



SEASON GUIDE 2017

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500+ Player Stats

Team Previews

Hot 100:
Must Have Players in 2017

Ask The Experts

Rookie Round Up

Super League Scouting

- 176 NRLCEO Points
- 34 Workhorses
- 19 Metre Eaters
- 449 Hit Ups
- 915 Tackles



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INTRODUCTION

Fellow CEOs,

Welcome back for another year of NRLCEO fantasy footy.

Firstly, thank you for purchasing "The Bible" this year. If you snagged a free copy off your mates then boo to you!

We're into our ninth year of running competitions publicly and our fourth year of our partnership with TheBench. Next year I suppose it's about time we bought the boys at TheBench a beer! Some of you will only have known us in the last four years, those who have been around longer know of the pain that we have been through.

There's a great new feature I'm sure you will all enjoy this year. Call it the Trade Room or whatever else you like. Essentially it means that instead of constant barrages of text messages or emails between your competitors you can simply flag your players you want to offer for trade and others will be able to see it publicly. So if you're on the lookout for a winger you can either search the Free Agency list or head to the Trade Room and see what's on offer. I hope you enjoy it.

HUGE thank you to Scott Beeby who took over the graphic design of the guide this year. Not only has he saved me many hours of hacking the design myself, he has stepped up the design to a professional level and I'm sure you will agree it is the best guide yet! Great work Scott and thank you for all your hard work.

With the countdown to round one well and truly on, our attention is now solely on the initial (and arguably the most exciting) phase of NRLCEO - the Draft.

Please get in touch with us at nrlceo@y7mail.com if you have any questions or feedback. We love hearing from you!

Good luck in the 2017 season and we hope you enjoy the NRLCEO Season Guide.

Cheers,

The NRLCEO CEO

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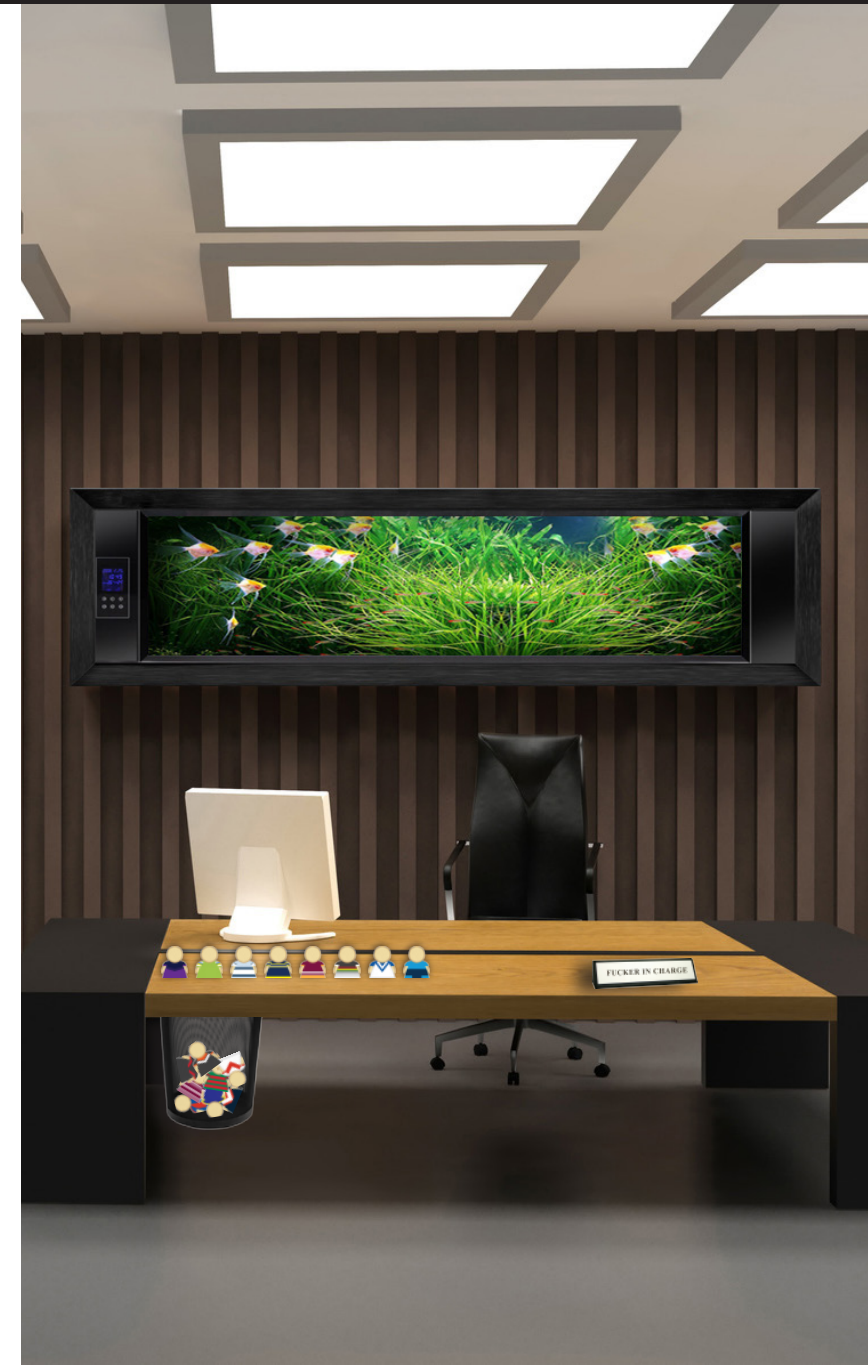
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TIPS FROM THE BOARD ROOM

We asked our fans on Facebook what they thought were the best tips for CEOs.

These are some of their responses:

- Do your research and buy the NRLCEO Season Guide
- Free up your Tuesday afternoon schedule from 5pm. It's Team List Tuesday announcements and that's where you'll pick up gold.
- Go by stats rather than big name players.
- Get a quality kicker but focus on your forward pack early in the draft.
- Don't draft under the influence. You might draft Peter Wallace and Tim Mannah in the third and fourth round and ruin your season before it starts.
- Superstars on the NRL field do not always equate to superstars in NRLCEO and vice versa.
- The top try scorers of the last five years (outside of Semi Radradra) are always out of the blue. Don't waste an early pick on a big name winger.
- Listen to the NRLCEO podcasts. Those guys know their shit.
- If a trade is too good to be true... it probably is! Always do a Google News search and check the player is not injured or dropped before you accept the trade.
- Get yourself a great Pom or Kiwi. No Origin duties means you can pick up a few extra wins over that period.
- If you don't agree with the NRLCEO kicker points make sure you pick up the lower ranked kicker point players. They will become a great bargaining tool if you don't need to use them.
- Always try your best to pick up the back-up kicker for the kicker you draft. E.g. If you draft Cam Smith, make sure you get Tohu Harris. It's called hand-cuffing and it will save you a lot of grief.
- Watching more games helps you to pick up emerging talent other managers in your league might not know about.



THE PREMIUM NRLCEO LEAGUE

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Welcome to the seventh annual Legends of League Tournament!

We like to call it the most popular drafting promotion/relegation tournament in Australia! To be fair it's probably the only one, but it's also your only chance to pit yourself against the best NRLCEOs and 'the Gurus' who established NRLCEO over ten years ago now.

Reading this guide is the best preparation for playing NRLCEO as one of the writers of this document is a multiple time winner of the Champions League and Wally Lewis Legends of League competitions.

Last year's final was won by CEO Scott Seeto in charge of Soup-a-Stars. So he is the one to beat in the Champion's League and he'll also be trying to win the Andrew Johns Competition too.

So let's get started. Below is an outline of each tier:

The Top Tier is the Champions League Competition where 10 victorious Legends of League teams will vie for the honour of becoming the ultimate Champion of Champions. The top four are automatically invited to have another crack at the title in 2018.

The Second Tier is made up of six Legends of League competitions where eight teams in each competition will compete for a solitary position in the Champions League. The four lowest ranked teams will be relegated while the remainder will be invited back the following year for another shot with the champion obviously defending their title.

The Third Tier is made up of six Rookie Qualifying Competitions. Each of these have been renamed after NRLCEO superstars of yesteryear.

In each of these competitions, the top four finishers after finals will progress to the Legends of League Competitions where they will take on seasoned NRLCEO Coaches.

As there are now incumbents in all of the competitions, there will be limited positions available to new entrants.

The entry fee for coaches to enter Legends of League Competitions (Tier 2) and the Qualifying Leagues (Tier 3) is \$10 per team.



THE 2016 WINNERS

Champions League Champion

Soup-a-Stars

Legends of League Champions

Wally Lewis Champion:

Gurus

Andrew Johns Champion:

Hell Boy

Clive Churchill Champion:

Incredible Miracles

Arthur Beetson Champion:

Team Enormous

Allan Langer Champion:

Briggsy's Dentites

Mal Meninga Champion:

Happy Trails

Qualifying League Champions

Hazem El Masri Champion:

GC Raiders

Darren Lockyer Champion:

Koropalek Spoilers

Sam Burgess Champion:

Pete's Piston's

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAMPION

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Much like his avatar counterpart, Scott Seeto is a stone cold killer who chokes the life out of his opponents. At least that's what the other players in the 2016 Champions League (CL) will tell you.



When an NRLCEO player of his calibre talks, you listen. We asked him a few questions leading into the new season and he was kind enough to answer them. Pay close attention and you just might pick up some sage advice.

What was your drafting strategy heading in 2016?

This was my first year in CL and first time going through a Snake draft format. I really didn't know what to expect but liked that I had some time to digest drafts that had gone before and after me, and as a result my picks were largely determined by those around me for the latter stages of the draft.

I went in hoping to get a good kicker followed by a steady Workhorse (WH) type in each of the forward positions with my early picks, then winged it from there.

Who was your first draft pick and were you happy with him?

Cameron Smith. I was pretty stoked to get him as he was captain / kicker material, but there was a downside in that he would miss some rounds because of rep footy.

When you had a 50/50 call on picking a captain, how did you pick him?

I tended to favour a WH forward over a try scoring back.

How much weight do you put on preseason form when drafting?

Not much but I tried to keep an eye out on potential smokeys for the later stages of the draft.

Do you normally select with your head or your heart?

Head. I would have selected the entire Sharks team if I had to select with my heart. Hows about those Sharkies though huh?!?!? #upupcronulla #premiers2016

Who was the worst player you drafted in 2016?

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. I selected him pretty early. Even when he wasn't injured he didn't have the point scoring impact as he did when he was at the Roosters the previous season.

How was the pressure in the final few weeks? How did you handle it?

I had a couple of weeks off during the finals series so didn't feel it too much. I was just hoping no one in my squad got injured or rested (I had Cameron Smith and Cooper Cronk)

How did you feel when you realised you won the Champions League?

I was ecstatic! I didn't think I would win it in the first year in the toughest competition. My brother Brian was also in CL so it was definitely good to get one up on him and see his team making little to no impact on the comp. He deserved to be relegated back to Legends Of League (LOL) haha.

Who will be your biggest rival in 2017?

It will probably be Mig (NRLCEO founder). He always seems to be thereabouts in comps I've played against him. One of the newbies next year in CL will be my cousin Brad who beat me in the Churchill LOL final by a measley one point only because i changed my season long captain J Friend to Merrin hoping for a DWH, but ended up contributing a big fat 0 to my score.

I told Brad that he should change his team name to The Bradburys after the infamous speed skater. I look forward to sending him back to LOL as well.

Who's your #1 target player for 2017?

Surely you can't expect me to answer that haha! I feel like I've given away too much already :)



ASK THE EXPERTS

We asked the winners of each competition about their experience in the Supporters League. Their tips might be able to steer you on the track to success - or they might be trying to throw you off!

The 2016 Supporters League Champions decked out in their jerseys they won from winning in 2016:



Mick Hoyle (Broncos) Supporter League I	Dean Blandford (Cowboys) Supporter League II	Troy McCormack (Cowboys) Supporter League III	Adam Ambrose (Warriors) Supporter League IV
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Note: Mig's beloved Cowboys were stolen by "The Godfather" Cappa so he had to represent the Broncos despite hating them!

What did you think of the Supporters League concept?

MH: Whoever thought of this concept is a genius. It is original, let's me follow and cheer on the guns in my NRL team. *Disclaimer: it was Mick's concept!*

DB: I had a great time with this competition. It's even better if you are a Cowboys fan! I got first pick at a quality team before anyone else and it's easier to cheer on your own players.

TM: I liked the idea of being able to pick a large group of players from the team you support, an extra reason to cheer them on and it makes it easier not to have anyone from Manly in your squad...

AA: I loved the Supporters Competition. Getting to draft and trade outside of your normal league group adds a whole lot more depth in knowledge. The 16 teams makes the competition brutal!

What's your best advice for winning a Supporters Competition?

MH: Don't enter the same competition as me - you're playing for second if you do!

The beauty of the Supporter's Cup is that anyone can win this title as long as a) you've got a kicker and b) you choose your captain wisely each week and c) you stay motivated and aren't afraid to hit the free agency market!

DB: The best advice I can offer new coaches is to maintain your team to the swings in form of NRL teams throughout the year.

Take a punt on rookie players who show great potential (Vunivalu, French) over established players (Taufua, Edrick Lee) as it may turn into gold. Be ahead of the game: Don't wait and think, should I pick up a player, actually do it.

Name players in the "captain" position who are playing milestone games or it is their birthday - There is every chance they will have a big one. Or if you like to play it safe, pick a hard working backrower to carry the "C" tag. Pick a fringe ball runner like Proctor, Harris, B. Thompson or E. Lowe as they work hard, play 80 and regularly cross the white line.

Finally, don't talk too much smack! The fantasy gods have a strange way of punishing over confident coaches.

TM: Whether its an NRL team or an NRLCEO team, JT should be your #1 pick.

AA: Pay attention to the late value in the draft.

You'll need to take some punts on players mid season on the back of injuries and suspensions. In a tightly contested year, a mid season pick up like Suliasi Vunivalu or Mitch Barnett, and trading/terminating someone like Shaun Fansom can score you wins in close matches. There's no room for rotting wood in this competition, no matter their reputation.

Will you be back to defend your title in 2017?

MH: "I'll be back, baby!"

DB: I look forward to going back to back in 2017. Go the Cowboys!

TM: I'll be back for more next year. A few teams dropped out of the comp I was in early on so there was quite a few bye rounds, so I'm keen to fill the comp this year!

AA: Absolutely. It's my title now and I don't intend on giving it up easily. If I can take a team of donkeys like the Warriors through the championship this year, I'll happily take another jersey off you all again next year!

Third Annual Supporters Cup Series Expands

The initial Supporters Cup was run in 2015 with 16 CEOs representing their NRL teams in an attempt for glory - and of course win the prize - an NRL jersey of their own as a reward.

We set the competitions up early this year and have managed to fill six competitions! That's 96 teams playing what has now become our biggest public league. It's even bigger than Legends of League, but the Champions League is still the pinnacle for now.

How does it work?

- There are 16 teams in each competition each representing
- Each team drafts six players from their club before the draft begins
- Once every team has picked their six players a draft begins to fill a squad of 17
- The draft order is based on the reverse order of the bookies odds to win the competition (therefore Newcastle gets first pick and the Storm last) and then goes in snake order

If you missed out this year, make sure you get in touch early next year to get involved.

ROOKIE WATCH

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Formerly known as Under 20's watch, we are renaming this segment to Rookie Watch as in 2018 there will no longer be a National Youth Competition as we know it. So for the purpose of this article we're going to define a rookie as someone who has played less than half a season – 12 games or less in the top grade.

Last year we tipped big things for Tom Trbojevic, Latrell Mitchell, Liam Knight, Ash Taylor, Danny Levi, Te Maire Martin, Coen Hess and Gideon Gela-Mosby. Six out of eight isn't too bad right?!? Liam Knight got high on Aeroguard and Gideon Gela-Mosby got dropped for disciplinary reasons. That's just rugby league for you.

We can't predict the future though. We definitely missed the rise of Nathan Cleary who came a year or so earlier than we expected. Suliasi Vunvalu was the other rookie we missed, but I think everyone missed his rise!

So who's on our radar for this year?

The hottest rookie in the game is of course **Kalyn Ponga**. The million dollar man/boy is undoubtedly going to be under huge pressure to perform for the Knights once he arrives. In the meantime though, he will be fighting for a position in one of the best rosters in the NRL at the Cowboys. If he was at the Knights, plenty of people might have jumped early in the draft, but you should be able to pick him up in the last three rounds if you are happy to carry him.

The top try scorer in the NYC last season was also at the Cowboys. In 25 games for the Cowboys youngsters, **Marcus Jensen** scored 27 tries and also topped the line breaks with 28. The Kingaroy Red Ants junior is in a long line for a wing spot in first grade though. Kyle Feldt and Antonio Winterstein are the incumbents and Jensen, Javid Bowen, Gideon Gela-Mosby and Kalyn Ponga will all be fighting for a jersey.



Kalyn Ponga



Marcus Jensen



Matt Dufty



Jai Arrow



Nat Butcher



Jadyn Brailey

The great white hope for the Dragons fans for the last few years is fullback **Matt Dufty**. He has scored 54 tries in 65 games in the Under 20's including 23 from 22 in 2016 (second top try scorer in the NYC). He also was the fifth top try assists with 22 in as many games. He's not a tall rangy fullback like most in the NRL today, but he is quick on his feet and a superb support player.

On the lookout for the next young workhorse? Look no further than Bronco **Jai Arrow**. He played 12 games for the Broncos in 2016 with only one workhorse to his name, but he had a bloke called Corey Parker ahead of him. He no longer does and if he can break into the starting line-up then he is well worth drafting for his potential – particularly those of you in keeper leagues.

Keep an eye on young **Nat Butcher** at the Roosters too. A chip off the old block, some of you may remember his old man Blake Butcher who played for the Rabbitohs in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The rangy backrower and captain of the NYC Roosters, Butcher led the tackle count with 1,049 tackles and also led the runs with 448 runs in 24 games. That's an average of 43 tackles and 18 runs per game – putting him on target for several double workhorses.

The Rookie himself – **Lou Goodwin** won the reality TV competition and was offered a contract with the Titans or the Raiders. Already a member of the Mounties, the Raiders feeder team, he decided to stay with the Raiders and aside from a full preseason with the top squad, he will likely remain with the Mounties unless serious injuries strike.

The Sharks lost a lot when Mick Ennis retired and it's still not obvious who his replacement will be. **Jayden Brailey** was the second top tackler in the NYC with 1,026 tackles in 26 games at an average of 39 tackles per game and more importantly topped the try assist tally with 31. He will be tussling with Manaia Cherrington and Dan Mortimer for the hooking duties. Keep in mind the Sharks only played one hooker in their Premiership drought breaking season.

SUPER LEAGUE SCOUTING

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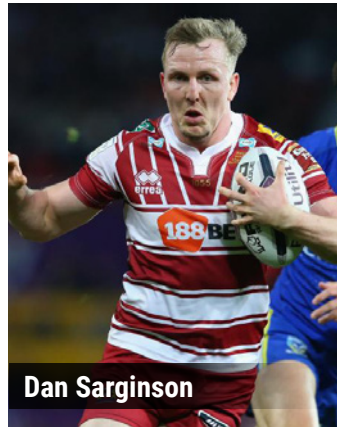


I don't think we'll end up seeing any of the following names in the Dream Team but it's worth looking at their chances anyway. There are six players returning from the Super League to play in the NRL and taking the total Brits in the NRL to over ten now.

