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Rugby League

Looking at League

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UPSETS LAST WEEKEND

Some exciting results last weekend have really opened up the competition.

Lakes seemed to be sailing well at the top of the table but ran into a few problems at Maitland.

Kurri came down from the Coalfields and really shocked Central with a great performance.

West put their first win on the board and the field bunched up further with Waratah's win over North.

A great match of the round at Macquarie saw the unbeaten home side unable to keep the Lions out.

And so to another good round this week. The local derby at Cessnock between the Goannas and the Bulldogs should be a beauty. Kurri have really got their tails up and will rise even further to the occasion at Cessnock. The home side will want the two points, after the loss to West, but are going to have to work really hard to get them.

Another local derby, South and Central, should be another cliff-hanger. The Lions will finally have a home game and ready to carry on from where they left off against Macquarie. Central will be looking to regain their pride and the two points. The clash of the point-scoring machines Peter Parr and Ward Snowden will be a highlight and so will be the tussle between two energetic and enthusiastic packs of forwards.

The Uniteds — the lake people — have their first clash of the year at Cahill Oval. Both sides, unbeaten till last week, are smarting from those losses and desperately want that top spot.

The forward encounter should be a big one with some classy backs on each side to take advantage of any opportunities that come their way.

Waratah have Maitland at home. Now joint competition leaders, the Pumpkin Pickers will want to stay

that way. Waratah will have Craig Higgins back from Country Firsts and his presence will add a lot of spark to the Cheetahs attack. But their defence will have to be at its best to keep out this hungry Maitland side.

West should prove too strong for North. West are getting their act together and while North are improving it doesn't appear that they can take this one.

There will be a touch of nostalgia at Harker this weekend with a short Golden Oldies game before the first grade. This event leads up to the Western Suburbs Reunion on Monday night.

A good round of football for this weekend, with possibly more changes in that competition table.

Referees

If you have a Referees ticket and wish to join the new "Newcastle & District Referees Association" or if you want to get a Referees Ticket, call the Newcastle Rugby League office on 56 1322 and get the details.

The newly formed Newcastle and District Referees Association were able to effectively control all Newcastle League and Newcastle Junior League fixtures last weekend.

The appointments this week have been done so that all grade football matches have certificated referees and touch judges.

The Newcastle Rugby League and all supporters of Rugby League wish to thank the referees who have officiated so that all games can continue, and particularly those club representatives who have helped out as touch judges.

Coaching classes for referees and touch judges will be announced shortly.

PLAYERS OF YESTERYEAR

LES JOHNS

Twelve Test appearances for Australia

Les Johns was a footballing freak, with the ability to turn the tide of a game in seconds. Only a string of injuries prevented him from establishing himself as one of the all-time great full-backs, in the mould of Clive Churchill or Howard Hallett.

Johns began to be noticed as a 19-year-old playing for the South Newcastle club and was chosen to represent Newcastle in the Country championship and Country Seconds in the annual clash with City. He was again selected for Country next year, this time in firsts but had to pull out because of injury, to be replaced by another great talent, Graeme Langlands.

In 1962, Johns achieved inter-

national prominence with a great performance in the Newcastle side which beat the British tourists. Next year, he joined Canterbury-Bankstown and immediately established himself as a star of the Sydney competition. He was chosen to play in the Tests against the touring Kiwis but was forced out injured and, as a result, found himself playing second-fiddle to Ken Thornett on the ensuing Kangaroo tour.

Johns did manage a Test against the Frenchmen in 1964 but had to retire at half-time with a damaged ankle. His only real run of top-line success was on the 1967 Kangaroo tour, when he played all six Tests, and on two visits to New Zealand (1965 and 1969) when he appeared in all Tests.

NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Sunday, May 15—3 p.m.

