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Rugby League

Looking at League

No. 14

July 8, 9 and 10, 1988

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"SHADES OF '87"

Last week-end's results threw the competition of the first five into the melting pot. However, it looks as if the 1988 premiership could have the same final showdown as in 1987—a Souths v. Lakes Grand Final. Souths have now put together 7 straight wins and came from behind against Wests to knock the Rosellas out of the five.

Lakes have the second best set of straight wins currently with five, their comfortable win put them ahead of Centrals on percentage and in second spot. Is it '87 all over again? There are some top games in the last three rounds and the teams that make the five will have earned their places.

Cessnock are at home to West on Friday night, the winner in the five, the loser out most probably. Both losers last round, Cessnock right on the bell, Wests beaten comfortably after a good first half.

Both sides have the talent, the desire to win—performance on the night obviously will tell. Could go either way.

Lakes are at home to Maitland. The Pumpkin-pickers have reached their crunch time. One more loss and their 1988 chance are gone. This is the toughest game they have left and is another 'grand final' for them. The Seagulls are in fine form and their rise in the table coincided with the return of Peter Walsh. Lakes are going to be tough at home and the result could see the first team to drop out of the top seven teams that have been challenging for the semi's.

Central go to the coalfields again to play Kurri and need a win desperately. Their loss last week to Maitland was expensive as far as their position in the table was concerned. The Bulldogs have become real nuisance value in recent weeks and are keen to finish the season well. With games against Wests and Cessnock to follow, Kurri will be well primed for a big effort.

South are at home to Macquarie in another major game. The Lions have been a model of consistency this year, with the loss in the opening round being the only really poor effort so far. A loss by the Mac-

quarie Scorpions will probably mean their elimination from the semi's, but after some very ordinary performances lately, came back really well to defeat Cessnock last round. Souths, however, have all the advantages and should win comfortably.

The remaining game is between Norths and Waratah. Both clubs are looking towards 1989, rebuilding in different ways. Norths have battled out the season well, all things considered. Waratah will have too much going for them in this game and will win well.

2HD Player of the Year

The "Player of the Year" competition for the 1988 Premiership is being sponsored again by Radio 2HD. Points are awarded out of 10 for the performance of three players in each game. For the remaining four rounds of the competition, the weekly points will not be published. The result of the competition will be finalised at the Newcastle Rugby League's Presentation Night on 31st August at West Leagues Club.

Leaders at the end of Series 14 were:

Progress Points:

- 50—J. Hunter (Cess)
- 49—T. Stevenson (Mac)
- 45—T. Price (WS)
- 39—P. Williams (KK), T. Vaughan (Sth)
- 37—M. Sullivan (Mac)
- 28—T. Donaldson (Sth), M. Burrows (Mait)
- 27—G. Eager (Mait)
- 25—P. Atkins (WS)
- 23—W. Snowden (Cent)

POINT SCORING MACHINES

Peter Parr, South's centre three-quarter, has galloped right away in the Stockland Mail Competition for the leading point scorer. After 12 matches, Peter is now well in sight of the double century mark and is scoring at an average of almost 16 points per match.

Peter Walsh, in 5 matches with Lakes, has scored 86 points, backing up fine coaching and leadership by actually "putting the points on the board". Ward Snowden is averaging 5 goals a game for Central, and John Hunter is certainly doing his share in the point-scoring department at Cessnock. It is worth noting that all of these players are in leading teams that are playing consistently really good football.

Leading Try Scorers

P. Parr (SN) 18; L. Bowne (LU) 14; P. Williams (KK) 13; M. Sullivan (Macq) 11; D. Hill (Macq) 8; T. Vauchon (SN) 8; D. Harrington (LU) 8; J. Hunter (Cess) 8; P. Hafey (KK) 8; P. Atkins (WS) 8; P. Walsh (LU) 8; G. Eager (Mait) 7; P. Walker (Cess) 7; C. Mitchell (WS) 7; N. O'Brien (SN) 7; M. Schofield (Cess) 7.

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Coaches for the 1989 Season

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RESERVE GRADE
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NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Sunday, July 10—12.20 p.m.

