

SEASON GUIDE

2019

ANALYSIS FOR OVER
500
PLAYERS

DAMIEN COOK
2018 MVP

CAN CAPTAIN COOK GO

BACK TO BACK

UNDER WAYNÉ BENNETT?

PLUS

Expert Interviews

Mock Draft

Analysis of
all 16 teams

Studs, Duds,
Sleepers & Gambles



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The 2019 Season Guide, a.k.a. "The Bible", has been put together with the hard work of NRLCEO's Commish Jamie Bradnam, Michael "Mig" Hoyle, Craig "Cappo" Caplick, Mark "The Sheriff" Rigney, and resident graphic designer Scott Beeby.

THERE'S THAT POINT IN THE YEAR WHEN YOU'RE JUST DONE WITH CRICKET...

Particularly when the national team fucking sucks, like right now.

That's when most of us are turning our attention to footy. To Rugby League. And more specifically, to NRLCEO.

As a League commissioner and Fantasy Analyst at Fox Sports, I never really switch off from fantasy footy. But when we hit the new year and the summer draws to a close, NRL interest picks up and by March its peaking... Even before a tackle has even been made!

And that's thanks to fantasy. Thanks to our passion. We're trying to read the tea leaves as to who's taking over the Rabbitohs' vacant left wing position or the Warriors' right second-rower slot.

Fantasy has a very tangible impact on NRL interest.

And sure, playing SuperCoach is part of my job. But gearing up for another season of drafting on THIS platform is what really gets me out of bed in the morning.

Our NRLCEO League, the David Finch Memorial Cup, consisting of a bunch of Uni of Canberra alumni, both graduates and dropouts alike, has been at the forefront of evolution. We first introduced specific positions last season, including the Lock and Edge Forward. We have keepers and a two-week trade period, prior to the draft, where we'll swap draft picks and players with good keeper value. We have a draft 'Power Play'. And only we know what that even means.

We fucking froth it.

And none of us can really explain why exactly we tip so much time and energy into it. But life's pretty fucking complicated and beating your mates at shit is a simple but rewarding pleasure.

We'll still be grinding over at TheBench.com.au beyond Trump's reign and, thankfully, beyond Peter Dutton's parliamentary involvement as well.

But for now, it's time for 2019. It's time to do some pre-draft research and work out how the fuck you're going to get an edge at the draft.

Look, I did nothing to help erect this Season Guide, beyond this very page. But as the guy that hosted the Moneyball podcast for the first few seasons, before the great Ted Smith took over, hopefully some of my takes have helped you improve your team at some point over the years.

Understand positional scarcity when you draft – WHY exactly you draft elite props early. Know that the previous year's top try scorer almost NEVER repeats his heroics. Don't over value try-reliant backs. It's always easier to find value out wide later on than workhorse forwards. Because variance happens in professional sport. Remember that.

And don't be afraid of change when your league is voting on rule changes and updates.

Embrace your passion and take responsibility for ensuring that this game makes you feel as close to a Football Operations Manager as possible. This is NRLCEO, after all.

YOU have the capacity to turn things around quick. Cricket Australia, on the other hand, has a much tougher gig.

Enjoy the guide and the season ahead!

Phil Prior - Fantasy Footy Expert at Fox Sports

***Commissioner of David Finch Memorial Cup
NRLCEO League of 10 Years***



A QUICK REFRESHER

Most people reading this are likely to be diehard NRLCEO fanatics with at least a couple years of experience. That being said, there is sure to be at least a few of you that are new to this and many more who could use a brush up on how to play.

Whether you're a diehard NRLCEO fanatic with a few years under your belt or this is your first year, we could all use a brush up on how to play the game and what everything means. Before we flood you with information in the rest of this season guide, take a second to look over everything below so that we're all starting off on the same foot.

WHAT IS NRLCEO?

NRLCEO is Australia's largest promotion/relegation draft for NRL fantasy football. Where Supercoach and NRL Fantasy assign prices to each player and give you a salary cap, NRLCEO prefers the draft approach. Every player is available to be in your team, but they're all unique. CEOs (that's you and the other players in your league) take turns to pick players, but once they've been picked nobody else can use them.

You can find more information on page 8, but that's the gist of it.

FROM YOUR FELLOW CEOs:

- *"Draft 'til the end. While other people might be happy to pick up randoms players, you can find one or two gems."*
- **Geoff Adams**
- *"Pick with your head, not with your heart. The players you love don't necessarily get the minutes."*
- **Brett Leslie**
- *"Once the draft is complete, try not to be tempted by free agents. Your limited player terminations have to last the entire season."*
- **Scott Beeby**
- *"Pick the best available player even if short in another position and pick centres last."*
- **Adam Hewat**
- *"Forwards win matches, backs by how much, ensure you have a good base of workhorses over a flashy backline."*
- **Geoff Adams**
- *"Don't let past performance alone be the deciding factor in keeping a player. If they're having a bad season, cut them!"*
- **Alex McDonald**
- *"If you are the last player to pick a kicker in your competition, wait until the last round to pick them. You effectively get another top tier pick."*
- **@JarvFromOz**

DON'T FORGET...

Metre Eaters (2 points):

Fullbacks: 150+ metres run

Wingers: 150+ metres run

Centres: 100+ metres run

Five-Eighths: 100+ metres run

Halfbacks: 100+ metres run

Front Rowers: 150+ metres run

Hookers: 100+ metres run

Back Rowers: 150+ metres run

Double Metre Eaters (4 points):

All positions: 200+ metres run

Triple Metre Eaters (6 points):

All positions: 300+ metres run

Workhorse (4 points):

All forwards: 40+ involvements (tackles + hits)

Double Workhorse (8 points):

Hookers: 50+ involvements AND run 75m

Other forwards: 60+ involvements AND run 120m

Triple Workhorse (12 points):

Hookers: 60+ involvements AND run 125m

Other forwards: 70+ involvements AND run 170m

WHAT'S NEW IN 2019?

LOCK POSITION

The addition of the lock position is a significant step for NRLCEO and one we did not take lightly. We pride our game on being reflective of real life rugby league and with this change we believe that we are following the trends of the modern game.

Locks are built like John Buttigieg these days instead of Dallas Johnson. There aren't a lot of players who are interchangeable between playing on an edge and playing middle. In real life you would never see a back row of 11. Jason Taumalolo, 12. Josh McGuire, and 13. Jake Trbojevic.

So instead of teams having the luxury of filling their back row with tackle hungry locks, we have split them up.

Similarly there are players like Cameron Murray or Elijah Taylor who are starting locks but could never play up front. Therefore we didn't want the edge/middle split once again.

We took on a lot of feedback from trusted NRLCEOs before we made this change. Even post change we have had a lot of feedback.

Long time CEO Robert Sim said "I think it reflects the game which I always like and to be honest I enjoy some more complexity for draft research as it sorts out the pros and the rookies.

Also specialist positions generate more trades which is always good for banter."

LOCK ONLY	LOCK / FRONT ROW	LOCK / BACK ROW	TRIPLE POSITION
Jason Taumalolo	Jake Trbojevic	Aidan Guerra	Josh Papalii
Paul Gallen	Ryan James	Elliott Whitehead	Sam Burgess
Jazz Tevaga	Matt Eisenhuth	Mitchell Barnett	Robbie Rochow
Jack de Belin	Jai Arrow	Shaun Lane	Bunty Afoa
Nathan Brown	Martin Taupau	Tyson Frizell	Leivaha Pulu
Elijah Taylor	David Klemmer	Rhyse Martin	
Slade Griffin (+HK)	Herman Ese'ese	James Fisher-Harris	
Victor Radley	Joe Ofahengaue	Tevita Pangai Junior	
Dale Finucane	Jarrod Wallace	Cameron Murray	
Adam Elliott	Josh McGuire	Tepai Moeroa	
Luke Bateman	Aiden Tolman	Kenny Bromwich	
Jack Bird (+CT)	Iosia Soliola	Bryce Cartwright	
Patrick Mago	Peni Terepo	Ethan Lowe	
Kaide Ellis	Adam Blair	Nat Butcher	
John Bateman (+CT)	Korbin Sims	Jamie Buhrer	



TEAM KICKERS

The most controversial thing we release every season is our Kicker Points. Despite the fact we allow the kicker point salary cap to be customised in paid leagues it still gets the tongues wagging every year. We do it as best as we can, but lately the kicker lottery has been even harder to pick than normal.

There's no worse feeling than your NRLCEO season being derailed as you lose your kicker to injury in the final rounds of the season and you've run out of trades. So we have decided to implement a new change in 2019 that will give insurance for these situations.

In NFL fantasy games you can draft a whole defence. In Super Rugby fantasy you can draft an entire front row. So in NRLCEO for the first time you can draft "Broncos Goals" or "Rabbitohs Goals" which means no matter who kicks the goals and even if you don't have that player in your team, you still get the goals. Think about how little value Adam Reynolds will now have in your League!

This will be only implemented in the Supporters League initially and will be available for all other custom leagues. Check the NRLCEO blog for more details on how to include team kickers in your league.

TEAM BREAKDOWNS

We're always looking for more and better ways to convey how teams performed in the previous season. It's for this reason that we've implemented the new team breakdown that you'll see on page 23 as well as in every team's individual section of this guide.

Simply put, this graphic will show you the total amount of NRLCEO points a team scored last season (minus goals kicked) and divides those points into two groups, backs and forwards. Different teams break down their points in different ways, and their totals vary wildly.

From this we can gather a few things. A team that scores the majority of their points through the backs is a priority target for drafting fullbacks, wingers, centres, and halves. Conversely if a team is stacked up front then you'll want to pick up a member of their front row, back row, hooker, or the newly added lock position.

Team totals also come into consideration. The 2018 premiership winners below scored 1121, which is getting up towards the highest amount seen from last season. Their grand final opponents however only managed a total of 839. This could mean the Melbourne Storm scored most of their points through a few players, or perhaps it just averaged out and everyone scored lower than their Roosters equivalent. The point being that if you're getting deep into your draft and tossing up between a player from the Roosters or a player from the Storm, you might want to pick the Roosters player because generally there's more points on offer. It's something to think about.



BACKS
579 / 52%

1121

FORWARDS
542 / 48%



BACKS
453 / 54%

839

FORWARDS
386 / 46%

POTENTIAL COLUMN

Another new feature in the season guide this year is the added 'potential' column that you'll see in every club's table of statistics. It serves as a quick reference point for how our experts believe certain players are likely to perform this season.

Outside factors come into consideration, such as pending court cases and viral videos that you've probably seen already, as well as the more traditional influences like a new coach or a change in the roster.

If a player is likely to score 20 or more NRLCEO points higher than last season then you'll see a green upwards facing arrow next to their name. If we think they're going to drop off by 20 or more points then there will be a red downwards arrow instead. It's safe to say the majority of players will fluctuate slightly but within these boundaries, and for them you will see a dash indicating little change.

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PROMOTION/ RELEGATION DRAFT

The Legends of League Competition is our oldest public league and it is now in its ninth year.

Such is the popularity of this competition that many of the teams have been returning since the first year. Also, no team has even won the Champions League twice. So the challenge is on for 2018 Champions Aussiepistons, 2017 Champions Injury Brigade, 2015 Champions the Gurus as they attempt to win for a second time.

If you haven't heard of the Legends of League tournament, then let me introduce you to Australia's biggest promotion and relegation fantasy draft tournament.

The top tier is made up of ten teams. The top four from the 2018 Champions League and the six winners of the Legends of League Division 1 competitions. They all vye for the honour of being the champion of all champions.

The second tier is made up of six Legends of League competitions with eight teams in each league. The winner of each of these competitions competes in the next year's Champions League. The bottom two teams are relegated to the third tier.

The third tier is made up of six qualifying leagues. There are eight teams in each competition and the Grand Finalists of each of these competitions gets promoted to tier two the following year.

In each of these competitions the top five play-off in the finals to crown the champion of each League. It is \$10 entry per team and the winners receive an awesome trophy. There are limited places available in the tier three competitions depending on who returns.

2018 LEGENDS OF LEAGUE WINNERS

Champions League: Aussiepistons

Division 1:

Allan Langer Cup: Impatient Bastards

Andrew Johns Cup: Spider Nation

Arthur Beetson Cup: Team Enormous

Clive Churchill Cup: Bullgods

Mal Meninga Cup: Injury Brigade

Wally Lewis Cup: Bongis Kahn

Division 2:

Anthony Minichiello Cup: Bankstown Kebabs

Darren Lockyer Cup: Captains Call

Hazem El Masri Cup: Mutant Devil Dogs

Matty Bowen Cup: The Fiery Falcons

Sam Burgess Cup: Tritons II

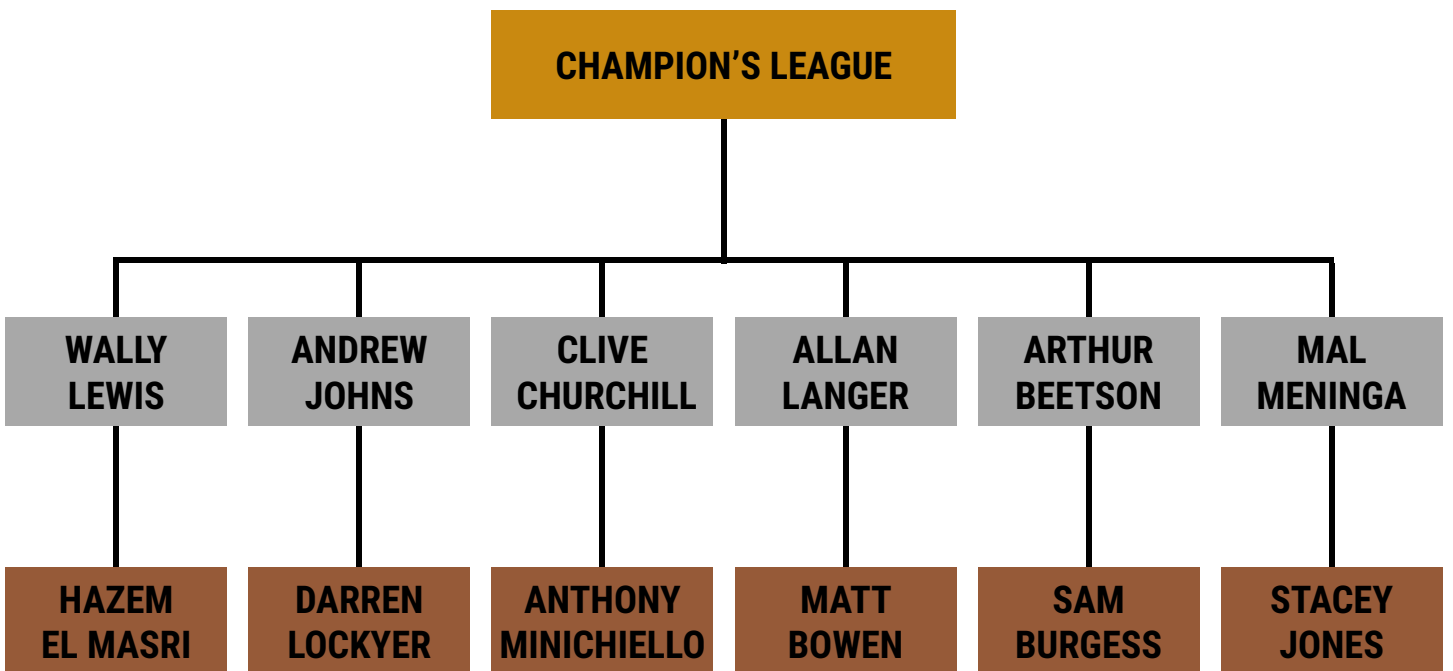
Stacey Jones Cup: Bullgods

**106
PLACES**

**3 TIERS OF
PROMOTION &
RELEGATION**

**TROPHIES FOR
EACH COMP!**

**\$10
ENTRY**



2018 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Ryan Lynn's Aussiepistons have taken out the 2018 Champions League on the back of a dream finals run.

Finishing the regular season in second place, Lynn's Pistons were the first team into the Grand Final, taking care of the NQ All Stars in a nail biter in the first week of finals and then disposing of the Minor Premiers, Injury Brigade the following week.

But while the Pistons were destined for Champions League glory, there was another team on its own title run, taking out the big guns one by one.

Bucca Bulldogs won the Champions League in its inaugural year way back in 2012 and coming into the finals, the Bulldogs were struggling to put a decent score on the board. It is fair to say, they limped into the finals, despite finishing five points clear of the sixth placed Hell Boy.

But as we know in NRLCEO, if you make the finals, ANYTHING can happen! In Week 1, the Bulldogs found themselves under the pump against Mig's Gurus but in the end they secured a dramatic five point win. This progressed them to the second week against the NQ All Stars where they notched up a commanding 30 point win - momentum was starting to gather!

The Preliminary Final saw the Bulldogs taking on Defending Champions - Injury Brigade who dominated all regular season. Injury Brigade finished a whopping four points clear of their nearest rivals and surely the loss in the Qualifying Final the week before was just a hiccup...

In what was an amazing match, the Bulldogs continued their run for glory, taking out their much more fancied rivals by a comfortable 17 points. After such an impressive season, Injury Brigade must have been gutted!

The Grand Final was a see sawing affair early. Aussiepistons were sitting pretty with Latrell Mitchell in cracking form while the Bucca Bulldogs were riding the Valentine Holmes wave all the way to the beach.

In the end, it was a convincing Pistons win 109-68. After so many years of just falling short, Ryan Lynn secured the most coveted title in NRLCEO - the Champions League. Unfortunately for Watsy's Bulldogs, it was a case of so close yet so far to that elusive second title.

This season, new teams have qualified for the 2019 Champions League with some familiar faces returning. We say goodbye for now to the following teams who were relegated: Marcho's Hell Boy, Jez's Wallalong EMUS, The Commish's Failing Ferrets, Seeto's Soup-a-Stars and Brad's Incredible Miracles.

Congratulations go to all teams who contested the Champions League in 2018 - especially to Aussiepistons!!



INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAMP



Q. How long have you been playing NRLCEO?

A. I started playing in 2012. A few of us friends had started watching the tv show 'The League' and a hunt found NRLCEO as a site that could give us a draft option.

Q. Is this your greatest victory of all?

A. For sure! After reaching the pinnacle of fantasy sports I was a little worried that I'd lose direction, but I notice no-one has won the Champions League twice...

Q. What is your general drafting strategy?

A. 'Best player available', with a little look at value over replacement. I always want a prop in the first two rounds too - a 4 Point Per Game (PPG) prop is harder to replace than a 5PPG backrower.

Q. Who was your first draft pick in the Champions League and were you happy with him?

A. My first pick was Paul Vaughan. My second was Matt Gillett. I took Michael Morgan 4th. I guess it goes to show that drafting a deep team and being active with free agents is important, 'cause injuries crippled my original line-up.

Q. Who was the worst player you drafted in the Champions League in 2018?

A. Gillett, but that was due to injuries. Daniel Tupou was rubbish though. I had such high hopes - I picked him up in every league and was smug as hell. But that guy was useless.

Q. How was the pressure in the final few weeks?

A. I'm not going to lie - I wanted it bad. Fortunately(?) with such a beaten up side there weren't too many decisions to make. And with Corey Oates lining up against my own useless Manly team all I had to do was give him the C and ride him to victory.

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

A. A mix of happiness and disappointment. That same afternoon I was smashed in my private league!

Q. Have you ever used your NRLCEO prowess as a pick-up line?

A. My lovely girlfriend plays NRLCEO. She didn't like it last year when I was entering my 5th (6th?) comp and demanded she get to pick the players. She didn't know what a "play the ball" was and 18 months later she is fighting out her own grand finals.

Q. Who will be your biggest rival in the Champions League in 2019?

A. Mig. It's always Mig. We've had some good battles over the years, and he is always thereabouts.

Q. If you had first pick in the draft, who would you pick?

A. It'd be a brave coach who doesn't draft Cook first. I think uncle Wayne dampens his scoring a helluva lot, but your worst case is still going to be 5 points a game.



Ryan Linn (Aussiepistons). Look at that hunk of man meat.

MONEYBALL PODCAST



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FANTASY PODCAST



NEW PODCAST EPISODES EVERY WEEK



NRLCEO HQ



SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

Look at these blokes! It looks like a line-up at the cop shop for a murder... These blokes are in fact looking happy for a reason. They are wearing these jerseys because they won them in last years Supporters Leagues.

NRLCEO runs multiple Supporters Leagues where CEOs get to pick the best six players from their favourite club, and then everyone else goes into the draft. We asked last year's winners who they'll be picking this time around.



**1. ROOSTERS
(CHRIS)**

James Tedesco
Latrell Mitchell
Angus Crichton
Boyd Cordner
Jake Friend
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves



**2. SEA EAGLES
(RYAN)**

Jake Trbojevic
Tom Trbojevic
Daly Cherry-Evans
Martin Taupau
Api Koroisau
Joel Thompson



**3. ROOSTERS
(MATT)**

James Tedesco
Latrell Mitchell
Jake Friend
Luke Keary
Angus Crichton
Daniel Tupou



**4. RABBITOHS
(GAVIN)**

Damien Cook
Sam Burgess
Cameron Murray
Cody Walker
Robert Jennings
Adam Reynolds



**5. DRAGONS
(PAUL)**

Cameron McInnes
Jack de Belin
Paul Vaughan
Ben Hunt
Gareth Widdop
Euan Aitken



**6. SHARKS
(PAUL)**

Shaun Johnson
Matt Moylan
Andrew Fifita
Scott Sorensen
Josh Morris
Sione Katoa



**7. BULLDOGS
(STEPHEN)**

Aiden Tolman
Josh Jackson
Rhyse Martin
Michael Lichaa
Adam Elliott
Nick Meaney



**8. SHARKS
(MICHAEL)**

Matt Moylan
Sione Katoa
Shaun Johnson
Andrew Fifita
Paul Gallen
Josh Morris

SAM KA\$HIANO CUP

Our users have always enjoyed our public league competitions, but there are some CEOs who want to take their passion to the next level!

There are some users who want to put their skills and their money where their mouth is. Ten mad men (some syndicates) stump up \$250 each in the name of fantasy footy in the hope of winning the \$2,000 winners cheque.

Last year's winner, the Surgeon, beat out a host of rivals (including 2017 winner LCT Conspiracy) to take home the biggest cash prize of all.

It wasn't looking pretty for the Surgeon until Anthony Milford stepped up... his once every four weeks step up. Read more about it in the interview to the right.

This competition is only for the committed. The draft is fast paced and brutal. The ruling challenges are as intense as any competition between close mates.

Unfortunately the intensity is so high that you need to commit even more than regular fantasy. You need the addiction that a modern day player has with recording all his most intimate moments on camera... no regrets!

So if you want to take part in the 2019 draft please get in touch through our social media channels.

COMPETITION RULES

SQUAD SIZE: 24

TERMINATION COUNT: 26

TERMINATION DEADLINE: Nil

TRADE DEADLINE: Start of Round 20

MAX KICKER POINTS: 13

Points: Tries (4) | Goals (2) | Workhorses (4) | Try Assists (Halves 3, Others 2) | Line Breaks (1)
Field Goal (1) | 40/20 (1) | Sin Bin (-2) | Send off (-6)

Bench: Tries, Workhorses and Try Assists are Half Points

Captains: Double Points

SAM KA\$HIANO CUP

OUR BIGGEST EVER DRAFT!

1st PRIZE: \$2,000

**\$250
ENTRY**



Q&A WITH MR MONEYBAGS

Q. What made you want to throw \$250 on the line in the name of fantasy footy?

A. The odds are good! 10 teams - beat them all to win \$2,000. What's not to like? Plus being a NRLCEO fanatic helps... Are there any \$500 comps happening...?

Q. Is this your greatest victory of all?

A. It's definitely up there. Prize wise, it is the biggest fish of all NRLCEO public competitions. Honour and glory wise - I'd still rank any Original 6'Some Cup title above all else!

Q. Did your drafting strategy change with the money on the line?

A. Not really. Generally, when you're in a high stakes competition, everyone tends to gravitate towards 'safe players' - the ones who have done the job before. I did this with my forwards but in a 10 team competition, I figured having a second kicking option would help me. I went Ponga a little early in the draft but he gave my squad a bit of x-factor.

Q. Who was your first draft pick in the Sam Ka\$hiano and were you happy with him?

A. I went heart over head and selected JT in his final year. I figured he'd have plenty to play for but the Cowboys struggled and so did he for much of the season. He did the job in the end though and as a Cowboys supporter, I was stoked that he got me the chocolates in this comp!!

Q. Who was the worst player you drafted in the Sam Ka\$hiano in 2018?

A. No one sticks out but I do recall I ran out of cuts pretty early in the competition (about round 15) so I was on cruise control for a while there. A pivotal point in my season came when I traded Munster out for Milford - at the time, I thought the Broncos had a softer run into the finals.

Q. How was the pressure in the final few weeks?

A. Pretty intense. It was a four way battle to claim the minor premiership and my team lost a key game in the second last round. That meant I was no chance of getting a top two spot so I had to do it the hard way, playing elimination finals each week. The Grand Final was off the charts. I told myself \$400 was good for coming second (but \$2,000 sounded so much better). Fortunately, the opposition's captain (Cook) had a quiet week and the rest is history...

Q. How did you feel when you realised you won the \$2,000?

A. The GF came down to the final NRL game - the Broncos were playing Manly. I was down by seven points and had only Anthony Milford left to play. LCT Conspiracy had no one left. As it turned out, Manly didn't show up at all, the Broncos won 48-16 and Milford had a hand in three of those tries. Game over - \$2,000 my way!!! I was already on the Gentleman Jacks so they tasted a lot sweeter after that!!! I had a bunch of mates whipping 'The Milf' home as I'd promised them top shelf drinks at next year's draft weekend...

Q. What will you/have you spent the cash on?

A. Haha - I wish I could say it was something exciting (I had big plans for it). Honestly, I don't really know. The cash went into my account (cheers boys). I bought \$500 worth of power tools, some Oakley sunnies and then my account got raided by the missus. So I'm guessing it paid the power bills or rates as well.

