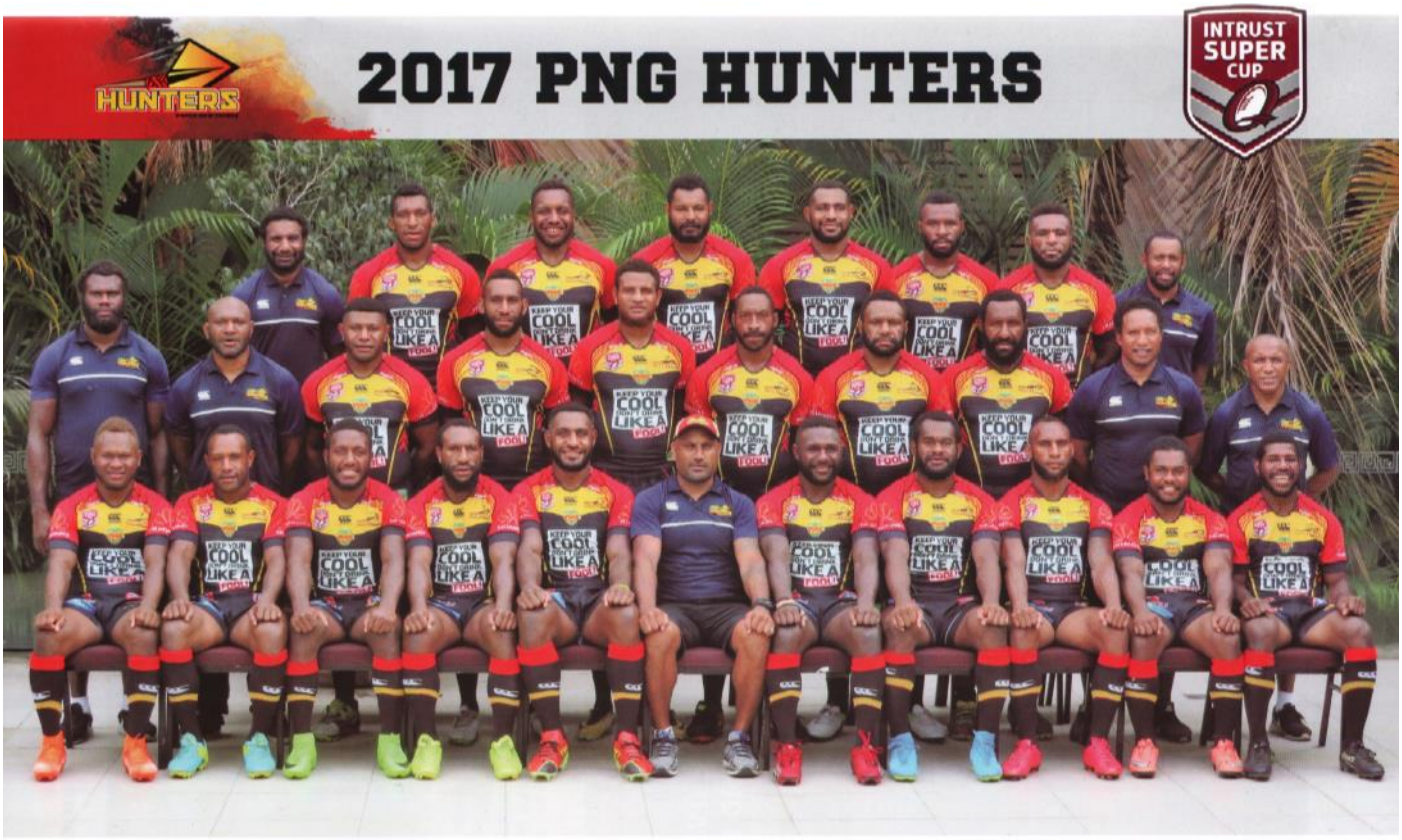
"That's what we are. That's what this ground is about.

"When I see the time at one minute and 30 seconds to go, I just put a kick in.

"I just put it in and believed that somebody has to put a hand on it. Somehow Willie came up with it."

2017

QLD CUP GRAND FINAL - PNG 12 v SUNSHINE COAST 10



Front Row (From left): Wartovo Puara, Wawa Paul, Watson Boas, Adex Wera, Wellington Albert (Vice-Captain), Michael Marum (Head Coach), Ase Boas (Captain), Butler Morris, Stargroth Amean, Silas Gahuna, Willie Mono.
Middle Row: Joe Bruno (Trainer) Nigel Hukula (Assistant Coach), Brandy Peter, Moses Meninga, Bland Abavu, David Loko, Esau Siune, Willie Minoga, Toua Kohu, (Physiotherapist), Arnold Krewanty (Manager).
Back Row : Roger Laka (Assistant Manager), Nixon Putt, Enock Maki, Karo Kauna Jnr, Stanton Albert, Muka Peter Kulu, Rahdly Brawa, Solomon Kuluniasi (Head Trainer)

2017 QLD CUP FINAL RESULTS

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Sunshine Coast 26 def. Souths 18
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 20 def. Townsville 16
Minor Semi-Final: Sunshine Coast 26 def. Easts 22
Major Semi-Final: PNG 6 def. Redcliffe 4
Preliminary Final: Sunshine Coast 34 def. Redcliffe 8

2017 QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

PNG 12 (Tries: W. Boas, W. Minoga; Goals: A. Boas 2) def. SUNSHINE COAST 10 (Tries: M. Soper-Lawler, J. Stimson; Goals: J. Stimson)

2017

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - PENRITH 42 v PNG 18

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Brave Hunters punted but heart beats strong

RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
IN SYDNEY

PNG Hunters coach Michael Marum says his side's disappointing 42-18 loss in the Intrust Super Championship will not take any shine off what the club has achieved this year.

The Hunters' dream season came to a screeching halt yesterday when they were blown off the park by the Penrith Panthers at ANZ Stadium.

While PNG were able to mount a strong comeback, winning the second half 16-4, Penrith were just too good for the first-time Intrust Super Cup premiers.

Marum said he suspected his side was slightly overawed by the occasion, with the majority of his team in Sydney for the first time.

Even though it was a tough loss, he said it was not enough to ruin what the Hunters had achieved this season.

"We look back at our season and it's been a great year for us," he said.

"To come all the way through and play in the grand final, it's a big achievement for this side.

"A lot of the players have never been to Sydney and have never played in this sort of arena. I'm really proud of the efforts.

"The players have gained a lot of experience out of this match and hopefully it can help us in the future."

PNG were the first to put points on the board after skipper Ase Boas kicked a penalty goal but Penrith hit back quickly, scoring through centre Tony Satini in the eighth minute.

From there the tries just kept on coming, as Satini crossed another three times in a first-half bloodbath that saw Penrith lead 38-2 at halftime.

The Hunters fought back in the second stanza and scored three consolation tries in the final 10 minutes, after Penrith five-eighth Jarome Luai was sin-binned for a professional foul on Boas.

They took advantage of a 12-man Panthers side as Adex Wera crossed first before his fellow centre Bland Abavu also found the tryline.

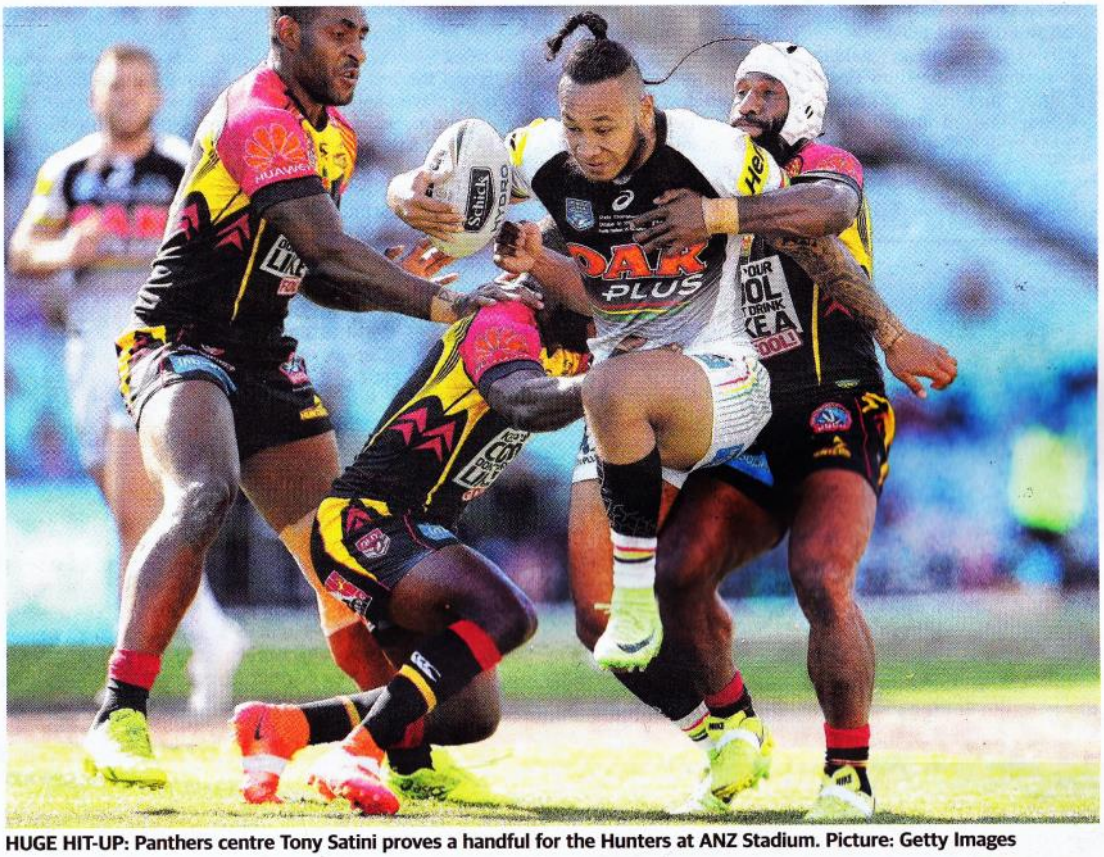
Boas then scored the final try of the match with just three minutes left.

But it was too late for the Hunters, who beat Sunshine Coast in last week's decider.

Marum said his message at halftime was for the team to not forget its loyal fans back in Papua New Guinea.

"I told them to look at the scoreboard and (remember) everyone's watching at home.

"We will go back and spend some time with family and celebrate our win last week and for making it this far."

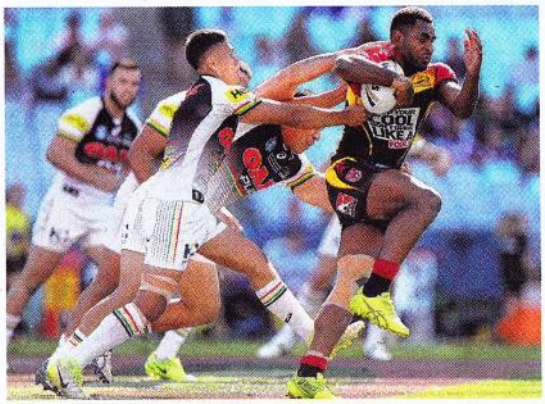


HUGE HIT-UP: Panthers centre Tony Satini proves a handful for the Hunters at ANZ Stadium. Picture: Getty Images

PANTHERS	42
HUNTERS	18

PENRITH
Tries: T Satini 4, D Nicholls, V Kikau, C Chrichton, M Sivo.
Goals: D Nicholls 5.

