

Official Publication of the Newcastle Rugby League

# Looking at League

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# Lakes take over Competition Lead

Lakes United are outright leaders in the NBN 3 Carlton United Premiership following their convincing 29 points to four win against Western Suburbs last weekend.

Lakes have accounted for Cessnock and West who many believe were the major threat in their attempt to retain the major title which they won last year.

In their match last weekend the Lakes forwards led again in great style by Robert Taylor, soon took control and at no stage let the "Rosellas" into the game and with the quality of players in their lower grades the "Seagulls" have established themselves as firm favourites to take out their second title in as many years.

The fighting spirit of the North Newcastle Club was evident when they held third placed team Cessnock for most of their game last Sunday.

Much has been said in recent weeks concerning the future of the North Club and their young first grade team spelt it out loud and clear that they have the "North spirit" that has made them one of the great clubs of the Newcastle Rugby League.

At a recent meeting with the NRL representatives of the North Committee were emphatic that their club would survive and it is up to all North supporters to adopt the same attitude as their players and officials.

Kurri Kurri retained their fourth position on the points table when

they defeated Maitland twenty-two points to twelve while South Newcastle had to work hard for their 34 points to 22 win over Central Charlestown.

Kurri and South clash on Sunday at Townson Oval in a very important match for both teams as they both still have a great chance of making the semi-finals.

Macquarie United enhanced their bid for a semi-final spot when they defeated Waratah-Mayfield 20 points to 14 but will be put to the test when they play Lakes United on Sunday at Cahill Oval. Both teams have experienced forwards in their ranks and it would not surprise to see a close and entertaining game.

Macquarie is enjoying one of its best seasons for some time with increased attendances at their home games along with the improved performances of their teams on the field.

Waratah will be looking for a win over Maitland when they travel to Maitland Sports Ground on Sunday. Although defeated last weekend they are in equal fifth position with South Newcastle and the result of this game is most important.

Although defeated by Kurri, Maitland are showing improved form as the season progresses and are capable of causing upsets to some of the more fancied teams.

# Waratah ahead in Third Grade

Waratah-Mayfield third grade team are clear leaders in the competition on fourteen points and have scored 302 points and conceded only 56.

This is the best for and against result of any teams in the competitions at this stage.

South Newcastle and Lakes United are equal in second position on 12 points with Maitland in fourth position only two points away.

Kurri Kurri, Cessnock and Central are all on eight points while West are on six.

In all, eight teams are still in a position to make the semi-finals which should ensure the competition retains interest as the second round of matches commences next weekend.

# Series 14 to be played next weekend

Series 14 of the Premiership originally set down for July 12 and 13 will now be played over the three days of the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The International fixture Newcastle v New Zealand will be played on Sunday, July 13 at the International Sports Centre.

### 200th GAME

Jon Hulbert will play his 200th game for Western Suburbs this weekend including 99 first grade. Jon came to West from Dungog in 1976 and has given the club great service.

# Supports Newcastle Rugby League

## Sunday, June 1—2.45 p.m.

### Passmore Oval



#### NBN 3-CARLTON PREMIERSHIP

#### First Grade

MAITLAND 17 (M. Threlfo, R. Baker tries, M. Threlfo 4 goals, P. Dooley drop goal) d WARATAH-MAYFIELD 14 (W. Black, W. Wilson tries, T. Vaughan 3 goals).

LAKES UNITED 22 (D. Grant, P. Walsh, J. Fowler tries, P. Walsh 5 goals) d MAC-QUARIE UNITED 14 (M. Smith, W. Snowden tries, W. Snowden 3 goals).

SOUTH NEWCASTLE 36 (L. Rotumah, J. Tongue, R. White, G. Brown, R. Jones, P. Hill tries, L. Rotumah 6 goals) d KURRI KURRI 18 (B. Peel, P. Hafey, P. Williams tries, P. Williams 3 goals).

CENTRAL CHARLESTOWN 29 (R. Harman 2, C. Hammond, C. Croese tries, G. Price 6 goals, W. Schillings drop goal) d NORTH NEWCASTLE 15 (P. Walker, M Wright tries, P. Walker 3 gcals, drop goal).

CESSNOCK 16 (D. Woodbury try. M. Schofield 3 goals. B. Davies 3 goals) d WESTERN SUBURBS 12 (C. Higgins. S. Power tries. J. Hulbert 2 goals).

#### Reserve Grade

Waratah 24 d Maitland 12. Lakes 24 d Macquarie 6. South 16 d Kurri 12. Central 58 d North 0. West 38 d Cessnock 16.

#### Third Grade

Waratah 42 d Maitland 2, Lakes 80 d Macquarie 6, South 32 d Kurri 14, Central 22 d North 12, West 14 d Cessnock 10.