



Match Day Program

REDS V WESTERN FORCE

SUNCORP STADIUM

6:35PM

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BACKLINE BOOST FOR QUEENSLAND REDS

WORDS | **Jim Tucker**

The Reds' strength in the centres is reflected by the return of Flook in place of Isaac Henry, an in-form performer for the past four matches.

At halfback, Thomas will start with Louis Werchon providing his spark from the bench.

On the wing, 18-year-old Treyvon Pritchard has earned an opportunity to start for the first time.

The starting pack is unchanged. On the bench, Wallabies Matt Faessler and Zane Nonggorr return to add impact in the front-row.

Hooker Faessler is lining up for a potential 50th Super Rugby cap after his recovery from a knee issue. Prop Nonggorr will bring his skill to the tighthead position when he enters the game.

On the bench, Harry McLaughlin-Phillips will be the back-up flyhalf. Illness has prevented Tom Lynagh from being considered this week.

"It's good news to have a player like 'Faess' returning with his experience. The competition we have between three quality hookers is fantastic," Reds Head Coach Les Kiss said with reference to Faessler, Josh Nasser and Richie Asiata.

"I know Faess is champing at the bit to contribute.

"Treyvon has certainly shown what he is capable of in his minutes off the bench this season. It's only scratching the surface of his potential and he gets to take another step in his learning with experienced Wallabies around him.

"It means again that we have three strong backline players to finish the game from the bench with Louis, Harry and Tim Ryan."

The Reds won two hard-fought matches against the Force in 2025 with both matches finishing with 28-24 scorelines to the Queenslanders.

"We've had some tight games against the Force. These derbies are always meaty affairs," Kiss said.

"We know players like Ben Donaldson and Darby Lancaster can be dangermen in the backs and Jeremy Williams and Darcy Swain are experience for any pack.



Kalani Thomas Passes During Hurricanes Match



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2026 RANGE

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GORDON, KISS GIVES LOMAX VERDICT AS LATEST CROSS-CODE STAR PREPARES FOR NEW VENTURE

WORDS | **Nathan Williamson**

Lomax has been named on the bench for the Force to take on the Reds at Suncorp Stadium, having made the move last month to the 15-a-side game.

Gordon did the reverse, opting to try and break into the NRL with the Gold Coast Titans after switching from Rugby Union in 2024.

A nasty spinal injury limited his time to just one appearance at the end of the season before joining the Reds for 2026.

With his unique perspective as one of the few currently to have made the switch to either side, Gordon was intrigued to see how his skills translate.

“He’s a great player, you’ve seen what he’s done in NRL and [State of] Origins, so it’s going to be exciting to see him out there. I’m not sure [how he’s game will translate], it’ll be a working process for him,” Gordon said. “How quickly he can pick up the game is going to be determined on how hard he works on it.

“...I wouldn’t say the contact level is too crazy different. [Zac] Lomax is quite a big body, so he’ll definitely be up for it.”

Reds coach Les Kiss is expecting a high-ball barrage from both sides, with the Force finding success with the high ball last week against the Chiefs.

Kiss is another who has swapped between both codes, starring on the wing for the North Sydney Bears and Queensland before moving into coaching in Union.

“He’s a quality player in league and I’m sure he’s going to have his good moments. It just takes a long time to learn the nuances of the game around the ruck and the backfield,” Kiss said.

“He’s got to expect [the high ball]. I’m pretty sure they’re going to use a high ball and get him to chase as well, because that was one of his key strengths for sure.

“They’ve got good coaches at the Force and I think that’s going to be critical for him just to learn the game from the ground up in terms of the key roles he’s got to put in play. He’s quite studious himself and has been watching a lot of games.

“I think it doesn’t come easy, but you’ve just got to stick at it.

Gordon returns from a lower leg injury that sidelined him from their defeat in Wellington, while was rested for their win over the Fijian Drua.

“I had the last two weeks off, but I’ve had two good training weeks, so I’m looking forward to getting back into it,” he added.



Carter Gordon during NSW Waratahs match

QUEENSLAND
REDS

ANZAC JERSEY



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BLUES vs **REDS**

TO BE WORN IN SUPER ROUND
SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 20026
ONE NZ STADIUM, CHRISTCHURCH

TEAM LIST



STARTERS

- 1 AIDAN ROSS
- 2 JOSH NASSER
- 3 NICK BLOOMFIELD
- 4 SERU URU
- 5 LUKHAN SALAKAIA-LOTO
- 6 JOE BRIAL
- 7 FRASER MCREIGHT (C)
- 8 HARRY WILSON
- 9 KALANI THOMAS
- 10 CARTER GORDON
- 11 TREYVON PRITCHARD
- 12 HUNTER PAISAMI
- 13 JOSH FLOOK
- 14 FILIPO DAUGUNU
- 15 JOCK CAMPBELL

RESERVES

- 16 MATT FAESSLER
- 17 JEFFERY TOOMAGA-ALLEN
- 18 ZANE NONGGORR
- 19 HAMISH MULLER
- 20 VAIUTA LATU
- 21 LOUIS WERCHON
- 22 HARRY MCLAUGHLIN-PHILLIPS
- 23 TIM RYAN