The most high profile signing is English international **Dan Sarginson**. Born in Perth, but growing up in the UK, the biggest upside of Sarginson is that he is just 22 years old. He's not exactly an attacking super star with 21 tries in 56 games in the Super League and just four tries in 2016. His other upside is his versatility playing fullback too and his handy off load (he had 48 last season). If you have Metre Eaters in your competition then he's a smokey. Playing at fullback for Wigan he was the sixth highest in metres gained. We expect him to slot into the centres for the Titans inside journeyman Dan Vidot from Round 1 and with their ever improving line-up he's well worth drafting in the top ten centres in your draft.

Can the Coal Train succeed at his fourth club? **Dave Taylor** is now 28 years old and majority would agree he's on his last chance in the NRL. If he fails to gain a contract with the Raiders then it's hard to see any other NRL clubs picking him up. On his day, he is one of the most damaging players in the competition. The next day he is lazy, lethargic and uninterested. Back in 2014 he finished with 65 NRLCEO points including seven tries. The next year he flopped scoring only 36 points. Last season he finished eighth in the offload tally with 39 in 19 appearances for the Catalans in France. Can he do it? I think he can be an asset to the Raiders, but he's not on my NRLCEO radar for this year.

We've seen the name **Ken Sio** on NRLCEO before. Back in 2014 playing for the Eels he scored 70 NRLCEO points including 13 tries in just 12 games. Prior to that he scored 10 tries in the process of racking up 49 NRLCEO points in 20 games. Then he headed overseas to play wing for Hull Kingston Rovers scoring 30 tries in 48 games playing at both wing and fullback. Now at the Knights it's hard to see him scoring multiple tries per game. He'll likely start on one wing outside of Pat Mata'utia which isn't the strongest edge, so hope that your competition forgets that he's back in the NRL and snaffle him in a late round and hope.



Dan Sarginson



Dave Taylor



Ken Sio



Jordan Turner

The Raiders have made a habit of turning Super League players into stars with Josh Hodgson, Elliott Whitehead and Sia Soliola all improving their games since moving to the nation's capital. **Jordan Turner** is the man attempting to make it four from four, but while I can see him providing utility value, I can't see him making an impact in NRLCEO scoring.

With Kurt Baptiste missing at least half the season due to an ACL injury, early form suggest Jordan Turner will become the utility on the Raiders bench. He won't get the minutes to be a workhorse, but he will at least be a warm body in the starting 17 to fill out your squad and has a proven try scoring ability having scored 44 tries over the past four seasons. If injury strikes the Raiders halves then he will be amongst the first choice to stand in for Austin or Sezer too and could get a position upgrade or two throughout the year too. The downside is that he is error prone and you can't make simple mistakes in the NRL and cover it up.

Returning Broncos **Mitchell Dodds** played 76 games for Brisbane between 2010 and 2015. He scored three tries and zero workhorses. He's coming off an unsuccessful stint with the Warrington Wolves in the north of England where he played just two games and succumbed to a seriously bad broken leg. Nothing will change here. He is a footnote and won't make first grade outside of Origin time.

The last man to sign from the Super League and therefore the last to profile is **Joe Wardell** who joins the Knights from the Huddersfield Giants. He was scheduled to come to the NRL in 2018 but came a year earlier after a direct player swap with Jake Mamo. The 25 year old back rower or centre sounds attractive at face value but our scouts tell us that he is already off the NRL pace in preseason training and will struggle to make an impact early on. With 62 tries in 144 games in the Super League his scoring record sounds ok at first glance, but we've seen guys with 1:1 try scoring rations struggle in the NRL. He is only the fourth British import in the Knights' history, after Chris Joynt, Lee Jackson and Brian Carney. He has also represented Scotland six times. I'd give him a miss unless it's the last two rounds and you just want to get on the beers.

2016 DREAM TEAM

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	Players	Games	Tries	Goals	FG	40/20s	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	SB	2016 Total
1	Ben Barba	24	15	0	0	0	0	11	19	14	15	0	149
2	Jordan Rapana	24	20	0	0	0	0	14	8	23	2	0	149
3	Joey Leilua	22	11	0	0	0	0	20	9	8	19	1	127
4	Jarrod Croker	24	17	104	0	0	0	14	7	14	6	0	130 (338)
5	Tom Trbojevic	23	10	0	0	0	0	24	11	19	9	0	138
6	Anthony Milford	24	13	8	4	0	0	14	18	14	19	0	149 (165)
7	Cooper Cronk	23	11	0	3	1	0	0	25	7	22	0	123
8	James Graham	24	0	0	0	0	34	19	0	0	2	0	176
9	Cameron Smith	23	2	83	2	4	22	0	15	3	13	0	142 (308)
10	Aiden Tolman	24	1	0	0	0	29	10	0	0	0	0	140
11	Ethan Lowe	24	9	7	0	0	19	6	1	8	1	0	135
12	Ryan James	24	11	0	0	0	24	7	2	10	2	0	170
13	Sam Burgess	23	5	0	0	0	26	17	0	5	3	0	166

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TOP 100 PLAYERS IN 2016

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#	Player	Score	Position Rank	#	Player	Score	Position Rank	#	Player	Score	Position Rank	#	Player	Score	Position Rank
1.	J. Graham	176	FR1	26.	M. Lichaa	119	HK5	51.	M. Moses	96	FE4	76.	T. Frizell	81	BR23
2.	R. James	170	FR2	27.	S. Johnson	117	HB2	52.	J. Roberts	95	CE6	77.	Z. Taia	81	BR24
3.	S. Burgess	166	BR1	28.	D. Finucane	113	BR9	53.	E. Aitken	95	CE7	78.	J. Bird	80	CE9
4.	A. Milford	149	FE1	29.	J. Taumalolo	113	BR10	54.	M. Morgan	94	FE5	79.	A. Winterstein	79	WG11
5.	J. Rapanā	149	WG1	30.	C. Munster	112	FB4, FE2	55.	T. Peachey	94	CE8	80.	L. Brooks	79	HB6
6.	C. Smith	148	HK1	31.	S. Kata	112	CE3	56.	D. Klemmer	93	BR17	81.	J. Buhner	79	BR25
7.	A. Tolman	140	FR3	32.	S. Radradra	110	WG4	57.	D. Nofoluma	93	WG7	82.	D. Napa	78	FR8
8.	T. Trbojevic	138	FB1	33.	S. Mannering	110	BR11	58.	J. Thurston	93	HB5	83.	E. Taylor	78	BR26
9.	E. Lowe	135	BR2	34.	B. Ferguson	109	FB5, CE4	59.	M. Moylan	93	FB8	84.	S. Feki	78	WG12
10.	E. Whitehead	134	BR3	35.	C. Oates	109	WG5	60.	I. Luke	91	HK6	85.	D. C-Evans	77	HB7
11.	T. Merrin	134	BR4	36.	J. McGuire	109	FR5	61.	A. Guerra	90	BR18	86.	J. Kahu	77	WG13, CE10
12.	T. Harris	133	BR5	37.	D. Boyd	108	FB6	62.	D. Fusitua	90	WG8, CE9	87.	S. K-Dowall	77	WG14, CE11
13.	M. Rein	132	HK2	38.	S. Vunivalu	107	WG6	63.	J. Jackson	90	BR19	88.	G. Beale	76	WG15, CE12
14.	J. Croker	130	CE1	39.	G. Cooper	105	BR12	64.	N. Peats	89	HK7	89.	C. Gutherson	75	FE9
15.	J. Friend	130	HK3	40.	J. Bromwich	105	FR6	65.	B. French	88	FB9	90.	B. Ayshford	75	CE13
16.	J. Hodgson	130	HK4	41.	C. Walker	104	FE3	66.	G. Inglis	88	FB10	91.	C. Townsend	75	HB8
17.	J. Trbojevic	128	BR6	42.	B. Hunt	104	HB3	67.	J. Reynolds	88	FE6	92.	D. Tupou	75	WG16
18.	C. Cronk	127	HB1	43.	B. Thompson	100	BR13	68.	P. Wallace	87	HK8	93.	C. McQueen	74	BR27
19.	J. Leilua	127	CE2	44.	K. Naiqama	99	CE5	69.	L. Mitchell	86	FB11, WG9	94.	L. Lewis	74	BR28
20.	B. Cartwright	125	BR7, FE7	45.	M. Mbye	98	HB4	70.	J. Papalii	86	BR20	95.	M. Ma'u	74	BR29
21.	J. Mansour	124	WG2	46.	K. Proctor	98	BR14	71.	C. McInnes	85	HK9	96.	J. Taufua	72	WG17
22.	P. Gallen	124	BR8	47.	W. Graham	98	BR15	72.	N. Macdonald	85	WG10	97.	W. Hopoate	72	FB12, CE13
23.	J. Tedesco	123	FB2	48.	A. Woods	97	FR7	73.	M. Gillett	84	BR21	98.	M. Taupau	71	BR30
24.	A. Fifita	121	FR4	49.	J. Wighton	97	FB7	74.	B. Cordner	83	BR22	99.	G. Widdop	70	FE10
25.	V. Holmes	120	FB3, WG3	50.	J. de Belin	96	BR16	75.	T. Lolohea	82	FE8	100.	J. Morris	69	CE14

TOP PLAYERS FROM 2016

FULLBACKS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Ben Barba	15	11	19	14	149
Tom Trbojevic	10	24	11	19	138
Valentine Holmes	18	12	2	19	120
Cameron Munster	4	24	11	12	112
Blake Ferguson	11	19	8	8	109

FIVE EIGHTHS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Anthony Milford	13	18	14	19	149
Cameron Munster	4	11	12	14	112
Cody Walker	8	12	14	12	104
Michael Morgan	8	17	11	11	94
Mitchell Moses	6	18	12	14	92

HALF BACKS	TR	TA	LB	LBA	TOTAL
Cooper Cronk	11	25	7	22	123
Shaun Johnson	10	17	15	21	116
Ben Hunt	7	22	9	19	104
Moses Mbye	8	17	9	13	98
Johnathan Thurston	2	25	4	26	92

HOOKERS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Cameron Smith	2	22	15	13	142
Mitch Rein	2	26	4	4	132
Jake Friend	1	24	11	6	130
Josh Hodgson	4	11	19	16	128
Michael Lichaa	3	20	9	7	119

WINGERS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Jordan Rapanapa	20	14	8	23	149
Josh Mansour	15	23	1	15	124
Valentine Holmes	18	12	2	19	120
Semi Radradra	12	16	5	16	110
Corey Oates	15	14	1	19	109
Suliasi Vunivalu	22	3	0	13	107
David Nofoaluma	14	9	2	14	93
David Fusitua	11	12	3	13	90
Latrell Mitchell	14	6	2	13	86
Nene Macdonald	10	19	2	2	85

CENTRES	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Jarrold Croker	17	14	7	14	130
Joseph Leilua	11	20	9	8	127
Solomone Kata	15	16	2	13	112
Blake Ferguson	11	19	8	8	109
Kevin Naiqama	11	10	8	7	99
James Roberts	9	16	6	12	95
Euan Aitken	7	17	2	8	95
Tyrone Peachey	11	5	8	13	94
David Fusitua	11	12	3	13	90
Jack Bird	6	15	6	8	80

KICKERS	GOALS	ATTEMPTS	%
Jarrold Croker	112	138	81%
Johnathan Thurston	96	114	84%
James Maloney	94	121	77%
Cameron Smith	92	122	75%
Michael Gordon	71	91	78%

FRONT ROWERS	TR	WH	DWH	ME	TOTAL
James Graham	0	24	10	19	176
Ryan James	11	20	4	7	170
Aiden Tolman	1	22	7	10	140
Andrew Fifita	2	16	0	22	121
Josh McGuire	0	20	2	10	109
Jesse Bromwich	3	14	0	12	105
Aaron Woods	1	13	0	14	97
Dylan Napa	1	15	1	5	78
Martin Taupau	3	9	0	10	71
Ben Matulino	1	12	1	5	68

BACK ROWERS	TR	WH	DWH	ME	TOTAL
Sam Burgess	5	21	5	17	166
Ethan Lowe	9	19	0	6	135
Elliot Whitehead	5	21	0	1	134
Trent Merrin	5	18	2	14	134
Tohu Harris	8	15	1	10	133
Jake Trbojevic	4	19	2	5	128
Bryce Cartwright	8	10	0	7	125
Paul Gallen	4	13	3	16	124
Dale Finucane	2	21	1	5	113
Jason Taumalolo	6	9	0	22	113
Simon Mannering	5	20	0	0	110
Gavin Cooper	9	13	0	1	105
Bodene Thompson	6	14	1	1	100
Kevin Proctor	6	16	0	1	98
Wade Graham	2	13	0	9	98

BYE ANALYSIS

There are always three hard-hitting rounds, where a lot of teams are on the bye – the weekends before all three Origin encounters, titled 'Origin week' in the above graphic – rounds 12, 15 and 18.

Having too many players from these teams heavily impacts the degree of difficulty in successfully fielding a strong team during those weeks.

Souths and (like last year) Parramatta come out clean, regarding non-Origin players. None of their byes coincide with any of the pre-Origin weekends (add to the equation they'll be playing against depleted lineups in those rounds!).

The Storm and Sharks fixture semi-favourably, too, with only one bye each falling on a pre-Origin weekend, while the Bulldogs and Roosters are the only other clubs in that situation.

The flip side, of course, is that Origin representatives from the above mentioned teams will miss additional club appearances... because their byes do not fall on a pre-Origin weekend.

HERE ARE THE MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- Non-Origin Eels and Rabbitohs become valuable assets mid-season, playing in all the major bye weekends, helping your chances of fielding full teams all through June and July.
- Eels and Rabbitohs that do play Origin will miss FIVE regular season games. That's huge. Not saying don't draft them based on this alone, but be wary. This might affect guys like Michael Jennings, Greg Inglis and possibly Robbie Farah.
- Melbourne's run clears up in week 13 after getting an initial bye out of the way.
- Cronulla's non-rep players will stay headache-free up until its round 18 bye.
- The Dogs and Roosters are available in two of the three major bye weekends, both scheduled for byes in rounds 15 and 19.
- The Broncos, Raiders and Warriors stay clear of the chaos early, but have drawn weeks off in rounds 15 and 18.
- The Cowboys, Dragons, Tigers and Titans have 'bad' byes in rounds 12 and 18.
- The Knights, Panthers and Sea Eagles miss rounds 12 and 15, hurting hard. A word of warning for CEOs – limit drafting too players from these three clubs together.



GAMES MISSED BY ORIGIN PLAYERS

- 5: Eels, Rabbitohs
- 4: Bulldogs Roosters, Sharks Storm
- 3: All remaining clubs

Phil Prior writes about all things fantasy for Fox Sports, primarily NRL, AFL and BBL. He is a long term CEO having played since 2010.

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BRONCOS

2013	2014	2015	2016
12th	8th	2nd	5th

Premiership Odds: \$9
Premierships: 6
Bye Rounds: 15 & 18



The Second Coming of God?

Wayne Bennett seriously needs to reinvent his attitude if the Broncos are to fulfil their destiny anytime soon. Surprisingly, it has been a decade since the glamour franchise last tasted premiership success and the knives are out!

In 2017, the Broncos are coming off arguably their most disappointing season to date – many predicted them to be runaway minor premiers in a season in which they ultimately flopped badly.

Speaking of flopping, who takes NRLCEO God, Corey Parker's workload is an essential factor for the NRLCEO coach to consider. If you read much into the 2016 season, it seems that Jai Arrow won't be the automatic starter that many would suggest.

Bennett seems intent on bleeding the youngster slowly which means the old heads of Alex Glenn and Sam Thaiday could see themselves spending more time in the middle while Arrow is eased in with his minutes gradually building over the course of the season.

Historically, Broncos players have always been handy in NRLCEO, especially when they are on song and firing. Anthony Milford will again hold the key to the Broncos attack but the axe hovering over Ben Hunt's Bronco future has the potential to single-handedly hijack a promising season.

For the NRLCEO coach, the value seems to be in the tried and tested performers. McGuire, McCullough and Gillett are standouts for workhorses with the odd pie. In the backs, Corey Oates is a top wing pick but rumblings in the media have him spending some time in the back row this season – that's a BIG concern. James Roberts is the other try scorer but his tendency to go missing for long periods of the season is a concern.

The typical kicking conundrum at the Broncos seems likely to confuse NRLCEO coaches for yet another season at least. Jordan Kahu is the obvious choice as his apprenticeship behind Parker showed more than a glimpse of ability but his injury history will be a constant worry if relying on him as your first string talisman.

Milford is the other option with ability and confidence never an issue. Handcuffing them by drafting them both is an option for the astute coach but you'll have to rate the Broncos attack highly to pull the trigger on that tactic. They have the potential to rack up the points but we all know that Wayne Bennett can also pull a defensive structure out too.

Overall, the Broncos franchise is feeling the heat. Despite being a powerhouse club of the NRL, they have failed to deliver for a while now and the pressure is on from their faithful fans and dedicated beneficiaries.

There are tonnes of draft options in this squad but taking into consideration Origin commitments, a tough draw and Bennett's stubbornness to change his game plan is something that must weigh heavily when considering Bronco recruits.

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benji MarshallTautau MogaMoses Pangai	<ul style="list-style-type: none">David MeadMitchell DoddsKorbin Sims
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corey ParkerJack ReedGreg Eden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jarrold WallaceLachlan MarantaCarlin Anderson

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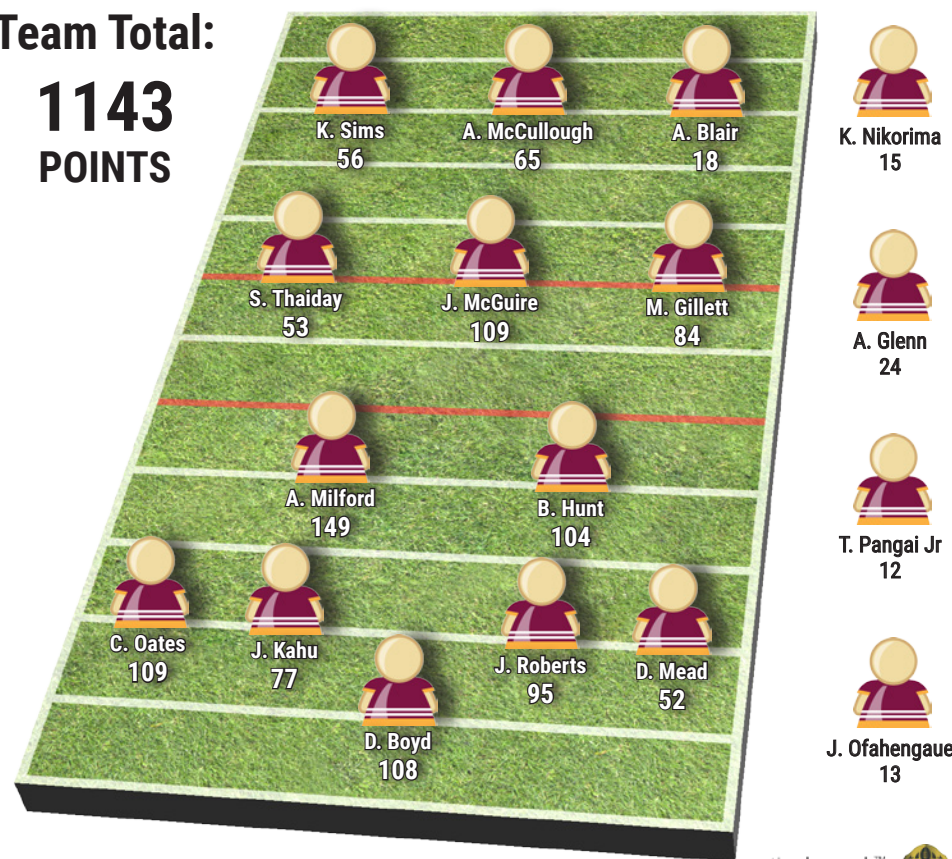
2016 MVP
Anthony Milford

Tries: 13
Try Assists: 18
Linebreaks: 14
Line Break Assists: 19
Metre Eaters: 14

149
POINTS

Team Total:

1143
POINTS



Other Players: B. Marshall, T. Moga, M. Pangai, T. Opacic

BRONCOS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Anthony Milford	FE (2 KP)	24	13	8	0	14	18	14	19	149 (165)	107 (115)	111 (117)
Corey Oates	WG	20	15	0	0	14	1	19	0	109	58	24
Josh McGuire	FR	22	0	0	22	10	0	0	1	109	54	105
Darius Boyd	FB	23	9	0	0	9	14	9	17	108	36	33
Ben Hunt	HB	24	7	0	1	0	22	9	19	104	95 (103)	132 (172)
James Roberts	CT	24	9	0	0	16	6	12	3	95	91 (93)	27
Matt Gillett	BR	19	3	0	17	0	0	4	0	84	102	101
Jordan Kahu	WG, CT (7 KP)	18	12	32	0	7	2	8	3	77 (141)	65 (103)	5
Andrew McCullough	HK	19	0	0	13	0	4	0	2	65	127	117
Sam Thaiday	BR	20	4	0	5	1	4	3	4	53	59	82
David Mead	WG	17	6	0	0	9	2	6	2	52	26	26
Benji Marshall	CT, HB (1 KP)	16	2	0	0	2	12	2	10	49	81	57
Tom Opacic	CT	8	4	0	0	1	1	5	1	26	0	DNP
Alex Glenn	BR	21	2	0	2	1	1	1	3	24	81	59
Adam Blair	FR	22	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	18	44	42
Kodi Nikorima	FB, HK	16	2	0	0	0	1	3	2	15	11	DNP
Joe Ofahengaue	FR	17	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	13	0	DNP
Tevita Pangai Junior	BR	13	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	12	0	DNP
Jonas Pearson	WG	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	10	DNP	DNP
Travis Waddell	HK	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	9	0	8
Jai Arrow	BR	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	DNP
Jayden Su'a	BR	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	DNP	DNP
Herman Ese'ese	FR	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP
Tautau Moga	CT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	27
Mitchell Dodds	FR	2*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	DNP	0

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Anthony Milford gets plenty of love and plenty of ball when the game is on the line these days. He's the number 1 non-kicking half in the game and was ranked #4 overall last year – draft him if your main kicker plays outside of the halves!