Q. Who will be your biggest rival in the Sam Ka\$hiano in 2019?

A. Everyone - you can't win the \$2,000 without taking down every other team. With that being said, LCT Conspiracy have shown pedigree winning in 2017 and runner up last year. But, there are a host of other coaches who know exactly what they are doing - it's a bloody competitive competition but played in good spirits too. There's no dickheads!

Q. If you had first pick in the draft, who would you pick?

A. Pffft, Damien 'Fucking' Cook of course and I'd make him Captain every week like LCT did!!! Failing that, you have to have a Captain in mind for your first pick. I've got a few in mind but I won't be sharing it here! Back to back baby!!!



**Ka\$hiano Cup winner
Michael 'Mig' Hoyle the
day after the grand final**

SUPER LEAGUE SCOUTING

There have been some fantastic transfers between the NRL and the Super League in the last few months and both competitions are going to benefit from it.

I believe this is the highest quality crop we have attracted down under in one season - ever!

The most high profile player returning from Super League is the current Man of Steel - **Ben Barba**. The last time we saw Barba in the NRL was the 2016 Grand Final when he led the Sharks to their first ever Premiership.

He then went to French Rugby playing just four games before being sacked and then being picked up by St Helens in the Super League. He played just five games in his first season and then dominated 2018.

In 22 appearances in 2018 he won Man of the Match eight times, topped the try scoring in the league with 29, had the third most try assists (24), the fourth most line breaks (30) and the second most tackle breaks (141).

So what does that mean for his form back in the NRL? We know his class. He has previously won NRLCEO MVP in 2011, but that was a long time ago now. He's 29 now, but back in his native North Queensland and amongst an attacking backline he will be a top five fullback in the league once again.



The Roosters have made a coup signing **Ryan Hall** as a replacement for Blake Ferguson. The 31 year old is a world class winger. He has scored the fourth most tries in Super League history (196) and is England's all time leading try scorer with 35 tries in 38 games. He has scored 20 or more tries in four separate seasons.

That's all well and good, but English backs don't make it in the NRL I hear you say. This bloke isn't an 80kg Sam Tomkins that can't handle the muscle of the NRL.

Hall weighs in at 105kg and therefore fits more firmly in the category of a Nene Macdonald or Jorge Taufua. Power will not be a problem for him. He is one of the hardest players to stop in the Super League.

In 2018 he got the metres for 12 Metre Eaters out of his 21 appearances for the Rhinos including one Double Metre Eater. He scored 10 tries in 2018, which is a modest total from his standards but also made 20 line breaks.

Unfortunately Hall will sit out the first few weeks of the season. He is coming back from a knee reconstruction after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament injury playing for Leeds in August last season. It will affect his draft value and someone in your competition will likely draft him too early. Don't let it be you.

Ricky Stuart and the Raiders have continued their love affair with Poms by attracting the signing of Man of Steel runner-up **John Bateman**. The English international attracted interest from up to six clubs and the Raiders had to cough up a hefty transfer fee but he will be worth it!

There hasn't been so much displeasure from English fans to lose a player since Sam Burgess and his career largely took off after arriving in Australia.

Bateman comes to the NRL at the top of his game. In 2018 he would have had 18 workhorses based on his Super League stats including two double workhorses, six metre eaters and he scored four tries. He had three try assists and eight line breaks which would have scored him 114 points based on NRLCEO scoring.

He will be very similar to Elliott Whitehead when he first started but potentially with even more talent. He will form a very solid back row at the Raiders and play on the left edge.



The second Raiders signing has less fanfare about it, but Ryan Sutton is a project player. The Raiders are light on props having lost Paulo, Boyd and Knight, but in steps the 23 year old prop with over 100 first grade games to his name. He has age on his side and a gap in the Raiders squad to fill.

He scored 11 workhorses in the Super League in 2018 and six tries with all but two games coming off the bench. He will also start as a bench prop at the Raiders in a much lighter rotation but won't see many minutes early on until he gets used to the pace of the game and the heat early in the season. A third or fourth ranked prop if you need one in the draft.



Tyrone Roberts is the last of the Super League signings and a known quantity to NRLCEOs. The 27 year old was forced out of the Titans as surplus requirements and subsequently played a starring role for the Warrington Wolves but has moved home due to homesickness.

He now finds himself in an even tougher battle with Ash Taylor and AJ Brimson playing well in the halves as well as new signing Ryley Jacks waiting in the wings. A late draft pick for multi position utility value as he inevitably picks up new positions throughout the season.

On the flip side, we've lost a bunch of players to the Super League but none are irreplaceable:

- **Trent Merrin** (Leeds)
- **Blake Austin** (Warrington)
- **Konrad Hurrell** (Leeds)
- **Akuila Uate** (Huddersfield)
- **Tui Lolohea** (Leeds)
- **Ricky Leutele** (Toronto)
- **Joseph Paulo** (St Helens)
- **Jason Clark** (Warrington)
- **Suaia Matagi** (Huddersfield)
- **Charlie Gubb** (Widnes)

January, 2019

Dear Mother,

It has been five months since I last wrote you. Much has happened this summer but I feel I must tell you the most important news first. My tour here is almost over. Soon I will be safely back home and my workhorse watching days will be behind me.

It has been an arduous campaign, I have seen many things, and although my time here is finished, the battles will continue.

Several brilliant workhorses I've had the pleasure of witnessing have already left. Captain S. Mannering from New Zealand, L. Lewis from Cronulla, and R. Hoffman from New Zealand via Melbourne were all fine workhorses, and whilst S. Thaiday from Brisbane wasn't much of a workhorse, the men will miss his antics.

For every workhorse ready to go home there are others who refuse to be discharged. Captain C. Smith from Melbourne is about to begin his 18th tour here and S. Fensom has joined the Brisbane platoon just so that he can stick around.

Fensom may not see much action until the winter sets in with the Brisbane unit's younger men like J. Ofahengaue, who went from two workhorse tries to twelve last year, set to take on more responsibility. Meanwhile M. Gillett returned from the medical ward looking thin and weak but is getting stronger by the day.

The Green Brigade from Canberra have not fared well during my time here and are so desperate they've had to recruit some more Englishmen to fill their ranks. That's not altogether a bad thing. Hodgson from Hull and Whitehead from Bradford have been that unit's best for years, so hopefully R. Sutton and J. Bateman (not to be confused with L. Bateman whom I have written oft about) will help them stay fighting a little longer.

The Canterbury unit is in disarray. Many feel Major Pay is out of his depth, but it's hard to maintain control when you have high profile recruits leaving you at the drop of a hat. It doesn't help that he has misused some of his best men like A. Tolman, but fortunately Pay has the foresight to give a young upstart called R. Martin an opportunity.

At least the Canterbury men have a leader. Major Flanagan from Cronulla has disgraced his unit and this whole division by failing to adhere to previous disciplinary action. That leaves Captain Gallen to continue to run things as he sees fit, so he'll continue to dominate the workhorse numbers.

The Gold Coast platoon are full of workhorses with five men scoring in double figures last campaign. The stand out for me was a man by the name of J. Arrow who went from one workhorse try to fourteen in the space of a year.

Another squad lacking leadership are the men from Manly. Major Hasler should be the man to whip them into shape but their forwards need to take a page out of J. Trbojevic's book; he finished second for total workhorses last campaign with M. Taupau the only other player in double figures.

As I mentioned, Captain C. Smith of Melbourne is returning once again this year so it may still be a little early to expect much from B. Smith (no relation). A boy from Temora named J. Stimson could be the unit's new workhorse star after earning 8 workhorses last year.

The soldiers from Newcastle have had their ranks bolstered with the arrival of experienced workhorses D. Klemmer and T. Glasby but I fear their arrival will stifle the impact of a mountain of a man they call Ese'Ese who was brilliant to watch last year when given the opportunity.

Then there is the unit from North Queensland. I can't see these cowboys winning too many battles in the near future but there are plenty of handy workhorses among them. From a long list of defence stock, J. McGuire has recently transferred from the Brisbane unit and J. Taumalolo is as good as they come.

And what of our ANZAC brothers from New Zealand? They have some big boots to fill this year and on the surface, Captain Blair who is transferring to his fourth squad is a major drop from the aforementioned Captain Mannering. There is a man from Auckland called Papali'i who is more likely to be the star of this unit this year.

The Parramatta lads who like to refer to themselves as the Blue and Gold Army have a couple of brilliant workhorses in N. Brown and D. Alvaro. After that there's a few others that will be above average at best. The big question is who will be their hooker, such a vital workhorse position. A young man by the name of Mahoney was impressive in the absence of K. Pritchard but who knows which way Major Arthur will go.

One of the great frustrations documenting workhorses is seeing workhorses wasted. I. Yeo from Penrith has been the perfect example of that during my time here. Wasted out in the backs, he finally got the chance to get his hands dirty this past year and yielded fantastic results. He was the best in his unit with 17 workhorses and I hope that continues after I leave.

It's hard to talk about the men who fight under the banner of St George without talking about one of the soldiers in their ranks. What J. de Belin is accused of doing I won't put into writing here, other than to say it's hard to see how the squad can arrest their past failures with such a cloud hanging over them. C. McInnes and P. Vaughan will continue to fight the good fight but I fear for the overall success of the squad until the de Belin matter is dealt with.

If I ever write my memoirs in years to come, there'll be an entire chapter dedicated to a man by the name of Damien Cook. Standing no more than 5'10", Cook has become a giant among men this past year. In fact, if I were to die tomorrow, it would be having seen everything I need to see as far as workhorses are concerned. Thirty-five workhorses this past year. THIRTY-FIVE! I can still barely believe it.

How is it that the best unit of the last twelve months has only gotten better with one of the men from Redfern putting in an early transfer to bolster the Sydney stocks further? While some fear Angus Crichton will not fare as well in his new team, I for one think he'll do just grandly.

Crichton will replace R. Matterson who has transferred to the Wests unit. I think it's a good move for all concerned. Matterson is a good workhorse who will be able to establish himself better away from the egos in his old team.

And so it is that I sign off. I know not if someone will replace me but what I do know is that I will look back on my time as a workhorse correspondent fondly and hope that those who have read my accounts have developed a greater understanding of what winning this war of fantasy football is all about.

Yours Sincerely,

Workhorse Watcher

Workhorse Watcher

NRLCEO would like to thank the Workhorse Watcher for five tireless years of providing a great depth of knowledge and insight into the game we all love. Thank you Geoff.



DREAM TEAM



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	TR	GL	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	FG	40/20	TOTAL
Tom Trbojevic	FB	22	9	0	0	20	18	24	15	0	0	151
Valentine Holmes	NFL	22	21	21	0	15	11	23	8	0	0	167 (209)
David Fusitua	WG	22	22	0	0	4	3	17	1	0	0	120
Blake Ferguson	WG (1KP)	24	17	6	0	37	5	20	2	0	0	174
Corey Oates	WG	22	18	0	0	14	2	17	0	0	0	121
Cody Walker	FE (2KP)	24	12	0	0	0	14	16	22	0	0	112
Daly Cherry-Evans	HB (6KP)	24	8	65	0	2	16	6	21	2	2	99 (229)
Andrew Fifita	FR	23	3	0	20	9	2	3	2	0	0	119
Damien Cook	HK	22	4	0	35	11	10	10	10	0	0	218
Ryan James	FR, LK	23	6	0	25	4	2	6	1	0	0	143
Aidan Guerra	BR, LK	24	5	0	23	0	0	4	0	0	0	114
Jason Taumalolo	LK	23	4	0	16	22	1	5	1	0	0	132
Jake Trbojevic	FR, LK	23	7	0	26	6	3	5	5	0	0	156

TOP PLAYERS BY POSITION

FULLBACKS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Tom Trbojevic	9	20	18	24	151
James Tedesco	9	23	12	14	130
Matt Dufty	12	9	9	15	104
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	3	21	9	11	93
William Hopoate	5	16	8	5	86

HOOKERS	TR	WH	ME	TA	TOTAL
Damien Cook	4	35	11	10	218
Cameron McInnes	3	25	1	9	147
Andrew McCullough	3	19	0	7	112
Jake Friend	0	20	0	8	104
Michael Lichaa	1	16	1	8	95

WINGERS	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Blake Ferguson	17	37	5	20	174
Corey Oates	18	14	2	17	121
David Fusitua	22	4	3	17	120
Robert Jennings	18	13	2	15	116
Josh Addo-Carr	17	8	4	16	106
Anthony Don	15	5	1	17	89
Jordan Rapana	10	10	6	17	88
Kyle Feldt	14	6	2	12	87
Phillip Sami	14	7	1	12	85
Nick Cotric	12	1	1	18	71

FRONT ROWERS	TR	WH	DWH	ME	TOTAL
Jake Trbojevic	7	23	3	6	156
Ryan James	6	21	4	4	143
Andrew Fifita	3	18	2	9	119
Josh Papalii	5	14	0	6	103
Matt Eisenhuth	2	22	0	0	103
Jai Arrow	3	13	1	10	93
Martin Taupau	0	14	1	14	92
Sam Burgess	1	16	0	7	92
David Klemmer	0	13	0	20	90
Herman Ese'ese	2	17	0	5	88

CENTRES	TR	ME	TA	LB	TOTAL
Joseph Leilua	14	16	3	13	110
Latrell Mitchell	15	7	6	17	107
Tyrone Peachey	9	11	7	9	86
Waqa Blake	12	7	6	10	86
Euan Aitken	10	16	1	9	85
Solomone Kata	12	10	2	13	84
Jesse Ramien	10	12	3	9	83
Greg Inglis	8	10	7	8	81
Esan Marsters	3	19	8	9	81
Joseph Manu	6	10	8	8	77

BACK ROWERS	TR	WH	DWH	ME	TOTAL
Angus Crichton	3	19	1	5	118
Aidan Guerra	5	23	0	0	114
Gavin Cooper	13	12	0	0	114
Josh Papalii	5	14	0	6	103
Isaah Yeo	3	17	0	4	102
Josh Jackson	3	17	0	1	97
Elliott Whitehead	10	11	0	0	94
Coen Hess	7	13	0	2	93
Lachlan Fitzgibbon	9	10	0	1	92
Sam Burgess	1	16	0	7	92

FIVE EIGHTHS	TR	TA	LB	LBA	TOTAL
Cody Walker	12	14	16	22	112
Tyrone Peachey	9	7	9	7	86
Kalyn Ponga	6	12	10	13	85
Cameron Munster	4	15	8	13	82
Anthony Milford	6	13	9	12	80

LOCKS	TR	WH	DWH	ME	TOTAL
Jake Trbojevic	7	23	3	6	156
Ryan James	6	21	4	4	143
Jason Taumalolo	4	16	0	22	132
Aidan Guerra	5	23	0	0	114
Josh Papalii	5	14	0	6	103

HALF BACKS	TR	TA	LB	LBA	TOTAL
Daly Cherry-Evans	8	16	6	21	99
Kodi Nikorima	9	11	10	14	88
Ben Hunt	6	18	12	12	84
Luke Brooks	5	11	10	16	79
Shaun Johnson	4	15	7	13	77

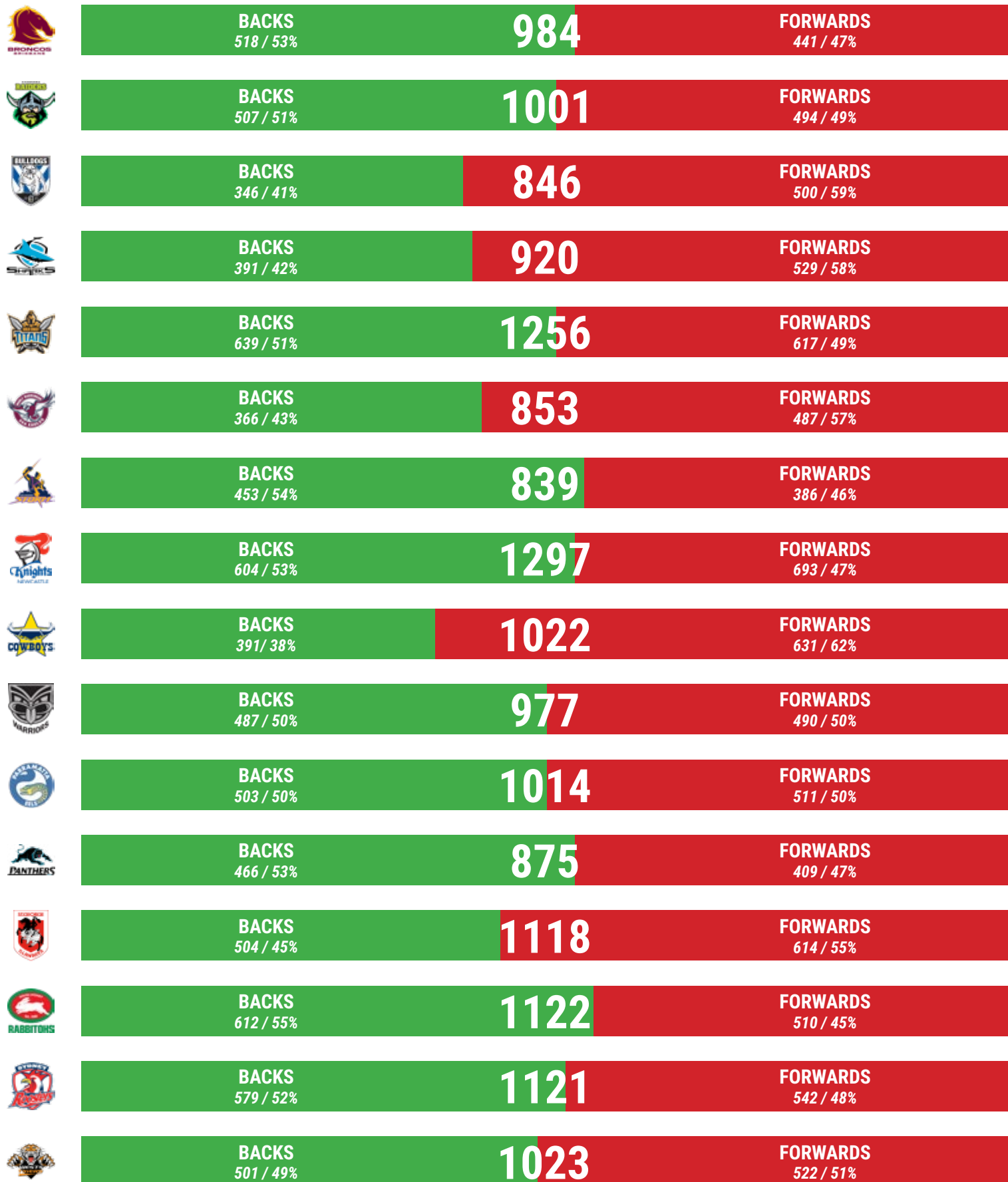
KICKERS	GOALS	ATTEMPTS	%
Jamayne Isaako	94	112	84%
Cameron Smith	88	107	82%
Gareth Widdop	87	105	83%
Latrell Mitchell	84	106	79%
Adam Reynolds	84	112	75%

TOP 100 PLAYERS

#	Player	Score	Position Rank	#	Player	Score	Position Rank
1	Damien Cook	218	HK1	51	Mitchell Barnett	85	BR11, LK15
2	Blake Ferguson	174	WG1	52	Kalyn Ponga	85	FB6, FE3
3	Jake Trbojevic	156	FR1, LK1	53	Shaun Lane	85	BR12, LK16
4	Tom Trbojevic	151	FB1	54	Euan Aitken	85	CT5
5	Cameron McInnes	147	HK2	55	Alex Johnston	85	FB7
6	Ryan James	143	FR2, LK2	56	Solomone Kata	84	CT6
7	Jason Taumalolo	132	LK3	57	Ben Hunt	84	HB3
8	James Tedesco	130	FB2	58	Moses Mbye	84	FB8
9	Corey Oates	121	WG2	59	Jesse Ramien	83	CT7
10	David Fusitua	120	WG3	60	Cameron Munster	82	FE4
11	Andrew Fifita	119	FR3	61	Jack DeBelin	82	LK17
12	Angus Crichton	118	BR1	62	Tyson Frizell	82	BR13, LK18
13	Robert Jennings	116	WG4	63	Greg Inglis	81	CT8
14	Aidan Guerra	114	BR2, LK4	64	Boyd Cordner	81	BR14
15	Gavin Cooper	114	BR3	65	Esan Marsters	81	CT9
16	Andrew McCullough	112	HK3	66	Anthony Milford	80	FE5
17	Cody Walker	112	FE1	67	Felise Kaufusi	80	BR15
18	Joseph Leilua	110	CT1	68	Joseph Tapine	79	BR16
19	Latrell Mitchell	107	CT2	69	Kevin Proctor	79	BR17
20	Josh Addo-Carr	106	WG5	70	Luke Keary	79	FE6
21	Matt Dufty	104	FB3	71	Luke Brooks	79	HB4
22	Jake Friend	104	HK4	72	Nathan Brown	78	LK19
23	Josh Papalii	103	BR4, FR4, LK5	73	Shaun Johnson	77	HB5
24	Matt Eisenhuth	103	FR5, LK6	74	Isaiah Papali'i	77	BR18
25	Isaah Yeo	102	BR5	75	Joseph Manu	77	CT10
26	Daly Cherry-Evans	99	HB1	76	Tariq Sims	76	BR19
27	Josh Jackson	97	BR6	77	Paul Vaughan	76	FR11
28	Michael Lichaa	95	HK5	78	Dane Gagai	76	CT11
29	Elliott Whitehead	94	BR7, LK7	79	Viliame Kikau	75	BR20
30	Cameron Smith	94	HK6	80	John Sutton	75	BR21
31	Jai Arrow	93	FR6, LK8	81	Rhyse Martin	74	BR22, LK20
32	Coen Hess	93	BR8	82	Aaron Woods	74	FR12
33	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	93	FB4	83	Nathan Peats	74	HK9
34	Paul Gallen	92	LK9	84	Josh Morris	73	CT12
35	Martin Taupau	92	FR7, LK10	85	Brian Kelly	72	CT13
36	Lachlan Fitzgibbon	92	BR9	86	Joe Ofahengaue	71	FR13, LK21
37	Sam Burgess	92	FR8, BR10, LK11	87	Nick Cotric	71	WG10
38	Jazz Tevaga	91	LK12	88	Ashley Taylor	71	HB6
39	David Klemmer	90	FR9, LK13	89	Jarrold Wallace	71	FR14, LK22
40	Issac Luke	90	HK7	90	Nene Macdonald	71	CT14, WG11
41	Anthony Don	89	WG6	91	James Roberts	70	CT15
42	Kodi Nikorima	88	HB2	92	Suliasi Vunivalu	70	WG12
43	Jordan Rapana	88	WG7	93	Josh McGuire	70	FR15, LK23
44	Herman Ese'ese	88	FR10, LK14	94	Daniel Alvaro	70	FR16
45	Kyle Feldt	87	WG8	95	Clinton Gutherson	70	FB9, FE7
46	William Hopoate	86	FB5	96	Gareth Widdop	70	FE8
47	Tyrone Peachey	86	FE2, CT3	97	Corey Norman	69	FE9
48	Jake Granville	86	HK8	98	Apisai Koroisau	68	HK10
49	Waqar Blake	86	CT4	99	Connor Watson	68	FB10, FE10
50	Phillip Sami	85	WG9	100	Tohu Harris	68	BR23

POINTS BREAKDOWN

We've analysed each club's NRLCEO points scored from last season to work out where their points came from. Some teams like the Cowboys get most of their points through the middle, while others like the Rabbitohs give the edge to the backs.



MOCK DRAFT

We assembled 10 of our most experienced and diehard CEOs to give you an idea of when certain NRL players might be selected in your upcoming draft(s). There's always an element of randomness because no two drafts are the same, but this should be a good indicator nonetheless. This was a standard snake draft with 10 Kicker Points per team.

ROUND 1

Pick	Player	Owner
1	Cameron Smith	Nick K
2	Damien Cook	Will M
3	Jake Trbojevic	Matt P
4	Latrell Mitchell	Daniel D
5	Ryan James	Joe P
6	Cameron McInnes	Jez C
7	Andrew Fifita	Scott B
8	Jamayne Isaako	Robert S
9	Sam Burgess	Mikey H
10	Andrew McCullough	Adam H

In a strange start to the draft, somehow last year's MVP Damien Cook wasn't picked first. Nick claimed that Cook wouldn't be MVP again in 2019, so he went with the tried and true Cameron Smith.

As you would expect, the likes of Jake Trbojevic, Ryan James, Cameron McInnes, and Andrew Fifita were all snapped up quickly with most coaches favouring their forward pack early on. It also made sense that last year's top two pointscorers Latrell Mitchell and Jamayne Isaako were taken at the first possible moment.

Sam Burgess and Andrew McCullough rounded out the first lot of picks, and whilst these two weren't at the peak of their powers in 2018, they've always been solid.

ROUND 2

Pick	Player	Owner
11	Jason Taumalolo	Adam H
12	Josh Hodgson	Mikey H
13	David Klemmer	Robert S
14	Josh Papalii	Scott B
15	James Tedesco	Jez C
16	Tom Trbojevic	Joe P
17	Angus Crichton	Daniel D
18	Kalyn Ponga	Matt P
19	Daniel Alvaro	Will M
20	Aiden Tolman	Nick K

The forward run continued in Round 2 with three backs picked up and only five out of the first 20 picks being backs.

As he does, Jez went big with his claims that Tedesco would be the 2019 Dally M winner. Whilst it is not out of the question, he's always supremely confident. Roosters fan Joe was obviously reeling at missing out on Teddy, so he claimed that Tommy Turbo will be a top three scorer overall and snaffled him up with the next pick.

The surprise pick of the round was Adam picking up Daniel Alvaro. He's a decent prop with good numbers, but getting picked as prop #4 was a bit of a surprise consider the talent left on the table.

ROUND 3

Pick	Player	Owner
21	Elliott Whitehead	Nick K
22	Josh McGuire	Will M
23	Jai Arrow	Matt P
24	Lachlan Fitzgibbon	Daniel D
25	Jake Friend	Joe P
26	Nathan Brown	Jez C
27	Api Koroisau	Scott B
28	Tohu Harris	Robert S
29	David Fusitua	Mikey H
30	Paul Vaughan	Adam H

Locks were in high demand in Round 3 with Nick, Will, Matt, and Jez all picking a player eligible in the new NRLCEO position in 2019. That didn't stop Will from slugging his newest recruit Josh McGuire by calling him "the biggest grub running around in the NRL and an overall shit bloke too!"

