



KICK-OFF | 6:35PM (AEST)

GAME

Day



SERU URU

HARRY WILSON



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CEO'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Rivalry Round and the 50th Super Rugby clash between the Reds and the Waratahs.

It is the oldest State rivalry for any sport in Australia, with the Queensland's first ever game in 1882 against NSW.

Tonight is the 315th game between our two States and the 45th since the introduction of professionalism and Super Rugby in 1996.

NSW has won 197 of them to Queensland's 105 – with 12 draws. Honours have been more even in Super Rugby, with 49 games – Queensland ahead with 22 wins, NSW 21 and one draw.

After a loss to NSW in the first round, the work to improve has paid off with the Reds now ready after two strong wins in a row including

last week's thriller against the Brumbies.

The Reds will get inspiration from a meeting this week with members of the 1976 Queensland team who celebrated a 50-Year Reunion to mark a historic 42-4 win over NSW

All week the players have been keen to get back in front of a big Queensland crowd and your support could make the difference.

Go the Reds!

- Dave Hanham



Filipo Daugunu of the Reds in action during the round four Super Rugby match between ACT Brumbies and Queensland Reds at GIO Stadium



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RYAN AND URU RETURN FOR THE RIVALRY

WORDS | **Jim Tucker**

In-form winger Ryan returns after a game off under time management-and-rotation protocols.

He replaces Lachie Anderson, who has started his recovery from a serious wrist injury sustained against the ACT Brumbies last weekend.

The experienced Uru will step up at lock for his first starting assignment of 2026 in place of the unavailable Josh Canham.

On the bench, the industrious Hamish Muller returns as lock-backrow cover for this Round Five clash in Swyftx Super Rugby Pacific.

These are the only changes from the Reds side which won a last-play thriller against the ACT Brumbies in Canberra last weekend.

Flyhalf Carter Gordon will have his first taste of rugby's longest-standing rivalry when he plays his first interstate game against the Waratahs in a Reds jersey.

"Lots of hard work across the whole team got us in position for that result in Canberra and we've been back doing the same at training this week," Gordon said.

"We've still got things to fix and work on for a big week against the Waratahs.

"I'm excited, the boys are excited, for this game. We've played them twice this year and we get another crack at them here.

"We've had great crowds at Suncorp Stadium when we have played the Waratahs over the past few years. We're looking forward to our home crowd getting behind us again.

"We've had two good results (against the Highlanders and Brumbies) and we want to keep building on that."

The Queensland Rugby Union is urging fans to make this the best supported Australian derby of the 2026 season by surpassing the 16,655 attendance when the teams met in Sydney in Round One. Topping last year's crowd of 20,072 fans for the corresponding game at Suncorp Stadium is the target.

Replacement hooker Richie Asiata will earn his 50th Queensland cap on Saturday after making his debut against the Waratahs in 2021.

Reds Head Coach Les Kiss said hometown support always added extra volume to interstate matches.

"We know how much our fans enjoy the Reds vs Waratahs rivalry and it will be great to see a big turnout," Kiss said.

"It's no different for our players. This is a day on the calendar we look forward to.

"The Waratahs have got the better of us on the two occasions we have played them this season. We know the threats they will bring to the game. We have to be thorough in our preparation."



Seru Uru RD3 between Western Force and Queensland Reds at HBF Park, on March 01, 2025, in Perth, Australia.



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GORDON PRIMED FOR FIRST TASTE OF NSW RIVALRY AS WARATAHS REVAMP BACKLINE

WORDS | **Nathan Williamson**

Gordon missed the opening round defeat to the Waratahs after dealing with injuries throughout pre-season.

“I’m excited and I think the boys are excited. Obviously, we’ve versed twice already this year, so we’ve got another chance to have a crack at it this week

“We’ve had great crowds at Suncorp against the Waratahs in the past few years and we’re looking forward to seeing our home crowd getting behind us again this week.”

Reds coach Les Kiss has been boosted by the timely returns of Tim Ryan and Seru Uru, who come straight in for Lachie Anderson and Josh Canham.

As for the Waratahs, coach Dan McKellar has backed Triston Reilly to fill the outside centre void left by Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii’s injury.

Suaalii is expected on the sidelines for 6-8 weeks, with Reilly shifting from the wing to partner Joey Walton.

“Triston (Reilly) was always an option to be back-up 13. He’s a very, very good defender for us and his execution is excellent,” McKellar said.

