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Looking at League

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WESTS NOW OUTRIGHT LEADER

After the 5th series of the NBN-Carlton Premiership played last weekend Western Suburbs emerged as outright leaders on, ten points with their 10-0 win over Central on Friday night while previonsly undefeated teams Cessnock were beaten 27-16 by Waratah-Mayfield and Lakes United played a 20-all draw with Kurri Knrri.

Waratah have moved to outright fourth position on six points from three wins and are now in a strong position to challenge the leading teams. Kurri Kurri are only a point away in 5th position after their drawn game with Lakes United last week.

South Newcastle and Macquarie United are on four points each after their wins over Maitland and North and are in with a strong chance to qualify for a semi-final position.

The current points table where only six points separate the leading seven clubs indicates some very attractive fixtures will be played in the coming weeks.

Waratah are at home to West in the televised match of the day.

West will be back to full strength with the return of their representative players and the improving form of the "Cheetahs" should ensure that this is a great game between these two clubs who over the years have had some great clashes.

In another attractive fixture second and third placed teams Lakes United and Cessnock will play at Cahill Oval on Sunday. Like West these teams will have their representative team players available and both should be at full strength for this most important game that could eventually determine their finishing positions in the premiership pointstable.

Macquarie United are at home to Kurri Kurri in what again should be a thriller. Macquarie have put together two wins in a row and will be keen to improve on that but will find plenty of opposition from Kurri Kurri after their draw with Lakes United last weekend.

South Newcastle have also recorded two wins to be on four points and will also be keen to improve their standing when they take on the young North Newcastle team at Townson Oval.

Central Charlestown and Maitland play at St. John Oval on Sunday. Both teams have recorded a win cach so far and a close and entertaining match could result.

GREAT DAY OF LEAGUE CITY v COUNTRY

The annual clash of Country and City teams will be staged at the International Sports Centre next Saturday.

Gates open at 10.00 a.m. with the first match to be played at 10.45 a.m.

Newcastle Representative Under 16 team will play Central Coast followed by Country v City Under 19 Division.

Country II will play City II as the curtain raiser to the main attraction Country I v City I at 3.00 p.m.

Reserved Grandstand tickets can be purchased at all Bass outlets by phoning 26 4888.

Western Division win Caltex Final

Western Division won their first Caltex Country Championship final for 23 years when they defeated Newcastle 26 points to 4 last Sunday at Dubbo.

Western Division were the better team on the day and certainly deserved their win.

Although defeated Newcastle were well represented when the Country squad of twenty-four players was announced after the final to play in the annual City v Country fixtures next Saturday at the International Sports Centre. The Newcastle players selected are:

Robert Taylor, Lakes United Rick Stone, Lakes United Mark Brokenshire, Lakes United Glen Murray, Western Suburbs Tony Keevill, South Newcastle Rod Whittaker, Cessnock



Mark Brokenshire, Lakes United

• CARLTON UNITED BREWERY Supports Newcastle Rugby League Sunday, May 11-2.45 p.m.

Townson Oval



NBN 3-CARLTON PREMIERSHIP

First Grade

LAKES UNITED 16 (T. Tuckwell, M. Bates tries, P. Walsh 4 goals) d CESSNOCK 10 (J. Huunter try, M. Schofield 3 goals).

KURRI KURRI 24 (P. King 2, M. Mc-Laughlin, P. Williams tries, P. Williams 4 goals) d MACQUARIE UNITED 20 (P. Alexander, M. McCloskey, K. Townley tries, W. Snowden 4 goals).

CENTRAL CHARLESTOWN 12 (T. Me-Lennan, C. Croese tries, G. Price 2 goals) d MAITLAND 7 (M. Crooks try, G. Guider goal, J. Crooks drop goal)

SOUTH NEWCASTLE 62 (T) Keevill () (P) Hazell 2) (R) Jones 2) (R) White (P) Duggan tries) (L) (Rotumah (3) goals) (J) NORTH NEWCASTLE ()

WESTERN SUBURBS 46 (G. Murray 2. P. Merlo 2. P. Elliott, T. Butler, G. Eagar, C. Higgins tries, M. Knight 7 goals) d WARATAH-MAYFIELD 20 (E. McGrady 2 tries, T. Vaughan 2 tries, T. Vaughan 2 goals).

Reserve Grade

South Newcastle 58 d North Newcastle 12, Macquarie 19 d Kurri 12, Maitland 19 d Central 10, Lakes 48 d Cessnock 14, Waratah 32 d West 20.

Third Grade

South Newcastle 60 d North Newcastle 2) Kurri 26 d Macquarie 18, Maitland 18 d Central 14, Lakes 26 d Cessnock 0, Waratah 22 d West 10,