The last of the top tier hookers were nabbed, with Joe and Scott picking up Jake Friend and Api Koroisau respectively. Hookers are extremely important to the make up of an NRLCEO side, and if you haven't gotten yours by the 3rd round then you better hope you can cover it.

David Fusitua was the only back selected in this round after a stellar run last year.

ROUND 4

Pick	Player	Owner
31	Matt Eisenhuth	Adam H
32	Herman Ese'ese	Mikey H
33	Josh Addo-Carr	Robert S
34	Ben Barba	Scott B
35	Jarrod Wallace	Jez C
36	Aidan Guerra	Joe P
37	Corey Oates	Daniel D
38	Matt Gillett	Matt P
39	Nathan Cleary	Will M
40	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	Nick K

No surprises to see Matt Eisenhuth snapped up with the first pick of Round 4, but our CEOs were a bit shocked when Mikey picked up Herman Ese'ese with his fourth pick. Mikey's NRLCEO credentials are very strong, but the Knights pack is stacked.

Our graphic designer Scott was lured in by Ben Barba's Super League statistics taking him with his fourth pick. There's a big gap between the two competitions but Barba has shown before his talent when in the right mindset. He'll be hoping it's a happy reunion back in North Queensland.

Matt admitted to taking a punt on Matt Gillett considering his loss of muscle post-injury. He's a tried and tested performer, but you can't bank on reputation in NRLCEO.

ROUND 5

Pick	Player	Owner
41	James Roberts	Nick K
42	Kyle Feldt	Will M
43	Ash Taylor	Matt P
44	Waqar Blake	Daniel D
45	Shaun Johnson	Joe P
46	Felise Kaufusi	Jez C
47	Joey Leilua	Scott B
48	Dylan Edwards	Robert S
49	Suliasi Vunivalu	Mikey H
50	Josh Jackson	Adam H

Round 5 saw a mini centre run kick off, which was earlier than most would expect to see it happen. James Roberts always lures early draft selection, but it was surprising to see Waqar Blake and Joey Leilua go so early too.

Will felt like he had to go a little early on Kyle Feldt in Round 5 and it's a risky move, but he believes that he will be first choice kicker for the Cows and the opportunity for two first choice kickers was too good to pass up.

Joe wanted to grab a kicker before another kicker run started and snapped up Shaun Johnson with the hope that he will gel well at the Sharks and hold first choice kicker options.

ROUND 6

Pick	Player	Owner
51	Luke Keary	Adam H
52	Jack de Belin	Mikey H
53	Jesse Ramien	Robert S
54	Anthony Milford	Scott B
55	Cody Walker	Jez C
56	Martin Taupau	Joe P
57	AJ Brimson	Daniel D
58	Michael Morgan	Matt P
59	Dale Finucane	Will M
60	Cameron Munster	Nick K

With the highest quality forwards now off the board, Round 6 saw a halves run start after Luke Keary was selected in the first pick of Round 5. Anthony Milford, Cody Walker, Michael Morgan and Cameron Munster all followed in the same round.

AJ Brimson went earlier than expected with Daniel claiming that the Titans rookie finished 2018 on fire and that a full season at fullback will yield him big points. He noted that the downside is that if he plays in the halves, his value plummets.

Similarly Nick, a diehard Queenslander, wasn't 100% sure whether Munster would line up at fullback or five-eighth but believes that he will step up his involvements due to Billy and Cronk now both being away and giving him greater point scoring potential.

The first few rounds of any draft are vital to give yourself as good a chance as possible at making it to the grand final, and perhaps even lifting the trophy when it is all said and done.

We have documented the rest of this mock draft on our blog at NRLCEO.com if you would like to dive in deeper and see the final teams our experts have managed to assemble.

CAN THE NEW BABY BRONCOS MAKE THEIR MARK?

Skeletor has been given the sword and surely Anthony Seibold's arrival couldn't come soon enough for the title starved glamour club. Seriously, all that early off-season coach banter was nauseating!

It's been 12 years since the Broncos last tasted NRL glory and that is simply too long for a one city team who boasts recruitment power second to none and as recently reported, the power of the second highest third party agreement total in the league.

Fans have had a whole off-season to dwell on that shocking week one finals departure, courtesy of the Dragons. Can Seibold inspire his youthful squad? Or will it take a season or two for the team to settle around his structures?

In terms of NRLCEO scoring, young winger Jamayne Isaako was a revelation, where he topped the NRL points scoring in his rookie season as kicker.

Corey Oates has resisted the temptation to change clubs and play in the back row and why would he when he's arguably the best finisher in the game. 18 tries last season was a testament to that and some of his finishing had to be seen to be believed!

On the other side of the field, Isaako and Roberts only combined for 20 tries, so that shows which side of the field playmakers Milford and Boyd favour. With Bennett gone, you'd have to expect another Roberts off-field controversy is just around the corner.

Traditionally, the Broncos pack has possessed a fine blend of dynamic ball players among workhorses.

Their best workhorse for many years has been Matt Gillett who owns that right edge position. However, a litany of serious injuries has to cast doubt over his draft worthiness this season. Can he possibly put on 10kg of muscle in an off-season?

Andrew McCullough is the other workhorse draft target but it's anyone's guess as to how many minutes Seibold intends to play him – especially if Nikorima is relegated to the bench.

The Broncos possess a glut of young forward talent – Pangai Jr, Haas, Fifita, Sua and Ofahenguae – the list just goes on. Sure, Sam Thaiday has retired and Alex Glenn is getting longer in the tooth but the Broncos have far too many forwards who are going to share the minutes. The workhorses could be few and far between this season for a seriously inexperienced Broncos pack.

Overall, drafting Isaako as your kicker is a more than solid option. Jordan Kahu will be content with simply getting a start, let alone scoring the kicking tee back.

The way the Broncos play, Oates is a top echelon winger and top draft option, especially if your competition plays metre eaters.

With a new coach at the helm, the Broncos have regained an air of intrigue again but that won't necessarily translate to NRLCEO draft value.

Premiers
6 Times

Win %
61.7

Bye
Rd 12

2014
8th

2015
2nd

2016
5th

2017
3rd

2018
6th

Our 2019
Prediction
6th

Odds
\$10



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

SEAN O'SULLIVAN
THOMAS DEARDEN
THOMAS FLEGLER

SHAUN FENSOM
MYLES TAUELI
RICHIE KENRAR

PLAYER LOSSES

JOSH MCGUIRE
TOM OPACIC
JONUS PEARSON

SAM THAIDAY
KORBIN SIMS
MARION SEVE



SEAN O'SULLIVAN



SHAUN FENSOM



JOSH MCGUIRE



SAM THAIDAY

ROOKIE WATCH: PATRICK CARRIGAN



This is one for your long range watch list in Keeper Leagues.

The hard running Bronco averaged 62 minutes per game for Wynnum Manly Sea Eagles in the Queensland Cup last season. His stats output is the most impressive part of his game with an average of 14 runs and 28 tackles per game.

The Queensland Under 20 captain and Australian Under 20 representative has recently resigned for three years until the end of 2022 showing just how highly the Broncos rate him.

It's a high prospect that he gets a taste of first grade this year, but with the highly touted Broncos pack it will be a matter of how much game time. A nice late round pick if you have rookie keepers in your league.



01		14/03 7:50PM
02		22/03 7:55PM
03		28/03 7:50PM
04		04/04 7:50PM
05		11/04 7:50PM
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07		27/04 7:35PM
08		02/05 7:50PM
09		10/05 7:55PM
10		17/05 7:55PM
11		25/05 5:30PM
12	BYE ROUND	
13		09/06 2:00PM
14		15/06 7:35PM
15		29/06 5:30PM
16		07/07 4:05PM
17		13/07 5:30PM
18		18/07 7:50PM
19		27/07 5:30PM
20		02/08 7:55PM
21		08/08 7:50PM
22		16/08 7:55PM
23		23/08 7:55PM
24		30/08 7:55PM
25		07/09 5:30PM

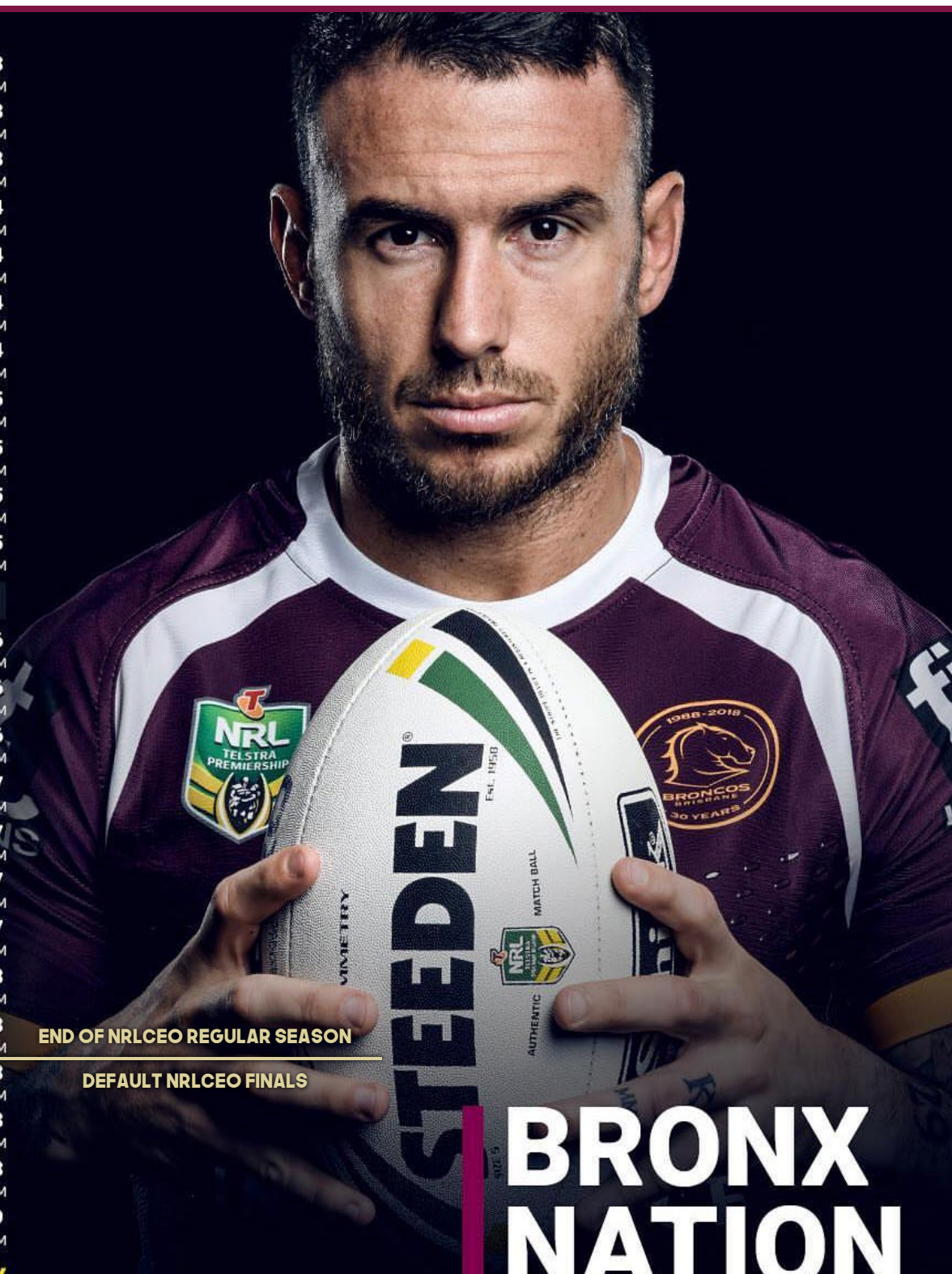
END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

BRONX NATION

BRONCOS
BRISBANE



STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON



COACHED BY - ANTHONY SEIBOLD - 63% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
518 / 53%

984

FORWARDS
441 / 47%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Corey Oates	WG	22	18	0	14	2	17	0	121	109	-
Andrew McCullough	HK	21	3	19	0	7	3	9	112	89	-
Kodi Nikorima	HB	23	9	0	3	11	10	14	88	54	-
Anthony Milford	FE	24	6	0	4	13	9	12	80	110 (140)	-
Joe Ofahengaue	FR, LK	23	3	12	4	0	3	0	71	33	↑
James Roberts	CT	21	9	0	7	5	7	3	70	98	-
Matthew Lodge	FR	24	3	7	7	2	3	4	65	65*	-
Jamayne Isaako	WG (8KP)	24	11	0	1	2	11	1	63 (251)	63 (251)*	↑
Alex Glenn	BR	20	4	10	0	0	4	0	60	49	↓
Tevita Pangai Junior	BR, LK	21	5	6	2	2	6	2	58	27	↑
Darius Boyd	FB	24	4	0	2	11	4	8	54	73	-
Jayden Su'a	BR	15	1	6	1	2	3	1	38	14	↓
Jordan Kahu	CT, WG (2KP)	14	2	0	1	3	1	4	21 (35)	49 (121)	↓
Matt Gillett	BR	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	20	76	↑
Kotoni Staggs	BR, CT	10	2	0	0	2	2	2	16	16*	-
David Fifita	BR, FR	9	1	0	1	1	3	1	12	12	-
Shaun Fensom	LK	15	1	0	0	1	1	0	5	25	-
Jack Bird	CT, LK	8	0	0	1	1	0	1	5	46	↑
Gehamat Shibasaki	CT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
George Fai	BR, FR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Patrick Mago	LK	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Payne Haas	FR, LK	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	↑
Sam Tagataese	FR	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-
Sean O'Sullivan	HB	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Andre Savelio	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Myles Taueli	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Patrick Carrigan	BR, FR	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Tanah Boyd	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Thomas Dearden	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Troy Dargan	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

JAMAYNE ISAAKO

- 8 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 97/117 (83%)

Career: 97/117 (83%)

STUD

Coming off an 18 try season, left winger **Corey Oates** is very capable of replicating that haul in 2019. If the young Broncos forwards can go forward, expect the Broncos winger to score plenty of points and pull of some crazy finishes in the corner.

SLEEPER

Joe Ofahengaue just needs 55 minutes per week to become an NRLCEO beast. However, standing in his way is a deep Broncos pack and a coach who likes to rotate his big boppers...

JORDAN KAHU

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 7/9 (78%)

Career: 145/188 (77%)

DUD

Darius Boyd will continue to be an NRLCEO nobody - and he's ok with that! So are we, and he'll stay in the spud pool in most competitions. If he plays in the centres, he'll become even less than nobody...

GAMBLE

Andrew McCullough's minutes could be affected by a number of players in 2019 and picking him up early is fraught with danger. Still a quality defensive hooker, Macca's running game has gone AWOL in recent years...

LITTLE BRITAIN IN THE CAPITAL

Is Ricky Stuart another coach whose future depends on the outcome of season 2019?

After a few disappointing seasons, you'd have to think his neck is under the guillotine from the beginning of Round 1.

Missing the finals is simply not good enough for this roster and Stuart needs to re-invent the Green Machine if they are to improve this season – their second half defence was completely unacceptable in 2018.

Already, the fans have been dealt a lofty blow with try scoring freak, Jordan Rapana out for an extended period after busting his shoulder in the Test series against the Poms.

That injury opens the door for Michael Oldfield who, dare I say it, was actually pretty good at the back end of 2018, where he covered the injury of Jarrod Croker. He showed some wheels and has no signs of slowing down!

Looking at the Raiders squad, where are the big boppers? With the loss of Boyd (Titans), Paulo (Eels) and Knight (Rabbitohs), coach Sticky looks likely to push his representative lock forward, Josh Papalii up front.

Elliot Whitehead will take over the lock position, with new Pom Bateman (not Luke) and Joseph Tapine to cover the edge forward roles.

For the NRLCEO Coach, the Raider's halves aren't likely to excite with Sezer and Williams not high priority draft targets – actually, in NRLCEO terms, they really suck!

In the backs, Rapana will drop way down on the preference list. Nick Cotric could be a draft trap too – if he plays on the wing, he'll score plenty but if he goes to fullback, his try scoring ability is greatly reduced and he hasn't proven himself as a ball player either.

In the centres, Captain Croker is a rock solid draft option and as well as being a quality kicker. He definitely loves a hog play show and go for a try. On the other side, BJ Leilua is a loose cannon and the loss of Rapana will affect his scoring output.

In the forwards, Tapine was outstanding in 2018 despite an array of injury and suspensions hindering his cause.

Papalii and Whitehead were also draft worthy but the latter tends to get pushed to centre when there is an injury and that is a cause for frustration for many a CEO coach – you simply don't get workhorses playing half a game in the centres. Fortunately it looks like John Bateman might take on this role for him as he's played as a starting centre for the Poms.

Overall, the Raiders are typically a high scoring team – last year they scored more points than every team except the Rabbitohs. That means Croker is a good draft option as he has been for some time now.

Premiers
3 Times

Win %
50.5

Bye
Rd 16

2014
15th

2015
10th

2016
2nd

2017
10th

2018
10th

Our 2019
Prediction
11th

Odds
\$21



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

JOHN BATEMAN
JJ COLLINS
ANDRE NIKO
BRENDAN O'HAGAN

RYAN SUTTON
KYLE PATERSON
BAILEY SIMONSSON
HUDSON YOUNG

PLAYER LOSSES

BLAKE AUSTIN
MASIVESI DAKUWAQA
CRAIG GARVEY
CHARLIE GUBB

SHANNON BOYD
LIAM KNIGHT
JUNIOR PAULO
MIKAELE RAVALAWA



JOHN BATEMAN



RYAN SUTTON



BLAKE AUSTIN



SHANNON BOYD

ROOKIE WATCH: COREY HORSBURGH



Corey Horsburgh is a "lock" to make his NRL debut in 2019 for the Raiders. It's a matter of whether he plays at his preferred position of lock or Ricky could surprise us all and slip him into the front row rotation.

He has represented Queensland Under 20s as well as the Australian Under 20s more recently. In his only Test against New Zealand he made 32 tackles and ran for 173 metres.

He loves playing the middle and eats up the physicality and has a nice offload. He's also got a serious engine.

He has been likened to Corey Parker for his work rate and Josh McGuire for his aggression. He sits deep in the pecking order of Raiders locks but he will get his chance off the bench.



01		17/03	6:10PM
02		22/03	6:00PM
03		29/03	6:00PM
04		06/04	5:30PM
05		14/04	6:10PM
06		21/04	4:05PM
07		28/04	2:00PM
08		04/05	3:00PM
09		12/05	2:00PM
10		18/05	7:35PM
11		25/05	3:00PM
12		01/06	7:35PM
13		07/06	7:55PM
14		13/06	7:50PM
15		29/06	7:35PM
16	BYE ROUND		
17		14/07	6:10PM
18		20/07	5:30PM
19		28/07	4:05PM
20		02/08	6:00PM
21		11/08	2:00PM
22		17/08	5:30PM
23		25/08	4:05PM
24		01/09	2:00PM
25		07/09	3:00PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

WE ARE
RAIDERS

RAIDERS
CANTBERRA



STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

I. SOLIOLA 8. FRONT ROW	J. HODGSON 9. HOOKER	J. PAPALII 10. FRONT ROW	
J. BATEMAN 11. BACK ROW	E. WHITEHEAD 13. LOCK	J. TAPINE 12. BACK ROW	
A. SEZER 6. FIVE EIGHTH	S. WILLIAMS 7. HALFBACK		
J. CROKER 3. CENTRE	J. LEILUA 4. CENTRE		
N. COTRIC 2. WINGER	J. WIGHTON 1. FULLBACK	J. RAPANA+ 5. WINGER	
S. HAVILI 14. RESERVE	R. SUTTON 15. RESERVE	E. GULER 16. RESERVE	D. LUI 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - RICKY STUART - 49% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Ata Hingano	Shoulder	Round 7
Jordan Rapana	Shoulder	Round 13

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN





PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
John Bateman	BR, CT	20	4	18	6	3	8	0	114**	N/A	-
Joseph Leilua	CT	24	14	0	16	3	13	5	110	111	↓
Josh Papalii	BR, FR, LK	22	5	14	6	2	7	4	103	92	-
Elliott Whitehead	BR, LK	24	10	11	0	2	6	0	94	116	↑
Jordan Rapana	WG	21	10	0	10	6	17	4	88	129	↓
Joseph Tapine	BR	16	6	10	1	1	8	3	79	43	↑
Ryan Sutton	FR	17	6	11	0	0	8	0	76**	N/A	-
Nick Cotric	WG	24	12	0	1	1	18	1	71	80*	-
Josh Hodgson	HK	11	1	6	0	11	1	11	62	96	↑
Jarrod Croker	CT (8KP)	17	7	0	3	6	10	6	60 (186)	90 (253)	↑
Iosia Soliola	FR, LK	24	4	8	1	1	4	1	57	53	-
Jack Wighton	FB	13	3	0	5	10	3	11	56	83	↑
Siliva Havili	HK	24	3	6	1	3	5	4	53	17	↓
Aidan Sezer	FE (1KP)	18	2	0	0	11	2	11	44 (56)	50 (64)	-
Sam Williams	HB (1KP)	14	1	0	0	8	1	8	33 (83)	33 (83)*	-
Michael Oldfield	WG	8	6	0	3	0	3	0	33	17	↑
Luke Bateman	LK	22	0	7	0	0	0	0	26	22	-
Dunamis Lui	FR, LK	24	0	5	0	0	0	0	20	7	-
Bradley Abbey	FB	9	1	0	0	1	1	2	9	9*	-
Ata Hingano	FE	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	8	-
Emre Guler	FR, LK	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	↑
Jack Murchie	BR	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
JJ Collins	FR, LK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Tom Starling	HK	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Royce Hunt	FR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Corey Horsburgh	LK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Bailey Simonsson	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Hudson Young	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Sebastian Kris	CT	0							DNP	DNP	-
Brendan O'Hagan	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

JARROD CROKER

- 8 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 63/81 (78%)

Career: 656/809 (81%)

AIDAN SEZER

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 6/8 (75%)

Career: 179/218 (82%)

SAM WILLIAMS

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 25/30 (83%)

Career: 25/30 (83%)

STUD

Despite injury crueiling his 2018, Captain **Croker** is the man for the Raiders. He kicks goals and is a massive hog - a perfect centre for NRLCEO! He'll be hungry for a big 2019 after missing the final 6 games of last season...

DUD

Aidan Sezer continues to just plod along and brings little to the table in all facets of NRLCEO. The mirages of hope from his days at the Titans are long gone now. If the Raiders start the season poorly, Sezer could be Ricky's first casualty...

SLEEPER

Joe Tapine showed glimpses of what he is capable of last year with 6 tries and 10 horses. Expect him to have a bigger season this time around. Luckily he's still off the radar of many NRLCEO draftsters...

GAMBLE

Jordan Rapana has been a top wing draft option for three years now but injury has him not returning until round 10 at the earliest. Draft him too early and he'll cost you too much! Pass on him and you might miss out on a strong run home.

NEED TO GET OFF THE FRONT PAGE AND ONTO THE BACK PAGE

2018 was a season to forget for the 'Dogs of War' – their Mad Monday celebrations were memorable though. Who doesn't love a bit of free willy with a schooner of VB?

Salary cap issues have plagued the club and again, threaten to derail their chances before a ball is kicked in anger. Consequently, David Klemmer is gone, the Morris Boys are in light blue or dark blue respectively and they've also dropped a whole host of overpaid hacks (I'm looking at you fat boy Eastwood).

Dylan Napa is the 'marquee signing' for the Dogs and joining him is a whole raft of youngsters who will potentially get an opportunity to make a name for themselves as a starter – something they probably wouldn't have had at any other club.

No one will deny that Coach Dean Pay has a big job to do this season and he has some interesting decisions to make.

Will Hopoate could move to the centres to make way for Nick Meaney who showed glimpses of brilliance when deputising for Kalyn Ponga at the Knights last season.

Pay seems to have uncovered a quality five-eighth in Lachlan Lewis – who seems to have plenty of time with the ball which bodes well for the nephew of the King. Not many have that sort of pedigree!!

In the forwards, the loss of Klemmer could mean that the big benefactor is Aiden Tolman. Napa is not a big minute player so 'The Toll' could return to his days of potential NRLCEO immortal.

Despite being a solid worker, Michael's Lichaa's job security continues to be on life support with rumours still doing the rounds that he is being shopped around.

In the back row, could Rhyse Martin become the next Craig Fitzgibbon? His kicking is certainly top echelon but will the Bulldogs score enough for him to be draft worthy?

Captain Josh Jackson is solid on the right edge and 17 workhorses last season is handy and bang on his average for his career.

The Bulldogs backs are where the true questions lie. If Montoya and Crichton somehow manage to end up on the wings, I'm throwing all my coin on the opposition.

That is not likely though, with Reimis Smith showing some serious potential and speed once given a crack in the back half of the season.

Overall, there is so much uncertainty to the starting team that Nostradamus himself would struggle to predict what Coach Pay will do come March.

Put it this way, if the Dogs are relying on Kieran Foran to remain fit, then their season is already in the doghouse.

For the NRLCEO coach, there's some sneaky draft targets in the starting 13 but apart from 'paying the Toll' early on in the draft, there's definitely better on offer from other clubs.

Premiers
8 Times

Win %
51.7

Bye
Rd 16

2014
7th

2015
5th

2016
7th

2017
11th

2018
12th

Our 2019
Prediction
14th

Odds
\$41



PLAYER GAINS

DYLAN NAPA
JACK COGGER
CHRISTIAN CRICHTON
MORGAN HARPER

SAUASO SUE
TUIKATO A
NICK MEANEY
JAMES ROUMANOS

COREY H-NAERA
CHRIS SMITH

PLAYER LOSSES

DAVID KLEMMER
LACHLAN BURR
GREG EASTWOOD
ASIPELI FINE

BRETT MORRIS
MATT FRAWLEY
MOSES MBYE
CLAY PRIEST

JOSH MORRIS
AARON WOODS
ZAC WOOLFORD



DYLAN NAPA



SAUASO SUE



DAVID KLEMMER



MORRIS TWINS

ROOKIE WATCH: NICK MEANEY



Even though he played five games for the Knights last season we are still ranking Nick Meaney as a rookie. At just 21 he will have a massive task ahead of him as he fills the #1 jersey for the Dogs.