PNG HUNTERS
Tries: A Wera, B Abavu, A Boas.
Goals: A Boas 3.



AFTERBURNERS ON: Hunters lock Moses Meninga tries to break free of the Panthers defence. Picture: Getty Images

BRL TROPHY AND MEDAL WINNERS



THE WOOLIES PRE-SEASON COMPETITION

Woolies finished their sponsorshop in 1990. In 1991 and 1994 a 7-a-side tournament was held instead. In 1994 and 1995 the Commonwealth Bank took over the competition's sponsorship.

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1968	Wynnum	1982	Valleys
1969	Valleys	1983	Wests
1970	Wests	1984	Souths
1971	Valleys	1985	Wynnum
1972	Easts	1986	Wynnum
1973	Easts	1987	Brothers
1974	Brothers	1988	Valleys-Tweed
1975	Wests	1989	Valleys
1976	Wests	1990	Souths
1977	Norths	1991	Ipswich (Won 7's tournament)
1978	Easts	1992	Logan City
1979	Valleys	1993	Easts
1980	Valleys	1994	Broncos (Won 7's tournament)
1981	Valleys (unlimited tackle comp)	1995	Easts

THE PRESIDENT'S CUP



The President's Cup was contested between the top two teams at the end of the **1st round robin** of the BRL competition.

It was originally contested in 1922 as the "Pike Memorial" Ambulance Cup, later renamed the Peter Hickey Cup, then became known as the President's Cup. In 1981, the year before the introduction of the State League, it was renamed to the Woolies Trophy.

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1922	Wests	1935	Brothers
1923	Valleys	1936	Easts
1924	Valleys	1937	Norths
1925	Wests	1938	Norths
1926	Valleys	1939	Valleys
1927	Brothers	1940	Norths
1928	Grammars	1941	Wests
1929	Coorparoo	1942	Valleys
1930	Valleys	1943	Norths
1931	Valleys	1944	Souths
1932	Grammars	1945	Valleys
1933	Wests	1946	Norths
1934	Wests	1947	Easts

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1948	Wests	1965	Norths
1949	Brothers	1966	Brothers
1950	Souths	1967	Norths
1951	Norths	1968	Brothers
1952	Wests	1969	Wests
1953	Souths	1970	Souths
1954	Brothers	1971	Valleys
1955	Wests	1972	Wests
1956	Wests	1973	Valleys
1957	Valleys	1974	Valleys
1958	Valleys	1975	Redcliffe
1959	Wynnum	1976	Brothers
1960	Wests	1977	Redcliffe
1961	Norths	1978	Easts
1962	Norths	1979	Valleys
1963	Norths	1980	Valleys
1964	Valleys		

THE PETER SCOTT MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Peter Scott Memorial Trophy was contested between the top two teams at the end of the **2nd round robin** of the BRL competition.

It was originally contested as the Kaye Cup (1922-1933), then as the Vic Jensen Cup (1934-1958) before being renamed as the Peter Scott Memorial Trophy (1959-1981). Winners of the trophy are shown here from 1959.



Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1959	Norths	1971	Valleys
1960	Easts	1972	Wests
1961	Norths	1973	Valleys
1962	Souths	1974	Valleys
1963	Norths	1975	Norths
1964	Brothers	1976	Easts
1965	Valleys	1977	Redcliffe
1966	Norths	1978	Easts
1967	Valleys	1979	Easts
1968	Valleys	1980	Souths
1969	Easts	1981	Redcliffe
1970	Brothers		

THE WOOLIES TROPHY

Not to be confused with the Woolies pre-season competition, the Woolies Trophy was contested by the top two teams after the **1st round robin.** It replaced the President's Cup in 1981.

After the introduction of the State League in 1982 the number of round robins in the BRL competition went down to each team playing each other 2 times instead of 3 times.

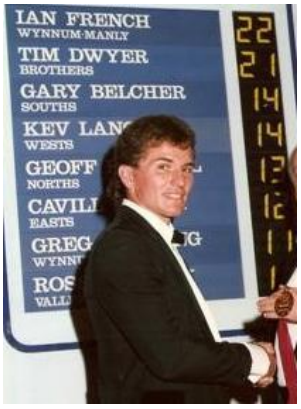
The Woolies Trophy was renamed to the **Chairmain's Trophy** in 1991.

Year	Winners
1981	Wynnum
1982	Valleys
1983	Easts
1984	Wynnum
1985	Brothers
1986	Wynnum
1987	Norths
1988	Valleys-Tweed
1989	Valleys
1990	Redcliffe
1991	Easts
1992	Easts
1993	Souths
1994	Ipswich
1995	Redcliffe









THE ROTHMANS MEDAL

The Rothmans Medal was presented to to the best and fairest player in the BRL competition.

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1968	Wayne Head (Wests)	1983	Trevor Paterson (Easts)
1969	Johnny Brown (Norths)	1984	Cavill Huegh (Easts)
1970	Graeme Atherton (Souths)	1985	Ian French (Wynnum)
1971	Len Brunner (Wynnum)	1986	Bryan Niebling (Red), Scott Tronc (Souths)
1972	Martin Scanlan (Valleys)	1987	Gene Miles (Wynnum)
1973	John Eales (Easts)	1988	Kevin Langer (Wests)
1974	Jeff Fyfe (Easts)	1989	Neil Tierney (Wynnum)
1975	Steve Calder (Norths)	1990	Trevor Benson (Redcliffe)
1976	Darryl Brohman (Norths)	1991	Darryl Duncan (Norths)
1977	Allan Currie (Easts)	1992	Jason Hanrahan (Souths)
1978	Ian Pearce (Redcliffe)	1993	Paul Green (Easts), Steve Mills (Wests)
1979	Neville Draper (Norths)	1994	Steve Bryant (Brothers)
1980	Tony Obst (Redcliffe)	1995	Graham Cotter (Easts)
1981	Chris Phelan (Souths)	1996	Alan Wieland (Wests)
1982	Tony Currie (Wests)		

RESERVE GRADE GRAND FINAL WINNERS (Now called the BRL)

Year		Year	
1922	Coorparoo	1961	Souths 22 def Easts 7
1923	Grammars	1962	Redcliffe 12 def Valleys 2
1924	Carlton	1963	Norths 33 def Souths 2
1925	Coorparoo	1964	Norths 9 def Valleys 2
1926	Wests	1965	Wests 14 def Valleys 10
1927	Grammars	1966	Redcliffe 12 def Easts 2
1928	Brothers	1967	Norths 14 def Redcliffe 9
1929	Carlton	1968	Norths 8 def Valleys 4
1930	Coorparoo	1969	Norths 23 def Valleys 3
1931	Carlton	1970	Easts 13 def Norths 5
1932	Carlton	1971	Norths 27 def Souths 2
1933	Wests	1972	Norths 45 def Valleys 3
1934	Wests	1973	Brothers 24 def Easts 5
1935	Valleys	1974	Easts 21 def Norths 5
1936	Valleys	1975	Wynnum 23 def Norths 9
1937	Norths	1976	Wests 17 def Wynnum 9
1938	Norths	1977	Easts 23 def Souths 16
1939	Souths	1978	Redcliffe 15 def Easts 7
1940	Easts	1979	Brothers 26 def Easts 8
1941	Valleys	1980	Souths 20 def Brothers 13
1942	Railway 18 def Brothers 14	1981	Redcliffe 26 def Souths 15
1943	Valleys	1982	Redcliffe 11 def Valleys 10
1944	Valleys	1983	Souths 18 def Easts 10
1945	Souths	1984	Souths 10 def Valleys 6
1946	Souths	1985	Brothers 22 def Souths 16
1947	Wests	1986	Brothers 19 def Valleys 10
1948	Valleys	1987	Brothers 16 def Souths 1
1949	Easts	1988	Redcliffe 20 def Valleys-Tweed Heads 16
1950	Norths	1989	Norths 18 def Redcliffe 0
1951	Norths	1990	Valleys 18 def Easts 14
1952	Norths	1991	Easts 13 def Norths 12
1953	Norths	1992	Easts 15 def Souths 8
1954	Valleys 15 def Wests 13	1993	Wynnum 16 def Redcliffe 12
1955	Brothers	1994	Redcliffe 32 def Norths 22
1956	Norths	1995	Redcliffe 33 def Easts 0
1957	Wests	1996	Easts 18 def Redcliffe 12
1958	Valleys 13 def Souths 10	1997	Redcliffe 30 def Easts 26
1959	Redcliffe 14 def Souths 8	1998	Wynnum 24 def Norths 22
1960	Easts 25 def Wests 20	1999	Redcliffe 28 def Norths 18

Year		Year	
2000	Easts 28 def Logan City 10	2009	Wests 30 def Redcliffe 24
2001	Easts 24 def Norths 18	2010	Redcliffe 26 def Burleigh 14
2002	Easts 16 def Redcliffe 8	2011	Redcliffe 30 def Norths 18
2003	Redcliffe 19 def Wynnum 6	2012	Easts 22 def Redcliffe 12
2004	Easts 21 def Burleigh 20	2013	Easts 40 def Ipswich 18
2005	Easts 31 defeated Burleigh 22	2014	Easts 18 def Wynnum Manly 14
2006	Burleigh 28 def Tweed Heads 6	2015	Ipswich 26 def Wynnum Manly Redlands 16
2007	Wynnum 52 def Ipswich 18	2016	Redcliffe 31 def Ipswich 30
2008	Easts 12 def Wynnum 10	2017	Valleys 16 def Redcliffe 12

THIRD GRADE GRAND FINAL WINNERS (Colts after 1996)

Year		Year	
1922	Carlton	1949	Easts
1923	Wests	1950	Wests
1924	Valleys	1951	Wests
1925	Wests B	1952	Norths
1926	Valleys	1953	Brothers
1927	Coorparoo	1954	Norths 12 def Wests 11
1928	Wests	1955	Wests
1929	Coorparoo	1956	Valleys
1930	Wests	1957	Valleys
1931	Wests	1958	Valleys
1932	Valleys	1959	Wests
1933	Wests	1960	Valleys 10 def Wests 8
1934	Wests	1961	Valleys 23 def Easts 12
1935	Brothers	1962	Valleys 15 def Easts 5 (in extra time)
1936	Valleys	1963	Valleys 10 def Norths 7
1937	Valleys	1964	Wests 4 def Norths 2
1938	Valleys	1965	Easts 15 def Valleys 5
1939	Norths	1966	Norths 11 def Valleys 5
1940	Valleys	1967	Norths 14 def University 10
1941	Souths	1968	Norths 15 def Redcliffe 4
1942	Souths	1969	Valleys 10 def Norths 6
1943	Souths	1970	Valleys 18 def Redcliffe 5
1944	Souths	1971	Norths 21 def Easts 6
1945	Souths	1972	Wynnum 9 def Norths 2
1946	Easts	1973	Norths 11 def Valleys 5
1947	Brothers	1974	Valleys 11 def Norths 8
1948	Souths	1975	Wynnum 22 def Wests 13