Passmore Oval

North Newcastle

Royal blue and sky

Coach: Ziggy Niszczot



- 1—IAN LUCIETTO
- 2—MARK WHEATLEY
- 3—DARREN KIRKLAND
- 4—STEVE RIDGEWAY
- 5—PETER SULLIVAN
- DARRYL MAXWELL
- 7—TERRY DENT
- 8—JERRY MAULA
- 9—PETER WILLIAMS
- 10—DAVID STANFORD
- 11—BRUCE EDDON
- 12—RAY KEIGHTLEY 36
- 13—BRETT DANN

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

Referee: M. Benson

Waratah-Mayfield

Maroon and gold

Coach: Dave Edwards



- 1—ANTHONY SHANNON
- 2—ALLAN LYDDIARD
- 3—NORM MURRAY
- 4—DARRELL WARDEN
- 5—MARK HANLON
- 6—GARRY SHAW
- 7—CRAIG HIGGINS
- 8—GREG ROSS
- 9—STEVE HOPPIE
- 10—BRAD LANTRY 116
- 11—DAVID EDWARDS
- 12—KENT LUMSDEN
- 13—MATTHEW SULLIVAN

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

Touch Judges: V. Whyborn (Blue), J. Small (Red)

RESERVE GRADE — 10.55 a.m.

NORTH NEWCASTLE

Coach: Peter Taylor

1—Darren BARRETT

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2—Mark HARWOOD | Darren JONES—3 |
| 4—Harry GARVIE | Mark JACKSON—5 |
| 6—Allan ARMSTRONG | Craig AFFLICK—7 |
| 8—Mark PAYNE | Paul KODELA—9 |
| 10—Eddie ULBURT | Steven SAULT—11 |
| 12—Neil HALL | Brian SLADE—13 |

Referee: R. Haines

WARATAH-MAYFIELD

Coach: Michael Donnelly

1—Wayne WALKER

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2—Andrew ROBINSON | Tony PICKEN—3 |
| 4—Kevin PYWELL | Ian MILLINGTON—5 |
| 6—Craig HEWLETT | Darren SCREEN—7 |
| 8—Joe PERRY | Mick SPARKS—9 |
| 10—Zane RICE | Mick RYAN/Pat GLEESON—11 |
| 12—Tony BENDEICH | Dave SNEDDEN—13 |

Touch Judges: C. McCarthy (Blue), J. Small (Red)

THIRD GRADE — 9.30 a.m.

NORTH NEWCASTLE

Coach: Ray Keighley

1—Mark PRASSER

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 2—Mark SHERIDAN | Adam LOWE—3 |
| 4—Dave STEVENS | Mark CROCKETT—5 |
| 6—Shane BANKS | Robert GOLDEN—7 |
| 8—Bill IZZARD | Col SMITH—9 |
| 10—Ivan TOCKNALL | Mark PRATTER—11 |
| 12—Peter TAYLOR | Brad SMITH—13 |

Referee: C. McCarthy

WARATAH-MAYFIELD

Coach: Noel Dent

1—Darren BRENNAN/R. HANLON

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 2—James BURROWS | Terry MUIR—3 |
| 4—Garry WHITE | John SLOCKEE—5 |
| 6—Peter HAGGERTY | Noel DENT—7 |
| 8—Peter ANDERSON | T. FORBES/D. HOWIE—9 |
| 10—Col GIGGINS | P. GLEESON/D. HOWIE—11 |
| 12—Scott MORRIS | Adrian HAWKINS—13 |

Touch Judges: R. Haines (Blue), V. Whyborn (Red)



WARATAH RUGBY LEAGUE

47 Leonora Parade, Waratah West, 2298

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First Grade

SOUTH NEWCASTLE 22 (T. Butler 2, N. O'Brien, N. Sheather tries, P. Parr 3 goals) d MACQUARIE UNITED 21 (J. Medland, P. Duncan, P. Hazell, M. Stortenkemper tries, F. Lawler 2 goals, D. Hill drop goal).

WARATAH-MAYFIELD 74 (C. Higgins, A. Lyddiard 3, K. Lumsden, A. Shannon, C. Hewlett 2, G. Ross tries, B. Lantry 11 goals) d NORTH NEWCASTLE 10 (Z. Niszczot try, R. Keightley 3 goals).

CENTRAL CHARLESTOWN 34 (B. Ryan, K. Barnier, P. McKenzie, E. Smith, Fitzsimmons, W. Schillings tries, W. Snodden 5 goals) d KURRI KURRI 18 (S. Lee, V. Dobing, P. Hafey tries, P. Williams 2 goals, P. Hafey goal).

LAKE UNITED 20 (D. Butler, L. Bowne, S. Gustard, A. Swan tries, P. Walsh 2 goals) d MAITLAND 14 (J. Hemson, D. Michalski tries, B. Winkler 3 goals).

WESTERN SUBURBS 16 (P. Atkins 2, G. Mitchell tries, G. Price 2 goals) d CESSNOCK 4 (M. Schofield 2 goals).

Reserve Grade

South 44 d Macquarie 6. Waratah 146 d North 0. Kurri 12 d Central 8, Maitland 16 d Lakes 14. West 16 d Cessnock 14.

Third Grade

South 30 d Macquarie 8, Waratah 79 d North 4, Central 32 d Kurri 12, Maitland 26 d Lakes 6. Cessnock 13 d West 12.