For a young guy he made an immediate impact on NRLCEO last year scoring 13 points in five games through two tries, two try assists and a line break assist. A tall fullback at 6"2', he was very solid under the high ball last season despite being peppered by the Panthers on debut. He has the added bonus of being a back-up kicker in NSW Cup as well.

If you miss out on the top flight fullbacks then Meaney is well worth a sniff. He could really surprise a lot of people this year.



01		16/03
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03		31/03
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		4:05PM
05		14/04
		4:05PM
06		19/04
		4:05PM
07		26/04
	COWBOYS	6:00PM
08		04/05
		5:30PM
09		11/05
		3:00PM
10		18/05
		3:00PM
11		26/05
		2:00PM
12		01/06
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13		10/06
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14		16/06
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15		30/06
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16	BYE ROUND	
17		12/07
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19		28/07
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20		03/08
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21		10/08
		7:35PM
22		17/08
		7:35PM
23		22/08
		7:50PM
24		29/08
	COWBOYS	7:50PM
25		07/09
		5:30PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

**PROUD TO BE
A BULLDOG**

BULLDOGS
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

D. NAPA 8. FRONT ROW	M. LICHAA 9. HOOKER	A. TOLMAN 10. FRONT ROW	
R. MARTIN 11. BACK ROW	A. ELLIOTT 13. LOCK	J. JACKSON 12. BACK ROW	
L. LEWIS 6. FIVE EIGHTH	K. FORAN 7. HALFBACK		
K. HOLLAND 3. CENTRE	W. HOPOATE 4. CENTRE		
C. CRICHTON 2. WINGER	N. MEANEY 1. FULLBACK	R. SMITH 5. WINGER	
J. M-KING 14. RESERVE	S. SUE 15. RESERVE	C. H-NAERA 16. RESERVE	R. F-MARINER 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - DEAN PAY - 33% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Fa'amanu Brown

Foot

Indefinite

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
346 / 41%

846

FORWARDS
500 / 59%



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Josh Jackson	BR	24	3	17	1	4	2	5	97	84	-
Michael Lichaa	HK	20	1	16	1	8	3	6	95	100	↓
William Hopoate	FB	24	5	0	16	8	5	13	86	77	↓
Rhyse Martin	BR, LK (7KP)	14	4	11	2	1	5	3	74 (146)	74 (146)*	-
Aiden Tolman	FR, LK	16	0	13	6	0	0	0	64	106	↑
C. Harawira-Naera	BR	22	6	6	0	2	7	2	61	65*	-
Kerrod Holland	CT (2KP)	20	6	0	6	5	7	7	60 (74)	47 (93)	-
Reimis Smith	WG	11	7	0	5	2	12	0	54	21	↑
Adam Elliott	LK	24	4	4	3	0	3	0	41	30 (32)	-
R. Faitala-Mariner	BR	13	2	7	1	0	2	0	40	20	-
Jack Cogger	FE	12	1	0	0	6	2	9	27	13	↓
J. Marshall-King	HK, HB	23	2	1	0	4	1	4	25	12	↑
Christian Crichton	WG	18	3	0	1	0	3	1	18	18*	↑
Dylan Napa	FR	19	0	5	1	0	1	0	17	42	↑
Marcelo Montoya	WG	15	2	0	0	2	5	0	17	39*	-
Lachlan Lewis	FE	9	1	0	0	3	0	4	15	15*	↑
Kieran Foran	HB	12	1	0	0	2	2	2	13 (21)	27 (28)	↑
Nick Meaney	FB	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	13 (15)	13 (15)*	↑
John Olive	CT	3	1	0	2	1	1	1	12	7	-
Fa'amanu Brown	HK, FE	9	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	10	-
Okahiki Ogden	FR	9	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	0*	-
Sauaso Sue	FR, LK	15	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	22	↑
Danny Fualalo	FR	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-
Francis Tualau	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Renouf Toomaga	BR	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Christopher Smith	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Brandon Wakeham	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Morgan Harper	CT	0							DNP	DNP	-
Jayden Okunbor	CT	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Zac Saddler	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
 DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

RHYSE MARTIN
 - 7 KICKER POINTS -
 2018: 36/38 (95%)
 Career: 36/38 (95%)

KERROD HOLLAND
 - 2 KICKER POINTS -
 2018: 7/7 (100%)
 Career: 70/89 (79%)

STUD

With Klemmer gone, the Bulldogs need a core forward to play big minutes and that man is **Aiden Tolman**. Despite being shopped around at the start of 2018, Tolman will continue to clog up the middle and pile on the stats.

DUD

Kieran Foran continues to be paid big money to sit on the injury list. He's never been a great NRLCEO player and 2019 will be no different. He belongs back at Manly with Dessie too...

SLEEPER

Reimis Smith might not make too many priority lists but if the Dogs can reinvent their attack, Smith will be the man to cash in. He's fast, rangy and knows where the tryline is.

GAMBLE

Drafting **Rhyse Martin** as your front line kicker is scary. Sure, he's a quality kicker but the Bulldogs had too many scoreless halves last season to bank your 2019 NRLCEO season on their kicker...

BACKS AGAINST THE WALL

The big hits keep coming for the pseudo glamour club from the Shire after a tumultuous off season threatens to derail the Sharks' 2019 season before it has even started.

The deregistration of head coach Flanagan could be a blessing in disguise though. His middle name is trouble and his eight year coaching stint with the Sharks has been littered with unforgivable lowlights.

300 game veteran John Morris takes over and what he brings to the table remains to be seen. However, the Sharks aren't likely to change their grinding style of play, despite the star signing of Shaun Johnson from the Warriors.

This is a major coup for the Sharks and SJ playing in the halves is likely to offset the shock departure of boom fullback Valentine Holmes to trial for an NFL contract.

The positional recalibration will see Matt Moylan moved to the back where he arguably feels more comfortable. The loss of Holmes is massive though as he was in career best form at the back end of season 2018 and his confidence was sky high. He even secured the kicking boots at season's end which made him an obvious Round 1 draft target! We expect Shaun Johnson to take that mantle ahead of Chad Townsend in 2019.

There's plenty of other changes on the Sharks' books but they seemingly have the troops to cover the losses.

Kurt Capewell is likely to secure Luke Lewis' vacated right edge position while there's two vacancies on the left with Lee (Knights) and Leutele (Toronto) moving on.

For the NRLCEO Coach, Andrew Fifita is a major target and despite a quiet 2018 by his standards, he still made the 2018 Dream Team. Aaron Woods and Matt Prior are likely to work in tandem for the other front row spot with Fifita playing dominant minutes.

At lock, Captain Paul Gallen was way down on his previous workhorse tallies with just 16 for the season - 2018 was the first ever season that Gal did not notch a double workhorse which indicates the old fella is finally slowing down!

In the backs, despite the loss of four starters from the 2018 team which finished fourth on the ladder, the Sharks have fared quite well. The two Josh's (Morris and Dugan) will form the centre pairing but neither are hot draft targets these days. The wings of Feki and Katoa have experience and speed respectively to do a job.

Overall, the Sharks are a team under pressure. With relocation to Perth a real threat, you have to wonder whether Coach Morris has what it takes to turn this club around. On paper, they will push for a top four spot once again but it remains to be seen how much a draining off-season will affect their psyche and consequently their performances on the field.

Premiers
1 Time

Win %
48.5

Bye
Rd 12

2014
16th

2015
6th

2016
3rd

2017
5th

2018
4th

Our 2019
Prediction
3rd

Odds
\$15



HOME

PLAYER GAINS

SHAUN JOHNSON
BRAYDON TRINDALL

JOSH MORRIS
AARON WOODS

PLAYER LOSSES

LUKE LEWIS
KURT DILLON
TRENT HODKINSON
EDRICK LEE

RICKY LEUTELE
JOSEPH PAULO
JESSE RAMIEN
JAMES ROUMANOS



SHAUN JOHNSON

JOSH MORRIS



LUKE LEWIS

RICKY LEUTELE

ROOKIE WATCH: BRONSON XERRI



We're seriously excited to see this youngster progress. If not for the NRL rules, Xerri would have debuted last season but he wasn't yet 18.

He turned 18 in September and is now primed to make a spot in the Sharks backline his own. There is a real opportunity to push past Sione Katoa or Sosaia Feki should he get the opportunity. He could also get a sniff in the centres after the inevitable injuries to Josh Dugan or Josh Morris.

At 99kgs he is part of the new wave of outside backs with speed and size. He represented NSW at Under 18 and Under 20 levels.

For the Sharks Jersey Flegg side he scored 12 tries, 14 line-breaks, and 90 tackle-breaks in just 17 appearances in 2018. He then scored a hat trick on debut for Newtown Jets in the NSW Cup.



01		15/03
		6:00PM
02		23/03
		3:00PM
03		30/03
	COWBOYS	5:30PM
04		06/04
		7:35PM
05		13/04
		7:35PM
06		18/04
		7:50PM
07		27/04
		7:35PM
08		03/05
		7:55PM
09		09/05
		7:50PM
10		19/05
		4:05PM
11		26/05
		4:05PM
12	BYE ROUND	
13		08/06
		5:30PM
14		13/06
		7:50PM
15		30/06
		4:05PM
16		07/07
		4:05PM
17		13/07
		7:35PM
18		19/07
		6:00PM
19		25/07
	COWBOYS	7:50PM
20		03/08
		7:35PM
21		09/08
		7:55PM
END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON		
22		18/08
		4:05PM
DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS		
23		24/08
		3:00PM
24		01/09
		2:00PM
25		08/09
		2:00PM

HOME AWAY

UP UP
CRONULLA

SHARKS
CRONULLA

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

A. FIFITA 8. FRONT ROW	J. BRAILEY 9. HOOKER	M. PRIOR 10. FRONT ROW	
W. GRAHAM⁺ 11. BACK ROW	P. GALLEN 13. LOCK	K. CAPEWELL 12. BACK ROW	
S. JOHNSON 6. FIVE EIGHTH	C. TOWNSEND 7. HALFBACK		
J. MORRIS 3. CENTRE	J. DUGAN 4. CENTRE		
S. FEKI 2. WINGER	M. MOYLAN 1. FULLBACK	S. KATO A 5. WINGER	
B. BRAILEY 14. RESERVE	A. WOODS 15. RESERVE	S. SORENSON 16. RESERVE	J. BUKUYA 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - JOHN MORRIS - ON DEBUT

CASUALTY WARD

Wade Graham

ACL

Round 9-12

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
391 / 42%

920

FORWARDS
529 / 58%



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Andrew Fifita	FR	23	3	20	9	2	3	2	119	115	-
Paul Gallen	LK	20	1	16	8	2	1	3	92	129	↓
Shaun Johnson	HB (7KP)	18	4	0	3	15	7	13	77 (195)	92 (190)	↑
Aaron Woods	FR	23	1	15	5	0	0	2	74	96	-
Josh Morris	CT	20	9	0	11	4	3	4	73	76	-
Chad Townsend	HB (2KP)	24	4	0	0	14	4	11	62 (186)	65 (111)	-
Matthew Moylan	FB, FE	21	2	0	1	15	7	16	61	76	↑
Josh Dugan	CT	13	6	0	7	5	5	4	55	57	-
Matt Prior	FR	24	1	11	1	1	1	2	55	44	-
Sosaia Feki	WG	13	7	0	2	2	8	1	45	66	↑
Jayden Brailey	HK	23	3	5	0	1	5	4	43	50*	-
Wade Graham	BR	17	3	3	0	3	3	7	40	71	↓
James Segeyaro	HK	23	1	1	0	8	4	4	32	17	-
Kurt Capewell	BR, CT	17	1	3	2	1	1	4	27	22	↑
Jayson Bukuya	BR	18	2	2	0	1	3	1	22	33	↑
Scott Sorensen	BR	12	1	3	0	1	1	2	21	10*	↑
Si Katoa	WG	9	3	0	1	0	3	0	17	17*	↑
Jack Williams	BR, LK	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	4*	-
Kyle Flanagan	HB (1KP)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1*	-
Ava Seumanufagai	FR	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	-
Aaron Gray	CT, WG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	-
Braden Uele	FR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	-
Billy Magoulias	LK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Blayne Brailey	HK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Briton Nikora	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Bronson Xerri	CT	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Cruz Topai-Aveai	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Isaac Lumelume	CT	0							DNP	DNP	-
William Kennedy	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
											-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

SHAUN JOHNSON

- 7 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 61/80 (76%)

Career: 326/436 (75%)

CHAD TOWNSEND

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 62/84 (74%)

Career: 112/169 (66%)

KYLE FLANAGAN

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 72 goals (Newtown Jets)

Career: N/A

STUD

Watch **Shaun Johnson** prove the doubters wrong and unleash the fury for his new team. It's worth drafting SJ just so you can name him against the Warriors in round 18 and 23...

DUD

Jayden Brailey is a quality hooker and big things were touted for him. However, the signing of Segeyaro has stunted his development and he struggles to get the time to make 40 tackles and runs.

SLEEPER

Edge backrowers **Kurt Capewell** and **Scott Sorensen** could both have big seasons thanks to the cards falling their way. Expect them to play well as they strive to secure a starting position.

GAMBLE

Paul Gallen won't likely get knocked out by Hoppa but he is slowing down big time. That's fair enough - peptides don't last for years in the body and Gal seems more interested in being a halfback these days than doing some tackling...

THE TITANS OF NEW

The Titans return off the back of a forgettable season in 2018, finishing 14th with just eight wins. The reality is, they were a better football team than that but winning just three of their last ten games was really poor.

Looking forward to 2019, the Titans management have cut some deadwood from the squad and recruited some solid names.

Tyrone Peachey headlines the new recruits but it isn't really clear where Coach Brennan is going to play him. The obvious position is left back row or centre as other recruits Tyrone Roberts and Ryley Jacks skirmish for the vacant five-eighth spot.

Much will depend on where AJ Brimson plays. The livewire young gun finished the season on fire and it will be hard for Brennan to leave him out of the starting side in 2019. With Michael Gordon still at the club, there's plenty of puzzle pieces that need to be sorted in the pre-season trials and the makeup of the Titan's spine is only half known.

Speaking of halves, Ash Taylor once again carries the hopes of a south east Queensland region. This season will certainly be make or break for the player touted as the next 'next Allan Langer'.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Titans forwards appear to be where it's at. Captain Ryan James is a beast and owns big minutes in

the core. He'll be one of the first forwards picked in most drafts. Jarrod Wallace and Jai Arrow make up the core group of forwards with newbie, Shannon Boyd joining the rotation but unlikely to influence Wallace or Arrow's output.

On the right edges, Kevin Proctor is showing signs of post Storm depression and his 2018 was one to forget despite notching up 15 workhorses.

In the backs, the Titans really need some injection of strike power. Unfortunately, Konnie Hurrell's departure leaves a hole in the centres that won't likely be filled by someone 'exciting'. The wings, Sami and Don had a decent collect last season and if the Titans can actually fire, they are a chance to score 18+ tries.

Overall, the Titans are an honest, hard working team and they never seem to give up when the chips are down. Their strength is a pack with decent work ethic and that's where the draft value lies from the Titans. James and Arrow headline the workhorse act but hooker Nathan Peats could join them if form and injury keeps him on the field for big minutes, week in week out.

If Michael Gordon succumbs to age, expect Taylor to take over the kicking and with only two kicking points, his value could skyrocket.

Premiers
0 Times

Win %
42.0

Bye
Rd 16

2014
14th

2015
14th

2016
8th

2017
15th

2018
14th

Our 2019
Prediction
10th

Odds
\$51



HOME

AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

TYRONE PEACHEY
JESSE ARTHARS
RYLEY JACKS

SHANNON BOYD
BRIAN KELLY
TYRONE ROBERTS

PLAYER LOSSES

KONRAD HURRELL
BRENDAN ELLIOT
JOE GREENWOOD

KANE ELGEY
RYAN SIMPKINS



TYRONE PEACHEY

SHANNON BOYD



KONRAD HURRELL

KANE ELGEY

ROOKIE WATCH: JESSE ARTHARS



There's a young fullback named AJ Brimson at the Titans, but if he wants to fit into the logjam of halves at the Titans then there is another youngster to keep an eye on.

Jesse Arthars comes to the Gold Coast via North Sydney, via Melbourne, via New Zealand. During his time in the National Youth Competition for the Storm in 2016 he was the leading point scorer.

With the Bears in the NSW Cup he played six matches and scored seven tries playing four at fullback and two on the wing. He also kicked three goals and had eight line breaks.

He will add depth to the Titans squad and could see some game time due to injuries in 2019. His best chance at a run would be on the wing or at centre in which case he will earn dual position.



01		17/03	6:10PM
02		23/03	3:00PM
03		31/03	6:10PM
04		05/04	6:00PM
05		12/04	6:00PM
06		21/04	2:00PM
07		27/04	5:30PM
08		03/05	6:00PM
09		09/05	7:50PM
10		18/05	3:00PM
11		24/05	6:00PM
12		02/06	4:05PM
13		09/06	2:00PM
14		14/06	6:00PM
15		29/06	3:00PM
16	BYE ROUND		
17		12/07	6:00PM
18		21/07	2:00PM
19		27/07	5:30PM
20		04/08	2:00PM
21		10/08	3:00PM
END OF NRL CEO REGULAR SEASON			
22		16/08	6:00PM
DEFAULT NRL CEO FINALS			
23		25/08	2:00PM
24		31/08	3:00PM
25		07/09	7:35PM

HOME AWAY

THRU N' THRU

TITANS
GOLD COAST

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

R. JAMES 8. FRONT ROW	N. PEATS 9. HOOKER	J. WALLACE 10. FRONT ROW	
T. PEACHEY 11. BACK ROW	J. ARROW 13. LOCK	K. PROCTOR 12. BACK ROW	
A. BRIMSON 6. FIVE EIGHTH	A. TAYLOR 7. HALFBACK		
B. KELLY 3. CENTRE	B. LEE 4. CENTRE		
P. SAMI 2. WINGER	M. GORDON 1. FULLBACK	A. DON 5. WINGER	
M. REIN 14. RESERVE	M. FOTUAIKA 15. RESERVE	K. HIPGRAVE 16. RESERVE	S. BOYD 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - GARTH BRENNAN - 33% WINRATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
639 / 51%

1256

FORWARDS
617 / 49%



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Ryan James	FR, LK	23	6	25	4	2	6	1	143	138	-
Jai Arrow	FR, LK	21	3	14	10	0	3	2	93	35	-
Anthony Don	WG	24	15	0	5	1	17	0	89	55	-
Tyrone Peachey	FE, CT	22	9	0	11	7	9	7	86	87	↑
Phillip Sami	WG	23	14	0	7	1	12	1	85	45*	-
Kevin Proctor	BR	23	3	15	0	1	5	0	79 (81)	78	-
Nathan Peats	HK	20	0	15	0	4	0	6	74	77	-
Brian Kelly	CT	24	7	0	5	9	9	7	72	78*	-
Ashley Taylor	HB (2KP)	23	3	0	0	19	3	17	71 (111)	70 (125)	↑
Jarrold Wallace	FR, LK	20	3	12	2	1	5	2	71	59	-
Mitch Rein	HK	24	3	8	2	4	6	3	65	74	↓
Brenko Lee	CT	14	3	0	13	6	4	10	64	63	↓
Tyrone Roberts	FE (1KP)	23	5	0	0	12	9	N/A	53 (111)**	42**	-
AJ Brimson	FB, FE	15	7	0	4	2	7	2	49	49*	↑
Michael Gordon	FB (6KP)	20	4	0	3	5	8	8	48 (162)	55 (185)	↓
Dale Copley	CT	13	5	0	3	2	6	2	38	43	↓
Ryley Jacks	FE	13	5	0	0	5	3	4	37	22*	-
Moeaki Fotuauka	FR	16	2	4	0	1	1	1	24	24*	-
Max King	FR, LK	12	1	3	1	0	1	0	19	25*	-
Shannon Boyd	FR	21	1	2	0	0	3	0	15	18	-
Bryce Cartwright	BR, LK	14	0	1	0	2	0	2	8	47	↑
Will Matthews	BR	15	0	2	0	1	0	0	8	7	-
Jack Stockwell	FR, LK	17	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	10	-
Keegan Hipgrave	BR	19	0	2	0	0	1	0	5	5*	-
Leilani Latu	FR	6	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	20	-
Morgan Boyle	FR	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	14*	-
Jai Whitbread	FR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Dylan Phythian	FB	0							DNP	1	-
Jesse Arthars	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
											-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

MICHAEL GORDON

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 58/74 (78%)

Career: 654/807 (81%)

ASH TAYLOR

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 19/23 (83%)

Career: 82/117 (70%)

TYRONE ROBERTS

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 17 goals (Super League)

Career: 230/311 (74%)

STUD

Ryan James just keeps on going and he's always going to play big minutes while he's the captain. If the game is on the line, James will refuse to go off and that's good for double horses.

DUD

Michael Gordon needs to surrender and let the younger generation take over. AJ Brimson is chomping at the bit for a crack and Gordon's days are numbered.

SLEEPER

Quite simply, it has to be **Ash Taylor's** season. The Titans have invested heavily in the young halfback and the time to justify his pay cheque is fast closing...

GAMBLE

Drafting **Nathan Peats** early in the draft is a big call with Mitch Rein playing off the bench. Rein was dynamic in 2018 when he got a chance. Maybe Peats will spend more time on twitter than on the field in 2019?

BATTLES ON THE BEACHES

There's still angst at Brooky - not all is well at Silvertail HQ with Dessie Hasler returning after being sacked at the Bulldogs. Seriously, Sea Eagles Management must have rocks in their heads to re-sign Hasler after what he did to the Dogs - unless of course he was a secret agent sent from Manly to destroy one of their arch rivals from within. In that case, well done and play on!!

What a soap opera 2018 was! Coach Trent Barrett was constantly in the headlines for all the wrong reasons and ultimately, despite having the support of the players, he now finds himself lining up behind Anthony Griffin at Centrelink.

Moving forward to this season and some decent troops have left the club and not much has been brought in. Basically, it is still going to be the DCE and Twin Turbo show each week.

For the NRLCEO coach, there's not really much to like outside of the Big 3. Cherry-Evans could be one of those undraftables if he does not take kicks for goal. That will be a shame as he made the 2018 Dream Team off the back of a pretty solid season and he's a reliable halfback option.

Sadly for some, if 'boom' new recruit Kane Elgey secures the starting five eighth position, he is a real chance of taking the boots so DCE can concentrate on directing the team, driving the team bus, etc.

At the back, Tommy Trbojevic also made the Dream Team, despite only scoring 9 tries for the season. TT ate up the metres though and with 18 try assists, he dominated from the fullback position..

To round out the Big 3, brother Jake also made the NRLCEO

Dream Team and will be one of the first forwards picked across all comps. Jake is a profoundly complete NRLCEO player and he now covers dual positions which will only increase his value.

Of the rest of the squad, if Jorge Taufua can remain fit, then he is a solid draft option on the wing. However, his output will solely depend on how Manly play as a team and on paper, they look pretty ordinary.

In the forwards, Taupau and Fonua-Blake will both go forward but are impact players rather than workhorses. On the edges, Curtis Sironen returns from injury and he's always had NRLCEO potential but never delivered. Joel Thompson on the left is also a dick tease - just four workhorses last season despite playing 80 minutes every week - how is that even possible?

At hooker, Api Koroisau is a gun and loves running more than 75m. However, it seems foreseeable that Manly will play with Fainu coming off the bench so that will definitely impact on Api's double workhorse potential.

In the backs, livewire Dylan Walker is always injured and the other positions will be made up of new recruits and rookies - none of whom are worthy draft targets. Moses Suli has huge physical ability but does he have the mental capacity to maximise his ability with a focussed off-season?

Overall, Manly look pretty uninspiring really. The return of Dessie just sucks and if they start playing like the Bulldogs did under the Hasler shackles, then Manly are destined for their first ever wooden spoon. One can only hope...

Premiers
8 Times

Win %
57.1

Bye
Rd 16

2014
2nd

2015
9th

2016
13th

2017
6th

2018
15th

Our 2019 Prediction
13th

Odds
\$26



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

KANE ELGEY
JADE ANDERSON
CADE CUST
REUBEN GARRICK

BRENDAN ELLIOT
ALBERT HOPOATE
SEAN KEPPIE
SEMISI KIOA

TRENT HODKINSON
LUKE METCALF
HAUMOLE OLAKAU'ATU
COREY WADDELL

PLAYER LOSSES

AKUILA UATE
LEWIS BROWN
JACKSON HASTINGS

BRIAN KELLY
SHAUN LANE
DARCY LUSSICK

JOEY LUSSICK
JONATHAN WRIGHT
TOM WRIGHT



KANE ELGEY

BRENDAN ELLIOT



AKUILA UATE

BRIAN KELLY

ROOKIE WATCH: ALBERT HOPOATE

It would be nice to see another Hoppoate in the press for the right reasons. The son of John and brother of Will, Albert is almost 18 and will press hard for first grade time in 2019.

With the light weights currently filling the back five slots of the Sea Eagles team sheet, Albert has a very good chance to start his career on a wing and we all know how successful Hoppa's are on the wing. Considering they have lost Brian Kelly, Matt Wright and Akuila Uate in the off season and with doubts hanging over Dylan Walker's head, there will be plenty of opportunity for Albert to put his hand up.

Unfortunately he missed most of 2018 due to an ACL tear but Sea Eagles fans are extremely excited about him getting his chance in first grade in 2019.

According to many pundits, Albert is actually the best Hoppoate yet.