Year		Year	
1976	Wynnum 20 def Easts 7	1997	Redcliffe 46 def Easts 4
1977	Wests 22 def Easts 14	1998	Norths 44 def Brothers 20
1978	Easts def Norths	1999	Redcliffe 26 def Norths 22
1979	Wynnum 5 def Valleys 0	2000	Norths 32 def Wests 14
1980	Souths 20 def Norths 6	2001	Redcliffe 24 def Norths 22
1981	Redcliffe 33 def Norths 12	2002	Wests 30 def Redcliffe 20
1982	Souths 22 def Redcliffe 3	2003	Redcliffe 24 def Norths 20
1983	Easts 34 def Wests 14	2004	Norths 48 def Easts 6
1984	Redcliffe 14 def Souths 4	2005	Norths 28 def Wests 18
1985	Souths 18 def Brothers 12	2006	Norths 28 def Wynnum 22
1986	Brothers 16 def Redcliffe 10	2007	Tweed Heads 18 def Norths 14
1987	Redcliffe 18 def Logan City 4	2008	Wests 30 def Aspley 16
1988	Easts 16 def Valleys-Tweed Heads 12	2009	Easts 30 def Souths Logan 28
1989	Redcliffe 24 def Easts 10	2010	Easts 20 def Wynnum 18
1990	Brothers 30 def Norths 16	2011	Norths 26 def Tweed Heads 22
1991	Easts 19 def Wests 8	2012	Redcliffe 32 def Wynnum 26
1992	Not played	2013	Easts 26 def Redcliffe 16
1993	Redcliffe 28 def Souths 26	2014	Redcliffe 34 def Burleigh 20
1994	Redcliffe 22 def Souths 18	2015	Burleigh 22 def Wynnum 12
1995	Not played	2016	Wynnum 34 def Easts 12
1996	Easts 16 def Wests 12	2017	Redcliffe 56 def Norths 18

CLUB CHAMPIONS

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1931	Carlton	1949	Easts
1932	Wests	1950	Wests
1933	Wests	1951	Easts
1934	Valleys	1952	Wests
1935	Valleys	1953	Brothers
1936	Valleys	1954	Norths
1937	Valleys	1955	Valleys
1938	Valleys	1956	Wests
1939	Valleys	1957	Wests
1940	Valleys	1958	Valleys
1941	Valleys	1959	Norths
1942-1944	No club championship awarded	1960	Wests
1945	Norths	1961	Norths
1946	Souths	1962	Norths
1947	Easts	1963	Norths
1948	Souths	1964	Valleys

Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1965	Valleys	1992	Easts
1966	Norths	1993	Souths
1967	Norths	1994	Redcliffe
1968	Valleys	1995	Redcliffe
1969	Norths	1996	Redcliffe
1970	Brothers	1997	Easts
1971	Norths	1998	Redcliffe
1972	Norths	1999	Redcliffe
1973	Norths	2000	Redcliffe
1974	Norths	2001	Redcliffe
1975	Wests	2002	Redcliffe
1976	Wests	2003	Redcliffe
1977	Easts	2004	Easts & Burleigh
1978	Easts	2005	Norths
1979	Valleys	2006	Tweed Heads
1980	Souths	2007	Ipswich
1981	Redcliffe	2008	Souths Logan
1982	Valleys	2009	Souths Logan
1983	Souths	2010	Norths
1984	Souths	2011	Redcliffe
1985	Brothers	2012	Redcliffe
1986	Brothers	2013	Easts
1987	Brothers	2014	Wynnum Manly
1988	Redcliffe	2015	Wynnum Manly
1989	Easts	2016	Redcliffe
1990	Valleys	2017	Redcliffe
1991	Easts		

CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL TOP THREE GRADES

Year	
1945	Souths
1994	Redcliffe
1997	Redcliffe
2003	Redcliffe

QUEENSLAND CUP RECORDS

(Up to end of 2016 Season)

MOST GAMES

LINDSAY, Troy (Red) 270
COBURN, Danny (Ips) 258
ROBERTS, Michael (Red/Nor) 253
KING, Matt (SL/TH) 232
DENNIS, Phil (Wes/Eas/Souths) 230
LINDSAY, Brendon (Log/GC/Ips) 224
WOOD, James (Tweed Heads) 222
BURKE, Danny (Bro/Red) 219
PERRY, Shane (Bro/Log/Red/Nor) 218
LIDDELL, Wade (Eas/SL) 212
O'FLANAGAN, Shane (Wes/Bur) 210
DURNFORD, Cameron (GC/Log/Wyn/Eas) 204
McPHERSON, Brett (Eas/Wyn) 202

MOST POINTS

PARFITT, Nick (Too/Bur) 1421
SEAMARK, Matt (Red/WM) 1255
GEORGETOWN, Liam (Red) 1247
BOURKE, Greg (Cns/Bur/Wyn/Red) 1150
CRESSBROOK, Reggie (Tvl/Bur/Ips) 1089
DAVIS, Brad (TH) 1066
RICHTERS, Damian (SC/Red) 1030
WILSHERE, John (Nor/Eas) 896
TAYLOR, Liam (Mackay) 843

MOST TRIES

BARNES, Nathanael (TH/WM) 135
OGDEN, Daniel (Norths/Wynnum) 125
MALONE, Donald (Eas/Ips/Cutters/Too) 117
PARFITT, Nick (Too/Bur) 113
CULLEN, Ryan (Cen/Red/Eas) 112
GEORGETOWN, Liam (Red) 107
WOOD, James (TH) 101

MOST GOALS

SEAMARK, Matt (Red/WM) 574
PARFITT, Nick (Too/Bur) 483
DAVIS, Brad (TH) 483
GEORGETOWN, Liam (Red) 409
BOURKE, Greg (Cns/Bur/Wyn/Red) 403

MOST FIELD GOALS

PERRY, Shane (Bro/Log/Red/Nor) 17
DAVIS, Brad (TH) 8
SEAMARK, Matt (Red/WM) 7
MINTO, Matt (Cutters/Easts/Cen) 5
GOULD, Tony (Bur/Red) 5
GREEN, Craig (Eas/Ips/Wes) 5
LINDSAY, Brendon (GC/Ips/Log) 5

GAMES COACHED (Games; Winning percentage)

TRELEAVEN, Wayne (Wes/Nor) 218, 44.9
STONE, Rick (Bur)209, 70.8
WHARTON, Neil (Red/Wyn) 160, 66.3
O'BRIEN, Gary (Log/BV/Red) 152, 34.5
BOOTH, Michael (Bun/Eas) 150, 54.0
WALKER, Ben and Shane (Ipswich) 148, 59.8
LENIHAN, Jim (Bur) 144, 53.8
DIXON, John (Too/Red) 136, 59.9
BRAMLEY, Paul (SL/MC/Bur) 110, 54.1
WALTERS, Kevin (Too/Ips) 106, 67.5
GRIFFIN, Anthony (SL/Red) 105, 50.5
INGEBRIGTSEN, Craig (Easts) 104, 60.6

Most Wins in Succession:

17 Northern Pride 2010 R 14-2011 R 5

16 Nth Qld (18 w/l) 2005 R 10 - 2006 R3

Most games without defeat

22 Tweed Heads 2010 R 22-2011 R 21

19 Northern Pride 2010 R 14-2011 R 7

Most Losses in Succession:

36 Sunshine Coast 2013 R4to 2014 Rd 18

28 Logan 2001 R17 - 2002 R 22

Highest Losing Score:

42 - Tweed v Toowoomba 2006 R 2 (42-44)

Most Points in a single game:

98 - Toowoomba 78 v Wests 20 - R3 2003

Least Points in a single game:

0 - Wynnum Manly 0 v Burleigh 0 2010 R1

Most Individual Points in a single game:

40 Damian Richters, Redcliffe v Logan 2002 R 5

40 Greg Bourke, Burleigh v Logan 2002 R17

Most Individual Tries in a single game:

7 Chris Walker, Toowoomba v Wests 2000 R2

7 Anthony Zipf, Norths v Brothers-Valleys 2004 R13

Most Individual Goals in a single game:

12 Justin McKay, Nth Qld v Logan 2002 R3

12 Greg Bourke, Burleigh v Logan 2002 R17

Most Individual Points in a season:

318 Liam Georgetown, Redcliffe 2012

Most Individual Tries in a season:

34 Daniel Kennedy, Burleigh 2002

QUEENSLAND CUP CLUBS



PNG Hunters
Entered: 2014
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate: None



Northern Pride
Entered: 2007
QLD Cup Titles: 2
NRL Affiliate:
North Qld Cowboys



Townsville Blackhawks
Entered: 2015
QLD Cup Titles: 0
NRL Affiliate:
North Qld Cowboys



Mackay Cutters
Entered: 2007
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:
North Qld Cowboys



Central Qld Capras
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 0
NRL Affiliate:



Sunshine Coast Falcons
Entered: 2009
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:



Redcliffe Dolphins
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 5
NRL Affiliate:
Brisbane Broncos



Norths Devils
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:
Brisbane Broncos



Souths Logan Magpies
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:
Brisbane Broncos



Easts Tigers
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 0
NRL Affiliate:
Melbourne Storm



Wynnum Manly Seagulls
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 2
NRL Affiliate:
Brisbane Broncos



Ipswich Jets
Entered: 1996
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:
Brisbane Broncos



Burleigh Bears
Entered: 1997
QLD Cup Titles: 3
NRL Affiliate:
Gold Coast Titans



Tweed Heads Seagulls
Entered: 2003
QLD Cup Titles: 1
NRL Affiliate:
Gold Coast Titans

CLUB PROFILES

NORTHS DEVILS





Mark Graham of the great 1980 side

Norths, formerly Grammars, were formed in 1933 at a meeting at the Windsor School of Arts.

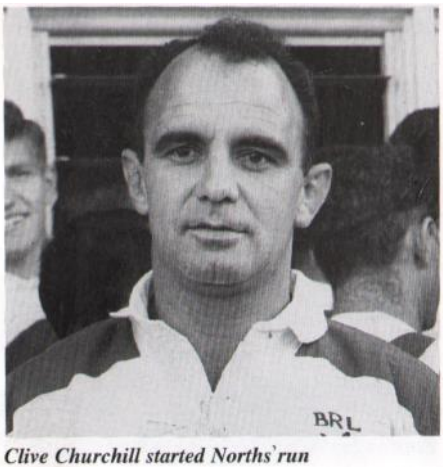
As a symbol of the passing of the old club a Past Grammar badge was cremated and presented to the officials of the new club with the expressed desire that Norths live up to the high standards of its predecessor.

Norths won their first top grade premiership in 1934 and snared others in 1938 and 1940.

In 1959 they began a golden era in the club's history winning six premierships in a row, five under the coaching of Bob Bax. Australian coach Clive Churchill was in charge in 1959 although he was in England with the Kangaroos when Norths won the title former South Sydney forward Jack Coyne taking over the coaching reins.

Also under Bax Norths won the 1966 premiership, the last under the old unlimited tackle rule, and the 1969 title under the four tackle rule.

There was an 11 year break before Norths won again - in 1980 under the coaching of New Zealander Graham Lowe.



