

Official Publication of the Newcastle Rugby League

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Looking at League

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CESSNOCK OFF TO FLYING START

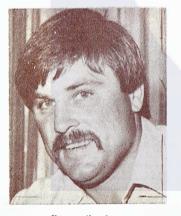
The Cessnock "Goannas" have launched their bid for the 1986 major title in great style with convincing wins in their three games of first grade and have amassed 152 points for while only conceding twelve points against.

This achievement must be close to a club record and has established them as a great chance to take out the major title which eluded them last year when they were defeated by Lakes United in the grand final. Captain-coach, Bruce Starkey, is

leading by example and the team is playing fast, open football that will bring crowds back to the game. The large content of "local pro-

The large content of "local products" in the Cessnock team is creating a great deal of interest. In fact, their first grade team which took the field last week against Maitland contained no less than ten players who came through the ranks of the club.

Cessnock share the competition lead with West and Lakes who are also undefeated after their games.



Bruce Starkey

West have scored 88 points for and conceded only five points in their three wins. Coached by Paul Merlo the "Rosellas" have already served notice that they will be hard to beat as the season progresses.

Lakes United, last year's major premiers have indicated that they are not about to surrender their title without a fight and have scored 112 points and conceded 50.

Captain-Coach, Robert Taylor, with his success last year in steering Lakes to their grand final win has had a great start to 1986, captaining Newcastle in their two wins in the Caltex Country Championship to qualify for the final and being named captain of Combined Country when they played St. George at Bathurst on Wednesday night. Kurri Kurri are keeping in touch

Kurri Kurri are keeping in touch with the leaders with two wins from their three games and the clash this week with Cessnock should produce a great game of Rugby League.

at Newcastle International Sports Centre on

SATURDAY, 17th MAY

Reserved tickets available at Mitchell Bass outlets

Newcastle to play Western Division at Dubbo

Western Division qualified for the Caltex Country Divisional Championship Final when they defeated Riverina in the Southern Zone final 30 points to 18 last weekend.

Western Division have not won the final since 1963 while Newcastle's last success was in 1984.

From all reports Western Division's performance last weekend was full of merit and their clash with Newcastle next weekend at Dubbo should result in a great final.

Results of Southern Zone games are as follows:

Southern Zone

WESTERN DIVISION 47 (B. Gordon 3, M. Gordon 2, I. Douglas 2, R. Spurr, G. Rout tries, N. Moy 4, M. Gordon goals, P. Smith field goal) d SOUTHERN DIVISION 12 (N. Howe, P. Leffley tries, P. Coman 2 goals) at Lithgow Sportsground.

RIVERINA 26 (T. Paton 2, S. Saddler 2, N. Elwin, J. Vittuei tries, N. Elwin goal) d CENTRAL COAST 24 (P. Davis 2, S. Brown, S. Hall tries, P. Melross 4 goals) at Lithgow Showground.

Southern Zone Final At Lithgow Sportsground

WESTERN DIVISION 30 (R. Burt 2, B. Gordon, G. Rout, P. Smith tries, N. Moy 5 goals) d RIVERINA 18 (S. Saddler, D. Murray, T. Lyons tries, N. Elwin 3 goals).

Play-olf for 3rd and 4th:

SOUTHERN DIVISION 22 (J. Chapman, P. Leffley, R. Taylor, M. Pinkerton tries, J. Chapman 3 goals) d CENTRAL COAST 8 (S. Waugh try, P. Melross 2 goals).

CARLTON UNITED BREWERY Supports Newcastle Rugby League

NBN 3 - CARLTON PREMIERSHIP

Friday, April 25—3 p.m.

Cahill Oval



NBN 3-CARLTON PREMIERSHIP

First Grade

WARATAH-MAYFIELD 28 (T. Crow, F. McGrady, P. Garbutt, P. Joy, W. Black tries, T. Vaughan 4 goals) d CENTRAL CHARLESTOWN 10 (G. Jarrett try, G. Price 3 goals).

MACQUARIE UNITED 56 (A. Williams 3. K. Townley 2. P. Snowden 2. P. Lockwood, M. McCloskey tries, W. Snowden 10 goals) d MAITLAND 14 (J. Crooks 3 tries, M. Threlfo goal).

WESTERN SUBURBS 24 (G. Murray 2, G. Eagar, C. Higgins tries, P. Elliott 2 goals, M. Knight 2 goals) d SOUTH NEWCASTLF. 20 (P. Duggan, B. Phelps, G. Squires tries, I. Rotumah 4 goals).

CESSNOCK 32 (R. Whitaker 2, J. Hunter, A. Smith, B. Davies, J. Barr tries, M. Schofield 4 goals) d KURRI KURRI 10 (P. Watson, P. Brady tries, P. Williams goal).

LAKES UNITED 48 (B. Burgess 2) S. Drinkwater 2, P. Parsons, F. Grant, R. Stone, D. Robinson, M. Sullivan, C. Mathias tries S. Drinkwater 4 goals) d NORTH NEWCASTLE 10 (D. Newton 2) tries P. Walker (goal).

Reserve Grade

Waratah 18 d Central 14. Maitland 24 d Macquarie 21. South 24 d West 12. Lakes 56 d North 2. Cessnock 36 d Kurri 16.

Third Grade

Waratah 36 d Central 4, Maitland 26 d Macquarie 12, South 28 d West 8, Cessnock 12 d Kurri 10, Lakes 66 d North 2,