Ben Hunt is on the nose and looking to get out with a big money transfer. He's been crap since the 2015 Grand Final and things won't get much better until a 'sea change' comes his way.

NOT

BULLDOGS

2013	2014	2015	2016
6th	7th	5th	7th

Premiership Odds: \$17
Premierships: 8
Bye Rounds: 15 & 19



Workhorse Clones To Deliver Again

Des Hasler is under the pump this season with critics slaying the Bulldog's lack of flair inside the attacking twenty. Quite simply, when your props are your best ball players, you are always going to have issues.

Once again, Captain James Graham and his clone Aiden Tolman are set for a lot of work up front – two hit ups each set coupled with endless tackling is a beautiful thing in NRLCEO and both boppers are excellent captaincy candidates for the NRLCEO coach.

Josh Jackson is the other obvious draft choice when it comes to Doggy forwards but he is not the workhorse that he appears at face value. Concussions are also in play for the right edge backrower as he tends to get his head into poor positions with his lower tackling style.

With the exception of Michael Lichaa, the rest of the forwards are used sparingly – primarily because Graham and Tolman are so valuable to the Bulldog's style of play. Lichaa is one of only a few 80 minute hookers remaining in the game, but they still have Craig Garvey on the books so don't bank on it.

In the backs, the halves are forgettable. Sure, Josh Reynolds plays hard and gets the odd try but there are plenty of other better options. Moses Mbye is also under pressure to perform as he failed to deliver last season in a big way.

Out wide, the combination of the Morris brothers is still a good one. Brett may still sneak into the Origin squad but he's a great finisher and injuries avoided – he's a decent option for a mid-draft winger.

On the other side, the Dogs are set to go with Holland and possibly Brenko Lee. Both are quite green and will take time to gel but a solid off-season should take care of that. Holland's value will definitely improve if the Belmore boys get off to a flyer as he is a safer option with the boots than Mbye and won't hurt the kicker limit!

At the back, Will Hopoate showed last season that he has what it takes and he surprised many with his scoring ability in the first half of the season. However, missing Sunday games is not ideal and something that the NRLCEO coach shouldn't have to contend with.

Overall, the Doggies possess some of the best recruitment targets on the market however, a game plan shake up could mess with that a little this season. Graham is also 31 years old and he has to slow down eventually doesn't he? If he doesn't, then he'll likely find himself on the cover of this guide again next year...

Player Changes

Gains	• Brenko Lee	• Richie Kennar
	• Ray F-Mariner	• Josh Cleeland
	• Zac Woolford	• Asipeli Fine
	• Lachlan Lewis	• Francis Tualau
Losses	• Sam Perrett	• Curtis Rona
	• Tony Williams	• Tim Browne
	• Shaun Lane	• Dane Chisholm
	• Lloyd Perrett	• Makahesi Makatoa
	• Pat O'Hanlon	



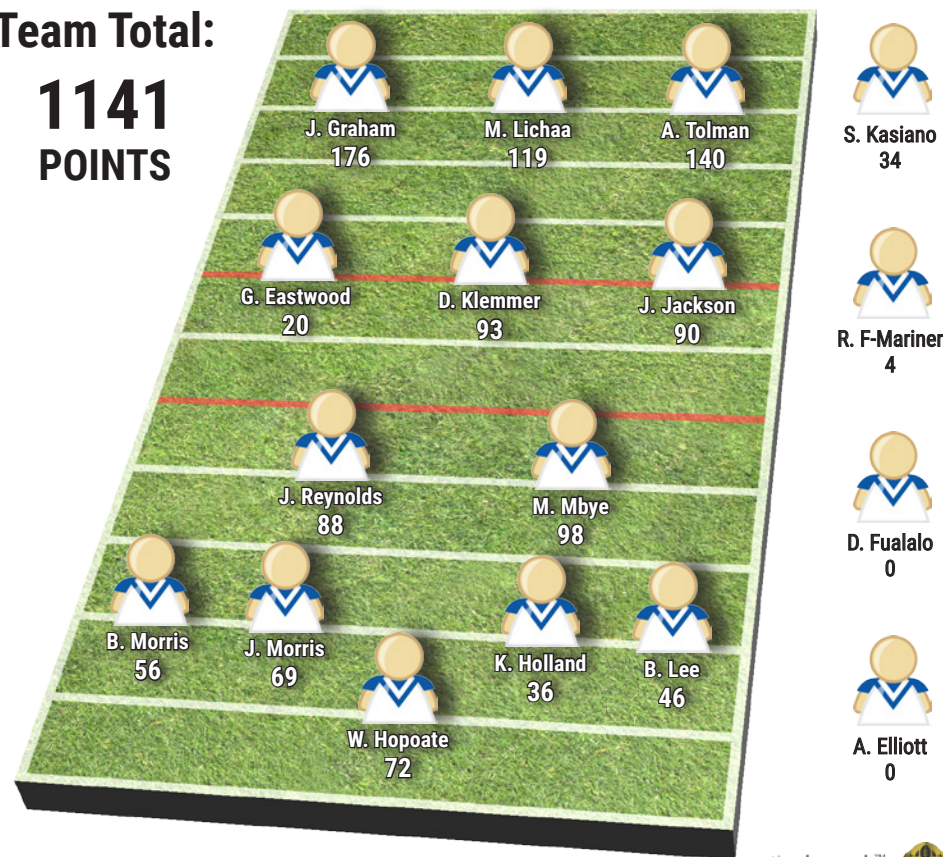
2016 MVP James Graham

Workhorses: 34
Metre Eaters: 19
Line Break Assists: 2
Tackles: 915
Run Metres: 3894

176 POINTS

Team Total:

1141 POINTS



Other Players: R. Kennar, T. Phillips, A. Fine, Z Woolford

BULLDOGS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
James Graham	FR	24	0	0	34	19	0	0	2	176	76	139
Aiden Tolman	FR	24	1	0	29	10	0	0	0	140	96	86
Michael Lichaa	HK	21	3	0	20	0	9	2	7	119	114	7
Moses Mbye	HB (3 KP)	24	8	31	0	5	17	9	13	98 (160)	49 (77)	8
David Klemmer	BR	21	1	0	12	18	1	1	2	93	32	4
Josh Jackson	BR	22	3	0	16	0	3	3	7	90	95	105
Josh Reynolds	FE	24	8	0	0	5	12	10	9	88	38	42
William Hopoate	FB, CT	21	8	0	0	12	4	4	4	72	27	46
Josh Morris	CT	22	6	0	0	9	6	6	9	69	69	23
Brett Morris	FB, WG	10	10	0	0	1	2	9	1	56	51	79
Brenko Lee	WG	9	8	0	0	4	0	6	0	46	5	14
Kerrod Holland	CT (6 KP)	14	3	39	1	4	2	5	3	36 (114)	0	DNP
Sam Kasiano	FR	22	6	0	0	1	0	6	2	34	26	20
Craig Garvey	HK	10	2	0	3	0	3	1	2	29	1	4
Greg Eastwood	BR	17	2	0	1	2	0	1	3	20	15	18
Tyrone Phillips	WG	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	19	1	0
Richie Kennar	WG	3	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	12	4	DNP
Chase Stanley	CT	4	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	11	16	25
Reimis Smith	WG	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	DNP	DNP
Raymond Faitala-Mariner	BR	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	9	0
Asipeli Fine	BR	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Danny Fualalo	BR	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP
Adam Elliott	BR	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradley Abbey	FB, FE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP
Drury Low	WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	0	15
DNP = Did Not Play * Denotes Super League Stats + Denotes Injury												

HOT

James Graham and Aiden Tolman continue to go big with minutes and stats. Drafting both bookends into your team will be near impossible but they are both capable of the elusive double workhorse!

The Doggies halves need to be fed some gourmet kibble as they have been firing blanks for too long. Just 29 try assists between them last season is ordinary and they lack spark at the money end of the field.

NOT

COWBOYS

2013	2014	2015	2016
8th	5th	3rd	4th

Premiership Odds: \$8
Premierships: 1
Bye Rounds: 12 & 18



Points In The Bank

It's always tough being the defending premiers and the Cowboys made a good fist of their title defence going down to the eventual premiers. After a long season, it was probably fair enough that the Cowboys ran out of juice one game out from the big dance.

The beauty of North Queensland is that you know exactly what you are going to get from them – week in week out! JT to Cooper or Lowe with a short ball is like clockwork or out the back to the wingers via the fullback Coote is the main scoring weapon – most teams do it but the Cowboys do it better than most!

Despite the salary cap pressures that come with being a successful club, there has not been much of a personnel change within the ranks. Only James Tamou and Rory Kostjasyn depart with new Storm recruit Ben Hampton likely to give Granville a 20-30 minute rest. While this tactic is nothing new, you can hear the NRLCEO fraternity implore for Granville "to play 80 minutes" but Green has suggested that he needs his hooker fresh in the back end... see what I did there...?

In the forwards, the Cowboys boast a fine array of players. Workhorses Ethan Lowe and Gavin Cooper are complimented by the dynamics of Jason Taumalolo and Coen Hess. Matt Scott is his usual self on field but his NRLCEO output has diminished as he battles Father Time and a sore back.

The backs are where it is at for the Cowboys. Kyle Feldt and Antonio Winterstein are always good to have if JT goes nuts and O'Neill in particular proved himself to be a try scoring sneak. It would be nice to see Winterstein shift to the centres freeing up a spot for Kalyn Ponga on the wing but Ponga looks destined for a year long stint in reserves unless injury strikes.

If you are looking for a fullback who loves a try assist, coaches could do worse than look past Lachlan Coote – he loves chiming in outside of JT and Michael Morgan and is always a chance of sneaking over himself if the opposition centres misread the play.

Of course, the Cowboys really do lean heavily on the shoulders of Johnathan Thurston – cancel that – JT is the Cowboys and the lynchpin in both attack and defence. With age not seeming to worry the legend, JT looks set for another big season of try assists and points in general. He is still a certainty to go in the top four of any draft.

Ethan Lowe's attacking stats might see him slide up to a second round pick and you wouldn't be upset with Gavin Cooper as a second back rower. Taumalolo will only draft highly if you are playing with Metre Eaters.

Overall, the Cowboys' attacking style of play is a joy for the NRLCEO coach who possesses NQ recruits – especially the edge players. The Cowboy's starting line-up is one of the most stable in the competition and the beauty of Paul Green as coach is that he doesn't muck around with minutes – you can set your watch to his interchanges!

Player Changes

Gains	• Ben Hampton	• Corey Jensen
Losses	• James Tamou	• Ben Hannant
	• Rory Kostjasyn	• Tautau Moga
	• Jahrome Hughes	• Brandon Smith

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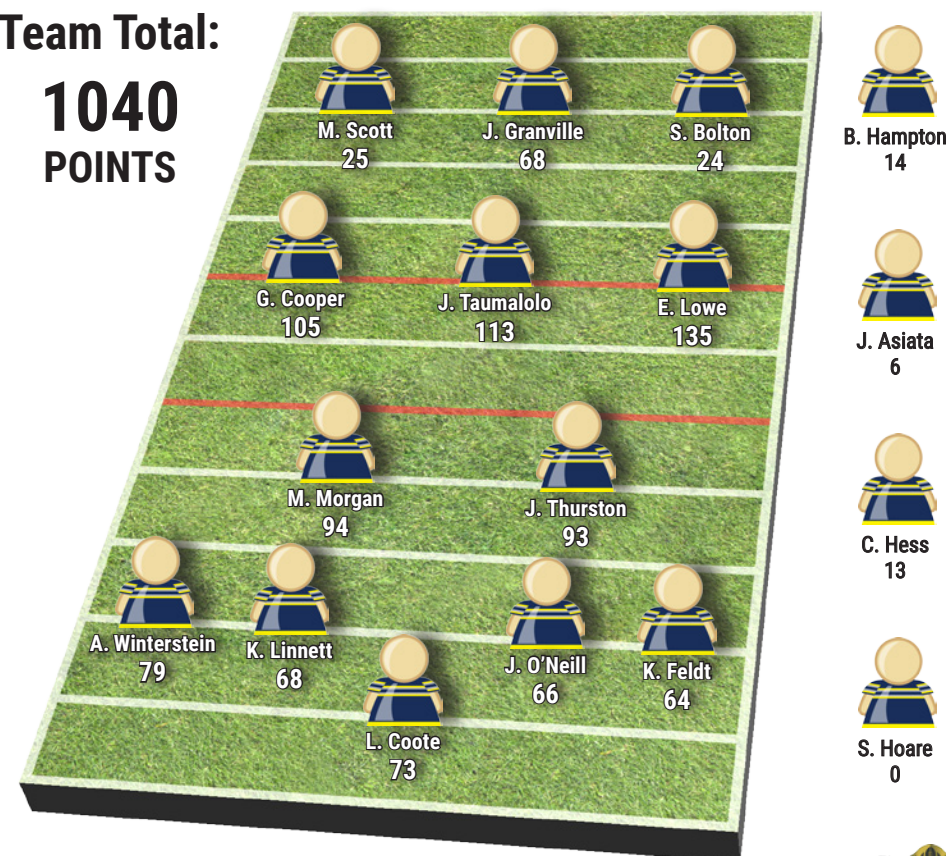
2016 MVP
Ethan Lowe

Tries: 9
Try Assists: 1
Linebreaks: 8
Workhorses: 19
Metre Eaters: 6

135
POINTS

Team Total:

1040
POINTS



Other Players: R. Thompson, K. Ponga, G. M-Gela, J. Bowen

COWBOYS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Ethan Lowe	BR (1 KP)	24	9	7	19	6	1	8	1	135 (149)	97 (113)	25 (33)
Jason Taumalolo	BR	24	6	0	9	22	0	9	0	113	27	54
Gavin Cooper	BR	23	9	0	13	1	2	9	2	105	107	52
Michael Morgan	FE	19	8	0	0	3	17	11	11	94	89	108
Johnathan Thurston	HB (9 KP)	21	2	88	0	2	25	4	26	93 (269)	103 (263)	133 (297)
Antonio Winterstein	WG	23	12	0	0	9	1	10	1	79	64	82
Lachlan Coote	FB	24	4	0	0	0	16	4	17	73	75	0
Jake Granville	HK	22	2	0	6	0	10	4	12	68	107	16
Kane Linnett	CT	21	5	0	0	17	2	7	3	68	66	66
Justin O'Neill	CT	22	11	0	0	5	2	6	2	66	53	DNP
Kyle Feldt	WG	21	12	0	0	3	1	8	0	64	27 (29)	35
Javid Bowen	WG, CT	8	4	0	0	2	0	5	0	25	0	0
Matthew Scott	FR	20	2	0	2	3	0	3	0	25	58	69
Scott Bolton	FR	24	2	0	2	2	0	4	0	24	18	13
Ray Thompson	HB, HK	7	3	0	1	1	0	4	0	22	10	20
Ben Hampton	FE	17	1	0	0	0	2	4	2	14	6	25
Coen Hess	BR	5	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	13	7	DNP
John Asiata	BR	17	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	14	0
Josh Chudleigh	HK	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0
Patrick Kaufusi	FR	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Kalyn Ponga	FB, WG	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Spina	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Sione Lousi	BR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Carlin Anderson	FB, WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP
Gideon Mosby-Gela	WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

North Queensland's GOD has averaged big points for many, many seasons now and the fact that Jonathan Thurston is 34 should not detract from his draft value. Draft him and he won't let you down with try assists or goals!

Big bopper Matty Scott is still one of the best props in the game but his body is failing him. While he is still very effective on the field, unfortunately, he just isn't much NRLCEO value these days. With only two workhorses last year he didn't even rank in the top 25 props.

NOT

DRAGONS

2013	2014	2015	2016
14th	11th	8th	11th

Premiership Odds: \$81
Premierships: 1
Bye Rounds: 12 & 18



Rocks or Diamonds Year for the Red V

Coach McGregor's career is on the line this season and he has made some bold recruitment decisions that he will need to live (or die) by.

Out goes Benji Marshall and Mitch Rein and in comes... not much. New recruits Nene McDonald, Paul Vaughan and Cameron McInnes are good but huge question marks remain over the halves – that's the issue.

At five-eighth Gareth Widdop needs a loooong off season to freshen up. His 2016 season was atrocious and his Four Nations form wasn't much better. If his form is a worry, it's a huge concern when you consider that his halves partner is Josh McCrone - a hard working but under talented NSW Cup half.

For the NRLCEO coach, the value in the Dragons squad are realistically few but could be exponential. History suggests that you want to avoid Dragons backs as scoring points is typically the issue.

In the forwards, Jack de Belin was exceptional in 2016 at lock. If he gets big minutes again in 2017, he could lead all NRLCEO scorers. However, the Dragons are flush with options to take his minutes from the tackling machine – namely Tariq Sims.

McInnes at hooker is an intriguing replacement to the squad for the much maligned Rein. The ex-Bunny isn't exactly an attacking dynamo as he is a very reluctant runner of the ball – he hesitates with ball in hand. McGregor obviously wants faster service to his halves and that is something that Rein simply did not provide often enough. This change in tactic could do the trick and give the Dragons backs more room to execute their thing.

On the right edge Tyson Frizell has come of age but a great work ethic in the first half of the season is often spoiled by a quieter post Origin period. On the left edge, Joel Thompson also stood out in 2016 and he is an 80 minute man which bodes well for his numbers.