Clive Churchill started Norths' run

In 1998 they became a feeder club with National Rugby League newcomers, the Melbourne Storm, which attracted much needed finance, as well as some quality players and securing the Devils' future. Also in 1998, the club won its first premiership since 1980, beating Wests in the Queensland Cup Grand Final.

In the 2006 NRL Grand Final Melbourne's 17 man team had 13 players who had played with Norths in past years such as Cameron Smith, Billy Slater, Greg Inglis and Cooper Cronk. In 2008 Norths celebrated 75 years and began a new feeder arrangement with the Brisbane Broncos. Their last grand final appearance was in 2010 when they lost 30-20 to the Northern Pride.

For many years Norths played out of Oxenham Park in Nundah, but they moved to their current home ground, Bishop Park, in 1969. It borders the Schulz Canal in Nundah, and is named after club stalwart Albert Bishop and is nicknamed "Bashup Park".







Premierships: 1927 (as Grammars) 1934 1938 1940 1959-1964 1966 1969 1980 1998.

Reserve grade: 1923 1927 1937 1938 1950-53 1956 1963 1964 1967-1969 1971 1972 1989.

Third grade: 1939 1952 1954 1966 1967 1968 1971 (undefeated) 1973 (undefeated) 1998, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2011.

Internationals: Jack Reardon, Eddie "Babe" Collins, Bob Hagan, Lloyd Weir, Elwyn Walters, Barry McTaggart, Paul McCabe, Johnny Brown, Nick Geiger, Greg Conescu, Mark Murray.

Ten Prominent players: Bill Pearson, Fonda Metassa, Peter Lobegeiger, Peter Hall, Ray Cattanach, Glen Harrison, Lee Hutchinson, Steve Calder, Nev Draper, Craig Grauf.



Above: A young Greg Inglis on the burst for Norths.





Above: The 1959 Norths Premiers.

Left: .Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Cameron Smith when they played for Norths in 2002.

SOUTHS MAGPIES

Souths trace their history back to South Brisbane, one of four original clubs in the first Brisbane competition in 1909. Souths are the only one of the original four teams still competiting today. In their first match they defeated Valley 12-2.

Sharing Davies Park from the same local area was West End who won the 1913 premiership against Natives 5-3. South Brisbane competed until 1915 and one of their jerseys was the same maroon and beige hoops that would be the jersey for Carlton from 1919 until the 1930's when, under the banner of Southern Suburbs, it would change to black and white.

Souths originally were known as Carlton and won three premierships under that banner before changing their name under the district football format introduced in 1933.

In 1945 Souths became the first club to win the top three grades in one year, a feat that would not be repeated until 1994 by Redcliffe who also did it in 1997 and 2003.

Souths were formed at the West End School of Arts by about 40 members following the break-up of Carltons who left the new club with a debt of $180. The first president was Jack Adams who bought the first set of jerseys himself. They were red and white with Souths now wearing their famous black and white Magpie strip.

During World War II Souths had to leave their home ground Davies Park because the Americans required it as a camp. The Magpies were forced to play at Musgrave Park where they made showers under gum trees for use after training.

The most famous names to appear on Souths books were Bill Tyquin and Mal Meninga.

Tyquin, vice-captain of the 1948-49 Kangaroos to England and France, led Souths to one of their most memorable premierships - the 1949 grand final against Easts at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

.



Peter Scott presents his trophy to Bruce Astill.

It was a wild match with referee Digger Chambers assaulted by spectators along with steward Harry Hunter.

It was Souths second premiership the first having been achieved in 1945 under the captaincy of Len Pegg.

Mal Meninga played for Souths from 1978 to 1985 before he linked with the Canberra Raiders.

He first represented Australia in 1982 against New Zealand and he was a fixture in Test sides ever since inheriting the captaincy from Wally Lewis in 1990.

After Carltons three premierships (1921, 1925 and 1930) there have been two periods of premiership glory for the men from Davies Park. Souths won four premierships in the first decade after World War II (1945, 1949, 1951 and 1953).

Souths, under Wayne Bennett's coaching, made the grand final in 1979 only to be thrashed 26-0 by Valleys in a team dominated by Ross Strudwick and a young Wally Lewis.

Joe Kilroy broke Souths fans hearts when Norths beat Souths in the 1980 Grand Final. Bob McCarthy took over the coaching reins and coached the side to its first premiership in 1981 after Mick Reardon scored a last minute try by in the corner and winning 13-9.

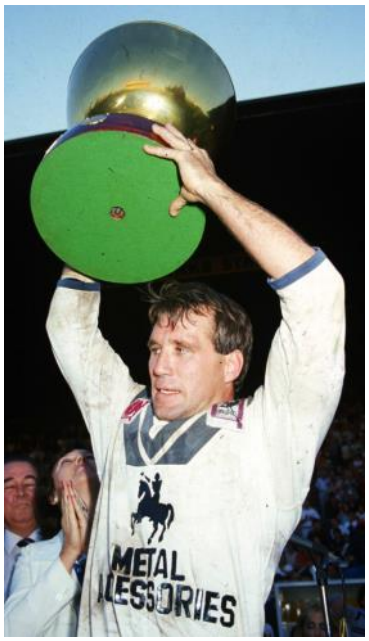
They lost the 1982 Grand Final when Wynnum won their first premiership. Souths and Wynnum battled another two grand finals after Wayne Bennett returned to Souths in 1984 and 1985.

Wally Lewis reigned supreme in 1984 as Souths were thrashed 42-8 but the tables were turned in Mal Meninga's 1985 swangsong winning 10-8.

In the post-Broncos era Souths financial struggle became even more desperate but by some miracle they managed to survive.

Linking up with the Canberra Raiders a joint venture was formed in 2003 with the Logan Scorpions to form the Souths Logan Magpies. The Scorpions club folded later that season but Souths retained the Logan name.





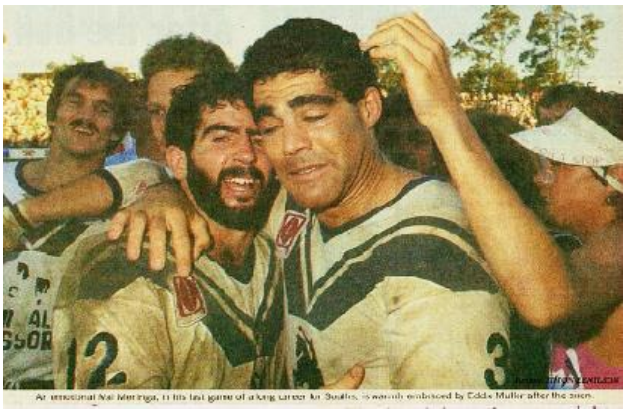


After many lean years at or near the bottom of the ladder Souths were transformed in 2008 with the addition of Raiders players through their feeder arrangement and changed quicker than Superman in a phone booth according to one reporter and won the 2008 Queensland Cup grand final.

After going to an 18-0 lead, Ipswich came back and levelled the game and then Souths won on the last tackle of the game.

Kyle Lodge scored a heart-stopping try to win the game 24-18. That try was reminiscent of Mick Reardon's famous 1981 try,

In 2015 Souths began a new feeder arrangement with the Brisbane Broncos. They have played out of Davies Park for over 100 years though they also have played at Meakin Park in the past and occasionally play out of their junior ground at Acacia Ridge.



PREMIERSHIPS: First grade: 1921 1925 1930 (As Carlton) 1945 1949 1951 1953 1981 1985 2008.

Reserve grade: 1924 1931 (both undefeated), 1932 1939 1945 1946 1961 1980 1983 1984.

Third grade: 1922 1942-45 1948 1980 1982 1985. Club champions: 1946 1948 1980 1983 1984 1993 2008 2009.

Internationals: Bill Tyquin, Tom Tyquin, Johnny Grice, Len Pegg, Mick Crocker, Alan Thompson, Alan Hornery, Reg Kay, Mick Veivers, Frank Drake, John Grant, Greg Veivers, Mal Meninga, Gary Belcher, Dave Brown.

Ten Prominent players: Bruce Astill, Chris Phelan, Pat Phelan, Graeme Atherton, Gary Dobrich, Mitch Brennan, Eddie Muller, Billy Johnstone, Ken Roberston, Chris White

EASTS TIGERS



John Lang in 1978

Easts were established in 1933 when district football boundaries were introduced the club previously known as Coorparoo.

The publican of the Stones Corner Hotel Tom Bird was the founding president and the secretary George Shields.

Easts first premiership came in 1950 although Coorparoo had won a title in 1923.

It wasn't until the famous Jeff Fyfe field goal grand final in 1972 that Easts snared another title.

Under captain-coach Des Morris Easts won successive premierships in 1977 and 1978 after being beaten by Wests in 1976.

Test hooker John Lang coached Easts to a 1983 premiership with his youthful pack surprising the critics with their whole hearted displays.

Lang also snared a premiership in 1991 and the next two years made the grand final only to lose to Wests.

Since that last grand final win in 1991 Easts have lost the 1995 and 1997 BRL grand finals and four Queensland Cup grand finals (1997, 2004, 2013 and 2018). The most heartbreaking of those was in 2004 when fielding a team that boasted former Broncos Steve Renouf and Darren Smith they were beaten by Burleigh 22-18 in extra time.

For most of their time in the Queensland Cup they have been one of several feeder clubs to the Brisbane Broncos but since 2013 they have switched to being a feeder club to the Melbourne Storm.

Premierships: First grade: 1923 (As Coorparoo) 1947 1950 1972 1977 1978 1983 1991.

Reserve grade: 1922 1925 1930 (all as Coorparoo) 1940 1949 1960 1970 1974 1977 1991 1992 1996 2000 2001 2002 2004 2005 2008 2012 2013 2014

