
2021 HARVEY NORMAN SUPER RUGBY AU FINAL



ST. GEORGE QUEENSLAND

REDS v BRUMBIES

7:45PM SATURDAY | 8 MAY | SUNCORP STADIUM



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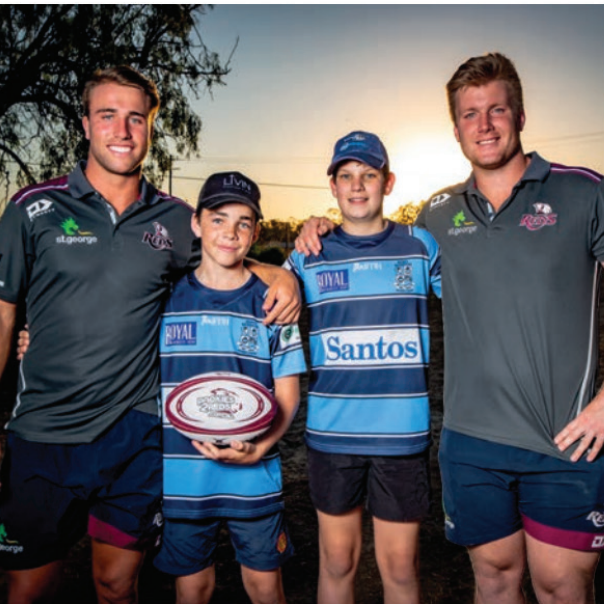
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Gould

On behalf of the Queensland Rugby Union (QRU), I would like to welcome you to Suncorp Stadium for tonight's Harvey Norman Super Rugby AU Final between the St.George Queensland Reds and Brumbies.

It's been 10 years since Queensland last hosted a Super Rugby decider and with the stands once again filled with maroon, it's sure to provide another historic sporting spectacle.

Just like last year, it's one-versus-two in a top-of-the-table Grand Final rematch between the competition's two best teams.

However, Queensland has the advantage on their Canberra counterparts in 2021, having narrowly edged-out the Brumbies in their two matches this year. Both games went down to the wire with the Reds winning by two-points on each occasion and no doubt tonight's fixture will again be a tight contest.

I would like to welcome the Brumbies back to Brisbane, as well as their coaching staff, team management and supporters. I wish them all the best for tonight's Final.

Following their last-start loss in Perth, the Reds have made three changes to their starting XV for tonight's big game.

Queensland's backline will be bolstered by the return of Jock Campbell who will start on the left wing, while Josh Flook will wear the number-13 jersey following a facial fracture to Hunter Paisami.

In the forward pack, Ryan Smith has earned the opportunity to start at lock, seeing the in-form Angus Scott-Young shift back to his preferred position at blindside flanker.

There are four changes to the Reds' reserves, with Wallabies duo Liam Wright and Filipo Daugunu set to bring plenty of firepower as finishers this weekend.

Loosehead prop Dane Zander has been re-called into the 23, while Wests playmaker Isaac Henry could potentially make his Super Rugby and Queensland debut off the bench.

In his fifth-straight start at hooker this year, Brandon Paenga-Amosa will bring up his 50th Queensland cap and on behalf of the QRU I would like to congratulate Brandon on this achievement on what will be a special night here in front of family and friends.

While tonight's game is the exciting conclusion of the 2021 Super Rugby AU competition, we'll be back at Suncorp Stadium in a fortnight as the Reds host the Crusaders in a Trans-Tasman blockbuster on May 22.

Before then though, let's cheer home our Queensland boys to another Super Rugby title here tonight.

Go Reds!

QRU President - Roger Gould



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TATE MCDERMOTT:

***DREAMING BIG WITH THE
INSPIRATION OF THE 2011 FINAL***

BY JIM TUCKER

Tate McDermott daydreams of a Queensland Reds' triumph in the Super Rugby AU Final igniting the same inspiration he got as a freckle-faced 13-year-old.

The Reds halfback knows exactly how a soaring success on Saturday night can create childhood passion, heroes and footy ambitions in a thousand different households.

That exact spark touched him.

He was a long-haired schoolboy, with a greater interest in surf lifesaving, when mother Lexi treated her kids Tate, Georgie and Flynn to tickets to the 2011 final at Suncorp Stadium.

"I still remember the night vividly. We were in the top right-hand corner of the packed stands at the Milton Road end cheering Willy Genia as he won the title for the Reds," McDermott recalled.

"It was so exciting. I had my little Reds' jersey on.

"Look what that night did for Rugby in Queensland?

"The Reds were the talk of the town in Brisbane and it inspired the next crop of young players to dream of being Reds not Broncos.

"Ten years is a long time between drinks. For me, that's one of the great possibilities of Saturday night that we have the chance to inspire the next crop in Queensland Rugby."

Genia floated 65 metres on a chorus of 50,000 roaring voices to deliver his key 2011 try in the fairytale 18-13 win over the Crusaders at Suncorp Stadium.

How could any budding halfback not be inspired?

McDermott is still only 22. It's impressive that he has such a grasp of what a Reds' victory could mean on Saturday night in the 2021 final against the ACT Brumbies.

He is also wired to how tough it will be to come out on top against a side which has gone try-for-try and hit-for-hit with the Reds all season.

The Reds may have claimed thrilling victories by 40-38 in Canberra in March and 24-22 at Suncorp Stadium in April but there are themes that McDermott doesn't want to see repeated.