01		16/03 5:30PM
02		23/03 7:35PM
03		30/03 3:00PM
04		06/04 3:00PM
05		13/04 5:30PM
06		20/04 7:35PM
07		28/04 2:00PM
08		04/05 5:30PM
09		10/05 7:55PM
10		19/05 4:05PM
11		24/05 6:00PM
12		30/06 7:50PM
13		08/06 7:35PM
14		16/06 2:00PM
15		29/06 3:00PM
16	BYE ROUND	
17		13/07 3:00PM
18		21/07 4:05PM
19		27/07 7:35PM
20		03/08 3:00PM
21		09/08 6:00PM
END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON		
DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS		
22		15/08 7:50PM
23		25/08 4:05PM
24		31/08 5:30PM
25		06/09 6:00PM

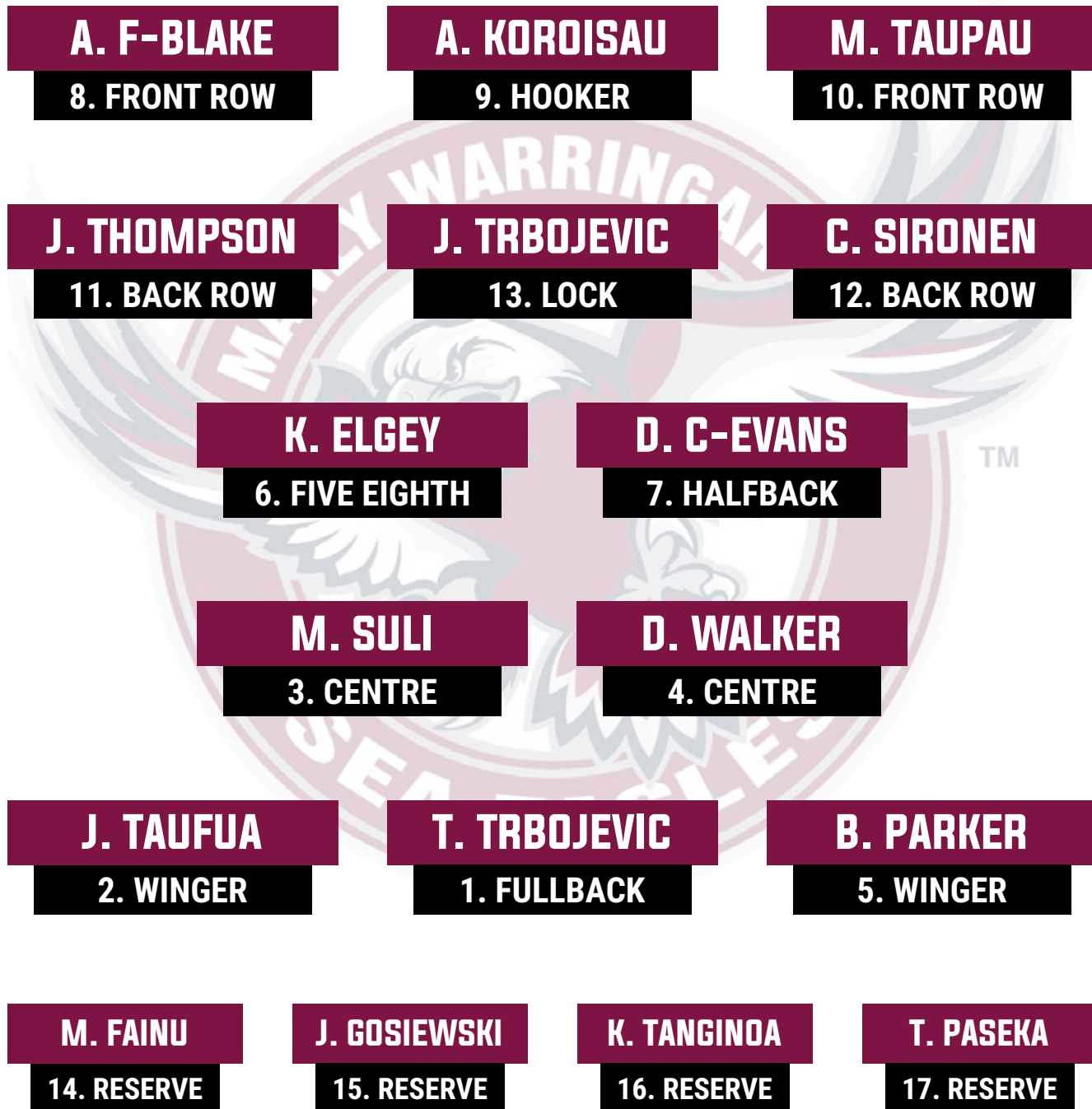
HOME AWAY

**WE ARE
MANLY**

SEA EAGLES
MANLY WARRINGAH

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON



A. F-BLAKE 8. FRONT ROW	A. KOROISAU 9. HOOKER	M. TAUPAU 10. FRONT ROW	
J. THOMPSON 11. BACK ROW	J. TRBOJEVIC 13. LOCK	C. SIRONEN 12. BACK ROW	
K. ELGEY 6. FIVE EIGHTH	D. C-EVANS 7. HALFBACK		
M. SULI 3. CENTRE	D. WALKER 4. CENTRE		
J. TAUFUA 2. WINGER	T. TRBOJEVIC 1. FULLBACK	B. PARKER 5. WINGER	
M. FAINU 14. RESERVE	J. GOSIEWSKI 15. RESERVE	K. TANGINO 16. RESERVE	T. PASEKA 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - DES HASLER - 58% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Jake Trbojevic	FR, LK	23	7	26	6	3	5	5	156	146	-
Tom Trbojevic	FB	22	9	0	20	18	24	15	151	153	↑
Daly Cherry-Evans	HB (6KP)	24	8	0	2	16	6	21	99 (229)	94 (160)	-
Martin Taupau	FR, LK	24	0	15	14	1	1	1	92	81	-
Apisai Koroisau	HK	13	3	9	0	6	5	5	68	79 (80)	↑
Joel Thompson	BR	24	7	4	1	0	6	0	52	68	-
Manase Fainu	HK	9	1	6	0	4	1	5	42	42*	↓
Addin Fonua-Blake	FR	24	3	4	3	0	4	0	36	18	-
Kane Elgey	FE (2KP)	11	2	0	0	7	2	5	29 (31)	23 (29)	↑
Jorge Taufua	WG	12	2	0	6	0	4	2	26	49	↑
Moses Suli	CT	15	1	0	9	0	2	1	25	34	-
Dylan Walker	CT (1KP)	14	2	0	1	3	2	5	19	63 (90)	↓
Brad Parker	CT, WG	17	3	0	1	0	3	0	17	11	↑
Curtis Sironen	BR	4	2	1	0	0	1	0	13	24	↑
Frank Winterstein	BR	15	1	0	0	1	2	1	9	11	-
Lloyd Perrett	FR	13	1	0	0	1	1	2	9	7	-
Jack Gosiewski	BR	8	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	2	-
Taniela Paseka	FR	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2*	-
Kelepi Tanginoa	BR, LK	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	-
Toafofoa Siple	FR	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	-
Brendan Elliott	WG	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	-
Albert Hopoate	FB	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Ben Trbojevic	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Billy Bainbridge	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Cade Cust	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Corey Waddell	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Reuben Garrick	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Tevita Funa	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
											-
											-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

DALY CHERRY-EVANS

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 65/83 (78%)

Career: 102/145 (70%)

KANE ELGEY

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 1/1 (100%)

Career: 179/218 (82%)

DYLAN WALKER

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: N/A

Career: 42/64 (65%)

STUD

The **Twin Turbos** - it's THAT obvious! Jake should be positioned slightly higher than Tom on your list of preferred players. Draft them both and you'll have a very competitive NRLCEO season!

DUD

Dylan Walker is another with court cases pending and he seems like a genuine knob. Hopefully, he if he gets on the field this season, Curtis Scott gives him another flogging...

SLEEPER

Jorge Taufua won't be high on many draft lists, but the fact remains he's a dynamic winger with ball in hand. Although injury has negatively influenced his last 5 seasons, he is capable of scoring 15+ tries this season if Manly win more than they lose.

GAMBLE

Kane Elgey went through a period of complete shitness in 2018 but running off DCE he could actually do well this season. Then again, he could be absolute rubbish again...

CAPTAIN CAM LEADING THE NEXT GEN

If the off-season was anything to go by, there may be cracks in the mighty Storm armour starting to appear. Captain Cam Smith's contract stalemate is just the start and maybe just maybe, the retirement of Billy Slater is what will hurt the Storm more than anything.

Last season was just another case of business as usual from the perennial title contenders. Even with Cronk going to the Roosters, the Storm were able to cover that vacancy quite well - by rotating between a number of halfbacks all season.

In the end, it was Cronk clone, Brodie Croft who secured his spot and his combination with Cameron Munster almost took the Storm all the way for back to back titles.

That wasn't to be however, and despite the loss of Slater it can almost be guaranteed that Coach Bellamy will have the Storm hungrier than ever to avenge that Grand Final loss to the Cronk led Roosters.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Storm typically have an abundance of draft targets. On the wings, there will be plenty of coaches who are eying off the wing combination of Addo-Carr and Vunivalu with picks 1 and 2. Both are serious try scoring targets and will remain so, despite the latter having a somewhat quieter 2018 than expected.

In the forwards, the Storm like to rotate their big men in the middle and only Dale Finucane seems relevant these days. Jesse

Bromwich used to be a gun but he simply doesn't get dirty enough in defence. Instead, he becomes a focal point in attack which doesn't correspond to automatic workhorses.

Both edge backrowers are valuable though, with Felise Kaufusi having another solid year on the right. Youngster Joe Stimson is capable of becoming the next Tohu Harris and looking down the track, he could become the Storm's kicker for years to come.

Of course, Captain Smith will continue to run the show and despite showing signs of slowing down in 2018 (only 16 workhorses) he will still be a major draft target courtesy of his trusty left boot.

Historically, the Storm are one of the most consistently selected teams but there are a few conundrums for Coach Bellamy this season.

Will Munster be retained in the halves or will he go back to his preferred fullback position? While there are a number of ready made replacements for each of those positions - namely Jerome Hughes and Scott Drinkwater - Munster's NRLCEO scoring is likely to be more productive from the fullback position.

Overall, we all know what Billy Slater meant to the Storm structure - in both attack and defence. Whilst there will certainly be some fallout from his retirement, it is hard to see the Storm declining too much this season. That means they will retain a number of quality draft targets and NRLCEO coaches will target them early as usual...

Premiers
3 Times*
Win %
64.6
Bye
Rd 12

2014
6th
2015
4th
2016
1st
2017
1st
2018
2nd

Our 2019
Prediction
2nd

Odds
\$8



HOME

PLAYER GAINS

ALBERT VETE
TOM EISENHUTH

MARION SEVE

PLAYER LOSSES

BILLY SLATER
TIM GLASBY
RYLEY JACKS
LOUIS GERAGHTY

RYAN HOFFMAN
LACHLAN TIMM
YOUNG TONUMAIPEA



ALBERT VETE



MARION SEVE



BILLY SLATER



RYAN HOFFMAN

ROOKIE WATCH: SCOTT DRINKWATER



The Storm is the hardest side to crack into as a rookie. Bellamy likes his players to bide their time in Queensland Cup and then get drip fed into first grade.

After 42 appearances in the Queensland Cup, Drinkwater is now 21 and ready to step up to first grade. In 22 games for Easts Tigers, Drinkwater had 17 tries, 24 try assists and 22 linebreak assists in addition to averages of 133 metres and seven tackle busts per game.

The catch? He has to contend with Jahrome Hughes and Ryan Papenhuyzen. Such is the strength of the Melbourne Storm stocks. There's also a matter of Cameron Munster not being a lock for five-eighth.

I'd be taking the punt on Drinkwater. He has the speed and skills to be the next NRL CEO star at the Storm.



01		14/03
		7:55PM
02		22/03
		6:00PM
03		30/03
		7:35PM
04		07/04
		4:05PM
05		12/04
	COWBOYS	7:55PM
06		19/04
		7:55PM
07		25/04
		7:50PM
08		03/05
		7:55PM
09		11/05
		7:35PM
10		16/05
		7:50PM
11		26/05
		2:00PM
12	BYE ROUND	
13		08/06
		3:00PM
14		15/06
		3:00PM
15		28/06
		7:55PM
16		04/07
		7:50PM
17		13/07
		7:35PM
18		21/07
		2:00PM
19		27/07
		7:35PM
20		02/08
		7:55PM
21		11/08
		4:05PM
	END OF NRL CEO REGULAR SEASON	
22		17/08
		5:30PM
23		25/08
		2:00PM
24		31/08
		5:30PM
25		06/09
	COWBOYS	7:55PM

END OF NRL CEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRL CEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

PURPLE
PRIDE

MELBOURNE
STORM

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

J. BROMWICH 8. FRONT ROW	C. SMITH 9. HOOKER	N. A-SOLOMONA 10. FRONT ROW	
J. STIMSON 11. BACK ROW	D. FINUCANE 13. LOCK	F. KAUFUSI 12. BACK ROW	
C. MUNSTER 6. FIVE EIGHTH	B. CROFT 7. HALFBACK		
C. SCOTT 3. CENTRE	W. CHAMBERS 4. CENTRE		
J. ADDO-CARR 2. WINGER	J. HUGHES 1. FULLBACK	S. VUNIVALU 5. WINGER	
B. SMITH 14. RESERVE	C. WELCH 15. RESERVE	K. BROMWICH 16. RESERVE	S. KASIANO 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - CRAIG BELLAMY - 68% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN





PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Josh Addo-Carr	WG	22	17	0	8	4	16	0	106	80	-
Cameron Smith	HK (8KP)	23	1	16	0	7	1	12	94 (270)	119 (285)	↓
Cameron Munster	FE (1KP)	21	4	0	8	15	8	13	82 (86)	89 (98)	-
Felise Kaufusi	BR	18	5	13	0	1	6	0	80	79	-
Suliasi Vunivalu	WG	20	13	0	1	2	10	2	70	106	↑
Curtis Scott	CT	21	8	0	12	1	5	4	63	37	-
Will Chambers	CT	17	4	0	9	4	3	4	49	55	-
Dale Finucane	LK	15	1	9	1	1	1	1	46	84	↑
Joe Stimson	BR (1KP)	21	1	8	0	1	3	2	43 (47)	30 (34)	↑
Jesse Bromwich	FR	17	0	7	4	2	0	2	42	64	↑
Jahrome Hughes	FB	11	2	0	3	7	4	6	38	22	↑
N. Asofa-Solomona	FR	22	4	1	1	2	6	1	33	21	-
Kenny Bromwich	BR, LK	22	1	3	0	2	0	3	23	27	-
Brodie Croft	HB	9	2	0	1	2	3	2	19 (29)	15 (18)	↑
Christian Welch	FR, LK	23	2	2	0	0	2	0	16	7	-
Cheyse Blair	CT	7	2	0	2	0	2	0	14	41	↓
Scott Drinkwater	FB	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	7	7*	-
Sam Kasiano	FR	13	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	13	-
Justin Olam	CT	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	5	5*	-
Brandon Smith	HK	15	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	5	↑
Patrick Kaufusi	FR, LK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Tui Kamikamica	FR, LK	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Albert Vete	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	-
Billy Walters	FE	0							DNP	DNP	-
Dylan Kelly	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Marion Seve	CT	0							DNP	DNP	-
Ryan Papenhuyzen	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Sandor Earl	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Thomas Eisenhuth	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Zac Saddler	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

CAMERON SMITH

- 8 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 98/119 (82%)

Career: 1,105/1,485 (74%)

JOE STIMSON

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 2/3 (67%)

Career: 3/4 (75%)

CAMERON MUNSTER

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 2/2 (100%)

Career: 14/25 (56%)

STUD

The Storm wing combo of **Addo-Carr** and **Vunivalu** has been lethal and there's no reason why they won't be again this season. Speed, power, athleticism, and plenty of it...

DUD

The Storm forwards tend to have much more workhorse value these days. While **Jesse Bromwich** is still a good player, he's not what he was 3 years ago - a top prop draft option. That puts him in the James Graham memorial squad of former guns.

SLEEPER

Jerome Hughes is a gun and looks set to inherit the number 1 jersey in 2019. There will never be another Billy Slater, but the Storm won't lose too much having Hughes at the back.

GAMBLE

Going hard for **Cam Smith** early in the draft has to be fraught with danger. The record breaking future immortal is a quality player, but is he still round 1 draft material with those tired legs and busted shoulders?

THE ROUND TABLE IS FINALLY STACKED

Knights recruitment has hit overdrive and surely, this is Nathan Brown's time to deliver - the rebuild is complete. Looking at the Knight's squad of 30, there is depth galore, especially in the forwards.

Kalyn Ponga is the headline act and looks set to take up a new position at five-eighth, where he will partner Mitchell Pearce. Connor Watson looks set to go back to fullback but expect Ponga to go back there if he needs a rest in defence.

In the forwards, there are no guarantees for starting positions up front. New recruits Glasby, Klemmer and Gavet join Esé'ese, the two Saifiti's and King with a battle royale for just four spots in the engine room, providing some healthy competition indeed! Jacob Saifiti has basically rendered himself undraftable after a pub brawl left him missing the first six to eight rounds. A later sleeper if anything.

The backrow stocks are also stacked with Buhner, Barnett and Mata'utia vying for one spot behind Guerra and Fitzgibbon - it's an NRLCEO coach's nightmare!

At hooker, incumbent Slade Griffin is on one leg and Danny Levi is seemingly out of favour. Knights management have taken an

'out of the box' approach for filling this troublesome position with Kurt Mann touted as the saviour. While it is hard to envision Mann becoming a genuine hooking workhorse, he has demonstrated ability in the past where he has covered a multitude of positions in his career.

In the backs, the star halves combination will look to feed a combination of big and fast backs.

The centres will be made of Tautau Moga (if fit) and boom youngster Jesse Ramien. On the wings, Edrick Lee and SKD look the likely candidates, but that leaves Ross Dog on the outer and newbie Hymel Hunt bidding his time as well.

For the NRLCEO coach, the influx of recruits and depth in positions could cause many a headache. Aidan Guerra was a standout workhorse in 2018 where he overachieved, making the NRLCEO Dream Team of the Year.

Lachlan Fitzgibbon is a dangerous option on the edge and is improving his workhorse capability as he matures with every season.

Ponga is the juiciest draft option, but will his draft worthiness be affected by being accompanied with 6 kicking points? You decide.

Premiers
2 Times

Win %
47.0

Bye
Rd 12

2014
12th

2015
16th

2016
16th

2017
16th

2018
11th

Our 2019
Prediction
8th

Odds
\$17



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

DAVID KLEMMER
JAMES GAVET
HYMEL HUNT

TIM GLASBY
EDRICK LEE
MASON LINO

KURT MANN
JESSE RAMIEN
ZAC WOOLFORD

PLAYER LOSSES

CHRIS HEIGHINGTON
JACK COGGER
JJ COLLINS
CORY DENNISS

KEN SIO
BROCK LAMB
JACOB LILLYMAN
CHANEL MATA'UTIA

PAT MATA'UTIA
NICK MEANEY
DYLAN PHYTHIAN
LUKE YATES



DAVID KLEMMER

TIM GLASBY



CHRIS HEIGHINGTON

KEN SIO

ROOKIE WATCH: BRADMAN BEST

There's only one player on a longer term deal at the Knights - David Klemmer. The best name in rugby league will soon become a household name according to Klemmer and his NSW U18's coach Mark O'Meley. He is contracted until the end of 2022.

Unfortunately he doesn't turn 18 until August and therefore can't get a taste of first grade football until then. He is a long term prospect for those in keeper leagues looking deep ahead.

A centre with size and strength beyond his years. If his numbers live up to the great Don then you would take that in NRLCEO every day of the week.



01		15/03	6:00PM
02		23/03	5:30PM
03		29/03	6:00PM
04		07/04	6:10PM
05		13/04	5:30PM
06		21/04	2:00PM
07		28/04	4:05PM
08		05/05	2:00PM
09		11/05	3:00PM
10		19/05	2:00PM
11		24/05	7:55PM
12	BYE ROUND		
13		07/06	6:00PM
14		15/06	3:00PM
15		29/06	5:30PM
16		06/07	7:35PM
17		12/07	7:55PM
18		20/07	3:00PM
19		26/07	6:00PM
20		03/08	3:00PM
21		10/08	5:30PM
22		17/08	3:00PM
23		24/08	5:30PM
24		31/08	3:00PM
25		08/09	4:05PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

**GO HARD
GO KNIGHTS**

HOME AWAY

KNIGHTS
NEWCASTLE

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

T. GLASBY 8. FRONT ROW	K. MANN 9. HOOKER	H. ESE'ESE 10. FRONT ROW	
L. FITZGIBBON 11. BACK ROW	D. KLEMMER 13. LOCK	A. GUERRA 12. BACK ROW	
K. PONGA 6. FIVE EIGHTH	M. PEARCE 7. HALFBACK		
S. MATA'UTIA 3. CENTRE	J. RAMIEN 4. CENTRE		
E. LEE 2. WINGER	C. WATSON 1. FULLBACK	S. K-DOWALL 5. WINGER	
D. LEVI 14. RESERVE	J. BUHRER 15. RESERVE	D. SAIFITI 16. RESERVE	M. BARNETT 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - NATHAN BROWN - 43% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Tautau Moga	ACL	Round 5
Jacob Saifiti	Fibula	Indefinite
Slade Griffin	ACL	Indefinite

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
604 / 53%

1297

FORWARDS
693 / 47%



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Aidan Guerra	BR, LK	24	5	23	0	0	4	0	114	93	↓
Lachlan Fitzgibbon	BR	21	9	10	1	1	12	2	92	52	-
David Klemmer	FR, LK	22	0	13	20	0	0	0	90	86	-
Herman Ese'ese	FR, LK	23	2	17	5	0	2	0	88	36	-
Kalyn Ponga	FB, FE (6KP)	20	6	0	7	12	10	13	85 (141)	56*	↑
Mitchell Barnett	BR, LK	23	2	17	1	2	1	2	85	76	↓
Jesse Ramien	CT	18	10	0	12	3	9	4	83	44*	-
Connor Watson	FB, FE (1KP)	15	7	1	8	5	9	5	68	51	↑
Edrick Lee	WG	16	11	0	3	1	13	1	66 (68)	43	-
Daniel Saifiti	FR	21	3	10	5	0	3	2	65	40	↓
Sione Mata'utia	CT, BR	23	8	1	3	4	7	3	60	63	↓
Slade Griffin	HK, LK	16	2	11	0	2	2	2	60	24	↓
Mitchell Pearce	HB	15	2	0	1	15	4	10	57	67	↑
Hymel Hunt	CT, WG	19	7	0	8	0	7	2	51	33	-
Shaun Kenny-Dowall	WG	24	6	0	12	0	5	0	51	58	-
Daniel Levi	HK	17	0	5	1	6	0	7	37	37	↓
Tim Glasby	FR	21	1	7	0	1	1	1	36	31	-
Nathan Ross	CT, WG	15	2	0	5	2	3	3	28	60	↓
Kurt Mann	CT, WG	24	3	0	3	1	4	1	25	45	↑
Mason Lino	HB (2KP)	8	3	0	0	2	3	1	20 (48)	9	-
Josh King	FR	13	0	3	0	1	0	1	15	11	-
Tautau Moga	CT	4	2	0	0	0	3	1	10	38	↓
Jamie Buhrer	BR, LK	20	0	1	0	1	0	0	6	47	-
Sam Stone	BR	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	15*	-
James Gavet	FR	18	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	-
Jacob Saifiti	FR	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	-
Pasami Saulo	FR	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Jack Johns	FB, FE	0							DNP	0*	-
Brodie Jones	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Zac Woolford	HK	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

KALYN PONGA
- 6 KICKER POINTS -
2018: 27/39 (69%)
Career: 27/39 (69%)

MASON LINO
- 2 KICKER POINTS -
2018: 14/18 (78%)
Career: 16/21 (76%)

CONNOR WATSON
- 1 KICKER POINT -
2018: N/A
Career: N/A

STUD

Kalyn Ponga is a genius and although just out of rookie status, he's a genuine superstar to be. Watch him carve up this year at five-eighth and rubber stamp himself as the next Darren Lockyer of the NRL...

DUD

Not sure why **Mitch Barnett** is seemingly on the outer, but he is. Barnett hasn't been able to hold his position in the side if media reports are to be believed. That's not good as he's a solid try scoring backrower when given the chance.

SLEEPER

Lachlan Fitzgibbon is a few more workhorses per season away from being considered a top line draft target. 10 workhorses last season is not quite good enough and expect him to improve that in 2019.

GAMBLE

Going off early in the draft on any of the Knights forwards is a gamble based on their depth. Coach Brown is likely to have minimal patience, and with the amount of quality back ups nipping at everyone's heels they have to play well or they're out.

THE NEW PRINCE OF THE NORTH

Months after the season has concluded, there's still barely a dry eye in Cowboy country. The King of the North is gone but there's hope that his successor will rise and take the throne this season!

The loss of JT simply can not be understated but the reality is, the Cowboys made the Grand Final without him in 2017.

'Prince' Michael Morgan showed he is more than capable of directing the team around the park then, but 2018 was a season to forget, not only for the injury plagued Morgan but the entire organisation.

Consequently, Coach Paul Green has cleared the decks. Leaving are the likes of Lachlan Coote, Kane Linnett, Shaun Fensom and Antonio Winterstein - all of whom have been regular first graders in their time at the Cowboys.

Recruitment has been strong though and Cowboy's fans should be excited at the incoming troops. Josh McGuire will add some starch in the middle of the field and will allow Matt Scott to come back under monitored minutes off the bench. If Jordan McLean can stay fit, the core group of forwards looks enticing.

Super League Man of Steel, Ben Barba will bring some much needed speed at the back which hasn't been seen at the Cows since Matty Bowen. Being a local product, Barba will be keen to cement a longer term contract so he will likely be a popular draft target.

Nene MacDonald is also a handy pick up and will most likely play in the centres where he is a little inexperienced, but more than capable.

Historically, the Cowboys have had one of the most consistently named teams over the past 5 years, but that could change in 2019. Coach Green can not rest on his laurels this season and with the team he has and the depth they've acquired, there simply isn't time for the 'rebuilding' excuse, post Thurston.

For the NRLCEO Coach, the Cowboys have draft targets but have some of them become genuine traps? Taumalolo is a metre eating machine and will go early in most drafts while on the edges, Coen Hess can be dynamic but lazy. Gavin Cooper will no doubt work hard but he has to miss his little buddy who fed him for years.