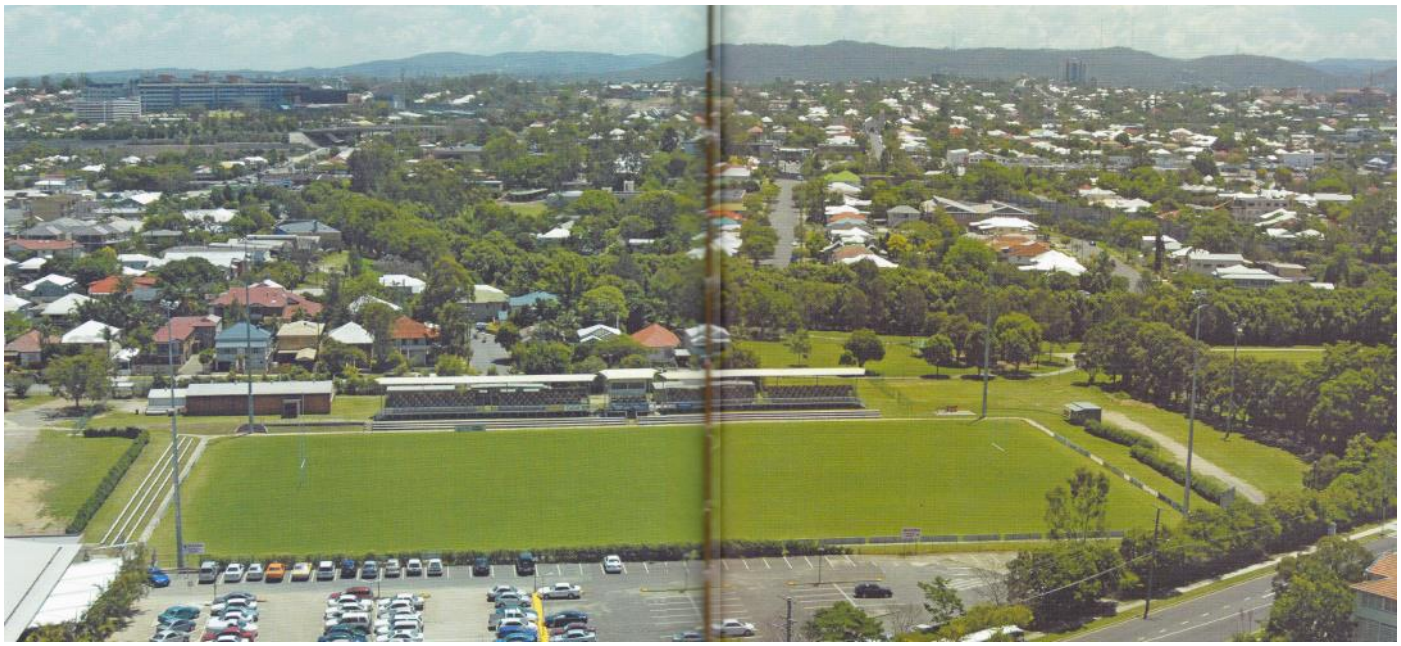
Third grade: 1927 1929 (both as Coorparoo, the latter undefeated), 1946 1949 1965 1978 1983 1988 1991 1995 1996 2009 2013

Internationals: Nev Broadfoot, Jeff Denman, John Payne, John Lang, Rod Morris.

Ten Prominent players: Des Morris, Wayne Lindenberg, Alan Currie, Greg Holben, Brad Backer, Larry Brigginshaw, Trevor Paterson, Gavin Payne, Ian Stains, Paul Green.









Wayne Lindenberg clears the ball





EASTERN SUBURBS DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

FIRST GRADE TEAM – 1983

WESTS PANTHERS



"The prince" Geoff Richardson

Lang Park was once Wests' home ground and crowds of 20 000 for Panthers home matches were not uncommon.

The Panthers trained at Lang Park up until 1973 when they moved to Purtell Park at Bardon.

Formed in 1915 with the amalgamation of North Brisbane and Toowong, Wests went within an ace of winning a premiership in their inaugural year going down to Valleys 19-9 in the grand final.

Two seasons later Wests made amends by winning the premiership and by 1980 they had won another eight. After a lean period in the 1980's the Panthers have roared back winning consecutive premierships in 1992 and 1993 under the coaching of Gary Grienke .

Ron Raper was the coach when Wests also won premierships in 1975-76 with former rugby union Test five eighth Geoff Richardson at his majestic best.

"A prince" former Wests president and current Australian selector Hugh Kelly called Richardson.

Wests were undefeated in winning the 1922 premiership one of only two Brisbane clubs to achieve the feat the other being Valleys in 1955.

The first president of the Brisbane Rugby League came from Wests - Peter Scott - and one of the major Brisbane trophies played for by teams was named in his honour.

But the undisputed "Mr Wests" was Tom Purtell a Queensland representative in 1935 -1936, a Wests first grader for 13 years, skipper for three and president for 20 years.

Wests last grand final appearance was in 1998 when they lost to Norths by 35-16.

Following a disastrous year in 2003 when they lost all 22 games of the season, including a club record 78-0 loss to Norths at Bishop Park, the club decided to depart the Queenland Cup competition, deciding to instead guarantee their survival by participating in lower grades only, and planning to re-enter the Queenland Cup competition at a later date.

Wests' first home ground was the Botanical Gardens, but played at Lang Park between 1955 and 1973. In 1974, the club moved wholly to its training premises on Mount Coot-tha, naming their new home Purtell Park after club stalwart Tom Purtell. In 2010 Purtell Park underwent a multi-million dollar upgrade.

PREMIERSHIPS: First grade 1922 1948 1952 1954 1975 1976 1992 1993.

Reserve grade: 1926 1933 1934 (all undefeated) 1947 1956 1957 1976 2009.

Third grade: 1923 1928 1930 (undefeated) 1933 1934 1959 1951 1956 1959 1964 1977 1992 1993 2002 2008.









Internationals: Harry Fewin, Norm Potter, William Richards, Cec Aynsley, Jim Bennett, Henry Denny, Duncan Hall, Ken McCrohon, Alex Watson, Barry Muir, Col Weir, Ken Day, Ian Robson, Rob Thompson, Wayne Stewart, Warren Orr, Geoff Richardson, Steve Crear (All playing with Wests when selected). Other internationals: Tony Currie, John Ribot, Paul Vautin, Greg Oliphant.

Ten Notable Wests players: Ritchie Twist, John White, Henry Williamson, Gary Prickett, Bob Green, Arty Connell, Norm Carr, Key Lingard, Ray McCarron, Adrian Lam.



VALLEYS DIEHARDS



Al McInnes gets his try

Valleys have proved the most successful side in the history of Brisbane rugby league winning 24 first grade premierships.

The mighty Diehards won the first premiership in 1909 and in 1955 they went through the season undefeated.

The most famous Diehards of all have been fullback Norm Pope and 1980's Test skipper Wally Lewis.

A Life Member of Valleys Pope, also had a spell as first grade coach. In 1953 he scored more points in a single season than any other Queenslander - 330 from 10 tries and 150 goals. Three times he topped the 200 mark.

Lewis made his senior debut for Valleys in 1978 and remained with the club until 1984 when he switched to Wynnum Manly.

The Diehards home ground is Neumann Oval at Albion named after the man who served as club president for two decades, Fred "Firpo" Neumann a former international.

When league moved to Lang Park in 1958 Valleys contested all three grand finals.

After a golden era in the early 1970's Valleys enjoyed another successful run from 1988-90 under the astute coaching of Ross Herrick to dominate the Brisbane scene in the immediate "post Broncos" era.

Valleys' great tradition is exemplified by a club saying: "Though the personnel of the team may change the spirit lives on."

In 1987, Valleys formed a short-lived joint venture with the Tweed Heads Seagulls playing under the name Seagulls-Diehards, winning the 1988 premiership. The joint venture broke soon after and Valleys returned to their old name.

Financial difficulties in the early 1990s took their toll on the club, leading Valleys to a short-lived merger with the Caboolture Snakes, calling themselves Caboolture Valleys, in 1995. However the club folded at season's end, preventing the foundation club from playing in the inaugural Queensland Cup in 1996.

Valleys, Brisbane's most successful premiership winning club, had their last season at the top level in 2004, their only one in the Queensland Cup.

In 2002, Valleys entered a partnership with another former Brisbane Rugby League team, Brothers, playing under the name Brothers-Valleys. Brothers left the Queensland Cup at the end of 1998 when they acted as feeder club to the Broncos for that year. Playing out of Perry Park, in Bowen Hills, the Two-Blues participated in the lower grades, before being accepted into the Queensland Cup for season 2004. Based at O'Callaghan Park in Zillmere, the club's only premiership points that season were from a first round draw.

At seasons end, Brothers Valleys announced a name change to Brothers Diehards, but were not accepted into the 2005 Queensland Cup on the basis of club finance, a very sad end for such clubs with so much history for which there was little public hue and cry over like there was when Souths Sydney were kicked out of the NRL.

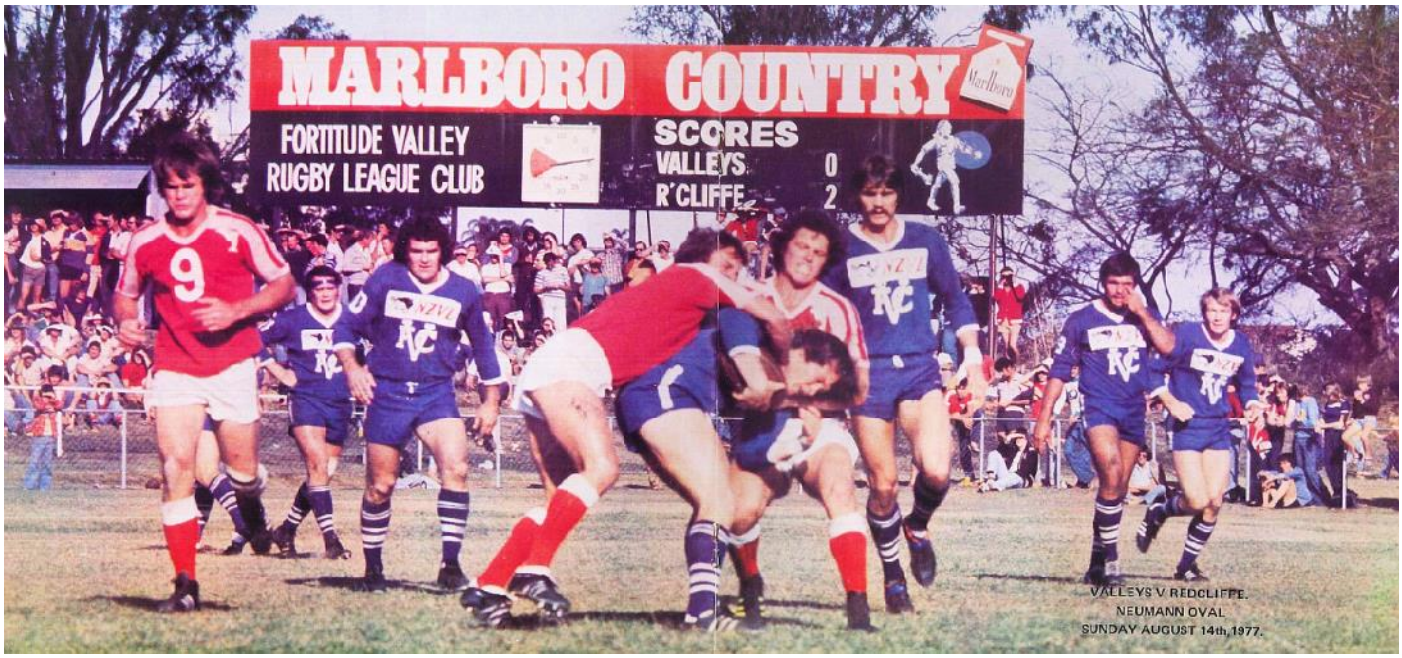
Their home ground of Newmann Oval was sold off to Queensland Cricket and is now Allan Border Field.

Valleys joined the new BRL lower grade competition that replaced the FOGS Cup in 2015 which they won in 2017 and are a feeder club for Norths in the Queensland Cup.

The start of a legend











Premierships: First grade: 1909 1915 1918 1919 1920 1924 1931 1933 1937 1941 1944 1946 1955 (undefeated) 1957 1970 1971 1973 1974 1979 1988 1989 1990.

Reserve grade: 1935 (undefeated) 1936 1941 1943 1944 1948 1954 1958 1990 2017.