In the backs, Josh Dugan can't pass which hurts the wingers' contributions to the scoreboard. Euan Aitken, Taane Milne, Jason Nightingale and Nene McDonald are all quality players in their own right but have been hamstrung by a lack of creativity inside of them.

There is a lot of talk of Matt Dufty making the step up to first grade this year and pushing Dugan into the centres. He's probably worth a late round pick-up as he has more try assists in him than Dugan.

Overall, the Dragons are a pretty solid squad across all positions. Apart from the halves, they have some serious depth. The NRLCEO coach could potentially fall into the trap of recruiting numerous Dragons in the draft.

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Vaughan Nene Macdonald Jacob Hind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron McInnes Levi Dodd Shaun Nona
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitch Rein Ben Creagh Peter Mata'utia Dunamis Lui Sebastine Ikahihifo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benji Marshall Mike Cooper Dylan Farrell Adam Quinlan



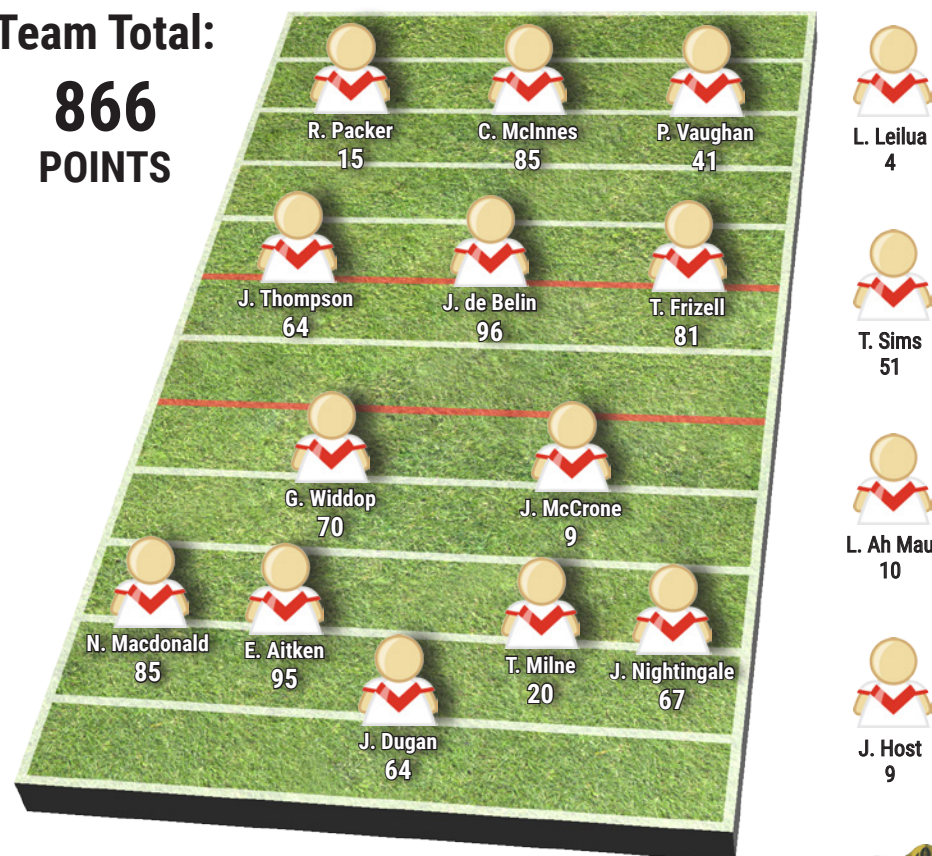
2016 MVP
Jack de Belin

Tries: 1
Try Assists: 1
Line Break Assists: 4
Workhorses: 21
Metre Eaters: 1

96
POINTS

Team Total:

866
POINTS



Other Players: D. Hutchinson*, J. Marketo, M. Masoe, T. Lafai

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DRAGONS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Jack De Belin	BR	21	1	0	21	1	1	0	4	96	77	DNP
Euan Aitken	CT	22	7	0	5	17	2	8	1	95	49	DNP
Cameron McInnes	HK	19	4	0	14	0	2	5	4	85	19	7
Nene Macdonald	WG	22	10	0	0	19	2	2	1	85	25	19
Tyson Frizell	BR	22	3	0	15	4	0	1	0	81	78	30
Gareth Widdop	FE (6 KP)	24	6	54	0	2	14	4	9	70 (178)	81 (221)	80 (200)
Jason Nightingale	WG	24	6	0	0	9	5	10	5	67	25	88
Joel Thompson	BR	20	3	0	11	1	1	4	0	64	50	39
Josh Dugan	FB	17	2	0	0	21	1	7	5	64	43 (51)	57
Kurt Mann	WG	13	10	0	0	4	1	9	1	60	25	26
Tariq Sims	BR	16	2	0	10	1	0	1	0	51	60	84
Paul Vaughan	FR	18	4	0	3	4	0	4	1	41	55	54
Tim Lafai	CT (1 KP)	18	3	0	0	7	3	4	4	40	30 (32)	87
Kalifa Faifai-Loa	WG	11	5	0	0	3	0	1	0	27	25	18
Taane Milne	CT (1 KP)	6	0	0	1	5	1	1	3	20	DNP	DNP
Jake Marketo	BR	18	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	15	8	0
Russell Packer	FR	22	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	15	0	0
Will Matthews	FR	20	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	13	21	2
Leeson Ah Mau	FR	21	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	10	29	DNP
Jacob Host	BR	9	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	9	DNP	DNP
Josh McCrone	HB	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	9	0	49 (51)
Drew Hutchison*	HB	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	DNP	DNP
Luciano Leilua	BR	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	DNP	DNP
Siliva Havili	HK	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Matt Dufty	FB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Jack de Belin finally got the minutes that he deserved and boy, didn't he crank out the stats! Just four points shy of the 100 NRLCEO points mark. JBD may have some very ordinary hair (and a broken wrist) but in NRLCEO, he's hot, hot, hot!!!

Garreth Widdop sucks. Everyone who was bagging Benji had every right to do so but honestly, the Pom was equally as bad, if not more so. This year, it's all on him if the Dragons fail to score points... And honesty, who wants pick him as their kicker and have to watch Dragons games?

NOT

2013	2014	2015	2016
16th	10th	12th	14th

Premiership Odds: \$19
Premierships: 4
Bye Rounds: 16 & 19



It Can't Get Any Worse...

The positive for the Eels is that things can't get worse than their horror 2016 season, can they? You have to admire the way that Brad Arthur has handled all that has been thrown at him.

One gets the feeling that the Eels are keen to make up for lost time and are hungry to play some final footy this season.

After a debacle of a tenure, Kieran Foran is gone but with Semi Radradra, the soap opera at Parramatta is set to continue.

For the NRLCEO coach, you look at the Eels forwards and there's not really any stand out draft options. Manu Mau is a solid worker but he doesn't scream out "pick me".

Arthur really does rotate his forwards well and even the workhorse Moeroa isn't a given for a workhorse due to a minutes restriction. Captain Tim Mannah never fails to disappoint and his favourite number of 39 is an amusing consistency for the NRLCEO punter...

The true value in the Eels appears to be in the backs where speed and creativity is in abundance. Bevan French looks like he will start in the custodian role and this bloke is a seriously gifted player who can find the try line. With speed to burn, French is a great option for recruitment.

On the left wing, Semi Radradra is tainted goods – or is he? A repeat of last season from Semi will see the proven try scorer ostracised from the NRLCEO community and in a wicked twist it may just be that big Semi takes to kicking boots which will see his value increase.

On the other wing, new recruit Josh Hoffman looks to be the man. Despite stating numerous times that he wants more than just a spot on the wing, it is hard to see where else he can fit in this squad – French just has to be the fullback.

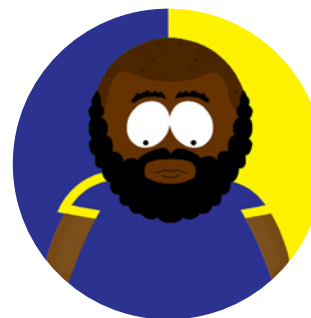
Of the other backs, Corey Norman will be looking to continue his exquisite form on the field while he seeks to keep his off-field activities in check. Clint Gutherson will partner him in the halves and is a move that could just work.

Michael Jennings is also a draft option but he needs stability inside of him if he is to flourish. He's still one of the top ranked centres but the years of 15+ tries in a season look behind him.

Overall, the Eels present a good case for success on paper but with a volatile front office, you'll never discount the franchise from becoming just another mecca for drama.

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Hoffman • Nathan Brown • Kirisome Auva'a • George Jennings • Siosaia Vave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Pritchard • Jeff Robson • Jamal Fogarty • Suaia Matagi • Will Smith
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kieran Foran • Ryan Morgan • Mitch Cornish • Danny Wicks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Gordon • Luke Kelly • Vai Toutai



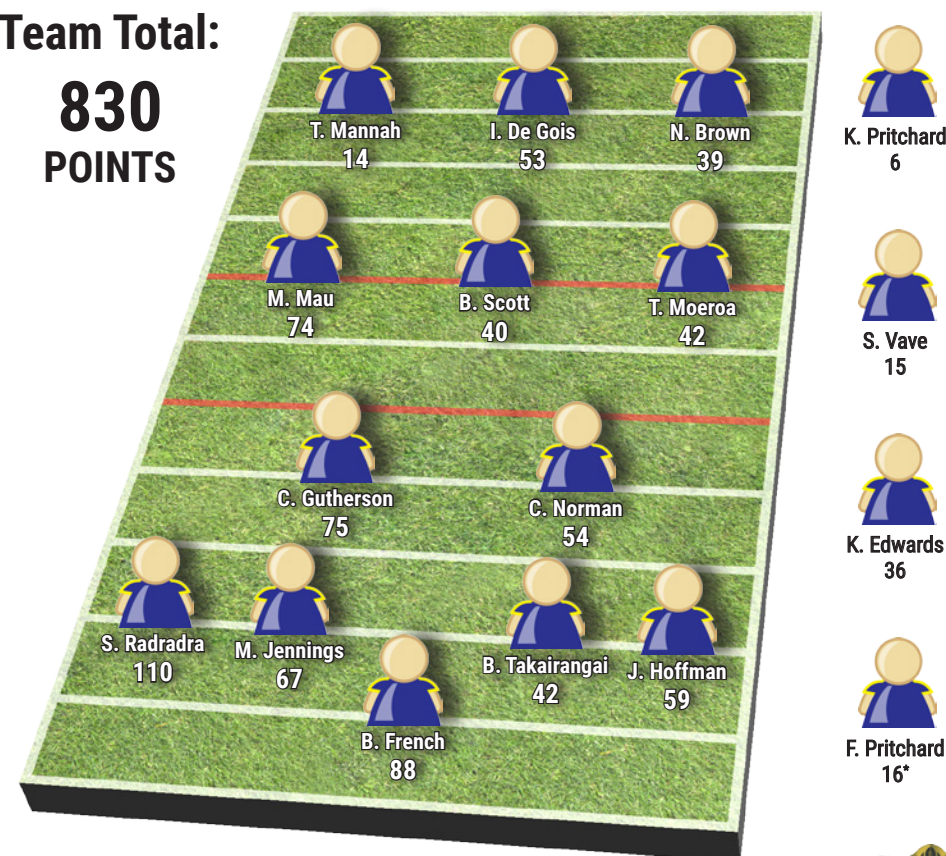
2016 MVP
Semi Radradra

Tries: 12
Try Assists: 5
Linebreaks: 16
Line Break Assists: 4
Metre Eaters: 16

110
POINTS

Team Total:

830
POINTS



Other Players: G. Jennings, J. Robson, P. Terepo, D. Alvaro



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Semi Radradra	WG (1 KP)	19	12	1	0	16	5	16	4	110 (112)	138	98
Bevan French	FB	13	19	0	0	0	1	9	1	88	DNP	DNP
Clinton Gutherson	FE (6 KP)	24	5	1	0	12	8	8	7	75	0	21
Manu Ma'u	BR	22	2	0	11	5	2	2	6	74	73	DNP
Michael Jennings	CT	19	9	0	0	6	4	6	5	67	64	70
Josh Hoffman	WG, CT	24	7	0	0	11	2	5	0	59	33	21
Corey Norman	HB (2 KP)	16	1	0	0	2	18	6	6	54	47	41 (45)
Isaac De Gois	HK	22	3	0	8	0	3	0	3	53	27	DNP
Brad Takairangi	CT	17	4	0	0	3	7	3	3	42	54	30
Tepai Moeroa	BR	22	0	0	10	0	0	0	2	42	37	26
Beau Scott	BR	20	2	0	7	0	1	1	1	40	28	51
Nathan Brown	FR	21	1	0	6	2	1	0	5	39	3	0
Ken Edwards	BR	24	4	0	2	1	1	5	3	36	0	14
Daniel Alvaro	FR	17	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	33	10	0
Jeff Robson	HB	16	2	0	0	0	3	2	5	21	22	50
David Gower	BR	16	1	0	3	0	1	1	1	20	30	17
Kirisome Auva'a	CT	13	3	0	0	2	1	1	1	20	0	DNP
Siosaia Vave	FR	23	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	15	0	0
Tim Mannah	FR	14	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	14	51	12
Peni Terepo	BR	23	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	10	1	5
Kaysa Pritchard	HK	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0
Bureta Faraimo	WG	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	30	10
Suaia Matagi	FR	21	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	4	4
Will Smith	FB	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	29 (37)	4
Frank Pritchard	BR	20*	4*	0	0	0	0	0	0	16*	DNP	5

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

How good is Bevan French?!?! If he settles into his new role at fullback, then he could break the Eel's try scoring record by plenty! He's fast, dynamic and after playing only 13 games last year already outscored Greg Inglis (20 games).

Speaking of records - Tim Mannah seems intent on breaking all records for the most career performances with 38/39 involvements. The ultimate workhorse dick tease. With only three workhorses last season - are you serious, Tim?

NOT

KNIGHTS

2013	2014	2015	2016
7th	12th	16th	16th

Premiership Odds: \$151
Premierships: 2
Bye Rounds: 12 & 15



Underage and Untested - Again

Hmmmm the Knights... I'll be kind...

Coach Nathan Brown clearly has a vision and he is investing plenty of his energy in the grass roots juniors of the Newcastle region – it's an admirable vision. For the sake of Knight's fans, one just hopes that they can hold on to the majority of the talent that they have decided to develop themselves!

It doesn't take Einstein to suggest how bad the Knight's season was last year. Their attack showed glimpses of brilliance but quite simply their defence was a case of boys playing men. Handbag tackles became the norm and while they were competitive for large portions of the game, their second halves lacked polish (to say the least).

2017 sees the Novacastrians retain a similar squad with Rory Kostjasyn and Jamie Buhrer the 'big signings'. Buhrer is a particularly good signing and is a quality defender – swapping him for Uate was a masterstroke (what were you thinking Manly?!)

With experience the obvious achilles heel across the Knight's squad, it is likely that the NRLCEO coach will avoid them if they can.

In the forwards, Sione Mata'utia's transition into the backrow is an intriguing one. When he is healthy, he has shown workhorse capabilities. The same can be said for the Saifiti brothers but Brown's reluctance to throw the talented pair big minutes is tricky for NRLCEO drafting.

On the left edge, Mitch Barnett's numbers have been very impressive. However, the odd lapse in concentration saw him get a rocket from the coach last season but his performances certainly took off from there.

In the backs, the concern is the halves. Mullen is probably gone for good through suspension and so Brock Lamb and Trent Hodkinson need to find their mojo quickly, which will be tough when their pack is getting dominated.

With names like Gagai, Ross and Sio, the Knights have plenty of speed and skill out wide. Who Brown will play where is a mystery though with fans praying that the Cowboys release Ponga a year early (won't happen!).

Nathan Ross seems the most backable pick up. He's a proven try scorer and his positional flexibility might see him pick up dual position throughout the year.

Overall, the Knights are a very similar entity to the Dragons in terms of draft value – pick them at your own risk but they will have their day in the sun from time to time. Ultimately, titles won't be won carrying a shed load of Knights but if you are in a keeper league, some of young un's may tickle your fancy as a long term prospect...

Player Changes

Gains	• Jamie Buhrer	• Rory Kostjasyn
	• Joe Wardle	• Ken Sio
	• Peter Mata'utia	• Josh Starling
	• Jacob Gagan	
Losses	• Jeremy Smith	• Akuila Uate
	• Robbie Rochow	• Kade Snowden
	• Jake Mamo	• James McManus
	• Korbin Sims	• Jarrod Mullen (ban)

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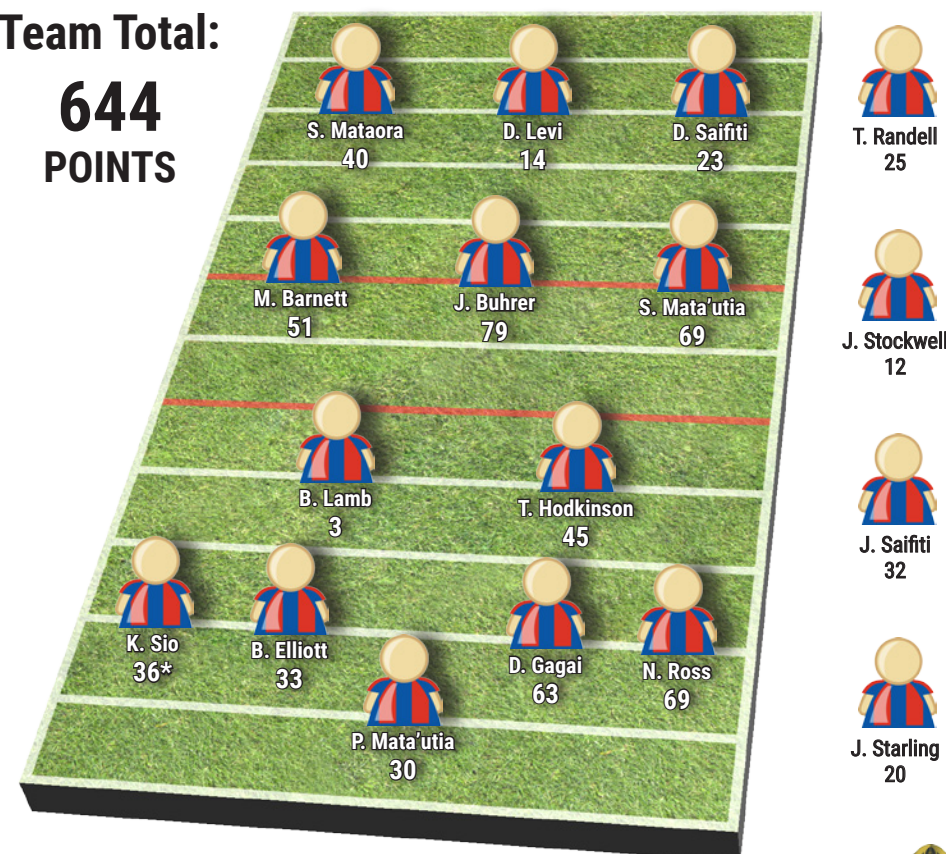
2016 MVP
Jamie Buhrer

Tries: 3
Try Assists: 2
Linebreaks: 6
Workhorses: 13
Metre Eaters: 2

79
POINTS

Team Total:

644
POINTS



Other Players: R. Kostjasyn*, P. Pauli*, C. Mata'utia, J. Wardle

KNIGHTS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Jamie Buhner	BR	15	3	0	13	2	2	6	1	79	23	87
Nathan Ross	WG	19	9	0	0	10	2	9	2	69	9	DNP
Sione Mata'utia	BR	16	4	0	4	11	4	4	3	69	17	DNP
Dane Gagai	CT	22	3	0	0	16	4	6	5	63	67 (71)	53 (55)
Korbin Sims	BR, FR	22	3	0	10	0	0	4	0	56	34	22
Mitchell Barnett	BR	9	2	0	9	1	1	3	0	51	0	DNP
Trent Hodkinson	HB (7 KP)	23	1	47	0	0	13	3	10	45 (139)	43 (137)	48 (172)
Sam Mataora	FR	20	2	0	7	0	0	2	2	40	0	0
Brendan Elliott	WG	16	6	0	0	1	1	4	1	33	37	0
Jacob Saifiti	FR	18	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	32	DNP	DNP
Peter Matautia	WG, CT	16	3	0	0	7	0	2	2	30	DNP	DNP
Pat Mata'utia	CT	14	2	0	0	6	2	2	2	28	0	DNP
Tyler Randell	HK	18	1	0	4	0	2	0	1	25	29 (33)	DNP
Jarrold Mullen	FE	14	0	0	0	1	7	3	5	24	26	40
Pauli Pauli+	BR	15	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	24	0	25
Daniel Saifiti	FR	20	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	23	DNP	DNP
Josh Starling	FR	20	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	20	1	12
Rory Kostjasyn+	HK	23	1	0	1	0	3	2	3	19	17	33
Corey Denniss	WG	7	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	17	DNP	DNP
Daniel Levi	HK	18	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	14	14	DNP
Jack Cogger	FE, HB	6	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	13	DNP	DNP
Jack Stockwell	FR	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	12	12	0
Brock Lamb	FE (1 KP)	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	DNP	DNP
Ken Sio	WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36* (62*)	52*	66
Joe Wardle	CT	22*	9*	13*	0	0	4*	10*	0	54* (80*)	28*	68*

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Any bloke who can score tries for the Knights has to be a good player and Nathan Ross seems to have the goods. Nine tries and only #18 ranked winger, but it's the Knights. Imagine how good he will be if they actually start winning games!