Harker Oval

Western Suburbs

Red and green

Coach: Gary Martine

- 1—CRAIG HUBBARD T
- 2—JAMES WESLEY TTTT
- 3—TONY AMIDY T
- 4—PETER CHAPMAN T
- 5—TIM MORRISON TT
- 6—TONY PRICE TTTT
- 7—PETER ATKINST T
- 8—MICHAEL FLANAGAN TTT
- 9—PETER WEBBER TTT
- 10—SCOTT BUDDEN
- 11—GEOFF COBURN (c) T
- 12—WAYNE NEWLING
- 13—GREG PRICE GGGGGGGG



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: F. O'Hearn

2 MITCHELL

North Newcastle

Royal blue and sky

Coach: Ziggy Niszczot

- 1—GREG CHRISTIANSEN
- 2—MARK WHEATLEY
- 3—JERRY MAULA
- 4—HARRY GARVIE
- 5—IAN LUCIETTO
- 6—STEVE RIDGEWAY
- 7—DARRYL MAXWELL
- 8—MARK PAYNE
- 9—PAT MULLENS
- 10—PETER WILLIAMS
- 11—BRUCE EDDON G
- 12—RAY KEIGHTLEY
- 13—BRETT DANN



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7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

Touch Judges: R. Hinds (Blue), G. Burgess (Red)

RESERVE GRADE — 12.55 p.m.

WESTERN SUBURBS

Coach: Glenn Armstrong

1—Wayne MOYLAN

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2—Doug GORDON | Brett FELSHAW—3 |
| 4—Greg MITCHELL | Danny BROWN—5 |
| 6—Paul HILL | Sean MARTIN—7 |
| 8—Paul DUNLOP | Wayne DAWSON—9 |
| 10—Steve SANDLAND | Greg HARRISON (c)—11 |
| 12—Graham RUSSELL | Barry LORING—13 |

Referee: R. Hinds

NORTH NEWCASTLE

Coach: Peter Taylor

1—Darren BARRETT

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 2—Mark HARWOOD | Darren JONES—3 |
| 4—Peter SULLIVAN | Mark JACKSON—5 |
| 6—Allan ARMSTRONG | Craig AFFLICK—7 |
| 8—Gerry DENT | Paul KODELA—9 |
| 10—Eddie ULBURT | Steven SAULT—11 |
| 12—Neil HALL | Phil HARRISON—13 |

Touch Judges: F. O'Hearn (Blue), G. Burgess (Red)

THIRD GRADE — 11.30 a.m.

WESTERN SUBURBS

Coach: Brett Nixon

1—David WILSON

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2—Graham HARMON | Tim WINDMILL—3 |
| 4—Shane GALLIMORE | Craig BUTTON—5 |
| 6—Scott WILKINSON | Paul HOOLE—7 |
| 8—Craig DODD | Danny O'NEILL—9 |
| 10—Craig LLOYD | Steve DONOHUE—11 |
| 12—Paul BOWEN | Brett NIXON (c)—13 |

Referee: R. Hinds

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—Dave STANFORD | Brad SMITH—13 |

Touch Judges: F. O'Hearn (Blue), G. Burgess (Red)

NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE CLUB

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First Grade

MACQUARIE UNITED 29 (T. Stevenson 2, J. Medland, J. Holt, P. Lockwood tries, J. Holt 4 goals, M. Sullivan drop goal) d LAKES UNITED 18 (L. Bowne, C. Mathias, S. McDonald tries, D. Butler 3 goals).

CENTRAL CHARLESTOWN 18 (G. Milton, W. Snowden, S. Cherry tries, W. Snowden 3 goals) d SOUTH NEWCASTLE 14 (P. Parr, P. Rees tries, P. Parr 3 goals).

MAITLAND 38 (D. Michalski 2, M. Burrows 2, M. Blundell 2, G. Eagar tries, M. Winkler 5 goals) d WARATAH 16 (Haggerty, M. Ross tries, T. Picken 4 goals).

WESTERN SUBURBS 116 (G. Mitchell 4, T. Price 4, T. Morrison 2, P. Atkins 2, M. Flanagan 2, P. Webber 2, C. Hubbard, T. Amidy, P. Chapman, G. Coburn tries, G. Price 18 goals) d NORTH NEWCASTLE 2 (B. Eddon goal).

CESSNOCK 24 (M. Callaghan, G. Shannon, M. Schofield, A. Levido tries, J. Hunter 3, M. Schofield goals) d KURRI KURRI 10 (P. Hafey, P. Williams tries, P. Williams goal).

Reserve Grade

Lakes 35 d Macquarie 20, Central 21 d South 14, Maitland 28 d Waratah 14, West 120 d North 2, Cessnock 24 d Kurri Kurri 4.

Third Grade

Lakes 50 d Macquarie 6, Central 20 d South 4, West 98 d North 0, Kurri Kurri 10 d Cessnock 8, Maitland 20 d Waratah-Mayfield 12.