“Triston is a good bloke and a really popular member of the team. He just does his role and those players are so important.”

As a result, Sid Harvey has been elevated for his debut start, with James Hendren replacing Andrew Kellaway at fullback.

“Sid (Harvey) was probably one of the shining lights from last Friday. He’s just got this air of class about him, Sid, both as a footballer and as a human being. He’s got time, he’s very

composed and doesn’t get rattled,” McKellar added.

“The Reds have certainly improved and we understand that when they were in Sydney a few weeks ago, they were down a couple of players. They’ll be a far greater challenge at Suncorp at the weekend and we know that we need to be significantly better than we were at home last week.”



Carter Gordon of the Reds celebrates scoring a try to win the round four Super Rugby match between ACT

TEAM LIST



STARTERS

- 1 AIDAN ROSS
- 2 JOSH NASSER
- 3 ZANE NONGGORR
- 4 SERU URU
- 5 LUKHAN SALAKAIA-LOTO
- 6 JOE BRIAL
- 7 FRASER MCREIGHT (C)
- 8 HARRY WILSON
- 9 LOUIS WERCHON
- 10 CARTER GORDON
- 11 TIM RYAN
- 12 ISAAC HENRY
- 13 JOSH FLOOK
- 14 FILIPO DAUGUNU
- 15 JOCK CAMPBELL

RESERVES

- 16 RICHIE ASIATA
- 17 GEORGE BLAKE
- 18 JEFFERY TOOMAGA-ALLEN
- 19 HAMISH MULLER
- 20 VAIUTA LATU
- 21 KALANI THOMAS
- 22 HARRY MCLAUGHLIN-PHILLIPS
- 23 TREYVON PRITCHARD

HEAD COACH

LES KISS





WHO'S UP FOR THE SANTOS FESTIVAL OF RUGBY?

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TEAM LIST



STARTERS

- 1 ETHAN DE GROOT
- 2 JACK TAYLOR
- 3 ROHAN WINGHAM
- 4 WILL STODART
- 5 MITCH DUNSHEA
- 6 TE KAMAKA HOWDEN
- 7 SEAN WITHY
- 8 LUCAS CASEY
- 9 ADAM LENNOX
- 10 CAMERON MILLAR
- 11 JONA NAREKI
- 12 TIMOCI TACATAVANAWAI
- 13 JONAH LOWE
- 14 CALEB TANGITAU
- 15 JACOB RATUMAITAVUKI-KNEEPKENS

RESERVES

- 16 SOANE VIKENA
- 17 DANIEL LIENERT-BROWN
- 18 SOSEFO KAUTAI
- 19 OLIVER HAIG
- 20 VEVENI LASAQA
- 21 FOLAU FAKATAVA
- 22 REESJAN PASITOA
- 23 TANIELU TELE'A



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THE FABLED 1976 QUEENSLAND TEAM WHICH FLIPPED HISTORY ON NSW

WORDS | **Jim Tucker**

Reds coach Les Kiss and his 2026 team got an inkling this week when 1976 team members David Dunworth and Greg Shambrook were invited into the team huddle after Wednesday's training session.

On the same Ballymore turf in 1976, a watershed moment in Queensland rugby unfolded...a thumping 42-4 victory over the old foe from NSW.

Kiss has a keen feel for the meaning of such moments.

He told his players: "It's important we honour and connect with our Queensland history...and go out to create some history of our own."

That chance arrives on Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium in the latest edition of Reds vs Waratahs, a rugby rivalry across more than 140 years.

Those years have been filled with interstate drama, heroics, unforgettable tries, sledges and bloodied confrontations at close range.

Decades of playing second fiddle to NSW was summed up by just five Queensland wins from 20 interstate games before that landmark turnaround in 1976.

It is the very fact that the events of May 29, 1976 meant far more than the 80 minutes on the field which brought a fabled group together again on Wednesday.

The Queenslanders didn't drop a game to NSW for the rest of the 1970s. The era of the mighty Maroons was born that day.

"It certainly was a momentous occasion for Queensland rugby, a coming of age," said Mark Loane, captain and No.8 in the 1976 side.

"In those days, rugby stood alone in a lot of ways (as a Queensland team). Rugby league didn't have State of Origin and Aussie Rules didn't have a national structure.

"The winning of that day was the start of greater recognition that if you played rugby for Queensland, you could play for Australia.