Trent Hodkinson was so out of form last season and Jarrod Mullen will probably never be seen again. Hodkinson needs to aim up or let some younger blood do the same job for much less coin! He played all but one game last year and Nathan Cleary almost outscored him in 13 games!

NOT

PANTHERS

2013	2014	2015	2016
10th	4th	11th	6th

Premiership Odds: \$9
Premierships: 2
Bye Rounds: 12 & 15



The Little Penny's That Could

The talk of the competition is how good the Panthers will be this season and off the back of a pretty good 2016, the young Panthers are prime to show their wares.

Everything appears to be rosy at the foot of the mountains and Phil Gould is taking plenty of credit for their push towards a premiership. Recruitment has once again been strong with James Tamou and Mitch Rein joining quite a nice blend of experience and youth in the squad.

Coach Anthony "boring ^\$#@" Griffin will have a number of selection headaches this season if the squad remains healthy. Competition for starting positions can only be a good thing though with depth being excellent across the board.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Panthers possess some genuine draft targets. Trent Merrin headlines the group and given the minutes, he'll give Double Workhorses a shake each week.

Depending on how Griffin decides to rotate his forwards will obviously effect NRLCEO draft value of the others. The likes of Cartwright, Yeo and Tamou are all capable of big stats but ultimately the depth at the Panthers is likely to hurt their workhorse factor.

In the backs, the Panthers have a multitude of guns for drafting but they can't all score 18+ tries! Josh Mansour's knee rules him out for a while which is a shame. Dean Whare, Tyrone Peachey, DWZ, Waqa Blake and Peta Hiku will all be wanting a starting spot but that doesn't add up – especially when Mansauce comes back.

At the back, Matt Moylan is the hype with seemingly everyone rating the bloke. With big things expected, his NRLCEO value is only moderate as he sets up more tries than he scores – that's not a bad thing though.

In the halves, the Panthers possess a young gun combination of Nathan Cleary and Te Maire Martin. Both are exciting prospects but how they gel together remains a mystery at this level. These things take time and maybe it's a year too early to expect the Panthers to go all the way.

On the kicking front, Cleary showed his worth last season and if you rate the Panther's chances this season, he could be seen as one of the top kicking options in the competition.

Overall, the Panthers are young, hungry and ready to fire. Whether they will or not remains to be seen but if they avoid injuries to key personnel, look out...

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">James TamouTim BrowneSamisoni Langi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitch ReinMichael Oldfield
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">James SegeyaroElijah TaylorChris GreysmuhlBen GarciaRobert JenningsChris Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jamie SowardJeremy LatimoreZak HardakerGeorge JenningsSuaia MatagiWill Smith



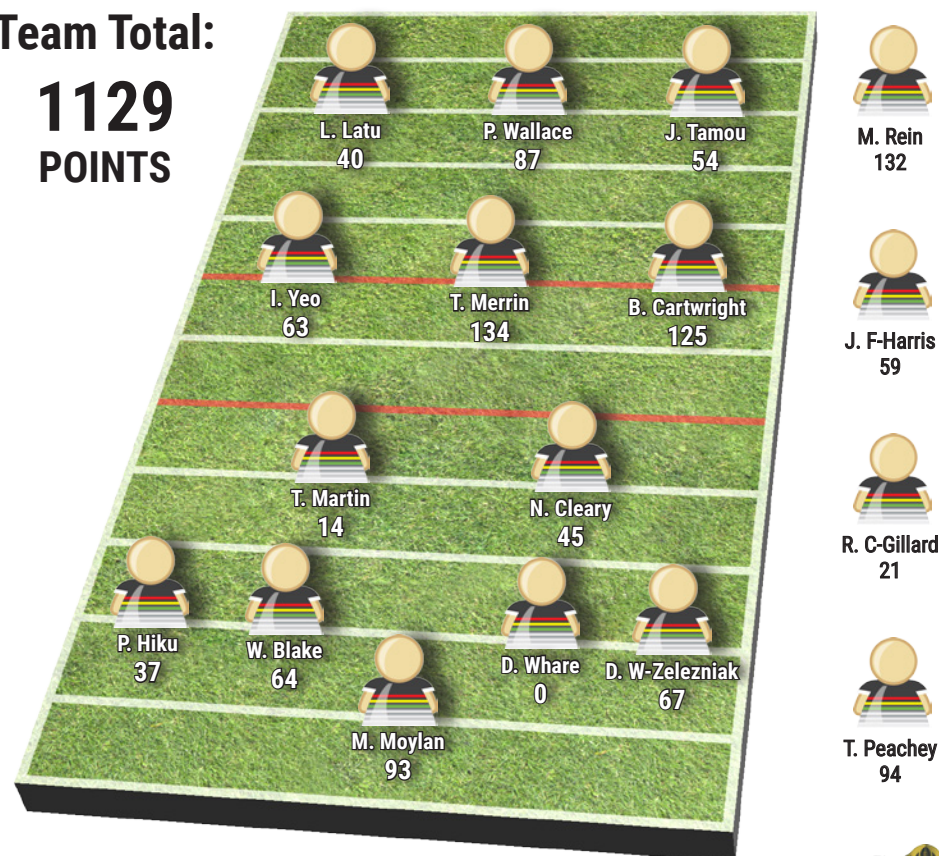
2016 MVP
Trent Merrin

Tries: 5
Linebreaks: 5
Line Break Assists: 1
Workhorses: 20
Metre Eaters: 14

134
POINTS

Team Total:

1129
POINTS



PANTHERS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Trent Merrin	BR	23	5	0	20	14	0	5	1	134	63	91
Mitch Rein	HK	24	2	0	26	2	4	4	4	132	86	98
Bryce Cartwright	FE, BR	24	8	0	10	7	10	9	10	125	56	14
Josh Mansour†	WG	23	15	0	0	23	1	15	1	124	33	69
Tyrone Peachey	CT	22	11	0	1	5	8	13	7	94	53	28
Matthew Moylan	FB (1 KP)	19	4	0	0	5	18	5	23	93	48 (88)	97 (111)
Peter Wallace	HK	24	4	3	9	0	10	3	10	87 (93)	33	17
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak	WG	24	10	0	0	7	1	10	1	67	43	31
Waqi Blake	CT	20	7	0	0	8	4	11	1	64	30	DNP
Isaiah Yeo	BR	24	5	0	8	0	2	6	1	63	24	10
James Fisher-Harris	BR	21	5	0	6	0	4	4	3	59	DNP	DNP
James Tamou	FR	22	2	0	7	8	0	2	0	54	59	43
Nathan Cleary	HB (9 KP)	13	3	47	1	0	8	4	9	45 (139)	DNP	DNP
Leilani Latu	FR	22	4	0	1	1	5	4	4	40	1	0
Peta Hiku	WG, CT	11	5	0	0	6	1	2	1	37	57 (63)	DNP
Reagan Campbell-Gillard	FR	20	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	21	15	DNP
Te Maire Martin	FE	6	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	14	0	DNP
Michael Oldfield	WG	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	DNP
Sam McKendry	FR	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	9	1
Tim Browne	FR	22	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	28 (34)	6
Sitaleki Akauola	BR	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	4
Moses Leota	FR	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Dean Whare	CT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	69
George Jennings	WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	DNP
Andrew Heffernan	FE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Nathan Cleary killed it in his first season and at age 19, he's only going to get better. This year, he's got nine kicker points, faces possible second year syndrome and has Phil Gould in his ear – what could go wrong?? Don't wait to find out. Take a chance.

Could someone send out a search party for Anthony Griffin's personality? It has to be around here somewhere and if not found, Griffin could bore the entire Panther's franchise into a slump of epic proportions...

NOT

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RABBITOHS

2013	2014	2015	2016
2nd	3rd	7th	12th

Premiership Odds: \$17
Premierships: 21
Bye Rounds: 13 & 16



Robbie's Rabbits

Toothless South Sydney fans will be hoping that that their team took some serious notes on how they finished the 2016 season, winning their last four games including a 12-6 victory over the premiers.

Before that however, they looked lost. Injuries to their big name players continue to plague the 2014 Premiers with Inglis, Reynolds and Sutton all being heavily hampered throughout the season.

Bunny's recruitment has worked hard to fill some notable gaps in their squad and names don't get much bigger than Robbie Farah. The NSW rake will have plenty to prove and once he recovers from a torn bicep, he will definitely be out to answer his critics.

Also new on the Rabbitohs books is Robbie Rochow who himself is a very capable but injury prone forward. Rochow is a tireless worker with some ball skills and a change of scenery might be the best thing for him and your NRLCEO score sheet.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Rabbitohs contain a few quality early draft options. Sam Burgess is the obvious star and will go first round in all competitions.

Adam Reynolds and Greg Inglis are also quality draft options but given their inability to complete a full season, there are much better options in their respective positions unless of course you see them catching fire for the WHOLE season.

In the backs, Alex Johnston has been good for the past few seasons but the Rabbits prefer to run Inglis to the left meaning that the likes of Gray and Goodwin could be the main beneficiaries when it comes to crossing the stripe.

Damien Cook is an interesting prospect and when given the chance, showed why we talked him up as a great sneaky draft option last season. While Farah is absent, Cook will prove to be a great back up but quite simply he should have signed with the Sharks or Eels in the off-season if he wanted to make more of an impact on the NRLCEO score sheet.

When you look at their squad, the Bunnies look to be a mid-table team and likely to push for 5th place at best. They have the strike power to trouble most teams but murmurs are sure to surface again about coaching and training disagreements - player unhappiness seems to be a common issue year in year out for the Bunnies if the media is to be believed.

Overall, Rusty Crowe sticking his nose into everyone's business needs to be avoided almost as much as him hosting the Dally M's. Sammy Boyle will have a great year again, especially if his butterfingers around the tryline have been sorted this pre-season leading to more pies on top of those valuable workhorses!

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbie Farah • Robbie Rochow • Robert Jennings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke Kelly • Anthony Cherrington • Tyrell Fuimaono
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirisome Auva'a • Nathan Brown • Paul Carter • Michael Oldfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke Keary • Cameron McInnes • Joe Burgess • Samisoni Langi

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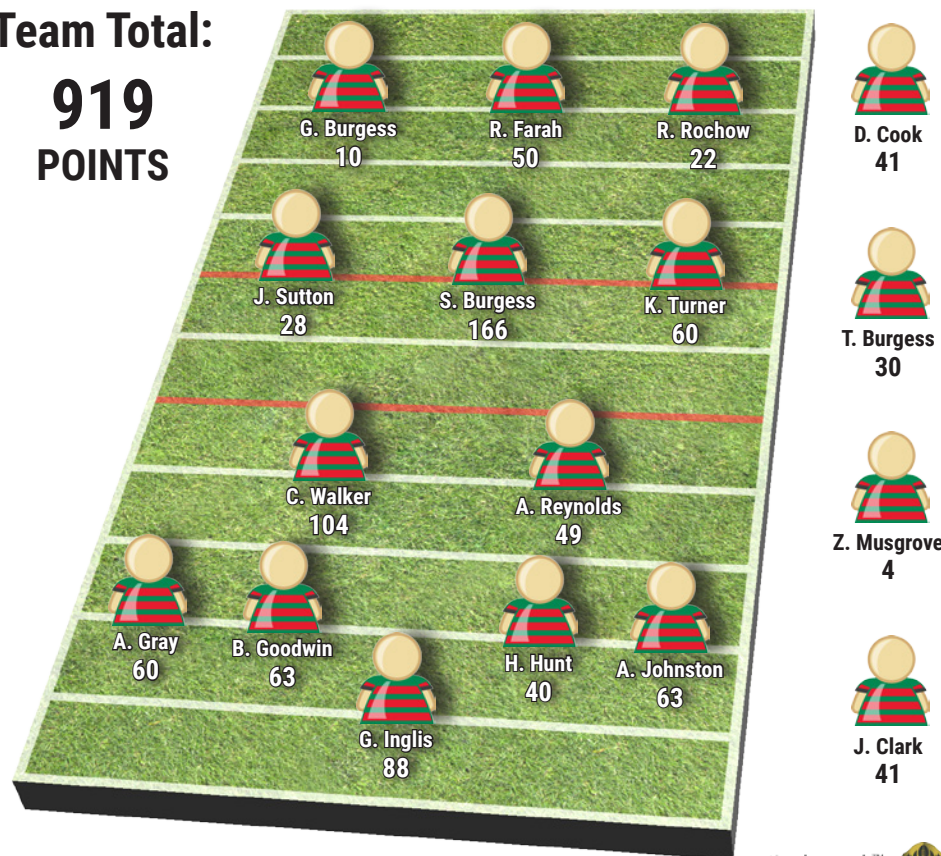


2016 MVP
Sam Burgess

Tries: 5
Linebreaks: 5
Line Break Assists: 3
Workhorses: 26
Metre Eaters: 17

166
POINTS

Team Total:
919
POINTS



Other Players: T. Fuimaono, R. Jennings, D. Nielson, A. Cherrington

RABBITOHS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Sam Burgess	BR	23	5	0	26	17	0	5	3	166	DNP	212
Cody Walker	FE (2 KP)	20	8	10	0	11	12	14	12	104 (124)	DNP	DNP
Greg Inglis	FB	20	5	0	0	13	9	12	12	88	89	95
Bryson Goodwin	CT (1 KP)	13	9	10	0	6	3	6	3	63 (83)	36 (40)	15 (23)
Alex Johnston	WG	18	11	0	0	1	3	10	1	63	105	87
Aaron Gray	CT	21	9	0	0	6	1	9	1	60	41	0
Kyle Turner	BR	23	3	0	9	0	3	4	2	60	8	40
Robbie Farah	HK	9	2	0	8	1	2	1	3	50	83	148
Adam Reynolds	HB (7 KP)	16	2	43	0	0	18	1	3	49 (135)	32 (134)	58 (214)
Damien Cook	HK	17	0	7	7	0	3	1	6	41	33	0
Jason Clark	FR	23	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	41	14	17
Hymel Hunt	CT	13	3	0	0	7	4	3	3	40	4	DNP
Thomas Burgess	FR	19	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	30	40	13
John Sutton	BR	12	1	0	3	0	3	1	5	28	39	53
Robbie Rochow	BR, FR	8	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	22	12	55
Dane Nielsen	WG, CT	7	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	21	5	12
George Burgess	FR	17	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	10	70	73
Angus Crichton	BR	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	DNP	DNP
Siosifa Talakai	CT	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	DNP	DNP
David Tyrrell	FR	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	17	18
Zane Musgrove	FR	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	DNP	DNP
Ed Murphy	CT	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	DNP	DNP
Anthony Cherrington	BR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jack Gosiewski	BR	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Luke Kelly	HB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12 (40)	7

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Sammy Burgess chalked up five tries to go on top of a whopping 26 workhorses – if he is not one of the first forwards drafted, then you're not serious! Our memories are still filled with his 200+ NRLCEO points back in 2014 before his ill-fated rugby union defection.

George Burgess showed plenty of potential since following his bro over to the NRL, but quite simply, he's been bashed from pillar to post. His numbers last season make him an avoidable draft option for 2017.

NOT

RAIDERS

2013	2014	2015	2016
13th	15th	10th	2nd

Premiership Odds: \$9
Premierships: 3
Bye Rounds: 15 & 18



Give The Vikings A Clap

The dynamic attacking unit of the Raiders fell a single hurdle short of the grand final last season and fans from the nation's capital will be looking to go all the way in 2017.

Early calls were made last year that the Raiders draw was a soft one but nevertheless, the same critics cannot dispute that their entertaining style of play was a joy to watch and highly effective. In an amazing display, the Green Machine scored 100 points more than any other team in the competition across the season!

Off the back of what has to be considered as a success, the Raider's roster has undergone no major changes from last season which means they have one of the most stable rosters in the competition. Consequently, the starting 13 pretty much picks itself.

For the NRLCEO coach, the disappearance of workhorse GOD Shaun Fensom has many in disbelief. One would think that the tackling machine would have found a new home by now so there might be more to this situation than meets the eye.

The Raiders backline is full of exciting draft prospects. Jordan Rapana was brilliant in 2016 in a break out year outside of the blockbusting BJ Leilua.

On the other side, Captain Croker is a certain first round pick and when the boots are on song, he is capable of winning the game single-handedly.

In the pack, the Raiders have an effective combination of explosiveness and work ethic. Elliott Whitehead was another to notch a breakout season and scored his fair share of tries whilst averaging close to 80 minutes each game.

Josh Hodgson's form at hooker was irresistible for much of the season and he even gave double workhorses a shake from time to time – when he wasn't moved into the halves to cover for injury – such is his versatility. With Kurt Baptiste out for at least half the season Hodgson could even play 80 minutes with Jordan Turner being used as a utility in the halves and back-up centre/fullback.

Apart from Papalii (who is used for his attack rather than a stat collector) and Whitehead, the rest of the forwards are rotated often. Sia Soliola was an effective recruit for half of the season but injuries cut his season short and impacted on his productivity. Boyd and Paulo are good for a meat pie but won't workhorse regularly.

In the halves, Blake Austin and Aidan Sezer complement each other nicely. Although neither scorched the earth in NRLCEO scoring in 2016, they are both good options for different reasons – Austin for tries and Sezer for try assists.

Overall, if the Raiders can reproduce last season's form and dynamics, then they are a team worth scouting for early draft targets.