"Each time, we gave the Brumbies a head start

(17-0 and 12-0) and put pressure on ourselves to chase," McDermott said.

"We want the fast start in our hands not with the opposition.

"Our loss to the Western Force was a bit of a wake-up call. It was the first time we had felt the pain of losing since last year's Super Rugby AU final in Canberra.

"We don't want to feel the same way we did in Canberra that night. It stung us all deeply."

McDermott said the Reds had been dialling up their intensity on defence for the final.

"We hadn't been making opposition teams work as hard to get tries as we should have for a few weeks so there's been work on mindset and putting more pressure on with the way we defend," McDermott said.

"On attack, we had been saving certain stuff for the final which probably didn't help us in some situations in the past few games either.

"The stakes are as high as they get in this final. Everyone is just excited for it and giving it everything."

There were 19,185 fans in the stands who were all certain to return after the quality of the April clash between these sides.

That number is soaring to be beyond 40,000 for Saturday night's final.

As the 2011 final demonstrated, big games can be decided by one game-breaking play.

McDermott has that bit of X-factor to potentially do what Genia did in 2011.

A quick-tap play, a sidestep through tiring forwards or backing up in support are all staples in the arsenal of one of Queensland's most crowd-pleasing stars.

McDermott has already done his bit to re-ignite fans and their passion for the Reds over the past few seasons with his exhilarating style.

The grand stage of a final offers so much more. Just ask the 13-year-old Tate McDermott.



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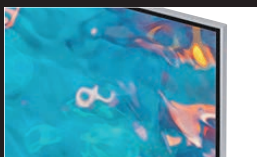


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A composite image of five Super Rugby players in action, running with the ball. The players are wearing different team jerseys: a light blue and white jersey (Worcester), a dark blue jersey with orange accents (Canterbury), a maroon jersey (Queensland), a blue and yellow jersey (Fartex), and a dark blue jersey with red accents (Melbourne Rebels). The background is a blurred stadium with bright lights.

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FRONT ROW: Jim McKay (As
Alex Mafi, Bryce Hegarty, Jam
Taniela Tupou, Filipo Daugunu,



mi, Mac Grealy, Hudson Creighton, Josh Flook, Lukhan Salakaia-Loto,
i Vunivalu, Ilaisa Droasese, Lawson Creighton, Isaac Henry, Kalani Thomas
, Matt Faessler, Feao Fotuaika, Josh Nasser, Harry Hoopert, Harry Wilson,
der, Zane Nonggorr, Sam Wallis, Fraser McReight, Brandon Paenga-Amosa
ssistant Coach - Attack), Tate McDermott, Jordan Petaia, Jock Campbell,
es O'Connor, Brad Thorn (Head Coach), Liam Wright, Angus Scott-Young,
Hamish Stewart, Moses Sorovi, Michael Todd (Assistant Coach - Defence)



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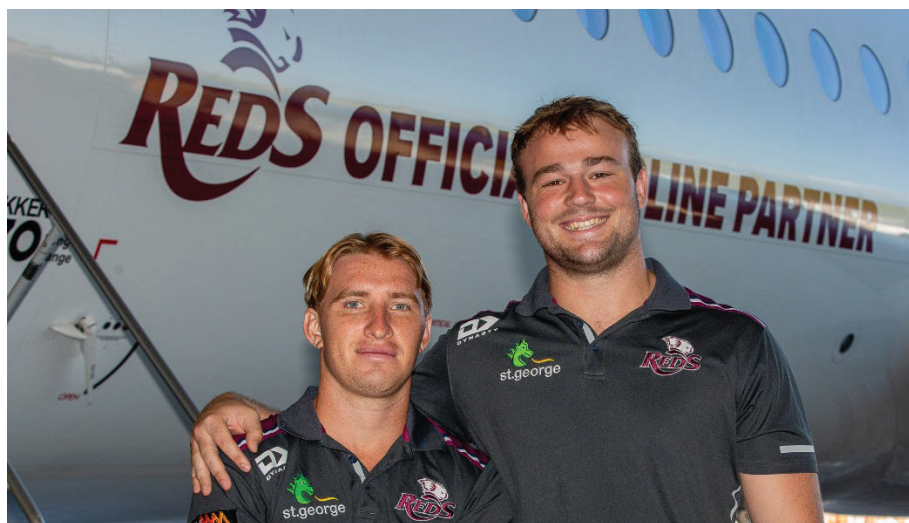
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17 DANE ZANDER
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19 SERU URU
20 LIAM WRIGHT
21 KALANI THOMAS
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23 FILIPO DAUGUNU

* denotes potential Queensland & Super Rugby debut

BRUMBIES



**SCOTT
SIO**



**LACHLAN
LONERAGAN**



**ALLAN
ALAALATOA**



**DARCY
SWAIN**



**CADEYRN
NEVILLE**



**NICK
FROST**



**RORY
SCOTT**



**ROB
VALETINI**



**NIC
WHITE**



**NOAH
LOLESIO**



**TOM
WRIGHT**



**IRAE
SIMONE**



**LEN
IKITAU**



**ANDY
MUIRHEAD**



**TOM
BANKS**

16 FOLAU **FAINGA'A**

17 HARRY **LLOYD**

18 TOM **ROSS**

19 HENRY **STOWERS**

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