"For the prior 50 years it wasn't the case. From that day, we had good numbers of Queenslanders in Wallabies sides for years. To this day, 50 years later, you see it."

Mention the names of rugby greats Loane, Paul McLean, Tony Shaw and Andrew Slack and the acknowledgements are still rich today.

They all featured in that 1976 victory alongside the likes of bullocking two-try winger Paddy Batch, fullback Graham Noon, high-leaping David Hillhouse, lock partner Peter "Spider" McLean, the late Stan Pilecki and a fresh-faced 19-year-old hooker named Bill Ross.

Most who could gathered at The Jubilee Hotel on Wednesday to enjoy the firm friendships and memories forged in that era.

NSW actually scored the first try in the 1976 game and NSW captain Geoff Shaw was heard to say it's "going to be one of those days.

It was a game like no other from that point.

The Queenslanders rattled on six tries and 42 unanswered points. It was the way they scored them too. Late in the game, Loane twice instructed flyhalf McLean to put up "Garryowens".

Famed rugby writer Frank O'Callaghan explained what happened next in The Courier-Mail.

"It was sheer terror tactics. Eight pounding forwards sent away by a roaring mob and seemingly hell bent on destruction," he wrote.

"Slender NSW winger Dave McKinley had the temerity to catch the ball. He was hurled aside in the maelstrom.

"...Batch barrelled through the remnants of the defence to score.

"McLean put the ball up again. By now the Blues were in total disarray and, from the shambles of bodies, Ross scored."

Fifth years on, players remembered small things. Prop Dunworth scored few tries but he remembered a short ball from Shaw and a try in this game.

More remembered it was played with the old black-tipped Adidas ball without laces.

Ross, 19 at the time, wondered where his career might have headed if didn't have hard heads like Dunworth and Pilecki in the front-row beside him.

Hillhouse, a buffet destroyer in his playing days, left nothing on his plate this week either.

Shambook is now a Masters CrossFit Games champion. Only a few chided him for being too fit for the lunch.

"It's an very easy gathering. It takes about five minutes to revert to type and things just come back from 50 years ago. We spent a lot of time together," McLean nodded.



1976 Queensland team members (at centre) Greg Shambook (left) and David Dunworth meet the Reds team at training at Ballymore

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FORGOTTEN RED BECOMES CENTRE OF ATTENTION

WORDS | **Murray Wenzel - AAP**

After years of setbacks, a spot in the Queensland Reds' centres is now Isaac Henry's to lose.

That's the word from coach Les Kiss, who has admired the 27-year-old's fight, despite years of brutal injuries, to remain in a squad stacked with midfield options.

But after long-term foot, hamstring and knee injuries, Henry is fit and will wear the No.12 for the second straight week when the Reds host the NSW Waratahs on Saturday.

His chance comes with Hunter Paisami sidelined by a lower-leg injury that Kiss says he could shake off before next weekend.

But Paisami and fellow Test centre Josh Flook have both been linked with moves abroad - to Japan and Italy respectively - once their deals expire this season.

Flook is reportedly set for a move to Benetton, where he was due to play as part of a secondment last season before he was pulled away to join the Wallabies' squad.

Opportunities in the Test jumper were fleeting though, and with the recent signing of NRL star Angus Crichton to the Waratahs, where it's expected he'll play in the centres, things will only become more crowded.

Kiss wouldn't confirm those moves on Wednesday, but said Henry deserved his chance.

"Not at this stage; the main thing is, if both (Paisami and Henry) are fit it's a difficult decision now," he said.

"He's showing his robustness, can play 12 or 13, and we saw a snapshot a couple of years ago.

"Then came a couple more injuries, but he's determined, persistent and ... he's stepped up."

The Reds aren't short on backfield talent, with Dre Pakeho, Frankie Goldsborough and Treyvon Pritchard among the next crop at Ballymore already impressing.

Pritchard will get another chance off the bench after debuting in the Reds' comeback defeat of the ACT Brumbies in Canberra on Saturday.

The Waratahs were flogged 59-19 by the Hurricanes last weekend, but were far too strong for the Reds in their season-opener.

"We're 70 per cent of what we can be at this stage," Kiss said of the 2-1 Reds.

"They've been hard on themselves on what they need to do."



Isaac Henry during the round three Super Rugby Pacific match between Queensland Reds and Chiefs at Suncorp Stadium, on March 09, 2024



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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