In the backs, Kyle Feldt is a guarantee for the right wing and surely Gideon Gela-Mosby showed late last year why he should have been there all year over the pedestrian Winterstein?

The centres are a bit of a mystery with the likes of O'Neill, Hampton, Opacic, Macdonald and Bowen all likely to be considered - Macdonald and O'Neill will get first crack.

In the halves, Morgan must remain fit and Jake Clifford is the most likely to get the nod at halfback, ahead of Te Maire Martin. Quite simply, Clifford's general and goal kicking abilities are good commodities that the Cowboys will require this season in the absence of JT - TMM doesn't have that in his arsenal.

Overall, the Cowboys have a forward pack that can mix it with any other team in the competition. The backs look to have some speed and rejuvenation about them and it's really the halves which will define the success of the Cowboy's season.

Premiers
1 Time

Win %
42.4

Bye
Rd 16

2014
5th

2015
3rd

2016
4th

2017
8th

2018
13th

Our 2019
Prediction
7th

Odds
\$13



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

BEN BARBA
KURT BAPTISTE

JOSH MCGUIRE
NENE MACDONALD

TOM OPACIC
DAN RUSSELL

PLAYER LOSSES

JOHNATHAN THURSTON
JOSH CHUDLEIGH
SHAUN FENSOM

LACHLAN COOTE
SAM HOARE
SHAUN HUDSON

KYLE LAYBUTT
KANE LINNETT
ANTONIO WINTERSTEIN



BEN BARBA



JOSH MCGUIRE



JOHNATHAN THURSTON



LACHLAN COOTE

ROOKIE WATCH: MITCHELL DUNN



Everyone knows Jake Clifford is the rookie to watch up at the Cowboys but after playing six games last year he doesn't qualify as a rookie. So the next big thing at the Cows is his former Under 20's halves partner Mitchell Dunn.

Dunn has recently pushed up from five-eighth to the back row for the Mackay Cutters. He played 17 games in the Queensland Cup last season averaging 26 tackles per game. He also played two games off the bench for the Cowboys first grade side. He is the next edge back rower in line for Gavin Cooper's edge once he retires.

I wouldn't draft him from the start but keep an eye on him throughout the season. If injuries come in the back row then draft him and watch him grow.



01		16/03 7:35PM
02		22/03 7:55PM
03		30/03 5:30PM
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05		12/04 7:55PM
06		20/04 5:30PM
07		26/04 6:00PM
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09		12/05 4:05PM
10		18/05 5:30PM
11		25/05 3:00PM
12		02/06 4:05PM
13		08/06 7:35PM
14		14/06 7:55PM
15		28/06 6:00PM
16	BYE ROUND	
17		14/07 2:00PM
18		20/07 7:35PM
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20		01/08 7:50PM
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23		23/08 6:00PM
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25		06/09 7:55PM

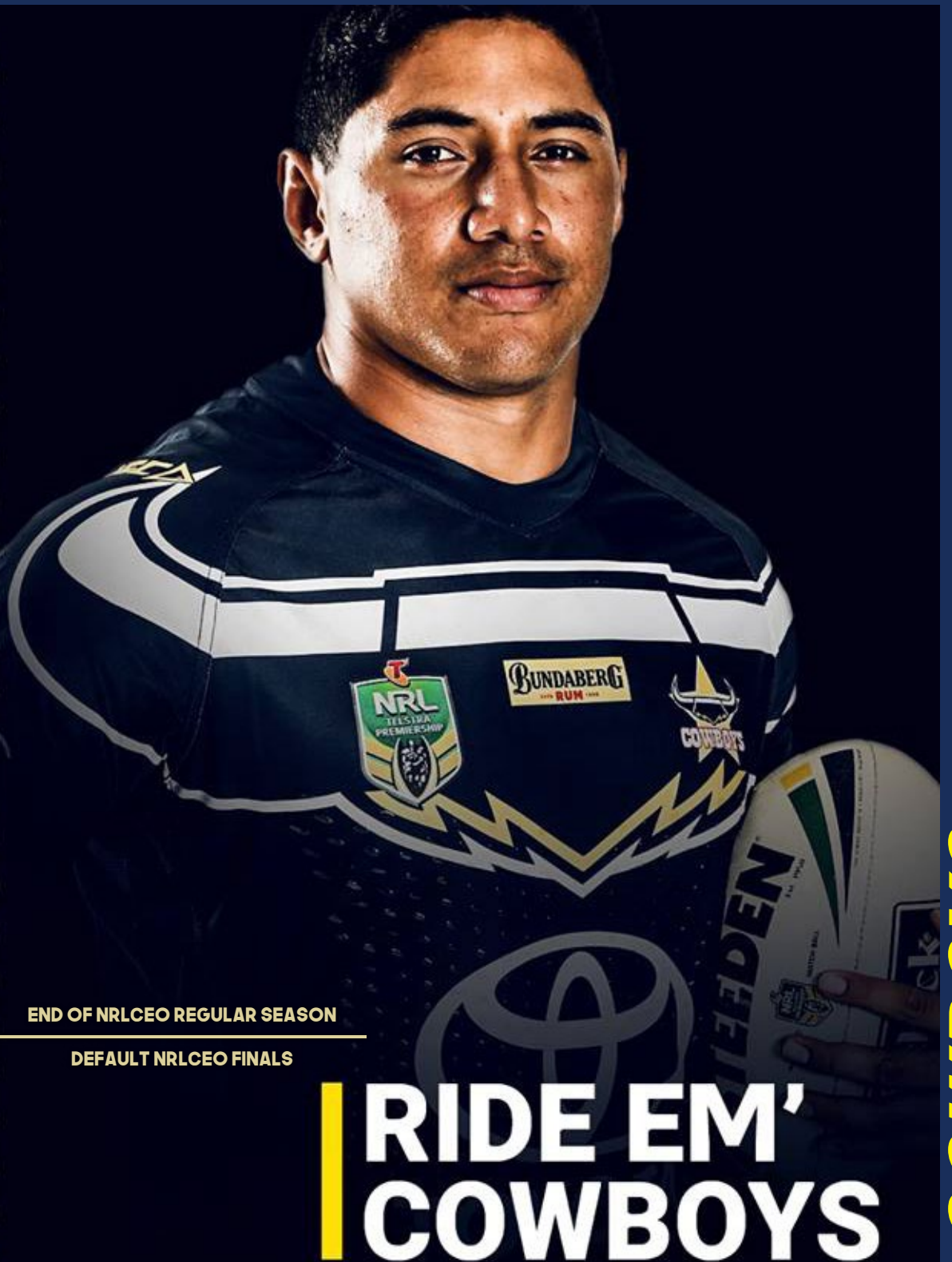
END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

RIDE EM' COWBOYS

COWBOYS
NORTH QUEENSLAND



STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

J. MCGUIRE 8. FRONT ROW	J. GRANVILLE 9. HOOKER	J. MCLEAN 10. FRONT ROW	
G. COOPER 11. BACK ROW	J. TAUMALOLO 13. LOCK	C. HESS 12. BACK ROW	
M. MORGAN 6. FIVE EIGHTH	J. CLIFFORD 7. HALFBACK		
N. MACDONALD 3. CENTRE	J. O'NEILL 4. CENTRE		
G. GELA-MOSBY 2. WINGER	B. BARBA 1. FULLBACK	K. FELDT 5. WINGER	
K. BAPTISTE 14. RESERVE	J. ASIATA 15. RESERVE	M. SCOTT 16. RESERVE	S. BOLTON 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - PAUL GREEN - 57% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Ben Barba	FB	22	28	0	16	24	30	N/A	222**	149**	-
Jason Taumalolo	LK	23	4	16	22	1	5	1	132	128	-
Gavin Cooper	BR	23	13	12	0	1	10	2	114	95	↓
Coen Hess	BR	23	7	13	2	0	9	0	93	67	-
Kyle Feldt	WG (1KP)	24	14	0	6	2	12	3	87 (89)	74 (86)	-
Jake Granville	HK	24	1	17	0	4	2	4	86	73	↓
Nene Macdonald	CT, WG	21	10	0	12	0	6	1	71	71	-
Josh McGuire	FR, LK	18	0	15	5	0	0	0	70	99	↑
Ben Hampton	CT, FE, HK	23	8	0	5	3	11	4	63	31	↓
Justin O'Neill	CT	21	2	0	7	4	7	1	38	42	-
Michael Morgan	FE	11	1	0	1	9	3	10	38	81	↑
Jordan McLean	FR	10	2	3	6	0	1	0	33	18	-
Te Maire Martin	FE	23	1	0	3	7	4	5	33	29	-
Scott Bolton	FR	22	0	7	1	0	0	0	30	50	↓
Matthew Scott	FR	18	1	3	2	2	2	3	29	20	↓
Gideon Gela-Mosby	WG	4	3	0	1	1	4	0	20	12	↑
John Asiata	FR, LK	15	0	2	0	3	1	4	17	13	-
Enari Tuala	CT	10	2	0	2	0	3	0	15	7*	-
Corey Jensen	FR	18	0	3	1	0	0	0	14	8*	-
Tom Opacic	CT	12	1	0	2	1	0	2	12	12	-
Jake Clifford	HB (6KP)	6	0	0	0	3	1	2	9	9*	↑
Ethan Lowe	BR, LK (2KP)	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	70 (97)*	-
Javid Bowen	CT, WG	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	19	-
Kurt Baptiste	HK	10	0	0	0	2	0	1	5	10	↑
Francis Molo	FR	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Shane Wright	BR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Mitch Dunn	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Carlin Anderson	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Emry Pere	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Murray Taulagi	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

JAKE CLIFFORD

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: N/A
Career: N/A

ETHAN LOWE

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: N/A
Career: 69/89 (78%)

KYLE FELDT

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 1/1 (100%)
Career: 19/31 (61%)

STUD

The unstoppable force has talked up a Cowboys dynasty and when you say that, you have to walk the walk. Expect **Taumalolo** to morph into total beast mode and average 200m per season this year, scoring a few pies along the way...

DUD

Sad to say, but **Matt Scott** is now NRLCEO irrelevant - not that he was ever a priority workhorse target. Injury has cut into the big bopper's minutes dramatically over the past couple of seasons and 2019 will see his ultimate fade into the sunset...

SLEEPER

Despite being Man of Steel last season, the NRL is a big upgrade to the Super League and **Ben Barba** is playing for a contract. Expect him to have a big season!

GAMBLE

Gavin Cooper showed signs of slowing down in 2018, despite going on his try scoring run. With no JT to feed him, Cooper may struggle to score in NRLCEO this season and 40 is a long way for the veteran these days...

TIME FOR THE YOUNG GUNS TO STAND UP

Oh DEAR. What the hell is happening across the ditch?!

2018 was a typical Warriors season as they scraped into top eight, only to be easily bundled out of the finals in the first week. Fast forward a few months and the Warriors squad is without their most consistent player, Simon Mannering (retired) and arguably their best player, Shaun Johnson.

The Johnson situation in particular is mind boggling, with fans left scratching their head as to who will fill the vacant halfback position. There has to be massive fallout from Johnson's forced departure to the Sharks and Coach Kearney is going to be a man under pressure from Round 1.

The likely candidates to fill the #7 jersey are young, unestablished and who knows how long it will take them to make the transition to the top grade. One thing is for sure, Blake Green has a massive job ahead of him - he's won't have played with such an inexperienced halves partner since his junior years at Westfields High!

The Warriors pack will also take a revamped look with the likes of Gavet and Vete both moving on. Leeson Ah Mau joins the club and will slot in nicely straight away.

Jazz Tevaga was a revelation in 2018 and looks to be a safe option to take over Mannering's lock position. However, Kearney may choose to leave the tireless workhorse on the bench as impact. If he does, the lock position could be filled by any number of young

big boppers.

At hooker, Issac Luke will continue to run the show and depending on who wins the halfback jersey, Luke may be forced to kick goals.

For the NRLCEO coach, there looks to be draft value in the edge backrowers. Tohu Harris in an obvious gun but his past two seasons have been hampered by serious injury - only 19 workhorses in the past two seasons says it all.

Isaiah Papali'i had a solid rookie season in the starting side and he looks set to improve on his 13 workhorses from 2018.

In the backs, the loss of Johnson has the potential to destroy David Fusitua's value. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck's output could also be negatively affected however, he has never been known as a big try scorer. Instead, RTS will continue to churn out the metres and that is where his value lies!

On the other side of the field, Solomone Kata and Kevin Maumalo look set to prosper from more ball coming their way, courtesy of Green taking more control.

Overall, it would not surprise to see the Warriors degenerate into a complete basket case this season. If they get off to a rocky start on the field, heads in the administration office will most certainly roll and Warrior's players will consequently lose their NRLCEO value.

Premiers
0 Times

Win %
46.0

Bye
Rd 12

2014
9th

2015
13th

2016
10th

2017
13th

2018
8th

Our 2019
Prediction
16th

Odds
\$26



PLAYER GAINS

LEESON AH MAU
JACKSON FREI

LACHLAN BURR
ADAM KEIGHRAN



HOME AWAY

PLAYER LOSSES

SHAUN JOHNSON
MANAIA CHERRINGTON
JAMES GAVET
ANTHONY GELLING

SIMON MANNERING
MASON LINO
ZAC SANTO
ALBERT VETE



LEESON AH MAU

LACHLAN BURR



SHAUN JOHNSON

SIMON MANNERING

ROOKIE WATCH: CHANEL HARRIS-TAVITA



Absolutely no pressure here! As if the spotlight of his miracle pass in the Under 20's Test for New Zealand wasn't enough, he is now attempting to step straight into the slot vacated by Shaun Johnson.

Still just 19 years old, CHT probably thought he had another season or two in the shadow of Johnson to learn his trade playing against men. His NSW Cup statistics were good without being dominating. In 20 appearances he scored seven tries, nine tries assists, ten try assists and kicked 39 goals.

If there's a negative it's that his goal scoring was only 65%. That's not too far off Issac Luke's career average of 70%. With Luke being a reluctant kicker, if CHT gets the first crack at playing halfback alongside Blake Green then it's likely he will kick - and only has one kicker point! Potential bargain.



01		16/03 3:00PM
02		24/03 6:10PM
03		30/03 3:00PM
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08		05/05 2:00PM
09		11/05 5:30PM
10		17/05 6:00PM
11		25/05 5:30PM
12	BYE ROUND	
13		08/06 3:00PM
14		14/06 6:00PM
15		30/06 2:00PM
16		06/07 7:35PM
17		13/07 5:30PM
18		19/07 6:00PM
19		27/07 3:00PM
20		02/08 6:00PM
21		09/08 6:00PM
END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON		
22		18/08 2:00PM
DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS		
23		24/08 3:00PM
24		30/08 6:00PM
25		07/09 3:00PM

HOME AWAY



WARRIOR NATION

WARRIORS
 NEW ZEALAND

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

L. AH MAU 8. FRONT ROW	I. LUKE+ 9. HOOKER	A. PAASI 10. FRONT ROW	
I. PAPALI'I 11. BACK ROW	A. BLAIR 13. LOCK	T. HARRIS 12. BACK ROW	
B. GREEN 6. FIVE EIGHTH	C. H-TAVITA 7. HALFBACK		
S. KATA 3. CENTRE	P. HIKU 4. CENTRE		
K. MAUMALO 2. WINGER	R. T-SHECK 1. FULLBACK	D. FUSITUA 5. WINGER	
J. TEVAGA 14. RESERVE	B. AFOA 15. RESERVE	S. LISONE 16. RESERVE	L. PULU 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - STEPHEN KEARNEY - 35% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Isaac Luke

Shoulder

Round 4

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
487 / 50%

977

FORWARDS
490 / 50%



PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
David Fusitua	WG	22	22	0	4	3	17	1	120	101	↓
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	FB	22	3	0	21	9	11	10	93	85	-
Jazz Tevaga	LK	19	1	18	5	1	1	2	91	37	-
Issac Luke	HK	22	5	10	5	2	8	7	90 (92)	85 (115)	↓
Solomone Kata	CT	22	12	0	10	2	13	1	84	83	-
Isaiah Papali'i	BR	19	3	13	0	5	1	4	77	41*	↑
Tohu Harris	BR	16	2	12	0	3	2	6	68	83 (85)	↑
Peta Hiku	CT, WG	21	4	0	12	8	5	8	67	40	↓
Ken Maumalo	WG	22	5	0	11	1	5	0	49	38	↑
Blake Green	FE	21	2	0	0	12	1	15	48	50	↑
Adam Blair	FR, LK	22	1	8	0	4	2	2	46	29	↓
Leeson Ah Mau	FR	23	1	6	2	1	3	1	38	30	-
Agnatius Paasi	FR, LK	22	3	3	3	0	4	0	34	22	-
Gerard Beale	CT	12	3	0	3	2	2	2	26	50	-
Karl Lawton	HK	7	3	1	0	0	3	0	19	18*	-
Bunty Afoa	FR, BR, LK	22	0	3	1	0	2	0	16	25	↑
Leivaha Pulu	FR, BR, LK	12	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	13	-
Sam Lisone	FR	11	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	4	↑
Ligi Sao	FR, LK	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Blake Ayshford	CT	0							DNP	40	-
Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad	WG	0							DNP	14*	-
Nathaniel Roache	HK	0							DNP	7	-
Lachlan Burr	BR	0							DNP	0*	-
Adam Keighran	FE	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Chanel Harris-Tavita	HB	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Hayze Perham	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Tevita Satae	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

ISSAC LUKE

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 1/2 (50%)

Career: 180/255 (71%)

CHANEL HARRIS-TAVITA

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: N/A

Career: N/A

ADAM KEIGHRAN

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: N/A

Career: N/A

STUD

Tohu Harris is the class in an untried bunch. If he can put together an injury free season, then he'll be within reach of a place in the 2019 NRLCEO Dream Team. You can do it Tohu...

DUD

Adam Blair returns for another year of king hits, late hits, and general rubbish - none of which is scored in NRLCEO. Sure, he provides some value in terms of aggression, but his days as a starter need to be over... now!

SLEEPER

Jazz Tevaga is just chomping at the bit for 80 minutes and whilst he's probably not going to get it this season, he's an important cog in the Warrior's attacking structure. Expect more Jazz hands this season...

GAMBLE

Drafting **Isaac Luke** could kill your draft. 6 kicking points is ok IF he kicks but a) he's got to kick them accurately and b) got to be in a team that can score tries. Will either of these actually happen? Maybe...

WHAT DOES PARRAMATTA LOOK LIKE POST-HAYNE PLANE?

Last year's wooden spooners have finally had a win and have found a way to rid themselves of prodigal terminal cancer - Jarryd Hayne. Quite simply, they didn't need an overpaid dreamer on their books and Hayne's ultimate demise couldn't come at a better time for coach Brad Arthur.

With plenty of coin freed up from the departure of Hayne and Corey Norman, the Eels are ready to go shopping for 2020 but how does this season look?

Still reeling from the loss of Semi Radradra, the Eels have rectified that somewhat with the signing of Blake Ferguson. Fergy averaged 191 metres a game last season for the Roosters and much the same will be expected of him at the Eels.

On the other wing, George Jennings forms a decent attacking partner which means Bevan French looks likely to get another crack at the fullback role. French had a season to forget in 2018, highlighted by a disinterested performance on the wing which saw him touch the ball just twice the entire game.

The positional flow on effect means the Eels are likely to run out with a halves combination of Clint Gutherson and the much maligned Mitch Moses. If media is to be believed, Moses was shopped around in the off-season but not even the Warriors wanted him.

In the forwards, the Eels have added old boy and big bopper Junior Paulo back to the fold. Surely he relegates the 'lord' of

39 involvements, Tim Mannah, to the bench! If so, Daniel Alvaro should be the other starting prop and despite having the best involvements per minute ratio in the game, coach Arthur seems reluctant to play him for big minutes.

The back row is where Arthur could change it up in season 2019. Shaun Lane comes from Manly and may snaffle that right edge position where Moeroa hasn't been ineffective but hasn't owned it either.

The most intimidating man in rugby league, Manu Ma'u is likely to be on the left edge with the tireless workhorse Nathan Brown, guaranteed to be starting lock.

For the NRLCEO coach, the Eels offer a little bit of everything on their day. They typically score decent points but let plenty in too. Moses looks likely to kick goals but in his shadow, lurks Gutherson and Ferguson as handcuffs.

The hooker position will most likely come down to trials with Arthur typically preferring one hooker with Will Smith off the bench. If Mahoney gets the gig, he is draft worthy. If Pritchard is the man, he gets knocked out far too much to be a draft candidate.

Overall the Eels should rise above their lowly rank of 2018, but it is hard to see them improving dramatically to make the top eight. Whilst there are some draft worthy troops from the blue and gold, you'd have to think you are better served looking elsewhere for match winners.

Premiers
4 Times

Win %
45.4

Bye
Rd 16

2014
10th

2015
12th

2016
14th

2017
4th

2018
16th

Our 2019
Prediction
15th

Odds
\$26



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

BLAKE FERGUSON
DYLAN BROWN
ANDREW DAVEY
SHAUN LANE

JUNIOR PAULO
MAIKA SIVO
STEFANO UTOIKAMANU

PLAYER LOSSES

COREY NORMAN
KIRISOME AUV'A
KENNY EDWARDS
CAMERON KING

BEAU SCOTT
SUAIA MATAGI
TONY WILLIAMS



BLAKE FERGUSON

JUNIOR PAULO



COREY NORMAN

BEAU SCOTT

ROOKIE WATCH: DYLAN BROWN



With the departure of Corey Norman from the Eels there is a massive hole with no experienced players likely to fill the gap.

Enter the battle between Dylan Brown and Jaeman Salmon. Dylan Brown is the highly rated rookie who the Warriors chased hard after Shaun Johnson left Auckland Airport. Salmon has five games experience in first grade.

Brown impressed in NSW Cup when he entered the open age group for the first time towards the end of last season. It would be a massive ask for an 18 year old to step up into the top grade but young halves have done it before.

In five games for Wenworthville last year he had one try, two try assists, 12 tackle breaks, but showed his greatest asset was his running game averaging 104 metres per game. A long shot, but talented young halves are as rare as hens teeth.



01		17/03	4:05PM
02		24/03	4:05PM
03		29/03	7:55PM
04		06/04	7:35PM
05		14/04	6:10PM
06		22/04	4:00PM
07		28/04	4:05PM
08		05/05	4:05PM
09		11/05	7:35PM
10		18/05	5:30PM
11		23/05	7:50PM
12		31/05	7:55PM
13		08/06	5:30PM
14		15/06	7:35PM
15		29/06	7:35PM
16	BYE ROUND		
17		14/07	4:05PM
18		21/07	4:05PM
19		27/07	3:00PM
20		04/08	4:05PM
21		10/08	5:30PM
22		16/08	6:00PM
23		22/08	7:50PM
24		30/08	7:55PM
25		06/09	6:00PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

**BLUE
& GOLD**

**PARRAMATTA
EELS**

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON



COACHED BY - BRAD ARTHUR - 45% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
503 / 50%

1014

FORWARDS
511 / 50%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Blake Ferguson	WG (1KP)	24	17	0	37	5	20	2	174 (186)	125 (130)	↓
Shaun Lane	BR, LK	24	9	9	2	0	8	1	85	40	↓
Nathan Brown	LK	15	1	15	6	0	1	1	78	79	↑
Clinton Gutherson	FB, FE (2KP)	19	6	0	9	8	1	11	70 (90)	77 (120)	-
Daniel Alvaro	FR	19	0	18	0	0	0	0	70	53	-
George Jennings	WG	20	8	0	9	0	9	1	60	60*	-
Manu Ma'u	BR	14	3	9	2	1	3	1	58	67	↑
Tepai Moeroa	BR, LK	19	0	13	0	1	3	0	57	51	↓
Peni Terepo	FR, LK	20	0	10	0	3	2	2	50	50*	-
Mitchell Moses	HB (6KP)	22	4	0	2	11	5	7	48 (138)	71 (166)	-
Michael Jennings	CT	24	6	1	7	2	6	4	46	66	↓
Bevan French	FB, WG	18	7	0	0	3	5	0	39	62	-
Tim Mannah	FR	18	1	5	4	1	2	0	32	21	↓
Brad Takairangi	CT, BR	20	1	1	3	4	1	8	29	38	-
Josh Hoffman	WG	8	6	0	0	0	5	0	29	39	↓
Kaysa Pritchard	HK	8	2	2	0	1	1	2	21	24	-
David Gower	FR, LK	16	1	3	0	1	2	0	20	16	-
Reed Mahoney	HK	9	0	4	0	0	0	1	17	17*	↑
Marata Niukore	BR	14	0	3	0	0	0	0	12	12*	-
Junior Paulo	FR	19	1	0	1	1	1	1	10	25	↑
Jaeman Salmon	FE	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	4*	↑
Will Smith	FB	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	12	-
Kane Evans	FR	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	-
Oregon Kaufusi	FR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Ray Stone	BR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Andrew Davey	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Dylan Brown	HB	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Greg Leleisiuao	CT	0							DNP	DNP	↑
Maika Sivo	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Stefano Utoikamanu	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
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GOALKICKING OPTIONS

MITCHELL MOSES

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 45/58 (78%)

Career: 154/207 (74%)

CLINT GUTHERSON

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 10/17 (59%)

Career: 60/85 (71%)

BLAKE FERGUSON

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 6/9 (67%)

Career: 22/32 (69%)

STUD

With Metre Eaters in mind, **Blake Ferguson** has put his off field antics behind him and is a genuine quality NRLCEO winger. Expect him to continue working hard with ball in hand.

DUD

Bevan French sucks. Sure he's fast, but he's small and gets man-handled when bringing the ball back from general play kicks. Can he improve from his 7 tries from last year?

SLEEPER

Reed Mahoney could be an NRLCEO gun. He's got workhorse pedigree and if he gets 80 minutes each week, he'll be a very handy pick up.

GAMBLE

Is **Nathan Brown** mutton dressed up as lamb? Just 15 workhorses last season and only 1 try doesn't speak volumes for a guy touted as a double workhorse enthusiast. Draft him with care...

MORE OF THE SAME, UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Penrith are 'just another team' that has had its coaching issues of late with Anthony Griffin shown the door late in 2018. Let's be honest, he was never going to get the job done under the dictatorship of Phil Gould, so Ivan Cleary returns to the scene of the crime.