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Turner • Scott Sorensen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunamis Lui • Makahesi Makatoa
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Vaughan • Tevita Pangai • Brenko Lee • Lachlan Lewis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sisa Waqa • Mitchell Barnett • Sam Williams • Zac Woolford

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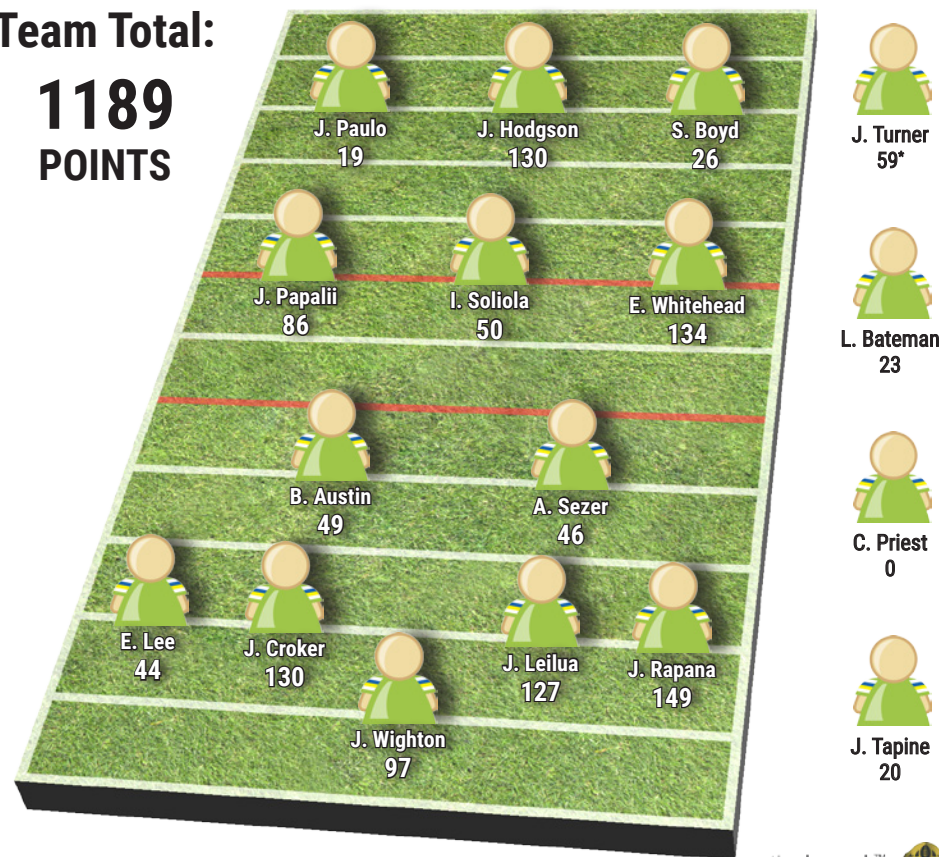
2016 MVP
Jordan Rapana

Tries: 20
Try Assists: 8
Linebreaks: 23
Line Break Assists: 2
Metre Eaters: 14

149
POINTS

Team Total:

1189
POINTS



Other Players: K. Baptiste*, S. Fensom, K. Ottio, D. Taylor

RAIDERS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Jordan Rapana	WG	24	20	0	0	14	8	23	2	149	47	4
Elliot Whitehead	BR	24	5	0	21	1	7	5	9	134	36*	72*
Jarrold Croker	CT (9 KP)	24	17	104	0	14	7	14	6	130 (338)	74 (262)	98 (226)
Josh Hodgson	HK	23	4	0	11	4	19	6	16	130	88	52*
Joseph Leilua	CT	22	11	0	0	20	9	8	19	127	50	93
Jack Wighton	FB	23	8	0	0	10	12	7	14	97	55	48
Josh Papalii	BR	22	7	0	6	3	8	9	3	86	89	38
Iosia Soliola	BR	17	5	0	5	1	1	6	0	50	83	40*
Blake Austin	FE	17	7	0	0	1	4	8	2	49	89	48 (54)
Aidan Sezer	HB (2 KP)	21	5	3	0	0	9	4	4	46 (52)	50 (152)	33 (79)
Shaun Fensom	BR	14	1	0	10	0	0	1	0	45	127	88
Edrick Lee	WG	17	6	0	0	5	2	6	0	44	67	13
Shannon Boyd	FR	23	2	0	3	2	0	2	0	26	41	5
Kurt Baptiste*	HK	21	3	0	0	0	3	3	4	25	18	0
Luke Bateman	BR	18	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	23	0	DNP
Joseph Tapine	FR	22	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	20	11	0
Junior Paulo	FR	21	2	0	0	3	1	2	1	19	22	8
Jeff Lima	FR	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	SL
Dunamis Lui	FR	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	20	5
Adam Clydsdale	HK	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	23
Clay Priest	FR	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Zac Santo	FB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	0
Dave Taylor	BR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	65
Jordan Turner	CT	20*	6*	0	0	0	14*	7*	0	59*	61*	41*
Kato Ottio	WG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Jordan Rapana was amazing last season – his haircuts were not. However, if he keeps scoring 20 tries each season for his NRLCEO coach, who cares what he does with his dome! If you are a Metre Eater competition he will get you a double every few weeks too.

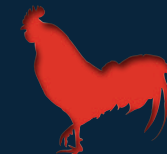
NRLCEO royalty Shaun Fensom has gone from certain first round draft pick to Never Never Land. He's wasted in NSW Cup. Why hasn't he signed with someone with cap space - like Newcastle or the Broncos...?

NOT

ROOSTERS

2013	2014	2015	2016
1st	1st	1st	15th

Premiership Odds: \$13
Premierships: 13
Bye Rounds: 12 & 19



Rested Roosters Ready To Crow

After a disappointing 2016 campaign that was hijacked by their 'star' playmaker, the Roosters will be looking to return to the finals this season.

On paper, the Roosters look like they could challenge for the title. They have big names in the money positions and if they can remain injury and scandal free, they will certainly feature in the top eight.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Roosters have typically been a 'go to' club when it comes to workers and try scorers.

In the forwards, Jake Friend and Boyd Cordner lead the way in terms of work ethic while Aidan Guerra's stocks are questionable depending on how Coach Robinson plays him. An impact bench role suited the Origin forward last season as his form was pretty ordinary – he seemed slow and disinterested.

Up front, JWH and Dylan Napa will carry plenty of workload with the departure of Sam Moa. Both are workhorse men but have the potential to go missing in the tackle counts as well. Napa in particular will be keen for a big season with potential suitors north of the border offering big money for the young prop.

Scoring tries has been mainstream for the Roosters backs for quite a while now and there's no reason why the likes of SKD, Tupou, Ferguson, Mitchell and Gordon can't get amongst the pies again in 2017. However, much will depend on how new recruit Luke Keary fits in to his new structure.

Since Maloney's departure, the Roosters have failed to find a reliable replacement and the big talking Keary could be that man. With Pearce, they form a dangerous halves pairing who enjoy taking on the line and scoring tries themselves.

With the boots, Michael Gordon could also become a pivotal cog in the Rooster's attacking wheel but if he plays at fullback ahead of Mitchell, expect the Rooster wingers to be starved of quality ball – Gordon simply doesn't have the skillset to be a modern day custodian.

Clearly, Mitchell is the more rounded option which means Gordon should see more wing time in his final seasons of NRL. This isn't a bad thing and should suit both players' NRLCEO output.

Despite SKD having some of the worst hands in the world of rugby league, he has still used his big frame to score three seasons of 77 NRLCEO points or more. Ferguson is a sleazy bloke but a proven try scorer. I wouldn't like his name in my team but I'll take his scoring output.

Overall, the Roosters are a team who are primed to feature as a force again – they've had their rest year! They possess class across the park but depth up front could be a concern in the back end of the season....

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Gordon• Paul Carter• Zane Tetevano• Brenden Santi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luke Keary• Liam Knight• Mitch Cornish• Chris Smith
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sam Moa• Brendan Elliot• Ian Henderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jackson Hastings• Tyler Cornish• Vincent Leuluai

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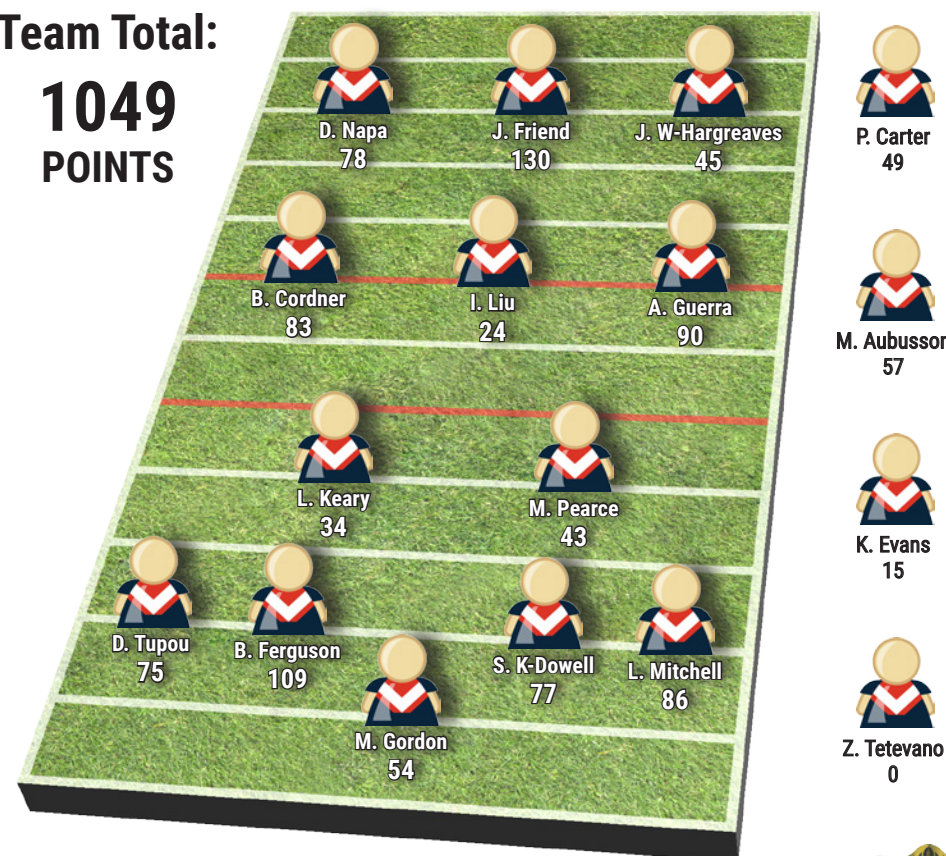
2016 MVP Jake Friend

Tries: 1
Try Assists: 11
Linebreaks: 2
Line Break Assists: 6
Workhorses: 24

130
POINTS

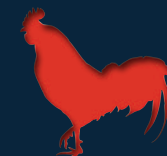
Team Total:

1049
POINTS



Other Players: S. Taukeiaho*, L. Knight, C. Watson, R. Matterson

ROOSTERS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Jake Friend	HK	24	1	0	24	0	11	2	6	130	94	126
Blake Ferguson	FB, CT	22	11	2	0	19	8	8	5	109 (113)	52	0
Aidan Guerra	BR	21	4	0	14	5	2	2	2	90	68	72
Latrell Mitchell	FB, WG	24	14	12	0	6	2	13	3	86 (110)	DNP	DNP
Boyd Cordner	BR	12	4	0	10	6	2	9	2	83	77	99
Dylan Napa	FR	23	1	0	16	5	0	0	0	78	50	21
Shaun Kenny-Dowall	WG, CT	19	7	0	0	13	4	9	6	77	63	72
Daniel Tupou	WG	21	10	0	0	9	3	8	3	75	86	68
Siosuia Teukeiaho*	BR (1 KP)	20	1	27	11	7	1	2	1	67	30	0
Mitchell Aubusson	BR	22	5	0	8	0	0	4	1	57	56	49
Michael Gordon	FB (7 KP)	24	5	71	0	7	4	7	5	54 (196)	33 (169)	61 (161)
Connor Watson	FE	16	5	0	0	4	5	8	6	52	DNP	DNP
Paul Carter	BR, HK	12	2	0	8	1	1	1	4	49	0	22
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	FR	14	0	0	8	5	1	0	1	45	49	46
Mitchell Pearce	HB	12	1	0	0	0	13	0	13	43	64	88
Dale Copley	CT	14	5	0	0	2	4	7	2	41	6	90
Ryan Matterson	FE	15	4	0	0	3	4	3	4	37	DNP	DNP
Luke Keary	FE	17	3	0	0	0	4	5	9	34	49	26
Issac Liu	BR	22	1	0	3	1	1	3	1	24	14	11
Kane Evans	FR	23	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	15	16	0
Jayden Nikorima	FE, HB, HK	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	DNP
Joseph Manu	WG	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	DNP	DNP
Abraham Papalii	BR	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	DNP	DNP
Mitchell Frei	BR	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Mitch Cornish	HB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	9

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Another season and another 1,000+ tackles chalked up - Jake Friend is as reliable as it gets when it comes to workhorse hookers. His tackling alone put him at #4 ranked hooker and #15 rank overall. If only he'd run a little bit more...

Daniel Tupou is on the cusp of being replaced on the left wing. Last season, the former State of Origin winger did pretty much nothing - scoring just 10 tries and not really looking interested at all... When wingers are a dime a dozen, he is avoidable.

NOT

SEA EAGLES

2013	2014	2015	2016
4th	2nd	9th	13th

Premiership Odds: \$17
Premierships: 8
Bye Rounds: 12 & 15



Twin Turbo Engine

Last year, we carved up the appointment of Trent Barrett and in hindsight, we feel comfortable sitting in our La-Z-Boys smoking cigars saying "we told you so".

Seriously though, it took Barrett way too long to get the Tommy Turbo where he belonged (at fullback) and even when he did, it was only because Stewart went down with injury – running 30 metres a game was taking its toll on the Prince of Brookvale!

Anyway, the Sea Eagles have kept their Head of Recruitment, Bob Fulton and things keep getting more mystifying. Gone are plenty more Sea-Eagles troops in their second roster overhaul post DCE's contract!

Manly's 2017 recruitment policy is a strange one and just when you thought the whole Jamie Buhner for Akuila Uate trade was weird, Bozo then pulls the Parcell transfer from nowhere – his replacement – the much maligned Jackson Hastings who burned his bridges at the Roosters....

For the NRLCEO coach, we aren't sure what to expect this year from the Manly team. Jamie Lyon has retired so it's pretty much up to DCE to do everything, including driving the team bus.

On a positive, at least he'll have some stability with his halves partner Blake Green - a great foil in the #6 jersey but hardly an NRLCEO points machine.

In terms of priority draft targets, the Twin Turbos head the list. Tom is set for his first full tilt at the back while Jake is a tackling machine who loves a sneaky try.

Apart from the Bros, there's no real early draft targets who are crying out for 'pick me' status. Try sneak of yesteryear, Jorge Taufua has probably had his day in the sun and his time at Brooky seems to be on borrowed time.

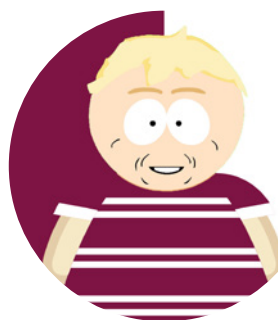
The forward pack has a real tired look about it – Darcy Lussick, Nate Myles, Brenton Lawrence, Curtis Sironen and Lewis Brown would hardly excite even the most staunch Manly supporter. Avoid if you can!

Overall, it looks like a long season ahead for the Sea Eagles. Coach Barrett is yet to show a glimmer of ability at the top level and if DCE goes down, the spoon is a big chance! We'll make the call now, if Hastings starts at hooker ahead of Koroisau, then the entire Sea Eagle's management needs to throw themselves out by the collar...

Player Changes

Gains	• Blake Green	• Akuila Uate
	• Jackson Hastings	• Jonathan Wright
	• Curtis Sironen	• Shaun Lane
	• Lloyd Perrett	• Cameron Cullen
	• Brian Kelly	
Losses	• Jamie Lyon	• Jamie Buhner
	• Matt Parcell	• Isaac John
	• Josh Starling	• Luke Burgess
	• Nathan Green	• Liam Knight
	• Blake Leary	• Feleti Mateo
	• Tim Moltzen	• Tom Symonds
	• Siosaia Vave	• Brayden Wiliame

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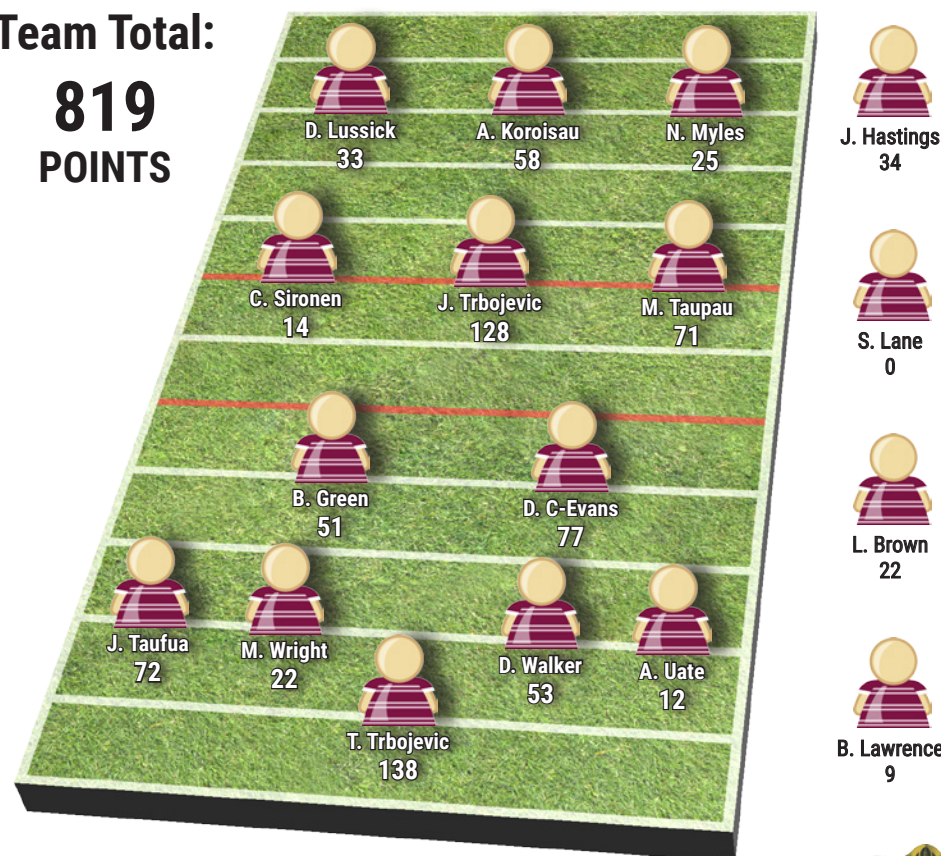
2016 MVP
Tom Trbojevic

Tries: 10
Try Assists: 11
Linebreaks: 19
Line Break Assists: 9
Metre Eaters: 24

138
POINTS

Team Total:

819
POINTS



Other Players: B. Stewart⁺, S. Matai⁺, A. F-Blake, L. Perrett

SEA EAGLES



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Tom Trbojevic	FB	23	10	0	0	24	11	19	9	138	37	DNP
Jake Trbojevic	BR	23	4	0	21	5	4	6	4	128	53	DNP
Daly Cherry-Evans	HB (1 KP)	19	5	0	1	2	16	1	14	77	87	68
Jorge Taufua	WG	18	12	0	0	7	0	9	1	72	49	56
Martin Taupau	BR, FR	20	3	0	9	10	0	3	0	71	40	19
Apisai Koroisau	HK (1 KP)	18	3	1	7	1	5	3	3	58 (60)	53 (61)	19
Dylan Walker	CT (6 KP)	18	8	12	0	6	1	6	1	53 (77)	79	95
Blake Green	FE	21	2	0	1	0	10	5	13	51	76	24*
Jackson Hastings	FE	15	0	26	1	0	9	1	10	34	11	0
Darcy Lussick	FR	19	0	0	4	8	0	1	0	33	11	0
Nate Myles	FR	16	0	0	5	0	1	0	3	25	40	57
Steve Matai+	CT	8	2	0	0	6	2	1	2	25	42	99 (107)
Matthew Wright	WG, CT	15	2	7	0	2	3	2	2	22 (36)	46	43
Lewis Brown	BR	24	2	0	1	1	2	2	2	22	36	22
Jonathan Wright	WG, CT	9	4	0	0	1	0	3	0	21	25	13
Curtis Sironen	BR	8	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	14	13	13
Addin Fonua-Blake	FR	14	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	13	DNP	DNP
Cameron Cullen	FE	5	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	13	DNP	DNP
Akuila Uate	WG	10	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	12	72	63
Brett Stewart+	FB	11	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	11	89	106
Brad Parker	WG	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	DNP	DNP
Brenton Lawrence	FR	9	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	9	0	62
Frank Winterstein	BR	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	DNP	DNP
Shaun Lane	BR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	DNP
Jarrad Kennedy	BR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	44

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

The Twin Turbos are fit and ready to fire on all cylinders. Tom is ranked #8 overall and Jake #16 overall. Both can score tries with one setting them up while the other works his way to 40 involvements easily. You can't go wrong with either...