Third grade: 1924 1926 (undefeated) 1932 1936-38 1940 1956-58 1960-63 1969 1970 1974

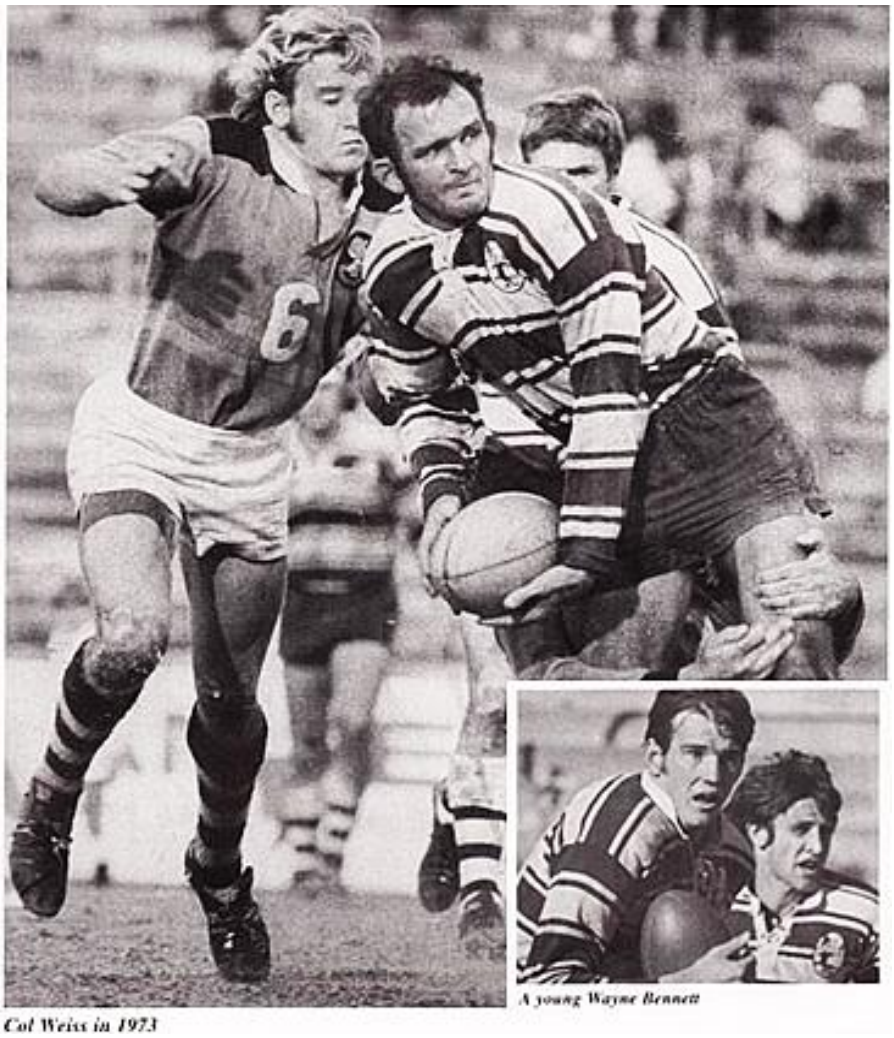
Internationals (while playing for Valleys): Arthur Edwards, Fred Neumann, Jack Little, Roy Westaway, Norm Pope, Ross Strudwick, Wally Lewis, Mark Murray.

Ten Prominent players: Des Mannion, Mick Retchless, Marty Scanlan, Hugh O' Doherty, Ron Gurnett, John McCabe, Jeff Gill, Peter McWhirter, Peter Coyne, Brett Daunt.



Fortitude Valley RLFC. BRL Premiers 1973

BROTHERS LEPRACHAUNS



Col Weiss in 1973

Brothers have had many homes in their 74 year history.

"Past Brothers" have played at Davies Park, the Brisbane Cricket Ground, the Domain, Valley State School, Ballymore, Corbett Park, Crosby Park and Bray Park (Strathpine).

Corbett Park was to be Brothers' home for ever after the club bought seven acres of freehold land for three thousand five hundred pounds in 1963.

Formerly Hickey's dairy farm, victory celebrations were held in a barn and then a modest clubhouse until the construction of a modern premises in 1971.

Brothers remained there until 1989 when dire financial times forced them out and they became nomads of the competition until the move to Bray Park .

Ironically Brothers were born of financial strife with the original Brothers Rugby Union club getting into financial trouble over injury insurance for players. So the club swiched to rugby league.

In 1926 the legendary Tom Gorman became Brothers first paid player and he took Brothers to their first premiership that very year.

Brothers' next pemiership was in 1935 when a goal from the sideline by skipper Vince Hogan in extra time provided a 17-15 victory over Valleys.

Brothers had the honour of winning the first grand final at Lang Park - in 1958 when they defeated Valleys 22-7.

Brothers were led to premierships in 1956 and 1958 under captain Brian Davies who would captain Australia. He would also coach Brothers to victory as they did a double in 1967 and 1968.

Brothers won the last Brisbane premiership in 1987 before the Brisbane Broncos started playing in 1988. Led by Trevor Bailey, they defeated Redcliffe 26-8 in a very memorable final.

Brothers left the Queensland Cup at the end of 1998 when they acted as feeder club to the Broncos for that year.

In 2002, Valleys entered a partnership with another former Brisbane Rugby League team, Brothers, playing under the name Brothers-Valleys. Playing out of Perry Park, in Bowen Hills, the Two-Blues participated in the lower grades, before being accepted into the Queensland Cup for season 2004. Based at O'Callaghan Park in Zillmere, the club's only premiership points that season were from a first round draw.

At seasons end, Brothers Valleys announced a name change to Brothers Diehards, but were not accepted into the 2005 Queensland Cup on the basis of club finance, a very sad end for such clubs with so much history.

Currently there is a bid for the Brothers fraternity across the state to join the NRL and there is a desire among old Brothers fans to see a Brothers team re-enter the Queensland Cup competition along with that NRL bid.

Premierships: First grade: 1926 1935 1939 1942 1943 1956 1958 1967 1968 1987.

Reserve grade: 1928 1955 1973 1979 1985 1986.

Third grade: 1935 1947 1953 1986 1990.

Internationals: Tommy Gorman, Eddie Brosnan, Brian Davies, Noel Cavanagh, Dennis Manteit, Johnny Gleeson, Wayne Bennett, David Wright, Mark Thomas, Graham Quinn, Dan Stains.

Ten Prominent Players: Larry Gillespie, Len Dawson, Mick Shannon, Len Dittmar, Johnny Smith, Bob Cock, Ian Dauth, Alan Power, Peter Gill, Trevor Bailey.











David Wright in action





REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS



Peter Leis fires a pass

Accepted into the Brisbane competition in 1960 Redcliffe reached the semi-finals in their second year and under the coaching of Henry Holloway won a premiership in 1965.

That Dolphins' side included Arthur Beetson and Kevin Yoh Yeh who moved to Balmain the following season.

Since then Redcliffe have always finished the bridesmaid sometimes in the most heart breaking of circumstances.

In 1977 they won the Peter Scott Memorial Trophy and that same year the minor premiership. Easts defeated them in the grand final then the following year Redcliffe failed again to capitalise on a minor premiership being eliminated by Valleys in the preliminary final.

Redcliffe played at the city's showgrounds before moving to their own impressive ground, Dolphin Oval which is one of Queensland's most prosperous leagues clubs.

Dayboro dairy farmer Peter Leis (261) holds the record for the most number of first grade matches a record his former teammate Tony Obst (230 games) says will stand forever.

"Peter had a season at Wests too," Obst said. "I remember playing against him at Lang Park and tackling him. He never spoke to me for 12 months.

"In another match for Redcliffe against Easts he scored two 100 metre tries from dummy half. It was one of the first televised matches and Easts flogged us by 50 points. His try scoring feats were incredible and gave a lot of people a lot of pleasure."

Of the modern era Tevor Benson clocked up 237 games whilst spending a season at St. George in the NSW competition.

Redcliffe were runners-up when Arthur Beetson returned from Sydney in 1981 for his final season as a player.

The fairytale was dashed when Mick Reardon scored for Souths in the last minute to win 13-9. Had the try been stopped Redcliffe would have won all three grades emulating Souths feat of 1945.

After losing the last grand final in 1987 before the Broncos came along they not only broke through to win their second first grade premiership in nearly 30 years after their first one but won all three grades in 1994, the second team ever to win the top three grades in the same year. They would repeat the feat in 1997 and 2002.

Running one of the most financially successful leagues clubs, boosted since the early 90's by poker machine revenue, has enabled Redcliffe to attract quality and depth in playing talent and become the most successful club in Queensland Cup history.

After losing the first Queensland Cup grand final to Toowoomba 8-6 in 1996, they went one better winning in 1997 against Easts who they played and beat again that year in the last ever BRL grand final.

They have won 5 Queensland Cup titles in 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2006 to add to their 2 BRL premierships before the Queensland Cup. Two of those Queensland Cup titles were against Toowoomba who they battled in 4 grand finals. Currently, they are a feeder club to the Brisbane Broncos.

Premierships: First grade: 1965 1994 1996 (BRL only not QLD Cup) 1997 (plus BRL) 2000 2002 2003 2006

Reserve grade: 1959 1962 1966 1978 1981 1982 1988 1994 1995 1997 1999 2003 2010 2011 2016.

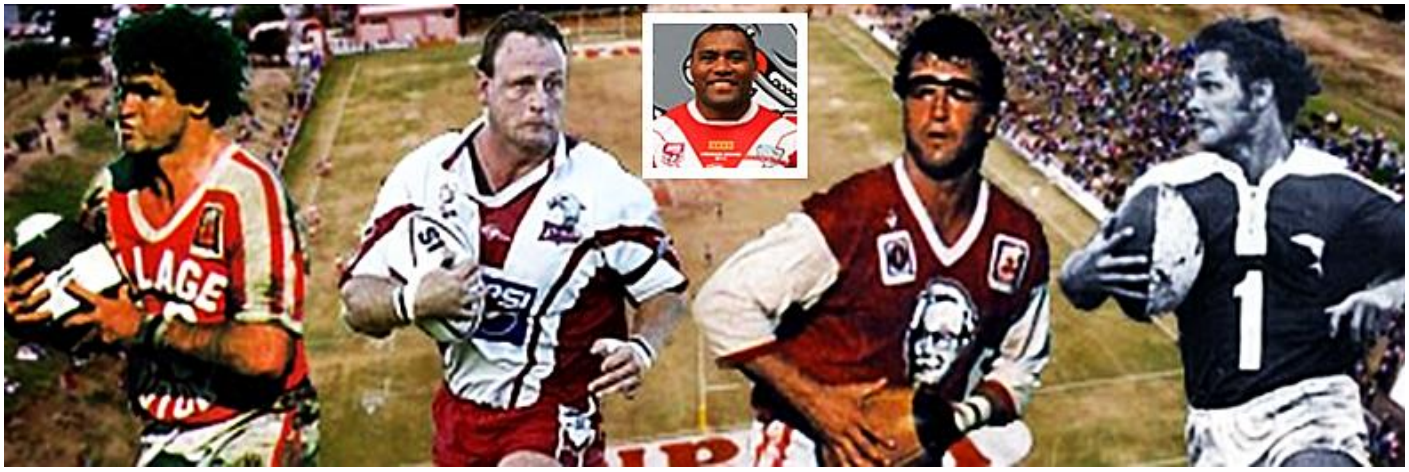
Third grade: 1981 1984 1987 1989 1993 1994 2003 2012 2014 2017.