That crime (looking tired) saw Cleary fired under Gus Gould in 2015 but obviously the Panthers are willing to let bygones be bygones if that means securing the signature of son Nathan to a long term deal.

Gus' 15 year plan is on shaky ground though and really, the Panthers have not done much in terms of player recruitment in preparation for a title surge in 2019. Surely, a failure to make an impression on the 2019 premiership HAS to see Gus exit stage left. Their premiership window is closing fast with every failing year.

Tyrone Peachey, Trent Merrin, and Peter Wallace are the big name 'outs' in 2019 but the Panthers must be confident of covering those vacancies 'in house'. Only depth signings come into the 30 man squad with Tim Grant the 'biggest name' of the bunch.

For the NRLCEO coach, Nathan Cleary is obviously a genuine first kicker option, and the handcuff of Maloney forms a sweet halves/ kicking duo.

In the forwards, the Panthers love to rotate their big forwards in the core. Consequently, there's little draft value in recruiting James Tamou, James Fisher-Harris, or Reagan Campbell-Gillard.

JFH has the best work rate of the three and may be given big minutes with Merrin's departure to England.

Wayde Egan is a gun hooker but Sione Katoa is the bulkier player and is likely to get the start - at least for the first half of the season.

One could argue that there is value in the Panther's edge back rowers in Isaah Yeo and Viliame Kikau. Both have genuine try scoring ability but they'll be hit and miss when seeking that valuable 40 contributions week in, week out. Yeo in particular is hampered by his extra ability to play in the centres.

In the backs, if Ivan can free the Griffin shackles, Josh Mansour and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak could be big beneficiaries on the wing. Mansour in particular has draft appeal, although it's been a while since he's brought in a big haul of pies in a season. He's only pulled in more than ten tries in 2014 (15) and 2016 (16).

The centre pairing of Waqa Blake and Dean Whare is seemingly solid with no Peachey to push them out of the starting team. At the back, Dylan Edwards is a livewire custodian who returns after a long layoff - he'll possibly go undrafted in most competitions though - until he has re-established himself.

Overall, the Panthers have an air of 'sameness' about the playing roster for 2019. However, Ivan Cleary can change all of that with a more free flowing game plan that could unlock their attack. We saw this in glimpses with the Tigers last season and on paper, the Panthers are a better team.

Premiers
2 Times

Win %
42.8

Bye
Rd 16

2014
4th

2015
11th

2016
6th

2017
7th

2018
5th

Our 2019
Prediction
5th

Odds
\$10



HOME AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

MALAKAI WATENE-ZELEZNIAK
TYRELL FUIMAONO

TIM GRANT
HAME SELE

PLAYER LOSSES

TYRONE PEACHEY
TIM BROWNE
OLIVER CLARK
CHRISTIAN CRICHTON
TOM EISENHUTH
COREY HARA WIRA-NAERA
ADAM KEIGHRAN

TRENT MERRIN
SONI LUKE
MAIKA SIVO
COREY WADDELL
JAYDEN WALKER
PETER WALLACE



MALAKAI WATENE-ZELEZNIAK

TIM GRANT



TYRONE PEACHEY

TRENT MERRIN



ROOKIE WATCH: CALEB AEKINS

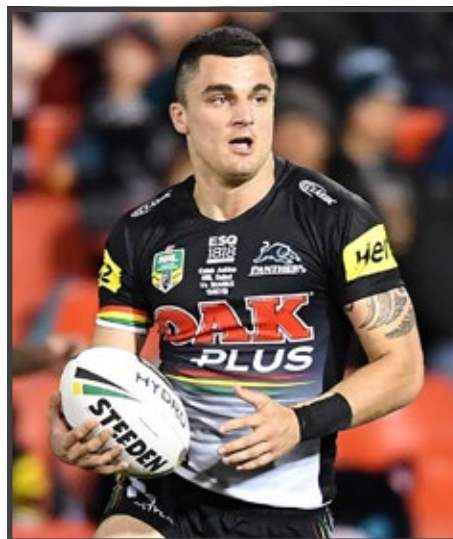


The NSW Cup fullback of the year is very good. The biggest problem? He's stuck in a logjam for his preferred fullback position behind DWZ and Dylan Edwards.

Ivan Cleary won't have any choice but to play this young gun this season. In his one game in first grade so far he almost scored a triple metre eater with 297 metres! His average running metres in NSW Cup was 186 metres per game. This guy is a metre eater star in waiting!

He also had four tries, six try assists and ten line breaks to show that he has the all round fullback game. He almost lead his side to the reserve grade Grand Final but had to take the Player of the Year title as a consolation prize.

You won't need to draft him preseason but if you hear a sniff of him getting a run in first grade then snap him up quick sharp.



01		17/03	4:05PM
02		23/03	5:30PM
03		30/03	7:35PM
04		05/04	7:55PM
05		12/04	6:00PM
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10		17/05	6:00PM
11		23/05	7:50PM
12		30/05	7:50PM
13		09/06	4:05PM
14		15/06	5:30PM
15		30/06	2:00PM
16	BYE ROUND		
17		12/07	6:00PM
18		19/07	7:55PM
19		28/07	4:05PM
20		03/08	5:30PM
21		09/08	7:55PM
22		16/08	7:55PM
23		23/08	6:00PM
24		31/08	7:35PM
25		08/09	4:05PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

PANTHER PRIDE

PANTHER PRIDE
PENRITH

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

J. TAMOU

8. FRONT ROW

S. KATO A

9. HOOKER

R. C-GILLARD

10. FRONT ROW

V. KIKAU

11. BACK ROW

J. F-HARRIS

13. LOCK

I. YEO

12. BACK ROW

J. MALONEY

6. FIVE EIGHTH

N. CLEARY

7. HALFBACK

W. BLAKE

3. CENTRE

D. WHARE

4. CENTRE

J. MANSOUR

2. WINGER

D. EDWARDS

1. FULLBACK

D. W-ZELEZNIK

5. WINGER

W. EGAN

14. RESERVE

T. FUIMAONO

15. RESERVE

M. LEOTA

16. RESERVE

J. HETHERINGTON

17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - IVAN CLEARY - 47% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Sam McKendry

ACL

Indefinite

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
466 / 53%

875

FORWARDS
409 / 47%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Isaah Yebo	BR	24	3	17	4	3	6	2	102	73	-
Waqa Blake	CT	14	12	0	7	6	10	2	86	78	-
Viliame Kikau	BR	23	5	6	6	1	9	10	75	40*	↑
Nathan Cleary	HB (8KP)	15	3	0	3	11	6	18	65 (124)	65 (173)	↑
James Fisher-Harris	BR, LK	23	0	14	0	2	0	4	64	44	↑
James Maloney	FE (2KP)	20	3	0	2	13	5	13	64 (170)	65 (200)	-
Dean Whare	CT	22	4	0	7	4	8	4	50	26	-
R. Campbell-Gillard	FR	19	2	8	2	0	2	0	46	46	↓
D. Watene-Zelezniak	WG	18	5	0	6	3	7	2	45	61	↑
Josh Mansour	WG	13	8	0	3	0	6	0	42	71	↑
Sione Katoa	HK	19	1	4	1	5	2	8	42	42*	↑
James Tamou	FR	23	2	7	0	0	6	0	38	52	-
Dylan Edwards	FB	8	3	0	6	2	4	2	34	50*	↑
Tyrone Phillips	WG	9	4	0	0	1	4	0	22	20	-
M. Watene-Zelezniak	WG	12	3	0	1	1	4	1	21	28*	↓
Jarome Luai	FE (1KP)	4	2	0	1	1	3	2	17 (33)	17 (33)*	-
Tyrone May	FE	8	1	0	0	4	0	4	14	24*	-
Wayde Egan	HK	12	1	1	0	2	1	1	14	14*	↑
Moses Leota	FR	18	2	0	0	0	3	1	12	12*	-
Tim Grant	FR	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	9	23	-
Caleb Aekins	FB	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	6	6*	-
Kaide Ellis	LK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4*	-
Jack Hetherington	BR	12	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	3*	-
Tyrell Fuimaono	CT, BR	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11*	-
Hame Sele	FR, LK	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Jed Cartwright	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Liam Martin	LK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Nick Lui-Toso	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Paea Pua	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

NATHAN CLEARY

- 8 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 40/51 (78%)

Career: 185/219 (84%)

JAMES MALONEY

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 53/61 (87%)

Career: 760/937 (81%)

JAROME LUAI

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 8/11 (73%)

Career: 8/11 (73%)

STUD

We're drawing a long bow here but if the **Mansauce** can have a healthy run he could score 16+ tries this season. After coming back from serious facial injuries, Josh Mansour scored 6 tries in the last 8 games of 2018. That's nice.

SLEEPER

Waqa Blake is the ultimate sleeper and when he is on song, he is a dangerous prospect to defend. 12 tries last season is decent for a centre and he's trending upwards...

DUD

We all know that good NRLCEO centres are as rare as hen's teeth and **Dean Whare** is no value whatsoever. His try scoring days are behind him and he doesn't even set them up either...

GAMBLE

As mentioned, **Nathan Cleary** with either be awesome or ordinary in 2019. There'll be no in between! You'll have to draft him early but is he worth it?

He'll also miss a couple of games due to SOO...

PROVOKE THE CHOKE

The Dragons have endured a tumultuous off-season - their skipper is homesick, their star back rower was charged by police, and one of their young guns has been shown absolutely no confidence whatsoever despite a pretty solid season.

Coach Paul McGregor is also constantly battling to retain his position and the 'Oust Doust' calls continue to get louder.

Last year, fans were once again subjected to what's become the Dragons norm - start off on fire, closely followed by a mid-end of season slump, battling for a top eight spot over the closing rounds.

Some credit can go to the club - they actually made a small impression on the finals beating the Broncos in week one and narrowly losing to the Rabbitohs the next week.

On paper, the Dragons possess a very tidy squad in 2019. However, a team run on Ben Hunt's brittle confidence is like trusting a dodgy used car salesman when buying a first car... you're going to get burned one way or another!

For the NRLCEO coach, Dragon's forwards have been handy in previous seasons but injuries to Paul Vaughan and James Graham limited their impact last season. Vaughan in particular started off the season very well and justified his high draft tag, for a little

while at least.

Edge backrowers Tyson Frizell and Tariq Sims are draft worthy candidates but neither are likely to be taken early in the draft - you can sit on them until draft round 10 or so.

In the middle, core players JDB and Cam McInnes are the obvious priority draft targets, the latter having a brilliant 2018 and pushing Damien Cook all season for hooker of the year honours.

In the backs, Dragons recruitment has been busy. Nene MacDonald leaves for the Cows while right wing stalwart, Jason Nightingale finally hung up the boots after a distinguished career.

Those losses mean there are two wing spots up for grabs and could be filled by a number of players. A lot will depend on who gets thrust into the fullback role with new recruit Corey Norman or Gareth Widdop likely to be named custodian ahead of young gun Matt Dufty.

Overall, the Dragons appear to be a top eight team on paper but could start the season on the back foot, courtesy of a forgettable off-season. If Widdop's head is elsewhere, it could be a long season for the Dragons but they have enough quality across the board to trouble the top teams on their day.

Premiers
1 Time

Win %
51.7

Bye
Rd 12

2014
11th

2015
8th

2016
11th

2017
9th

2018
7th

Our 2019
Prediction
9th

Odds
\$15



HOME

AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

COREY NORMAN
EDDIE BLACKER
HAYDEN LOMAX
STEVEN MASTERS

KORBIN SIMS
JONUS PEARSON
MIKAELE RAVALAWA
JASON SAAB

LACHLAN MARANTA
LACHLAN TIMM

PLAYER LOSSES

JASON NIGHTINGALE
LEESON AH MAU
REUBEN GARRICK

NENE MACDONALD
PATRICK HERBERT
HAME SELE

KURT MANN



COREY NORMAN

KORBIN SIMS



JASON NIGHTINGALE

NENE MACDONALD





ROOKIE WATCH: ZAC LOMAX

I felt like Zac Lomax played more games last season, but with just four NRL games under his belt it was maybe the anticipation I had for him. Many CEOs had the same anticipation. He also played and kicked in two finals appearances including the 48-18 demolition of the Broncos at home.

While he played centre last year it's likely that he will find himself on the wing come Round 1. At 94kgs and 190cm he is the prototypical modern winger, although most coaches have touted him as a future representative centre. If he starts on the wing he will get a winger position upgrade and have the value of being able to play a class winger in your centres.

Lomax is the perfect second winger to draft in your side. He will play a lot of first grade this year and will act as the back-up kicker to Gareth Widdop.



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21		10/08	3:00PM
22		18/08	4:05PM
23		24/08	7:35PM
24		01/09	4:05PM
25		07/09	7:35PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

MARCHING IN

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

P. VAUGHAN 8. FRONT ROW	C. MCINNES 9. HOOKER	J. GRAHAM 10. FRONT ROW	
T. SIMS 11. BACK ROW	J. DE BELIN 13. LOCK	T. FRIZELL 12. BACK ROW	
C. NORMAN 6. FIVE EIGHTH	B. HUNT 7. HALFBACK		
T. LAFAI 3. CENTRE	E. AITKEN 4. CENTRE		
J. PERIERA 2. WINGER	G. WIDDOP 1. FULLBACK	Z. LOMAX 5. WINGER	
R. ROBSON 14. RESERVE	L. LEILUA 15. RESERVE	K. SIMS+ 16. RESERVE	J. LATIMORE 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - PAUL MCGREGOR - 50% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Korbin Sims

Suspension

Round 2

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
504 / 45%

1118

FORWARDS
614 / 55%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Cameron McInnes	HK	24	3	25	1	9	4	15	147	120	-
Matt Dufty	FB	24	12	0	9	9	15	7	104	67*	↓
Euan Aitken	CT	23	10	2	16	1	9	2	85	76	-
Ben Hunt	HB	23	6	0	1	18	12	12	84	90	-
Jack de Belin	LK	23	3	17	0	0	4	2	82	96	↓
Tyson Frizell	BR, LK	21	5	13	3	0	4	0	82	74	-
Paul Vaughan	FR	19	2	14	5	0	2	0	76	88	-
Tariq Sims	BR	23	7	8	2	1	8	2	76	55	↑
Gareth Widdop	FE (7KP)	21	4	0	0	17	3	15	70 (244)	85 (229)	↑
Corey Norman	FE	23	4	0	5	14	4	13	69	60	-
Tim Lafai	CT (1KP)	24	5	0	15	4	6	2	66 (74)	52 (82)	-
James Graham	FR	24	1	12	1	1	1	1	58	105	-
Luciano Leilua	BR	15	4	5	0	1	3	3	44	16	-
Korbin Sims	FR, LK	21	4	4	1	0	5	1	40	44	↓
Jordan Pereira	WG	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	16	16*	↑
Jeremy Latimore	FR	23	1	1	0	0	1	0	9	6	-
Jonas Pearson	WG	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	7	-
Zac Lomax	CT (2KP)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2 (10)	2 (10)*	↑
Jai Field	FE	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	-
Blake Lawrie	FR, LK	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Jacob Host	BR	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	-
Reece Robson	HK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Darren Nicholls	HB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Lachlan Timm	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Joe Lovodua	HK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Josh Kerr	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Mikaele Ravalawa	CT, WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Mitchell Allgood	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Steve Marsters	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Tristan Sailor	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

GARETH WIDDOP

- 7 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 94/112 (84%)
Career: 383/500 (76%)

ZAC LOMAX

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 11/13 (85%)
Career: 11/13 (85%)

TIM LAFAI

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 4/5 (80%)
Career: 16/24 (67%)

STUD

Cameron McInnes is one of very few 80 minute hookers and his work rate is excellent. The Dragons looks to be up for plenty of tackling in 2019 and that can only be a good thing for McInnes.

DUD

Jack de Belin has found himself on the wrong side of the law and if the NRL is consistent, he'll spend some time on the sidelines. That's not good when he's probably the first lock picked in many competitions.

SLEEPER

If **Zac Lomax** can secure a starting position, he could give more than a glimpse this year of what he is capable of. While centre is his preferred position, he could grab a wing spot this season, which improves his value.

GAMBLE

The combination of **Corey Norman** and **Ben Hunt** could be rocks or diamonds in 2019. If they don't gel straight away, it could be ugly. Norman doesn't have a good track record in recent years...

BENNETT'S BRITISH BUNNIES

Seibold OUT, Bennett IN. Fun attacking, free flowing football OUT. Boring, ugly, grinding football IN. One gets the feeling that the Broncos have secured the better coaching deal and toothless Bunnies fans have to wonder what Bennett can bring to the table.

In 2018, the Rabbitohs over-achieved, mostly off the back of a rejuvenated and fresh Seibold game plan. Damien Cook was the obvious focal point of that attack and his season could not have been more impressive - 2018 NRLCEO MVP.

The Bunnies fell just one game short of the big dance and as Bennett arrives - anything short of a grand final appearance has to be viewed as a disappointment in 2019.

In somewhat positive news, the South Sydney squad remains relatively unscathed with the obvious defection of Angus Crichton, likely to hurt that Bunnies' right edge. Crichton's form has been super consistent for a couple of years now, and the Rooster's gaining will piss Redfern folk off big time.

For the NRLCEO Coach, the Rabbitohs possess the obvious number 1 draft pick in hooker, Damien Cook. He'll go straight up in 99% of competitions and the other 1% will consider picking someone else, and then pick Cook anyway - he's that good!

Whilst Cook continues his quest to break NRLCEO scoring records, there's other viable high priority draft targets in the squad. Sammy Burgess is another top line pick and despite spending some time on the sidelines in 2018, his output was pretty solid.

Cameron Murray looks set to benefit from the loss of Crichton and whether he plays at lock or on the right edge, he'll be guaranteed to play bigger minutes given the inexperienced bench that Bennett is likely to carry into round 1.

In the backs, there's talk of Greg Inglis going back to fullback but given Souths' lack of depth in the centres, that move seems unlikely. Alex Johnston will be retained at the back and he'll be looking for a better season. Just 8 tries and 2 metre eaters suggests he wasn't involved enough last season.

On the wings, if Robert Jennings is re-signed, then he is a quality wing draft option - 18 tries last season saw him mix it with the big boys for winger value. Campbell Graham was sneaky good too, scoring a try every second game.

The halves combination of Adam Reynolds and Cody Walker is a solid one and if Reynolds can stay fit, he is an excellent kicking option. Walker is a dangerous runner with ball in hand and will be one of the first five-eighths drafted.

Overall, the Rabbitohs could go either way with Coach Bennett calling the shots. Nevertheless, it is hard to see Damien Cook regressing too much and teams will try and slow their ruck down this season - hopefully enough to be able to control the speedy hooker's running game. That's easier said than done though, especially if the Burgess Boys are rolling through the middle, like they did in 2018...

Premiers
21 Times

Win %
51.6

Bye
Rd 12

2014
3rd

2015
7th

2016
12th

2017
12th

2018
3rd

Our 2019
Prediction
4th

Odds
\$9



HOME

PLAYER GAINS

CORY DENNISS
COREY ALLAN
KURT DILLON

MATT MCILWRICK
RHYS KENNEDY
BAYLEY SIRONEN

LIAM KNIGHT

PLAYER LOSSES

ANGUS CRICHTON
JESSE ARTHARS
JASON CLARK

HYMEL HUNT
ROBBIE FARAH
TYRELL FUIMAONO

ZANE MUSGROVE



CORY DENNISS

MATT MCILWRICK



ANGUS CRICHTON

HYMEL HUNT

ROOKIE WATCH: COREY ALLAN

It's not often you get to represent Australia before you play a first grade game. In fact he was the first player to ever have been picked for the Prime Minister's XIII without playing a first grade game.

The Rabbitohs have snaffled a jet. He has played in all the Queensland junior representative sides and now has a chance to push a Queensland great to the centres. Neither Greg Inglis or Alex Johnston have been guaranteed the fullback position yet. Adam Doueihi also looms, but will probably continue to be a utility backup/centre.

His Queensland Cup statistics were good without being dominant. In 17 games he scored nine tries, six try assists and nine line breaks. His defence let him down though with only 68% tackle efficiency.



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02		21/03	7:50PM
03		31/03	6:10PM
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10		18/05	7:35PM
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21		11/08	4:05PM
22		17/08	7:35PM
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24		30/08	6:00PM
25		05/09	7:50PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

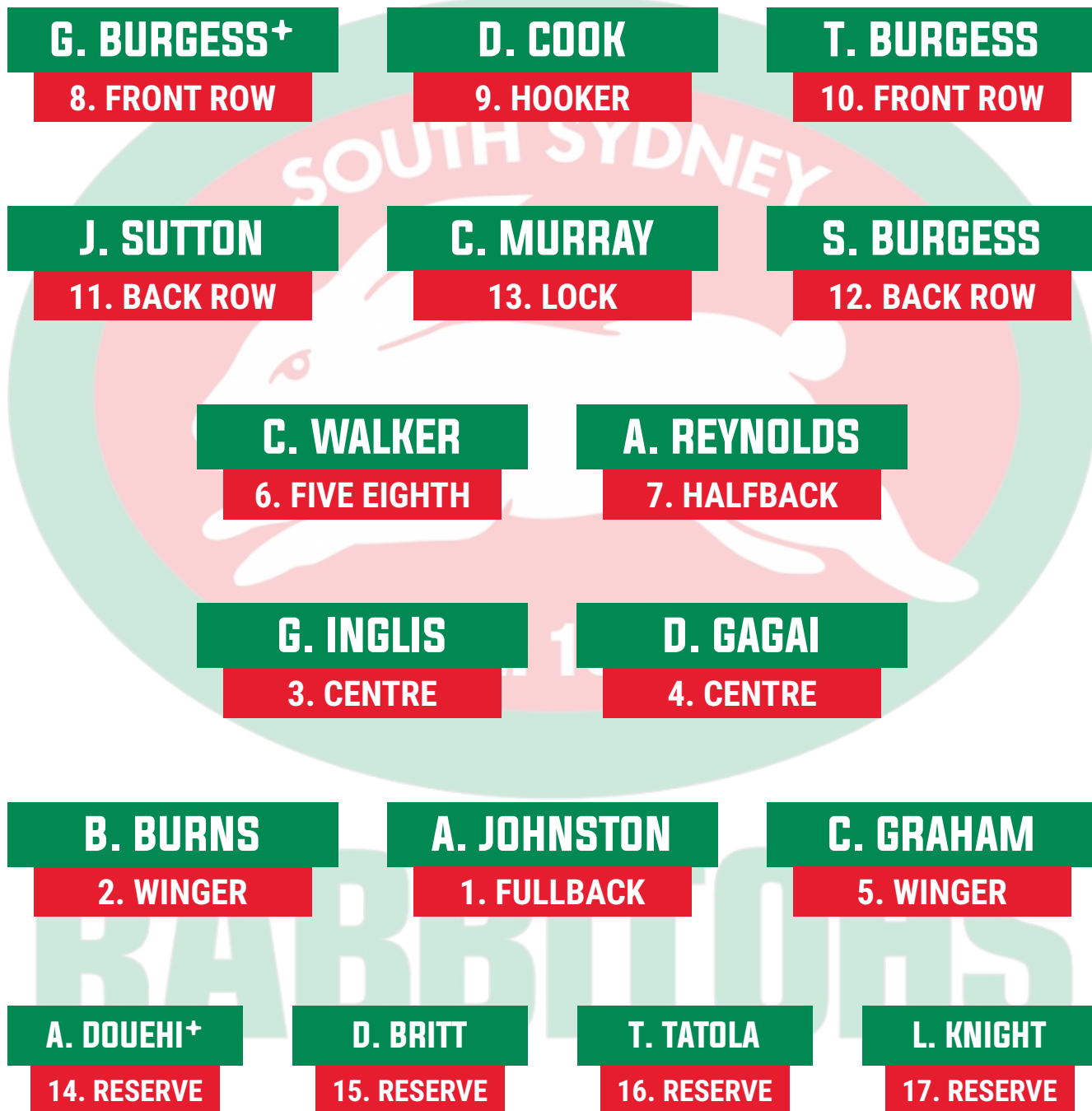
DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

GLORY
GLORY

RABBITOHS
SOUTH SYDNEY

HOME AWAY

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON



COACHED BY - WAYNE BENNETT - 62% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Adam Doueihi
George Burgess

ACL
Suspension

Round 4-5
Round 4

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
612 / 55%

1122

FORWARDS
510 / 45%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Damien Cook	HK	22	4	35	11	10	10	10	218	106	-
Robert Jennings	WG	18	18	0	13	2	15	1	116	52	↓
Cody Walker	FE (2KP)	24	12	0	0	14	16	22	112	109 (115)	-
Sam Burgess	FR, BR, LK	20	1	16	7	2	3	5	92	125	-
Alex Johnston	FB	21	8	0	2	11	15	12	85	92	-
Greg Inglis	CT	16	8	0	10	7	8	7	81	59	-
Dane Gagai	CT	22	3	0	14	10	4	12	76	72	-
John Sutton	BR	24	4	7	3	6	6	7	75	55	↓
Cameron Murray	BR, LK	22	1	12	1	0	3	1	58	40*	↑
Adam Reynolds	HB (7KP)	21	4	0	0	12	1	12	55 (223)	52 (182)	-
Campbell Graham	WG	13	7	0	2	1	8	1	43	21*	↑
Thomas Burgess	FR	24	5	1	2	0	5	1	32	29	-
George Burgess	FR	24	2	3	1	0	3	0	25	11	-
Adam Douiehi	CT, HB	18	2	0	1	2	5	0	19 (37)	19 (37)*	-
Corey Dennis	CT	11	1	0	2	2	0	2	14	10	-
Braiden Burns	WG	5	1	0	0	2	1	2	11	17*	↑
Liam Knight	FR, LK	10	1	0	0	1	1	0	7	2	-
Matt McIlwrick	HK	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	13	-
Tevita Tatola	FR	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Mark Nicholls	FR, LK	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Kurt Dillon	FR	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Dean Britt	BR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Kyle Turner	FR, LK	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	-
Mawene Hiroti	WG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Jacob Gagan	WG	0							DNP	4*	-
Bayley Sironen	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Billy Brittain	HK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Connor Tracey	HB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Corey Allan	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Rhys Kennedy	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

ADAM REYNOLDS

- 7 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 93/124 (75%)

Career: 548/667 (82%)

STUD

Cody Walker is a dangerous player with ball in hand and that's what you want from your NRLCEO five-eighth. Walker will continue to back himself and his combo with GI on the left is very prosperous.