Brett Stewart seems intent on seeing out his contract and if he can get on the field, has the ability to hijack the Sea Eagle's season. Just retire Snake – you're done! Leave us with memories of your 88 points in 2013, 114 in 2014 and 97 in 2015. The 11 points in 2016 was embarrassing.

NOT

SHARKS

2013	2014	2015	2016
5th	16th	6th	3rd

Premiership Odds: \$12
Premierships: 1
Bye Rounds: 13 & 18



Back To Back Without The Menace?

For 50 years, these guys were shit and it pains us to call them premiers – aren't they cocky now!

All of a sudden, the once lowly, debt ridden franchise from the shire is full of life with a spring in their step and talk of back to back is echoing from their supporter's mouths.

In terms of their squad, only Mick Ennis departs. 'Only' shouldn't be misused though – Ennis was the lynchpin to the success of their season in 2016 and he will be sorely missed – he was simply epic last year!

With James Segeyaro rumoured to be on his way, but not yet signed, this leaves a pretty crucial position as a big unknown for the Sharks.

There is a four way battle for the rake position with Manaia Cherrington, Daniel Mortimer, Fa'amanu Brown and NYC superstar Jayden Bailey all vying for the spot. CEOs will be hoping for an 80 minute hooker no matter who it is. Cherrington probably has a slight advantage with his limited NRL experience over Bailey.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Sharks have some top echelon draft targets. In the pack, Andrew Fifita and Captain Peptide are the easy choices but both have their obvious draw backs – Fifita is a moron who could get sacked at any stage and Gal is 45 years old and in need of more pine time.

In the backs, Jimmy Maloney was more than solid last year and will probably dish out more of the same again – he's just a really solid performer these days and his kicking is at 85% more often than not.

The 12 week loss of Ben Barba means Valentine Holmes will more than likely be the man at the back and pundits will be split on whether that will have a positive or negative impact on his NRLCEO output. My guess is a bigger season in terms of Metre Eaters and an equal or better return on tries.

Jack Bird has great scoring output for those who use Metre Eaters but if not then the centres are quite bare and your eyes should look elsewhere.

On the wings, Feki and Beale are solid and could be handy mid draft pick ups but be wary – the Sharks, despite being the premiers, still base their game structure around their defence – not attack!

Overall, the Sharks have to be a very good chance of giving the competition a shake and defending their title. However, it hasn't been done since '93 for no reason at all. The Sharks will now become the hunted and they will need to tinkle with their game plan if they are to do what they did in 2016.

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tony Williams• Daniel Mortimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manaia Cherrington• Jeremy Latimore
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Ennis• Mitch Brown• Josh Cleeland• Anthony Moraitis• Jesse Sene-Lefao	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Fifita• Matt McIlwrick• Jacob Gagan• Junior Roqica



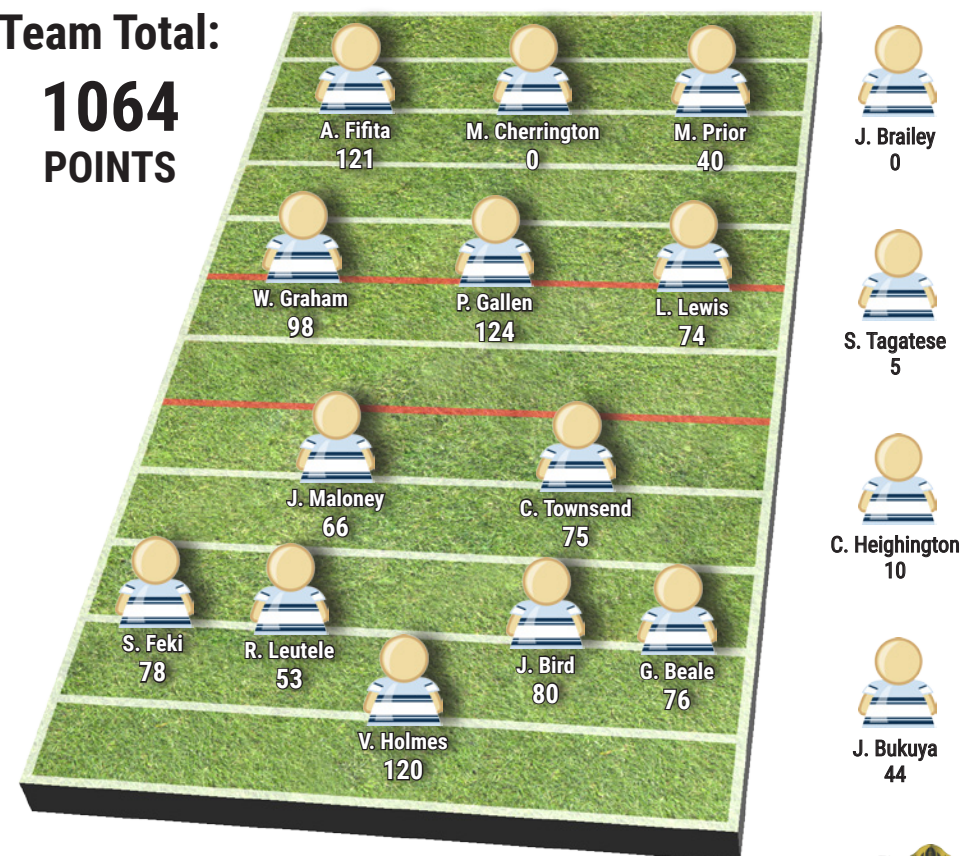
2016 MVP
Paul Gallen

Workhorses: 16
Metre Eaters: 16
Tries: 4
Tackles: 550
Run Metres: 3066

124
POINTS

Team Total:

1064
POINTS



Other Players: B. Barba, T. Williams, D. Mortimer, J. Segeyaro
Note: J. Segeyaro not officially signed with the Sharks

SHARKS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Ben Barba	FB	24	15	0	0	11	19	14	15	149	28	54
Paul Gallen	BR	18	4	0	16	16	2	3	5	124	103	59
Andrew Fifita	FR	22	2	0	16	22	0	3	2	121	94	51
Valentine Holmes	FB, WG	23	18	2	0	12	2	19	1	120 (124)	82 (104)	20
Wade Graham	BR	23	2	0	13	9	3	5	9	98	87	78
Jack Bird	CT	23	6	0	0	15	6	8	6	80	60	DNP
Sosaia Feki	WG	21	13	0	0	6	2	12	0	78	40	49
Gerard Beale	WG, CT	22	5	0	0	14	8	5	7	76	31	70
Chad Townsend	HB (2 KP)	24	6	6	2	0	12	6	12	75 (87)	51	44 (72)
Luke Lewis	BR	23	6	0	7	1	4	6	6	74	91	13
James Maloney	FE (8 KP)	22	5	81	0	2	11	7	10	66 (228)	107 (295)	91 (281)
Ricky Leutele	CT	17	6	0	0	8	2	5	4	53	51	24
Jayson Bukuya	BR	22	4	0	5	0	2	2	2	44	38	38
Matt Prior	FR	22	3	0	5	3	0	2	0	40	4	28
Tony Williams	BR	18	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	17	7	34
Daniel Mortimer	HB, HK	7	1	0	0	0	4	0	2	14	60 (64)	30
Chris Heighington	BR, FR	23	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	10	26	43
Fa'amanu Brown	FE	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	8	0	14
Jeremy Latimore	FR	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	46	34
Joseph Paulo	BR	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	6	80 (86)
Sam Tagataese	FR	20	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	8	16
James Segeyaro	HK	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	102	127
Kurt Capewell	BR	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	DNP	DNP
Jayden Brailey	HK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Manaia Cherrington	HK	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	DNP

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Valentine Holmes is a try scoring machine – expect his output at fullback to be just as good. With 16 tries in 2015 and 18 tries in 2016 you know you're going to get close to a try a game on average. If you've got Metre Eaters in your comp, Val could rival RTS in this category...

Expect Andrew Fifita to do something dumb – it's in his DNA... Sure, he's topped 100 NRLCEO points three times in the past four years, but can you really afford for a Round 1 or 2 pick to go to Super League by Round 6?

NOT

STORM

2013	2014	2015	2016
3rd	6th	4th	1st

Premiership Odds: \$8
Premierships: 2*
Bye Rounds: 12 & 19



Hard To See The Storm Fading

Another year and another strong season for the men from Mexico. Despite losing the Grand Final, the Storm surpassed all expectations with punters suggesting that they were due to start their decline down the ladder.

This year, those suggestions aren't as loud – the Storm just keep on delivering year in, year out and in 2017, it looks like the big three of Smith, Cronk and Slater will be reunited after Slater missed most of last season with a shoulder injury.

By the sounds of preseason, Billy Slater will return in the trials and that means he will be gifted the #1 jersey as long as he wants it. He deserved that right. Cameron Munster was an excellent replacement in Slater's absence but he'll need to bide his time at five-eighth for the time being. Sadly that means a reduction in his NRLCEO output, but he is still a try scorer - he just won't get the Metre Eaters.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Storm have some obvious big name, high priority draft targets. Apart from Cronk and Smith, who again performed extremely well NRLCEO wise, Tohu Harris and Jesse Bromwich showed why they are stars.

Dale Finucane also enjoyed his best season to date, smashing out workhorses at will. Off-season injury has threatened to impact on the lock's numbers but given the chance, he'll score well again.

On the right edge, Kenny Bromwich looks to be taking the departed Kevin Proctor's position – Bromwich hasn't shown much workhorse ability but has had limited chances to do so. He does like crossing the stripe though.

In the backs, having Chase Blair and Will Chambers in the centres is solid but they aren't big scorers. Instead, the Storm love to go to their wings with Suliasi Vunivalu the star of 2016 and Josh Addo-Carr potentially as good. In 18 games last season, he scored a whopping 22 tries – an unbelievable scoring rate for a rookie!

Overall, the Storm combine excellent work ethic with the flair created by Cronk and Smith. Munster's value will be lowered if he plays at five-eighth and their main man Cameron Smith, despite slowing down his running output, continues to tackle himself into the ground while Bellamy avoids a back-up hooker on the bench.

All in all, it would take a brave punter to suggest that this will be the year that the Storm fail. They've been good for so long, it is hard to see them going backwards, especially with the burning desire that comes with losing a Grand Final...

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josh Addo-Carr• Brandon Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vincent Leulua• Jahrome Hughes
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Proctor• Blake Green• Ben Hampton• Josh Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marika Koroibete• Ryan Morgan• Richard Kennar

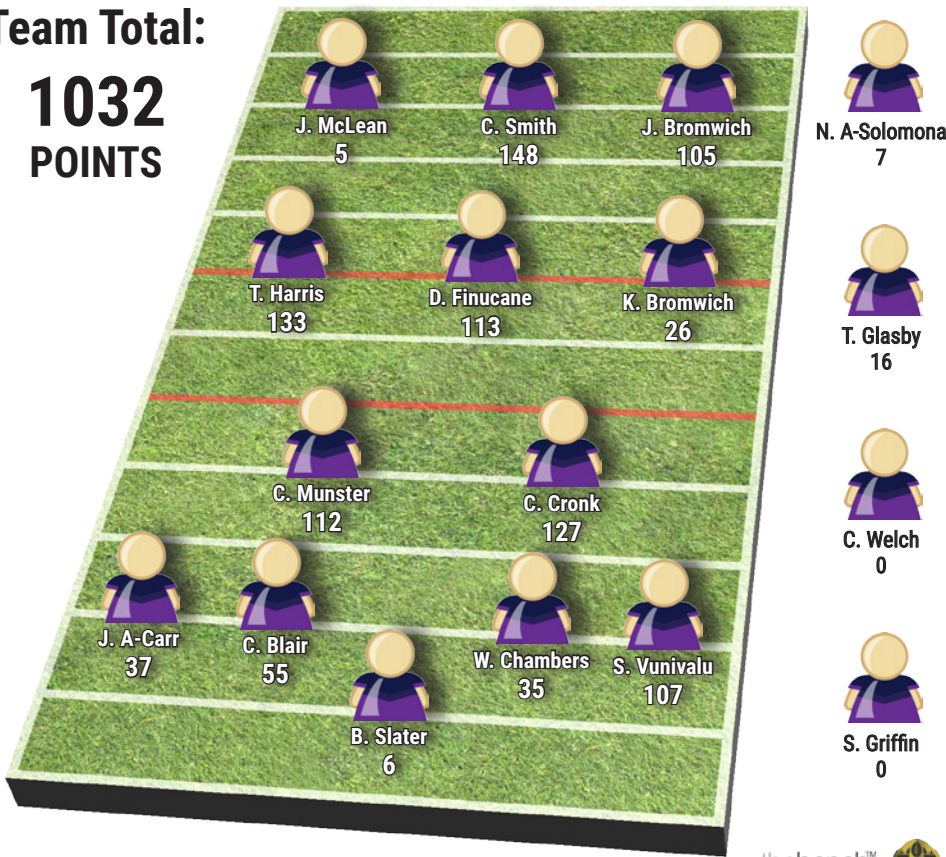


2016 MVP
Cameron Smith

Tries: 2
Try Assists: 15
Linebreaks: 3
Line Break Assists: 13
Workhorses: 22

148
POINTS

Team Total:
1032
POINTS



Other Players: B. Leiluei, B. Smith, J. Hughes, F. Kaufusi

STORM



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Cameron Smith	HK (8 KP)	23	2	83	22	0	15	3	13	148 (314)	117 (245)	131 (267)
Tohu Harris	BR (1 KP)	24	8	2	16	10	2	8	5	133 (137)	103 (109)	26 (30)
Cooper Cronk	HB	23	11	0	0	0	25	7	22	127	68	89
Dale Finucane	BR	24	2	0	22	5	2	0	3	113	64	32
Cameron Munster	FB, FE	21	4	0	0	24	11	12	14	112	49	0
Suliasi Vunivalu	WG	18	22	0	0	3	0	13	0	107	DNP	DNP
Jesse Bromwich	FR	24	3	0	14	12	2	5	4	105	101	94
Cheyse Blair	CT	14	8	0	0	5	1	8	3	55	12	22
Josh Addo-Carr	WG	9	6	0	0	3	0	7	0	37	DNP	DNP
Will Chambers	CT	14	2	0	0	12	1	2	1	35	61	74 (76)
Kenny Bromwich	BR	24	3	0	3	0	0	2	2	26	19	18
Felise Kaufusi	FR	21	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	24	10	DNP
Young Tonumaiepa	WG	12	2	0	0	0	3	3	2	19	9	19
Tim Glasby	FR	19	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	16	5	14
Nelson Asofa-Solomona	FR	14	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	7	7	DNP
Billy Slater	FB	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	30	95
Jahrome Hughes	FB	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	DNP	DNP
Jordan McLean	FR	18	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	13	14
Brodie Croft	HB	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	DNP	DNP
Curtis Scott	CT	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	DNP	DNP
Brandon Smith	HK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Christian Welch	FR	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	DNP
Vincent Leuluai	BR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Dean Britt	BR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP
Jeremy Hawkins	CT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	7	5

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Cooper Cronk just gets better and better, and last season he made a noticeable change with his increased hunger for tries. 11 tries make it his best season to date, so you have to wonder if he can keep that strike rate up, but even if not, he's the premier non-kicking half in NRLCEO.

Billy Slater's shoulder isn't good and he hasn't played for a long, long time. You have to wonder whether Billy the Kid's career is done – we hope not but he's a risky draft option at this point. You just know that someone will take him in an early round. Will it be you?

NOT

TIGERS

2013	2014	2015	2016
10th	13th	15th	9th

Premiership Odds: \$26
Premierships: 1
Bye Rounds: 12 & 18



Teddy Bear Picnic

Robbie Farah is gone and maybe, just maybe, Coach Jason Taylor finally has full control of his team. The Tigers have been a rabble for a number of years now, so there's no excuses looking for season 2017.

The Tigers boast some of the most exciting youngsters in the competition but with other 'more significant' clubs lurking to steal some signatures, their Premiership window might be closing faster than they anticipated.

Looking at their squad, they appear to be some serious deficiencies – their pack is pretty ordinary on paper.

Only Aaron Woods stands out as an NRLCEO draft target and with Farah gone, plenty of eggs have been thrown in the brittle basket of Matt Ballin.

At lock, Elijah Taylor was very good last season in his move from the Panthers but he's starting to pick up some injuries diminishing his overall effectiveness that has been a given in previous years.

Fullback is where it is at with the Tiges. James Tedesco is arguably the most dangerous footballer with ball in hand and space in front of him – he should be a high draft target.

David Nofoaluma, Kevin Naiqama and Tim Simona all share the tries between them but they just aren't consistent enough to warrant special consideration in the draft.

Losing Josh Addo-Carr to the Storm could come back to bite Tigers management and fans will be hoping it's not another repeat of the Korobete scenario...

In the halves, the pairing of Mitchell Moses and Luke Brooks is a developing one but when on, they are electric. One hopes the Tigers can keep these two together long term and with Tedesco, they will create a dangerous trident of attacking brilliance. Moses has the kicking points but also looks a better NRLCEO prospect.

However, consistency is the key for the Tigers. When their young pack are in the mood, they can mix it with any opposition in the competition but those days were few and far between last season.

Overall, like a lot of teams this year, the Tigers have some potential stars in the making but their need to make sure their weaknesses don't hijack their season. Depth in edge forwards and big boppers could expose the Tigers badly and that is why they won't play finals again this season.