HEAD COACH

LES KISS





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TEAM LIST



STARTERS

- 1 TOM ROBERTSON
- 2 BRANDON PAENGA-AMOSA
- 3 MISINALE EPENISA
- 4 FRANCO MOLINA
- 5 DARCY SWAIN
- 6 NICK CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY
- 7 JACK DALY
- 8 VAIOLINI EKUASI
- 9 HENRY ROBERTSON
- 10 BEN DONALDSON
- 11 DARBY LANCASTER
- 12 BAYLEY KUENZLE
- 13 GEORGE BRIDGE
- 14 DYLAN PIETSCH
- 15 MAC GREALY

RESERVES

- 16 NIC DOLLY
- 17 SEF FA'AGASE
- 18 HARRY JOHNSON-HOLMES
- 19 LOPETI FAIFUA
- 20 WILL HARRIS
- 21 NATHAN HASTIE
- 22 KURTLEY BEALE
- 23 ZAC LOMAX



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VALE DALLAS O'NEILL: WALLABY, QUEENSLAND CAPTAIN AT 21 AND BROTHERS LEGEND

WORDS | **Jim Tucker**

His passing on Saturday at the age of 83 is being mourned across the rugby community, especially at the Brothers club where he was a Life Member for his deeds as a premiership player and coach.

O'Neill played two Tests for the Wallabies against the All Blacks in 1964 and would have earned more but for ill-timed injuries.

Former Wallabies prop Dave Dunworth was a Brothers teammate beside O'Neill in the 1966 Hospital Cup grand final win and coached by O'Neill in the 1975 premiership side.

"Dallas was a top man and he will be missed," Dunworth said.

"He was a real idol to many. I know I was pretty much in awe of him as a young fella playing in that 1966 grand final in what became his last game for Brothers.

"He had a presence about him and was a very good manager of men. He'd talk to a team as a coach and everyone listened. He knew when to be tough and when to have fun.

"He was definitely equipped to coach Queensland but never did."

O'Neill was a dynamo in the backrow whose reputation was established in his teens when he captained Nudgee College to First XV titles in 1960-61.

He was just 19 when ushered into first grade at Brothers in 1962. At the same age, his dynamic performances at No.8 quickly earned him a Queensland debut against Victoria in Sydney and an audition in the Wallaby trials which turned into selection for the 1962 tour of New Zealand.

He made Wallabies tours to NZ and South Africa, in 1963, before his Test debut finally arrived on his third Wallabies tour in Dunedin against the All Blacks in 1964.

As Queensland player #749, he played 25 times for his state and led the team on 14 occasions.

In 1965, he was at the helm when the Queenslanders fought back from 15-3 down to stun NSW 17-15 at Normanby.

The Courier-Mail's Frank O'Callaghan saluted it as "the proudest 40 minutes in post-war Queensland rugby. O'Neill put it to his forwards and the response was heroic. He was the mastermind of much of the attack."

Unfortunately, a fracture of his left leg against NSW in 1966 ruined his progress. He was handicapped at the tour trials in Sydney and it cost him selection for the 1966-67 Wallabies tour of the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Canada and the US.

"Two screws were put in (the Pott's fracture). One, that started to work loose had bent and was the cause of the problems. I strapped the leg up with elastoplast and got through the grand final. Winning the way we did was a brilliant feeling," O'Neill said in the book, *Brothers In Arms: The History of Brothers Rugby Club*.

When Brothers lost to University in the semi-finals, he had insisted he would return to the fray. He did in brilliant fashion in a thumping 36-9 victory over University on grand final day.

"His name should be inscribed on the foundation stone of the new clubhouse," enthused then-coach Jim Kenny.

O'Neill was very much the symbol of a rebirth at Brothers in the 1960s after the team finished second last in 1961, missed the semi-finals again in 1963 and playing numbers were depleted.

It was not only as a running No.8 igniting tries. He could kick goals and even slip into flyhalf to cover injuries. Always, he was an inspiration.

Missing the big Wallabies tour of 1966-67 prompted O'Neill to jump to rugby league with another Brothers ace, centre Bob Honan, in 1967.

A major knee injury in his first league season meant Souths never saw the best of him.

When O'Neill returned to Brisbane to play local league with Wests, he knew the knee wouldn't last. So honourable was he, he returned the money the club had advanced him even though he could have earned it just by jogging on.

In the 1970s, O'Neill made a major impact at Brothers as a coach. He guided a hat-trick of premierships in 1973-74-75 when the young Paul McLean and Tony Shaw were beginning grand careers.



Dallas O'Neill (left) and Dick Marks in their element as young Wallabies in 1963

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JEFFERY TOOMAGA-ALLEN



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BALLYMORE BEAT: NUDGEE COLLEGE SCHOOLBOYS SPREAD THEIR WINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA

WORDS | Jim Tucker

In all, 40 boys in Opens and Under-16s will joust with some of the best schoolboy rugby teams in South Africa.