SLEEPER

Cam Murray is the major beneficiary of Crichton's move to the enemy. Murray is a proven workhorse and if he gets decent minutes week in week out, he could become an NRLCEO gun!

CODY WALKER

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: N/A

Career: 10/12 (83%)

DUD

Damien Cook - he's can't have a better season than 2018 so therefore, he is on the decline. What. A. Dud.

GAMBLE

How is **Sammy Burgess** going to bounce back from the private issues that have plagued his off-season. It would be unrealistic to think he'll be mentally 'there' all season and 2019 could be a tough one for him.

DREAMY BACK ROW

Can the Chooks go back to back in 2019 - history says no but looking over their 2019 squad, there aren't many reasons why they can't.

Despite losing a number of troops, Angus Crichton is set to offset those losses. He literally joins the Roosters for a steal - a four finger discount perhaps? Crichton will sure up that right edge position which leaves Mitchell Aubusson on the pine for another season.

The 'Bowling Ball' Blake Ferguson is a huge loss for the Roosters. His 2018 impersonation of Semi Radradra was epic and his kick returns will be sorely missed. Roosters Management has worked hard to try and fill that void with a couple of veterans in Brett Morris and Ryan Hall signed.

Hall has been the key strike weapon for Leeds and England for over a decade, scoring an average of almost 20 tries per season during that time. However, he's getting on and is currently recovering from an ACL injury - that's not a good start to his NRL career...

Brett Morris looks likely to nab that right wing position for round 1 but he will find it almost impossible to replicate Ferguson. Quite simply, the wings position could well be the only chink in the seemingly impregnable Roosters armour for season 2019.

The Roosters have also lost Ryan Matterson to the Tigers and Dylan Napa to the Bulldog but they have depth in those positions with Nat Butcher and Lindsay Collins chomping at the bit. Fan favourite Victor Radley is likely to step up and carry the more workload in 2019 and he could become a handy lock option in the draft.

There is no doubt that the signing of Cooper Cronk proved to be a master stroke but it did highlight the issue of who his replacement is if injury strikes. Uncle Nick has fixed that up by signing a cheque to nab Brock Lamb in a move that flew under the radar. Lamb wasn't setting the world on fire during his days at Newcastle, but he's now in a great position to learn from one of the best.

If anything, the 2019 squad seems a little more balanced and has added some depth compared to last season. Luke Keary will continue to dominate opposition defences and his combinations with Captain Boyd Cordner and Latrell Mitchell is worth the price of admission alone.

Overall, the Roosters have some genuine draft targets. Mitchell headlines the kickers and he'll be one of the first kickers picked. Daniel Tupou looks set to benefit from that left hand attacking edge and if he can learn how to finish properly, he could just put together a career defining season.

Premiers
14 Times

Win %
52.8

Bye
Rd 12

2014
1st

2015
1st

2016
15th

2017
2nd

2018
1st

Our 2019
Prediction
1st

Odds
\$4.50



PLAYER GAINS

ANGUS CRICHTON
EGAN BUTCHER
BROCK LAMB

RYAN HALL
BRETT MORRIS

PLAYER LOSSES

BLAKE FERGUSON
KURT BAPTISTE
MITCH CORNISH
GRANT GARVEY
DEAN MATTERSON
RYAN MATTERSON

DYLAN NAPA
PAUL MOMIROVSKI
FRANK-PAUL NU'UAUSALA
SEAN O'SULLIVAN
CHRIS SMITH
ELONI VUNAKECE



HOME

AWAY



ANGUS CRICHTON

RYAN HALL



BLAKE FERGUSON

DYLAN NAPA

ROOKIE WATCH: BERNARD LEWIS



Despite the Roosters wing stocks having been filled with two internationals, they are also both veteran internationals and now prone to injury.

So the next generation of wingers at the Roosters is Torres Strait Island product Bernard Lewis. You might remember him from the 2017 Auckland 9's where he dominated in the semi final to defeat the Storm.

He was a 200m and 400m runner as a junior so he has pace but also stamina as well. Unfortunately his luck ran out as he did his ACL in 2018 in a horror training incident and therefore missed the entire season.

Still just 21 he is about to enter his prime as a winger. He should be ready to go for Round 1 but he will need to prove himself in NSW Cup before he gets a run in first grade. When he does, expect his speed to burn the opposition!



01		15/03 7:55PM
02		23/03 7:35PM
03		29/03 7:55PM
04		04/04 7:50PM
05		13/04 7:35PM
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07		25/04 4:05PM
08		04/05 7:35PM
09		12/05 2:00PM
10		17/05 7:55PM
11		24/05 7:55PM
12	BYE ROUND	
13		09/06 4:05PM
14		16/06 4:05PM
15		28/06 7:55PM
16		05/07 7:55PM
17		14/07 2:00PM
18		20/07 3:00PM
19		28/07 2:00PM
20		04/08 2:00PM
21		11/08 2:00PM
22		18/08 2:00PM
23		24/08 7:35PM
24		31/08 7:35PM
25		05/09 7:50PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

**EASTS
TO WIN**

HOME AWAY

ROOSTERS
SYDNEY

STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON

J. W-HARGREAVES

8. FRONT ROW

J. FRIEND

9. HOOKER

S. TAUKEIAHO

10. FRONT ROW

B. CORDNER

11. BACK ROW

V. RADLEY

13. LOCK

A. CRICHTON

12. BACK ROW

L. KEARY

6. FIVE EIGHTH

C. CRONK

7. HALFBACK

L. MITCHELL

3. CENTRE

J. MANU

4. CENTRE

D. TUPOU

2. WINGER

J. TEDESCO

1. FULLBACK

R. HALL⁺

5. WINGER

M. AUBUSSON

14. RESERVE

Z. TETEVANO

15. RESERVE

L. COLLINS

16. RESERVE

I. LIU

17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - TRENT ROBINSON - 64% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

Ryan Hall

ACL

Indefinite

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN

BACKS
579 / 52%

1121

FORWARDS
542 / 48%

PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
James Tedesco	FB	22	9	0	23	12	14	10	130	117	-
Angus Crichton	BR	22	3	20	5	2	8	4	118	83	-
Latrell Mitchell	CT (8KP)	22	15	0	7	6	17	10	107 (275)	98 (168)	-
Jake Friend	HK	24	0	20	0	8	1	7	104	110	-
Ryan Hall	WG	21	10	0	12	1	20	N/A	86**	N/A	-
Boyd Cordner	BR	20	3	13	1	4	2	5	81	82	↑
Luke Keary	FE	20	5	0	0	19	8	15	79	69	-
Joseph Manu	CT	23	6	0	10	8	8	9	77	40	-
J. Waerea-Hargreaves	FR	21	2	11	3	0	1	1	58	68	-
Brett Morris	WG	23	9	0	2	4	10	1	57	51	↓
Daniel Tupou	WG	14	5	0	11	1	8	1	53	72	↑
Siosuia Taukeiaho	FR, LK (1KP)	21	1	9	6	0	0	0	52 (64)	52 (76)	-
Victor Radley	LK	22	3	5	2	3	3	5	48	30*	↑
Issac Liu	BR	23	5	5	0	0	5	2	45	29	-
Cooper Cronk	HB	23	4	0	0	8	2	7	43	80	↑
Mitchell Aubusson	CT, BR	21	1	3	0	4	0	4	28	49	↓
Zane Tetevano	FR, LK	24	1	2	3	1	1	2	23	8	-
Nat Butcher	BR, LK	13	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	3	-
Brock Lamb	FE (1KP)	8	0	0	0	1	1	2	5 (19)	23 (43)	-
Lindsay Collins	FR	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	3*	↑
Bernard Lewis	WG	0							DNP	DNP	-
Billy Smith	CT	0							DNP	DNP	-
Egan Butcher	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Grant Garvey	HK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Josh Curran	LK	0							DNP	DNP	-
Poasa Faamausili	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Shaquai Mitchell	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Sitili Tupouniua	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

LATRELL MITCHELL

- 8 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 90/117 (77%)
Career: 111/151 (74%)

STUD

Latrell Mitchell is the next GI and can even be better! That's a big call but seemingly justified considering Mitchell can set up and score tries with ease PLUS kick them from the sideline on either side of the field. That's stud material...

SLEEPER

Victor Radley is made for NRL - he's tough, uncompromising and works hard on the field. The young lock looks set for a big season and there is no doubt he'll improve on his 3 tries and 5 workhorses from 2018.

SIOSUIA TAUKEIAHO

- 1 KICKER POINT -

2018: 5/9 (56%)
Career: 35/48 (73%)

DUD

With the recruitment of Angus Crichton and the rise of Joseph Manu, **Mitchell Aubusson** finds himself in a tough situation. He won't be playing many minutes in the NRL this season and will score accordingly in NRLCEO.

GAMBLE

Cooper Cronk is on tired legs and that grand final last year proved he still has the mental capacity - but can his body cope with another rigorous season? Other halfbacks are more draft worthy these days...

MADGE, MATTERSON, MAHE AND THE MULLET

The Tigers had a roller coaster 2018 season and after looking like world beaters, winning 4 of their first 5 games against hot opposition, they folded in the back half of the season to finish in 9th place.

Prodigal son, Robbie Farah returned from a short stint with the Bunnies and his combination with Benji early in the season was like watching shades of 2005. It has to be said, the Tigers style of play prospered by the penalty crackdown but once the NRL relaxed it under media scrutiny, the Tiger decline commenced!

Season 2019 looks to be a tough one, with new coach Michael McGuire likely to thrash the squad in pre-season training. One thing is for sure, the Tigers will be fit for this season but will they run out of juice late in the season like previous McGuire coached teams?

Squad wise, there's not that many key changes to the starting 13. Ryan Matterson arrives from the Roosters and that's a quality signing if his injury woes are behind him. Matterson proved to be a hard working, try scoring backrower and is a tasty prospect if given the nod on that right edge.

For the NRLCEO coach, the draft value could be a little sporadic this season from the Tigers. Historically, Farah is a past MVP and dynamite hooker option but he's slowing down and showed signs late last season that he wasn't an 80 minute hooker anymore.

Matt Eisenhuth was the money man last season, just missing out on a spot in the NRLCEO Dream Team. Eisenhuth had 22 workhorses, with the majority of those coming from off the bench - if he gets 50 minutes, he makes the 40!

At lock, Elijah Taylor has been around forever and continues to be a handy NRLCEO draft option, averaging 17 workhorses each season. However, his ineffectiveness in attack could be exposed by the new coach and more time on the pine could follow.

In the backs, the Tigers boast some quality but none are really decent draft options. Nofoaluma has been a try sneak in the past but two ordinary seasons means his value has dropped big time.

Esan Marsters looks likely to get the boots again and while not a brilliant kicker, he could be a decent option if the Tigers can play some free flowing footy.

The halves of Marshall and Brooks while established could face competition from Josh Reynolds who had a shocker of a year in 2018. Reynolds, by his own admission, is no certainty for a starting role so it remains to be seen what spine the Tigers run out with in round 1.

Overall, it could be a long season for the Tigers. They overachieved last season and NRLCEO wise, their stars were few and far between.

Premiers
1 Time

Win %
53.5

Bye
Rd 12

2014
13th

2015
15th

2016
9th

2017
14th

2018
9th

Our 2019
Prediction
12th

Odds
\$26



HOME

AWAY

PLAYER GAINS

RYAN MATTERSON
OLIVER CLARK
ROBBIE FARAH

PAUL MOMIROVSKI
MOSES MBYE
ZANE MUSGROVE

PLAYER LOSSES

KEVIN NAIQAMA
JJ COLLINS
PITA GODINET
TIM GRANT
TUIMOALA LOLOHEA

MALAKAI WATENE-ZELEZNIK
MATT MCILWRICK
TAANE MILNE
BAYLEY SIRONEN
SAUASO SUE



RYAN MATTERSON



PAUL MOMIROVSKI



KEVIN NAIQAMA



MALAKAI WATENE-ZELEZNIK

ROOKIE WATCH: PAUL MOMIROVSKI



After playing two games for the Roosters last season including one in the finals, Paul Momirovski was gutted to leave the Bondi Club after claiming they made him a man.

Unfortunately he was stuck behind Latrell Mitchell and Joey Manu. So he has headed to the Tigers for more opportunities. He is clearly a class above NSW Cup where he scored 10 tries in 20 appearances for Wyong last year with three try assists and nine line breaks to go with it.

He also has utility value and can play wing, five-eighth and halfback as well as centre. He won't get the first crack at the centres for the Tigers which will be taken by Esan Marsters and Mahe Fonua, but he will get his chance at some stage throughout the season.



01		16/03	5:30PM
02		24/03	6:10PM
03		31/03	4:05PM
04		05/04	7:55PM
05		11/04	7:50PM
06		22/04	4:00PM
07		27/04	5:30PM
08		04/05	7:35PM
09		10/05	6:00PM
10		16/05	7:50PM
11		25/05	7:35PM
12	BYE ROUND		
13		07/06	7:55PM
14		14/06	7:55PM
15		27/06	7:50PM
16		05/07	7:55PM
17		14/07	4:05PM
18		20/07	5:30PM
19		26/07	6:00PM
20		01/08	7:50PM
21		10/08	7:35PM
22		15/08	7:50PM
23		24/08	5:30PM
24		01/09	4:05PM
25		08/09	2:00PM

END OF NRLCEO REGULAR SEASON

DEFAULT NRLCEO FINALS

HOME AWAY

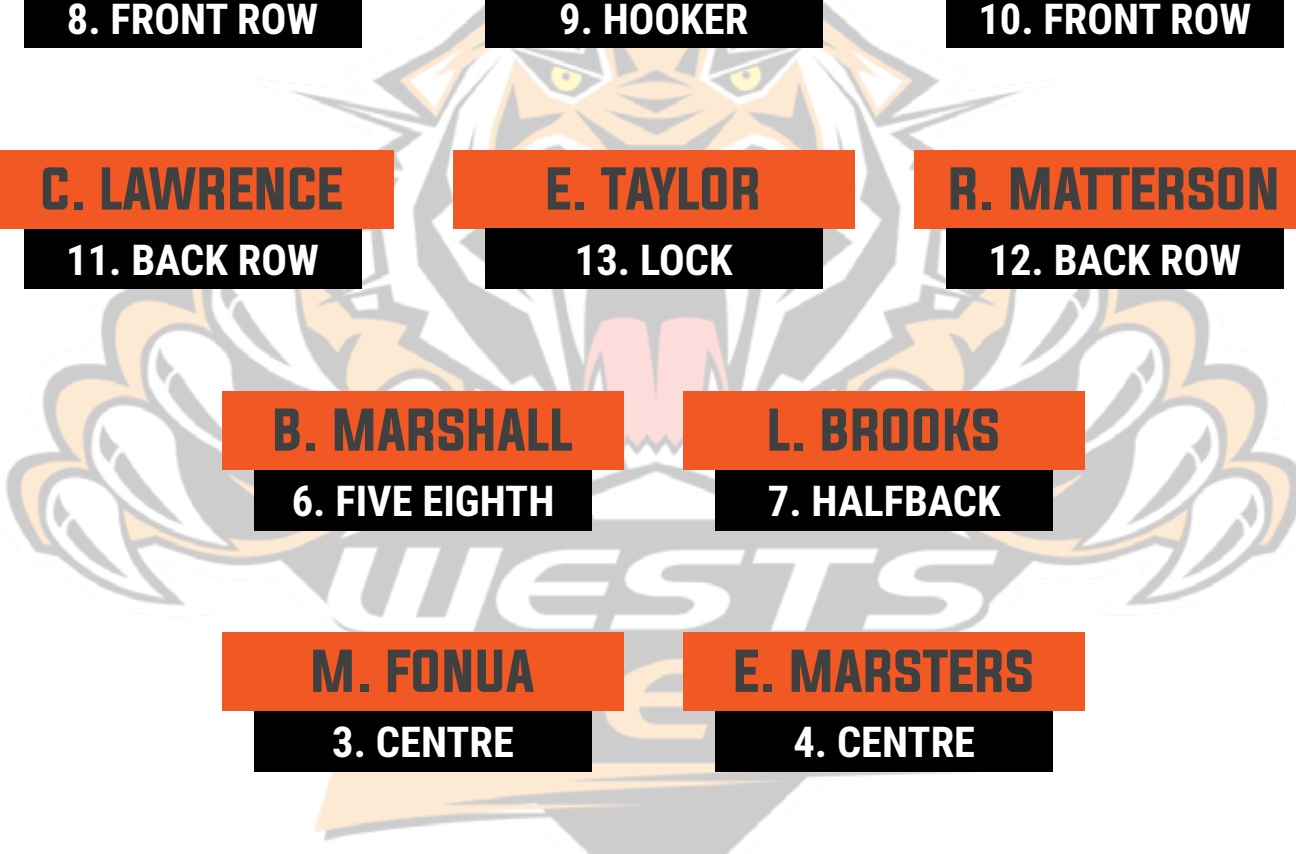
OUR JUNGLE

TIGERS
WESTS



STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM

FOR THE 2019 NRL SEASON



B. MATULINO 8. FRONT ROW	R. FARAH 9. HOOKER	R. PACKER 10. FRONT ROW	
C. LAWRENCE 11. BACK ROW	E. TAYLOR 13. LOCK	R. MATTERSON 12. BACK ROW	
B. MARSHALL 6. FIVE EIGHTH	L. BROOKS 7. HALFBACK		
M. FONUA 3. CENTRE	E. MARSTERS 4. CENTRE		
C. THOMPSON 2. WINGER	M. MBYE 1. FULLBACK	D. NOFOALUMA 5. WINGER	
J. REYNOLDS 14. RESERVE	M. CHEE-KAM 15. RESERVE	A. TWAL 16. RESERVE	M. EISENHUTH 17. RESERVE

COACHED BY - MICHAEL MAGUIRE - 56% WIN RATE

CASUALTY WARD

No injuries or suspensions going into round 1

2018 POINTS BREAKDOWN





PLAYER	POSITION	GAMES	T	WH	ME	TA	LB	LBA	2018 TOTAL	3 YEAR AVG	POTENTIAL
Matt Eisenhuth	FR, LK	24	2	22	0	1	3	2	103	77*	-
Moses Mbye	FB (2KP)	23	6	0	16	6	12	6	84 (156)	75 (132)	-
Esan Marsters	CT (6KP)	24	3	0	19	8	9	6	81 (193)	58 (114)*	-
Luke Brooks	HB	24	5	0	5	11	10	16	79	70	-
Robbie Farah	HK	11	1	9	2	6	5	7	68	64	↓
Ryan Matterson	BR	19	5	10	0	1	2	2	66	53	↑
Chris Lawrence	BR	19	7	6	0	2	6	3	65	50	-
Elijah Taylor	LK	18	1	15	0	0	2	0	64	82	-
Corey Thompson	WG	20	9	0	5	1	10	1	59	59*	-
Michael Chee-Kam	CT, BR	22	3	8	3	1	5	2	57	25	↓
David Nofoaluma	WG	18	6	0	12	0	7	1	54	80	↑
Benji Marshall	FE	21	3	0	1	7	4	10	43	39	-
Alex Twal	FR, LK	21	0	9	1	1	1	0	39	27*	↑
Robbie Rochow	FR, BR, LK	12	1	8	1	0	1	0	39	20	-
Ben Matulino	FR	23	0	8	2	1	0	2	38	50	-
Mahe Fonua	CT	10	1	0	10	2	2	2	32	32*	-
Russell Packer	FR	19	1	4	0	0	1	0	21	24	-
Josh Aloiai	BR	16	1	2	0	0	0	0	12	17	-
Josh Reynolds	FE	5	2	0	0	1	2	0	12	44	↑
Jacob Liddle	HK	13	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	13	-
Luke Garner	BR	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1*	-
Chris McQueen	BR	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	-
Tyson Gamble	FE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	-
Zane Musgrove	FR	0							DNP	8	-
Dylan Smith	FB	0							DNP	DNP	-
Oliver Clark	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Samuel McIntyre	BR	0							DNP	DNP	-
Thomas Mikaele	FR	0							DNP	DNP	-

T - Try WH - Workhorse ME - Metre Eater TA - Try Assist LB - Line Break LBA - Line Break Assist
DNP - Did Not Play * - Played Less Than 3 Years ** - Denotes Super League Stats (###) - Points incl Goals

GOALKICKING OPTIONS

ESAN MARSTERS

- 6 KICKER POINTS -

2018: 56/74 (76%)

Career: 56/74 (76%)

MOSES MBYE

- 2 KICKER POINTS -

2018: N/A

Career: 101/146 (69%)

STUD

Ryan Matterson showed glimpses of what he is capable of at the Roosters and looks to have been signed to sure up that right edge. Expect him to play plenty of minutes in a team that is going to do lots of tackling...

DUD

Ben Matulino is a player with incredible ability but he's lazy. Dubbed as one of the premier props years ago, Matulino has failed to deliver. He had just 8 Workhorses and 2 Metre Eaters last year.

SLEEPER

Jacob Liddle just needs a start and he can show his potential. In his way though, is Robbie Farah and perhaps Josh Reynolds. That's two big names ahead of him at the moment...

GAMBLE

The days of drafting **Farah** early are no more and surely, this is the year that he passes the baton on. However, he seems content to go out on someone else's terms and maybe he spends plenty of time on the pine this season.

DRAFT PREFERENCES

FRONT ROW

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

HOOKER

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

BACK ROW

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

LOCK

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

HALF BACK

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

FIVE EIGHTH

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

CENTRE

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

WINGER

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

FULL BACK

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

MY SQUAD

8) _____

FRONT ROW

9) _____

HOOKER

10) _____

FRONT ROW

11) _____

BACK ROW

13) _____

LOCK

12) _____

BACK ROW

6) _____

FIVE EIGHTH

7) _____

HALF BACK

3) _____

CENTRE

4) _____

CENTRE

2) _____

WINGER

1) _____

FULLBACK

5) _____

WINGER

14) _____

R) _____

R) _____

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R) _____

16) _____

R) _____

R) _____

17) _____

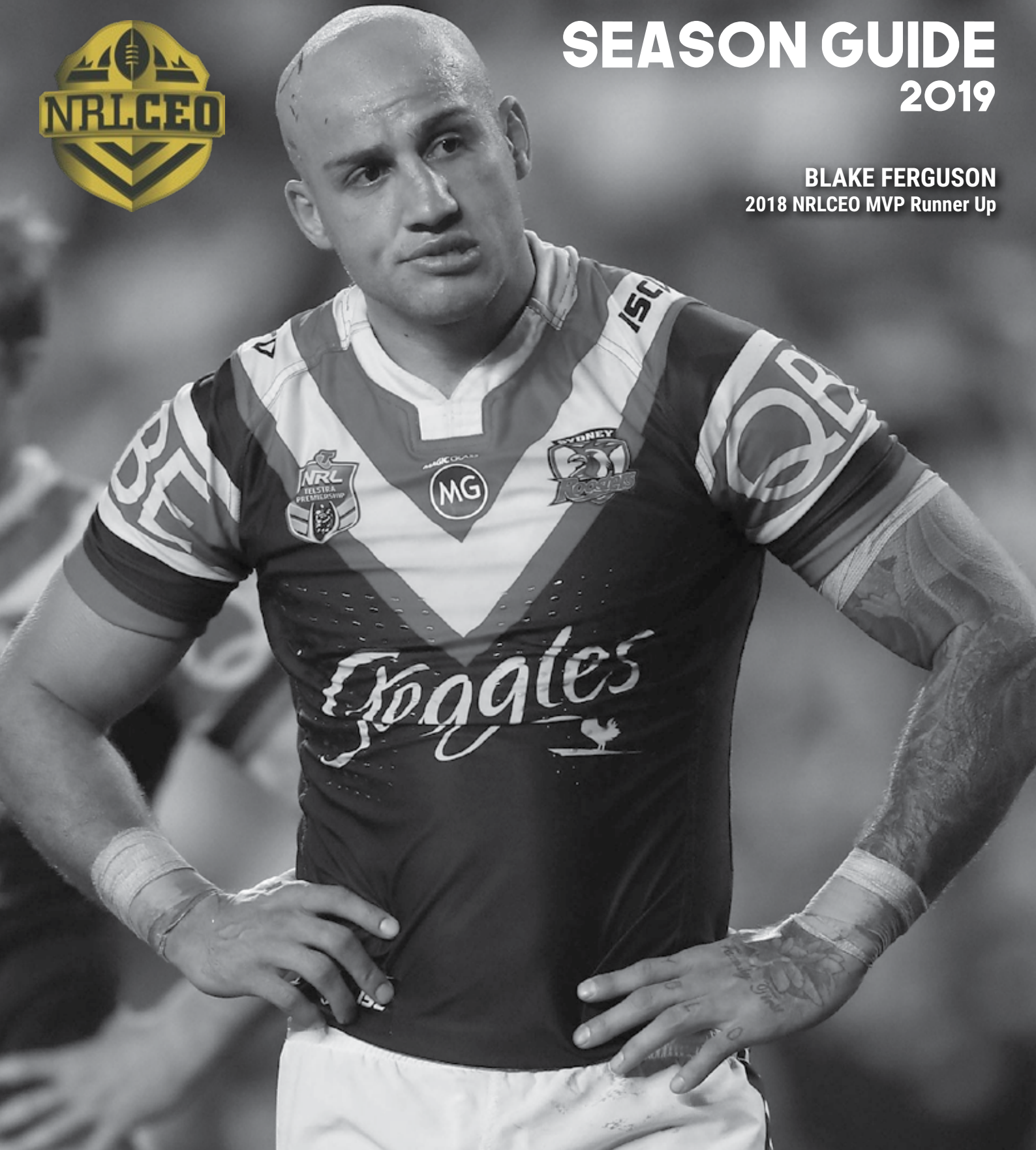
R) _____

R) _____



SEASON GUIDE 2019

BLAKE FERGUSON
2018 NRLCEO MVP Runner Up



WITH THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

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