Internationals: Bob Gehrke, Greg Oliphant, Chris Close, Wally Fullerton Smith, Mark Murray, Bryan Niebling, Greg Conescu, John Ribot, Arthur Beetson.

Ten Prominent Players: Trevor Harken, Steve Crear, Tony Obst, Rod Halley, Peter Leis, Steve Bullow, Ian Thinee, Ian "Bunny" Pearce, Brian Gardiner, Trevor Benson.





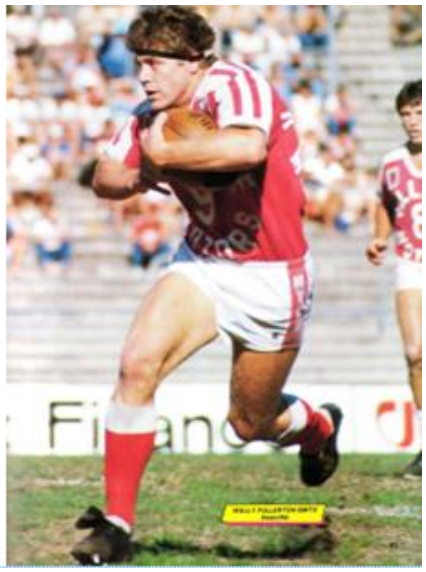




Tony Obst wrapped up



Trevor Benson takes it up



WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS



Wynnum were first accepted into the Brisbane premiership in 1931 and remained there until World War II.

In 1951 Wynnum returned to the Brisbane League and based themselves at Kitchener Park the current home of the Wynnum juniors.

The seniors remained there until 1967 when they moved to their current base Kougari Oval.

The biggest day in Wynnum's history was their first premiership in 1982 when they rolled Souths at Lang Park sparking unprecedented scenes of celebration with an estimated 10 000 people cramming into Kougari Oval for overnight celebrations.

It took the Broncos first NSWRL premiership in 1992 to evoke pandemonium reminiscent of those heady days of Brisbane football.

It was a year when Test prop Rod Morris came out of retirement to help his older brother Des who was coaching the Seagulls.

Rod Morris said some people thought he would take it easy when he finally decided to play.

He said he had not been that keen early in the season because he didn't want to let anybody down particularly with expectations high in the southern bayside area.

"I wanted to be able to contribute. It was already a side with a lot of capabilities and strengths," Morris said. "It was a side keen to learn and Des was a proven coach.

"In the early part of the 82 finals series I think the players were just content to be there but as we went on and made it to the grand final their confidence grew.

"To go out on the field that day against Souths and to skipper a side branded perennial losers to an historic premiership win was a very special memory.



A real stalwart, Colin Scott in action

"The whole crowd seemed to be behind us and you had to feel a little sorry for Souths. I think everyone was hoping Wynnum would get up to win their first grand final after being so far down the ladder for so many years."

Wynnum, still coached by Des Morris, won another premiership in 1984 and then with Wally Lewis as captain-coach grabbed the title in 1986. Wally's father Jim had been coach of the 1972 C grade premiership winning side and later coached the firsts.

Beset by financial problems the club went through a period of crisis including a forced shift away from Kougari Oval to Kianawah Road for the 1990 season.

They moved back to Kougari Oval which was upgraded and in 1995 defeated Easts 32-24 to win the last BRL grand final before the competition became the statewide Queensland Cup.

Apart from 1997 when they were minor premiers but failed to make the grand final, Wynnum struggled for most of their time in the Queensland Cup until they won back to back premierships in 2011 and 2012 under the coaching of Paul Green who would go on to coach the North Queensland Cowboys to their first NRL title. Playing for the Cowboys was Jake Granville, a former Wynnum player from their back to back wins in 2011-2012.

Premierships: First grade: 1982, 1984, 1986, 1995, 2011, 2012.

Reserve grade: 1975, 1993, 1998, 2007.

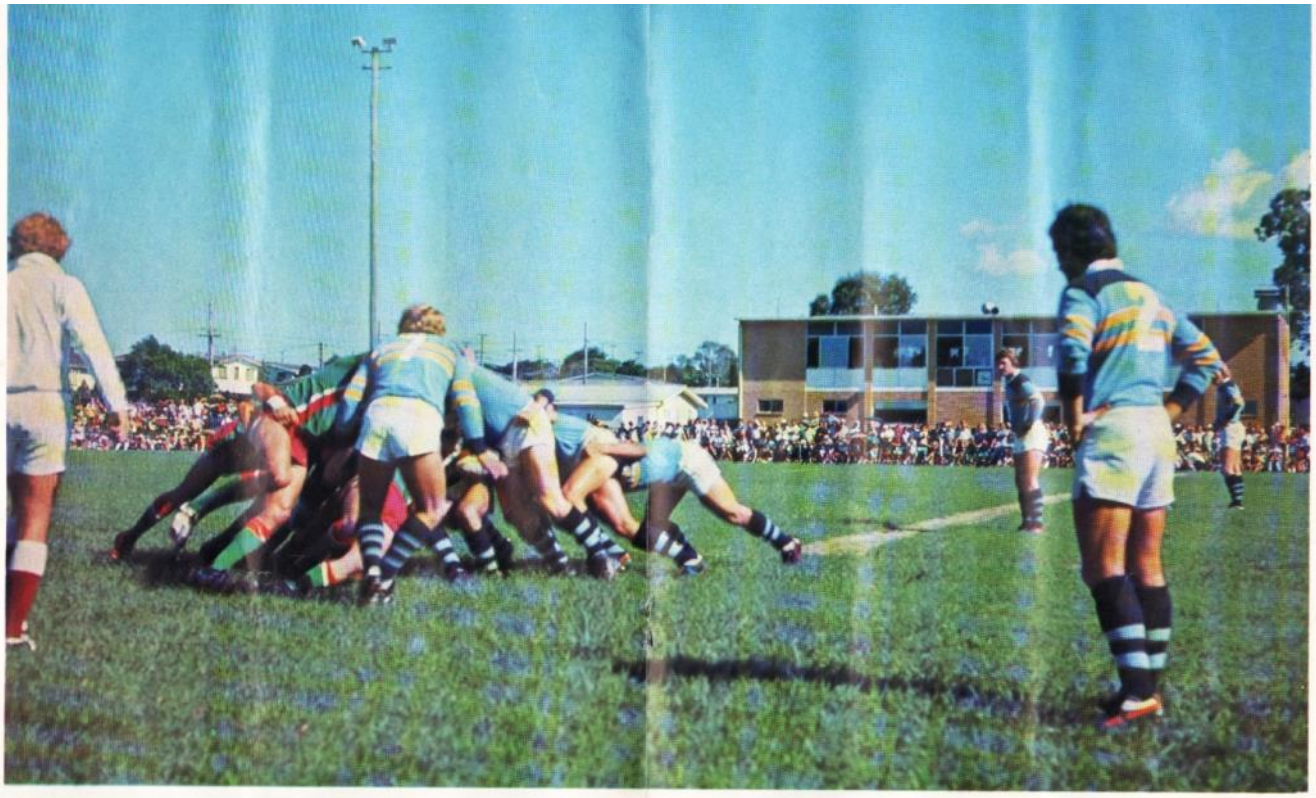
C grade: 1972, 1975, 1976, 1979, 2016.

Australian representatives: Lionel Morgan, Johnny Gleeson, John Wittenberg John Rhodes, Lou Platt, Rod Morris, Greg Dowling, Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Colin Scott, Bob Lindner.

Rothmans Medal winners: Lon Brunner, Gene Miles, Neil Tierney.

Noted Wynnum players: Keith "Bomber" Brown, the Greenhill brothers, Billy McDermott, Nev Hornery, Brian Walsh.

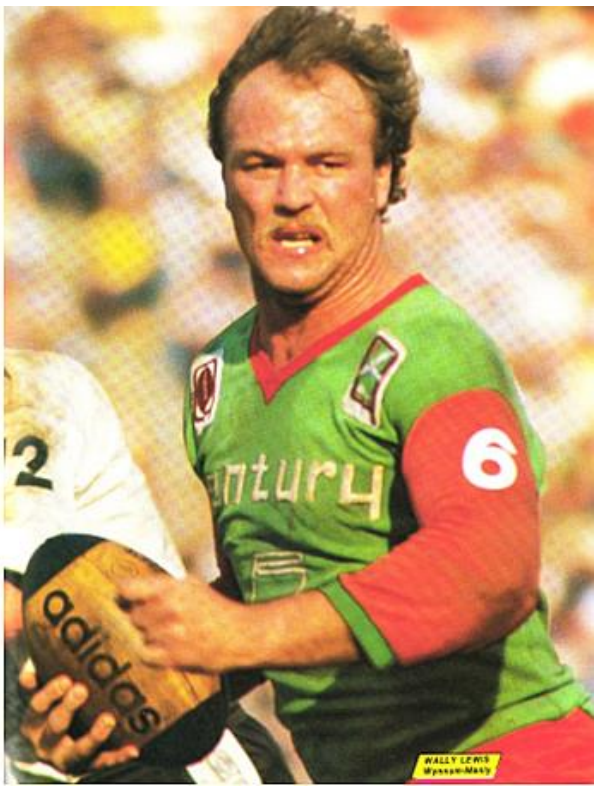




Norths half-back Gary Seaton places the ball in a scrum during the first grade match between Norths and Wynnum Manly last Sunday 13/3/77







IPSWICH JETS

Ipswich competed for just a few years in the very earliest days of the Brisbane competition and took out their only premiership in 1910. Ipswich and Valley-Toombul played a 10-10 draw, the only one in BRL grand final history. Ipswich then won the grand final replay 17-2.

Ipswich representative sides also had a great tradition in the Bulimba Cup competition with Brisbane and Toowoomba playing many memorable matches at Lang Park.

They won 11 Bulimba Cups (Brisbane won 19 titles and Toowoomba 16). They were utterly dominant in the 1930's winning 6 Bulimba Cup titles. Their last Bulimba Cup title was in 1966 when they defeated Brisbane 7-2 in the final.

Ipswich also hosted touring sides from Great Britain, France and New Zealand right up until the late 1970's.

In the modern era they entered the Brisbane competition in 1986 after competing for 4 years in the Winfield State League.

Former Test halfback Tom Raudonikis was foundation coach and he has been followed by Jim Landy, Ken Coles and Kevin Langer.

The Jets played at the traditional home of league in Ipswich - the North Ipswich Reserve - until 1993 when they moved to Briggs Road.

Ipswich appeared in two grand finals 1988 and 1989 - when they lost to Valleys.

After the BRL premiership expanded to become the Queensland Cup, Ipswich would make it to another two grand finals. In 2002 they were humbled 34-10 by a Redcliffe side which would win 3 grand finals in 4 years.

Ipswich finished minor premiers in 2008 and were favourites to win that year when the grand final was moved from Suncorp Stadium to their home ground at North Ipswich Reserve due to an event clash. A huge crowd turned out for it but Souths Logan with a last minute try snatched victory with Ipswich losing 24-18.