Player Changes

Gains	• J. Idris	• M. McIlwrack
Losses	• J. Addo-Carr	• J. Buchanan
	• T. Cassel	• M. Cherrington
	• J. Drinkwater	• R. Farah
	• A. Fine	• D. Graham
	• D. Halatau	• L. Liolveave
	• B. McConnachie	• N. Milone
	• J. Parahi	• C. Peni
	• C. Sironen	



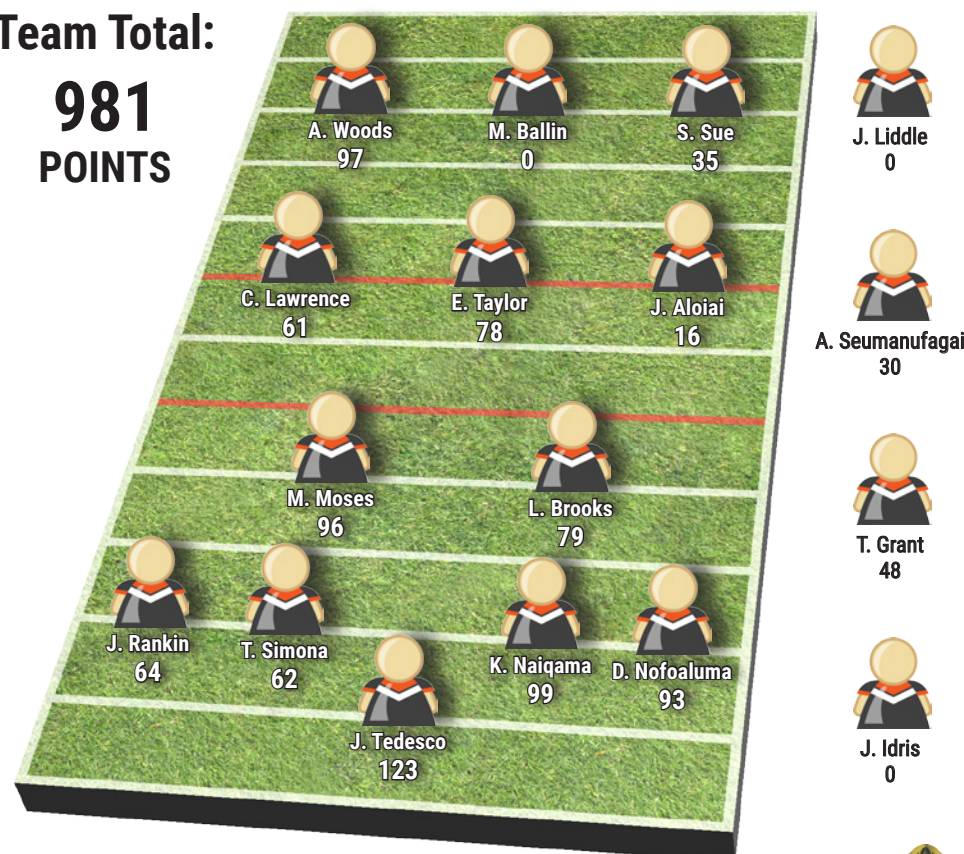
2016 MVP
James Tedesco

Tries: 14
Try Assists: 13
Linebreaks: 14
Line Break Assists: 9
Metre Eaters: 9

123
POINTS

Team Total:

981
POINTS



Other Players: K. Lovett, M. McIlwrack, M. Chee Kam, J. Hunt

TIGERS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
James Tedesco	FB	17	14	0	0	9	13	14	9	123	124	44
Kevin Naiqama	CT	23	11	0	1	10	8	7	8	99	64	36
Aaron Woods	FR	19	1	0	13	14	3	1	6	97	70	97
Mitchell Moses	FE (6 KP)	23	6	43	0	3	18	12	14	96 (182)	53 (63)	34
David Nofoaluma	WG	23	14	0	0	9	2	14	1	93	36	38
Luke Brooks	HB	21	5	0	0	1	16	3	19	79	90	60
Elijah Taylor	BR	17	1	0	14	0	5	1	7	78	84	67
Jordan Rankin	WG (6 KP)	22	7	28	0	10	1	9	5	64	24* (44*)	36* (104*)
Tim Simona	CT	21	7	1	0	10	1	9	3	62	57	18
Chris Lawrence	BR	22	3	0	10	0	2	4	1	61	32	27
Tim Grant	FR	22	1	0	9	3	0	2	0	48	17	9
Sauaso Sue	BR, FR	21	4	0	2	1	2	4	1	35	38	8
Ava Seumanufagai	FR	24	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	30	23	0
Kyle Lovett	BR	22	1	0	5	0	1	1	0	27	48	DNP
Josh Aloiai	BR	24	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	16	DNP	DNP
Nathan Milone	CT	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	DNP
Justin Hunt	WG	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	15	1
Joel Edwards	BR	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	29
Michael Chee-Kam	BR	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	29
JJ Felise	FR	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Jack Littlejohn	FE	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	12
Matt Ballin	HK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	97
Matt McIlwrick	HK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8
Jamal Idris	CT, BR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	22	37
Joel Luani	HK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	1

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Easy. James Tedesco has the speed to inflict damage on every team in the comp. Draft him and your opposition's butt will pucker up every time he touches the ball – that's gotta be a good feeling... Early in the year he looked like breaking NRLCEO records – he can if he stays fit.

The Tiger's backrow is doozy – there's not much 'draftworthiness' there at all. Sure, Elijah Taylor makes 40 tackles per game but he doesn't do much else to trouble the scorer... The last time he scored more than two tries in a season was 2013.

NOT

TITANS

2013	2014	2015	2016
9th	14th	14th	8th

Premiership Odds: \$17
Premierships: 0
Bye Rounds: 12 & 18



The New QLD Powerhouse?

The Hayne plane has landed, dropped off some excess luggage and is ready to fly again in 2017. Recruitment at the Titans has once again been astutely measured under Neil Henry and the reality is, they've got the squad to win the competition this year.

Titans management in recent years have made a habit of recruiting dregs from the other clubs and they look to have some serious depth in key positions.

For the NRLCEO coach, Ryan James had a halcyon year in 2016 – can he go close to doing it again? If he can, he's a genuine top front row option in the draft – you don't get many front rowers with the ability to score tries like James does.

James also has some handy offsideers in the pack these days. Nathan Peats, Kevin Proctor and Jarrod Wallace all show genuine workhorse potential although their minutes will be a factor in a revamped and stronger Titans pack.

Peats in particular always looks like he will score a double workhorse at half time but he tends to clock off the tackling late in the game, preferring to focus on running and pivot play.

New signing Kevin Proctor is a great signing and is in career best form but how he will travel without Cronk feeding him the pies is anyone's guess.

In the backs, of course Hayne brings the x-factor but half Ash Taylor is the key that unlocks the attack. If he and Kane Elgey can find a combination that works with Hayne, the Titans will be sitting pretty and won't lack points. For depth, Tyrone Roberts will be handy coming off the bench to cover a number of roles.

Out wide, the Titans have waved goodbye to both of their wingers. Nene McDonald has been replaced with Daniel Vidot – the forgotten man! Vidot can be brilliant on his day but quite the opposite most other days so it will be interesting to see how he goes with a shortened pre-season and year off.

The loss of David Mead also means Anthony Don is likely to feel more secure in his role and playing outside of the rampaging Konnie Hurrell could mean that he prospers. Keeping the hulking centre on the park is the obvious issue though as the Hurrellcane has struggled with injuries throughout his career.

Overall, the Titans have developed a nice squad with plenty of talent – both young and experienced. Surely this is the year that they put a whole season together and get more than 5,000 fans consistently attending their home games...

Player Changes

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Proctor• Jarrod Wallace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dan Sarginson
Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greg Bird• Josh Hoffman• Nene Macdonald• Daniel Mortimer• Cameron Cullen• Brian Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Mead• Luke Douglas• Nathan Friend• Lachlan Burr• David Hala

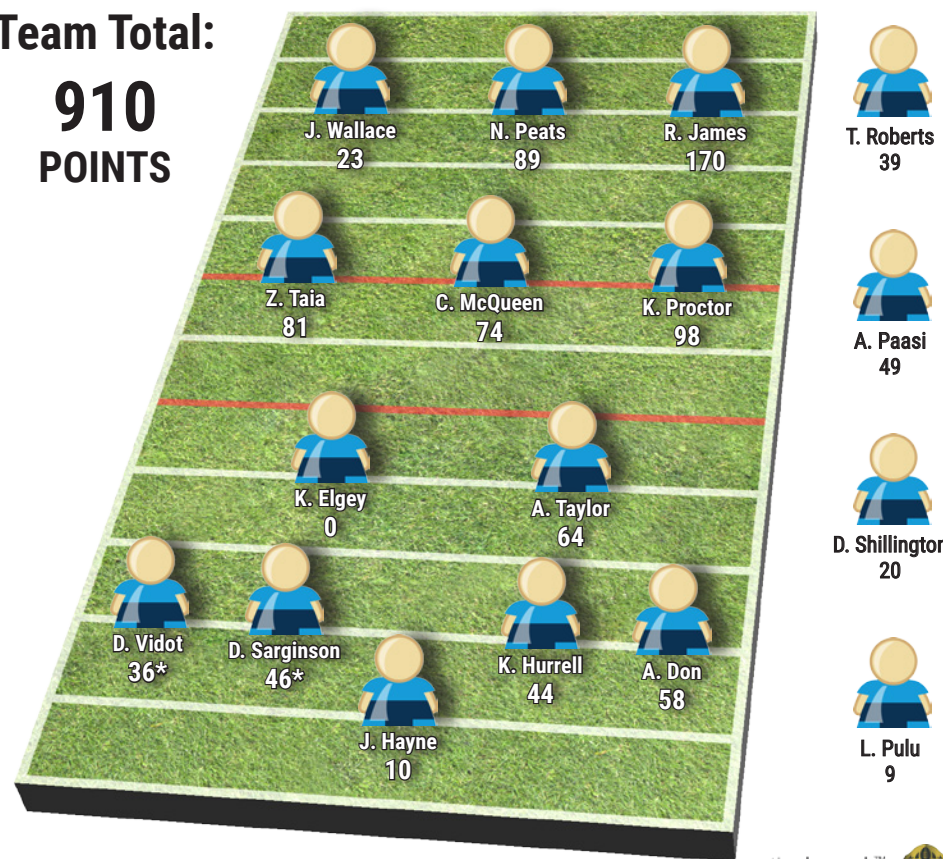


2016 MVP
Ryan James

Tries: 11
Try Assists: 2
Linebreaks: 10
Workhorses: 24
Metre Eaters: 7

170
POINTS

Team Total:
910
POINTS



Other Players: J. Olive, N. Davies, W. Zillman, E. Pettybourne

TITANS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Ryan James	FR	24	11	0	24	7	2	10	2	170	73	5
Kevin Proctor	BR	21	6	0	16	1	1	5	1	98	78	70
Nathan Peats	HK	19	3	0	15	0	5	2	5	89	112	53
Zeb Taia	BR	24	5	0	12	4	0	4	1	81	44*	48*
Chris McQueen	BR	24	7	0	9	0	1	7	1	74	42	35
Ashley Taylor	HB (6 KP)	21	5	26	0	1	13	4	10	64 (116)	DNP	DNP
Anthony Don	WG	22	12	0	0	0	0	9	1	58	63	43 (45)
Agnatius Paasi	BR, FR	24	5	0	2	3	3	7	2	49	18	DNP
Konrad Hurrell	CT	12	3	0	0	9	3	5	3	44	27	90
Tyrone Roberts	FE (1 KP)	20	2	51	0	1	10	3	6	39 (141)	35 (143)	78 (118)
William Zillman	FB, CT	9	1	0	0	7	3	1	3	28	20	18
Jarrold Wallace	FR	24	1	0	4	1	0	1	0	23	28	0
David Shillington	FR	11	1	0	1	4	1	1	1	20	41	27
Nathan Davis	CT	8	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	15	DNP	DNP
Jarryd Hayne	FB	5	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	10	DNP	181
John Olive	WG, CT	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	DNP
Leivaha Pulu	BR	22	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	9	0	DNP
Dan Sarginson	CT	23*	4*	0	0	0	12*	6*	0	46*	DNP	DNP
Daniel Vidot	WG	6*	5*	0	0	0	1*	4*	0	36*	37	71
Eddy Pettybourne	FR	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	DNP
Kierran Moseley	HK	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	DNP
Karl Lawton	CT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP
Kane Elgey	FE (2 KP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	63 (83)	0
Christian Hazard	HB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	DNP	DNP
Mitchell Dodds	FR	2*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	DNP	0

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Ryan James has just inked a new deal and a happy footballer is a good footballer. James had an epic season in 2016 and was the top scoring NRLCEO player if you exclude metre eaters – there's no reason why he can't do it again, if given the minutes.

William Zillman continues to linger like a bad smell. He's taking up a fair portion of the salary cap whilst getting splinters in his butt. There's always that one guy in the draft who takes him in the late rounds based on old YouTube clips. Don't let it be you. Please leave 'Zip Zip Man'...

NOT

WARRIORS

2013	2014	2015	2016
11th	9th	13th	10th

Premiership Odds: \$13
Premierships: 0
Bye Rounds: 15 & 18



The Team To Win It On Paper - Again...

In 2016, everything looked sweet for the Warriors – they had a cracking squad and with the addition of stud fullback RTS, the competition was their oyster.

12 months later and after a debacle of a season, critics could be excused for saying the same thing – is this the Warrior's year?

On paper, the Warriors have a great starting side but by now, we all know that the team from across the ditch never do anything to script. Their first step was that they simply had to change their coach. Appointing Stephen Kearney to the role has to be a step in the right direction.

For the NRLCEO coach, has there EVER been a more frustrating player to own than Shaun Johnson? Seriously, he's a deadset match winner who just can't put up a consistent half season let alone season.

SJ is a trap for NRLCEO punters – he is hot to trot one minute and promises you world but all of a sudden he's nowhere to be seen, limping and disinterested. Johnson on the free agency is like that 'hot chick' in Bali – you know you shouldn't but bloody hell, you're tempted if you can get away with it...

In the forwards, Simon Mannering had a tremendous 2016 and knocked on the double workhorse door so often without actually getting there.

Bodene Thompson was the other standout and on the right edge his NRLCEO legacy continues to grow with every season at the Warriors.

At hooker, Issac Luke can be hit and miss but the lack of a consistent back up rake helps his case for recruitment in the draft. Add to it the fact that he will likely kick a fair bit depending on SJ's mood and he becomes a handy player to have.

In the backs, it appears that the Beast is running on empty and may have to be retired out to stud which is a shame – he's an NRLCEO favourite and has done the job for so long.

David Fusitua and Ken Maumalo could both fill the voids on the wings with Solomone Kata assured of keeping his left centre position after another quality season in attack.

Overall, there are still plenty of questions where the answer will directly impact on the Warriors' draft potential. Will Foran be allowed to play? Will RTS get back to what he was? Will Tui Lolohea cement a spot somewhere?

All are questions that the NRLCEO coach should consider when drafting a touch of Kiwi into their squad...

Player Changes

Gains	• Kieran Foran	
Losses	• Thomas Leuluai	• Jeff Robson
	• Jonathan Wright	• Shaun Lane
	• Ray F-Mariner	• Ben Henry
	• Ali Lauitiiti	• Sione Lousi
	• John Palavi	• Henare Wells

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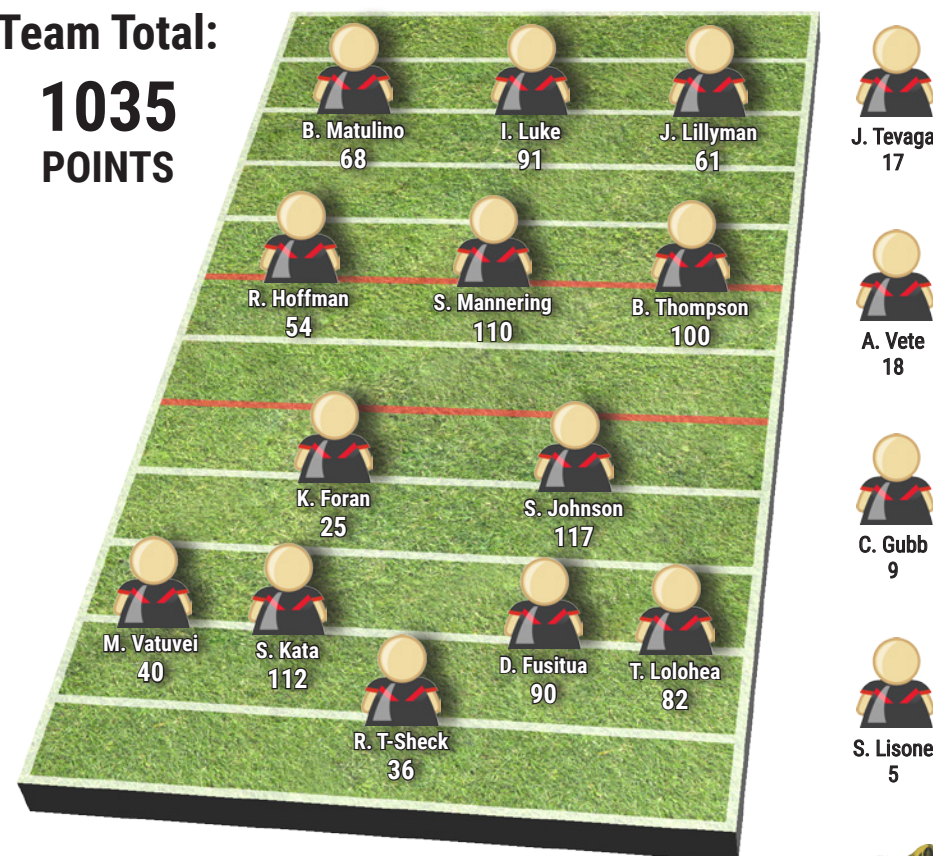
2016 MVP
Shaun Johnson

Tries: 10
Try Assists: 17
Linebreaks: 15
Line Break Assists: 21
Metre Eaters: 3

117
POINTS

Team Total:

1035
POINTS



Other Players: N. Roache, K. Maumalo, B. Ayshford, B. Afoa

WARRIORS



Player	Position	Games	Tries	Goals	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2016 Total	2015 Total	2014 Total
Shaun Johnson	HB (6 KP)	24	10	42	0	3	17	15	21	117 (201)	75 (171)	88 (214)
Solomone Kata	CT	21	15	0	0	16	2	13	3	112	64	DNP
Simon Mannering	BR	22	5	0	20	0	2	4	2	110	107	96
Bodene Thompson	BR	18	6	0	15	1	1	8	4	100	108	72
Issac Luke	HK (3 KP)	20	3	28	10	5	8	4	9	91 (147)	90 (128)	57 (67)
David Fusitua	WG, CT	18	11	0	0	12	3	13	3	90	16	42
Tuimoala Lolohea	FE, WG	22	5	5	0	9	10	14	10	82 (92)	78 (100)	6
Blake Ayshford	CT	23	8	0	0	6	8	7	10	75	3	10
Ben Matulino	FR	23	1	0	13	5	0	1	1	68	64	27
Jacob Lillyman	FR	22	1	0	11	3	2	1	2	61	36	25
Ryan Hoffman	BR	23	2	0	7	2	2	4	6	54	31	58
Manu Vatuvei	WG	15	6	0	0	4	0	8	0	40	61	85
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	FB	7	1	0	0	11	3	0	4	36	92	56
Kieran Foran	FE	9	1	0	1	0	5	2	5	25	49 (57)	57
Albert Vete	FR	15	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	18	5	0
Bunty Afoa	BR, FR	4	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	18	DNP	DNP
Jazz Tevaga	HK	11	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	17	DNP	DNP
Ken Maumalo	WG	10	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	11	6	DNP
Charlie Gubb	FR	14	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	9	3	0
Matthew Allwood	CT	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	15	11
Nathaniel Roache	HK	11	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	DNP	DNP
Ata Hingano	FE	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4 (6)	DNP	DNP
John Palavi	BR	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
James Gavet	FR	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4
Toafofoa Sipley	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	DNP	DNP

DNP = Did Not Play

* Denotes Super League Stats

+ Denotes Injury

HOT

Statistically, Simon Mannering is coming off his best season and given the lack of any replacement, Manners appears to be locked into another season of playing 80 minutes in the core. He scored 100+ NRLCEO points in the last two years and 20+ workhorses. Expect the same.

The Warriors heart is cold as ice and they need to get some ticker if they are going to go any further than their customary 8-12th placed finish. Hopefully cardio has been the focus this pre-season... Otherwise you could point to any player going through cold patches in this team.

NOT

MY SQUAD



FRONT ROW	HOOGER	FRONT ROW
BACK ROW	BACK ROW	BACK ROW
FIVE EIGHTH	HALF BACK	
CENTRE	CENTRE	
WINGER	FULL BACK	WINGER

BENCH
BENCH
BENCH
BENCH
RESERVE
RESERVE
RESERVE
RESERVE
RESERVE
RESERVE
RESERVE



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