School BBQs, selling raffle tickets, coaxing jersey sponsors and other fund-raising ventures have helped make this possible with two years of planning.

The First XV standard-bearers in GPS rugby will get a tough test against Grey College and Hilton College at the festival before a second stop in Cape Town for further games.

Forwards Aiden Luke, Denver Bradford, Jack Burton, Xavier Hill and Harrison McIver plus sharp-moving backs Chilli Tonelli-Smith, Billy Spicer and Pierre Poluleuligaga are just some of the leading Nudgee players with recent experience in Queensland Reds under-age teams.

For Nudgee College Director of Rugby Sean Graham, the excitement for the tour is on multiple levels.

"We've had boys sign on for this two years ago so there's been a lot of planning, fund-raising and anticipation," Graham said.

"Sometimes you do get caught up in your own bubble so this is a great opportunity for the college to spread its wings.

"The chance to play against different styles of play, against some of the best schoolboys in South Africa and gain more perspective on rugby and life in a different country are important things in my view.

"We know we are in for tough games but that's the variety and challenge we are up for."

It's also a full circle moment for teacher-cum-coach Corey Braithwaite, a player when Nudgee College attended the same festival in 2006.

The tour is another layer to the rugby education that Nudgee College is embracing.

The annual Youth Rugby Coaches Forum in January is a trendsetter in Australia.

"It's a proud direction for Nudgee College when you can gather more than 300 coaches from schools and clubs across the country," Graham said.

Wallabies coach Joe Schmidt was a headliner at the event in 2025. Queensland Reds Head Coach Les Kiss, Wallabies scrum coach Mike Cron and long-time ACT Brumbies and Wallabies mentor Laurie Fisher have also attended over the years.

The world-class two-day program features presentations from coaches, on-field demonstrations and much more. Discounts for certain regional Queensland coaches to attend is an opportunity that spreads the expertise even wider.

"Joe did some on field coaching and boys couldn't believe how good he was in remembering names inside 10 minutes and providing individual feedback with players," Graham recounted.

"I think a big takeaway has been the care-and-connection that coaching groups need to make with players because it's not just about wins and losses," Graham said.

Queensland Reds assistant coach Zane Hilton has been a regular contributor and advocate of the Youth Rugby Coaches Forum.

"You can't just replicate how a senior team is coached with a junior team," Hilton said.

"There is a certain way to deliver skill acquisition and develop younger players. To have all these youth coaches talking to each other, sharing knowledge and building the coaching network is huge.

"They are all guiding kids of similar ages so the 'how' to do it, as much as the 'what', is so important."



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2026 SEASON DRAW



TRIAL 1

VERSUS
WESTERN FORCE

FRI, JAN 23	LOCAL 4:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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SCOTCH COLLEGE, PERTH

TRIAL 2

VERSUS
WARATAHS

SAT, JAN 31	LOCAL 2:00PM	AEST 2:00PM
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BALLYMORE STADIUM

ROUND 01

NEW RUGBY
WARATAHS

FRI, FEB 13	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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ALLIANZ STADIUM

ROUND 02

REDS

FEB 20-22
BYE

ROUND 03

HIGHLANDERS

FRI, FEB 27	LOCAL 6:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 04

BRAKEMETERS

SAT, MAR 7	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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GIO STADIUM

ROUND 05

NEW RUGBY
WARATAHS

SAT, MAR 14	LOCAL 6:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 06

FUJIAN
DRUA

SAT, MAR 21	LOCAL 3:35PM	AEST 1:35PM
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CHURCHILL PARK, LAUTOKA

ROUND 07

HURICANS

SAT, MAR 28	LOCAL 4:35PM	AEST 1:35PM
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SKY STADIUM

ROUND 08

WESTERN
FORCE

SAT, APR 4	LOCAL 6:35PM	AEST 6:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 09

CRUSADERS

SAT, APR 11	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 7:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 10

REDS

APR 17-19
BYE

ROUND 11

BLUES

SAT, APR 25	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 5:35PM
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ONE NZ STADIUM

ROUND 12

BRAKEMETERS

SAT, MAY 2	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 7:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 13

CHIEFS

FRI, MAY 8	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 7:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

ROUND 14

WESTERN
FORCE

SAT, MAY 16	LOCAL 5:35PM	AEST 7:35PM
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HBF PARK

ROUND 15

MOANA PASIFIKA

SAT, MAY 23	LOCAL 4:35PM	AEST 2:35PM
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NORTH HARBOUR STADIUM

ROUND 16

FUJIAN
DRUA

FRI, MAY 29	LOCAL 7:35PM	AEST 7:35PM
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SUNCORP STADIUM

QUALIFYING

TBC

FRI JUN 5	SAT JUN 6
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SEMI-FINALS

TBC

FRI JUN 12	SAT JUN 13
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FINALS

TBC

SAT, JUN 20



■ HOME ■ AWAY

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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RUGBY RUNS RED