Ipswich won their maiden Queensland Cup title in 2015 under the coaching of Ben and Shane Walker with attacking flair and exciting unorthodox play. They would go on to win the second State Championship title against Newcastle as well as winning the BRL (reserve grade) to cap off a momentous year.

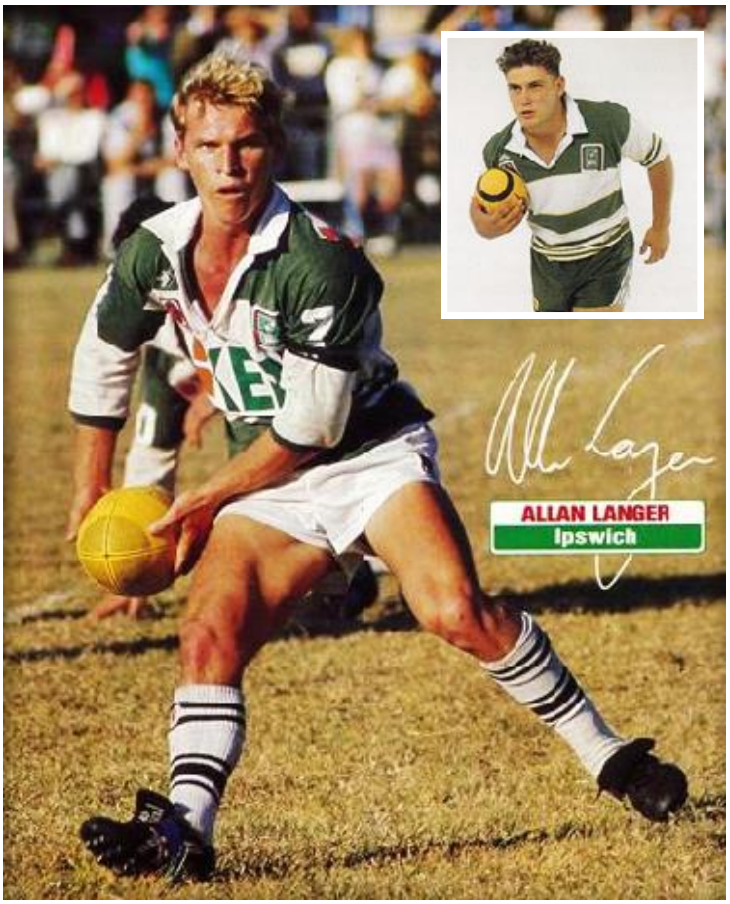
Premierships: 1910, 2015

State Championship: 2015

Reserve Grade: 2015

Internationals: Allan Langer, Kerrod Walters, Kevin Walters.

Prominent players: Steve Parcell, Craig Spark, Brad Chicken, Jim Lenihan, Andrew Walters, Brad Chicken, Glen Haggath, Ray Ovens, Darren Wolens.









LOGAN CITY SCORPIONS

The Logan City Scorpions were admitted to the Brisbane League in 1987 as a C grade side. That year they made the grand final and in 1988 they were accepted as a fully fledged club with firsts, reserves and colts with a home base at Meakin Park, Kingston. One of their first coaches was former Test halfback Tom Raudonikis.

There were some hard times on the financial front and the Scorpions struggled to be competitive up to the time that the club financially collapsed in 2003 after a brief joint venture with Souths.

They made the Woolies pre-season final in 1988 which they lost to Valleys and in the FOGS A grade they made a grand final they lost to Easts. In 1992 they won the pre-season title. In their final year they failed to win a single game in either the Queensland Cup or Brisbane A Grade.

A full corporate merger between Souths and Logan under the umbrella of Canberra to be named the Souths-Logan Raiders with the Raiders calling the shots was the plan at the time Souths and Logan played their last games in the 2002 season.

The corporate merger did not eventuate and a joint venture happened instead. Souths Magpies and Logan Scorpions remained separate corporate entities but merged their teams for the 2003 season with the generous financial backing of the Canberra Raiders. A couple of months after their final game as separate teams, the decision was made to drop the name Raiders for the joint venture team and call the team the Souths-Logan Magpies.

The club split its home games between Davies Park and Logan's Meakin Park in Slacks Creek, although they had moved full time to Davies Park by the end of the year.

About this time the Logan Scorpions licensed club folded and all games were transferred back to Davies Park. Though the Logan Scorpions folded, Souths has chosen to continue with the merged name of Souths-Logan Magpies.

Titles: 1992 Pre-season comp

Prominent players: Paul Bartier, Paul Fisher, Brad Pike, Bradley George, Glen Haggath, Bill Dart.



Constable Greg Sutherland in 'working' gear with Scorpion coaches Bernie Lowther (left), and John Barber.

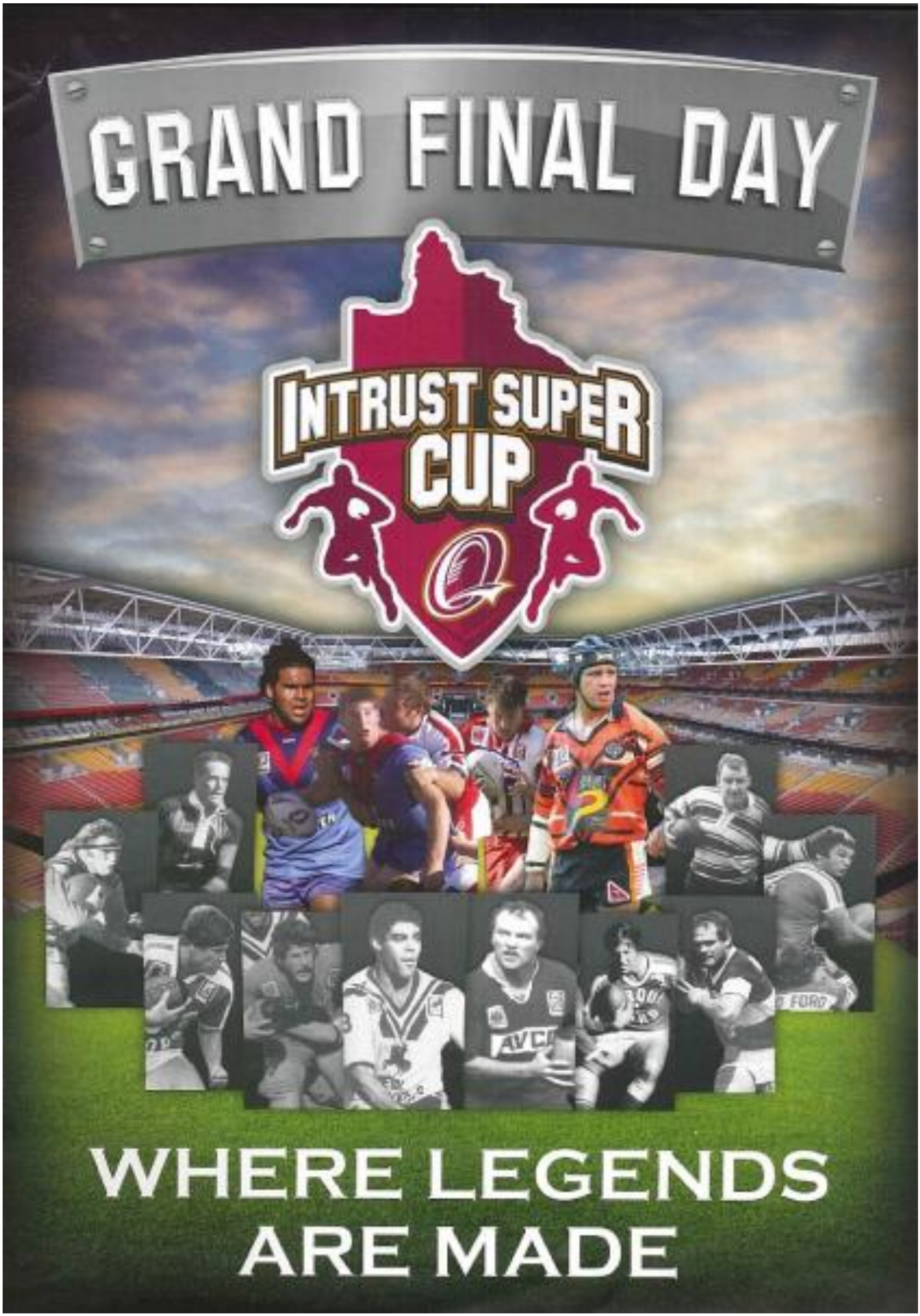


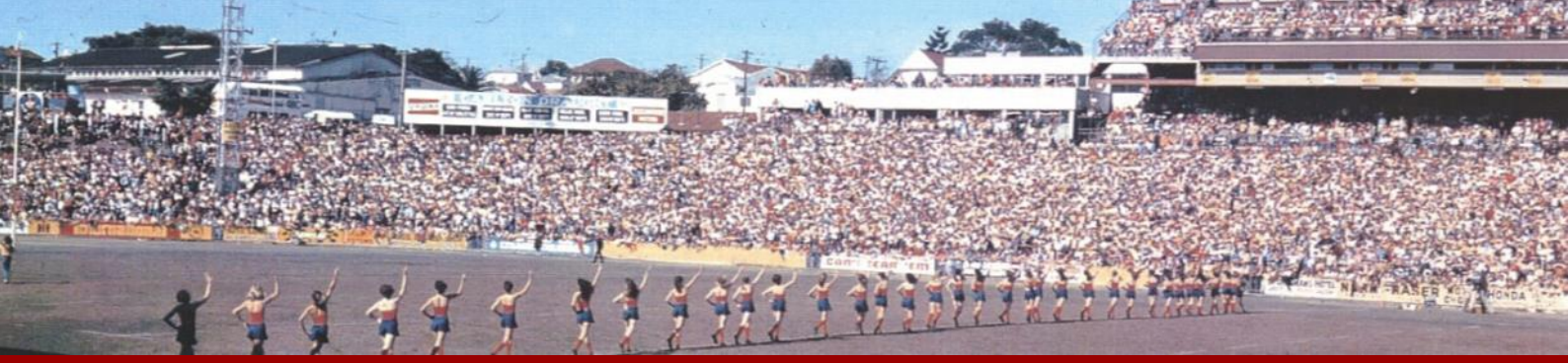









GRAND FINAL DAY
INTRUST SUPER CUP
WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE



A HISTORY OF BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE (1909-2017)

A celebration of club football in Brisbane

From the Brisbane premiership to the Queensland Cup

Before the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition in 1988 the Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) competition shared the top national talent along with the Sydney competition for 80 years. Sadly many scribes, particularly those from Sydney, have treated the Brisbane competition as a footnote in rugby league history and ignored just how strong a competition the BRL competition was.

In this volume we celebrate the rich history of the Brisbane rugby league competition from its birth in 1909. We relive the story of the BRL competition from the match reports of the semi finals and grand finals and other pictures which tell its fantastic story.

From the six-in-a-row dynasty of Norths in the 1960's to the dynasty of Valleys in the early 1970's to the titanic battles between Souths and Wynnum in the 1980's it is a rich history. We continue the story right through the post-Broncos era to the present with the Queensland Cup which has seen the premiership become a statewide competition.

