

your GAME

SIRU PLAYER PROFILES

1 MANNING DOUGHTY

Waratahs (prop)

Doughty made an immediate impact with Waratahs since returning from first grade with Randwick and Easts in Sydney. Doughty is an excellent scrumman, and his running game close to the rucks and through the centre of the paddock usually requires at least three defenders to bring him to ground.

2 JOCK MUNRO

Waratahs (hooker)

Munro is extremely strong at the breakdown and lightning quick. Nursing a shoulder complaint but should be fit for tomorrow.

3 TOM DUNSTAN

Ag College (prop)

Having played with Gordon Colts the past few years, Dunstan is a newcomer to Aggies this season. Dunstan is fit, mobile and an excellent scrumman.

4 KEEGAN THORNHILL

Wagga City (lock)

Thornhill's size and strength has made a huge impression with Wagga City, leading the club to its most successful SIRU season in recent years.

His combination with Reynolds and Leaper in the second row has given the SIRU pack monstrous power, while his handy turn of foot it likely to cause plenty of problems for opponents if he finds running space.

5 WILL REYNOLDS

Turnut (lock)

The experienced campaigner knows only one way to play – flat out for 80 minutes. Reynolds has been selected for the Brumbies Provincial squad for the past two years, and despite his position in the middle of the scrum and in-out, is one of the fastest players in the squad.

6 LOUIE LEVETT

Albury (back-rower)

The Steamers' standout had his first taste of representative football last year, and was immediately selected for the Brumbies Provincial team.

Levett never stops running, and an uncanny ability to be in the right position in support play is an asset to SIRU.

7 JAMES WHITELEY

Ag College (back-rower)

Whiteley is one of the best defensive breakaways to have played in the zone and his ability to tackle and steal possession is menacing to the opposition.

Although he suffered a knee injury during the pre-season, Whiteley has lined his run to perfection to represent SIRU once again.

8 DAVE ARMSTRONG

Ag College (No. 8)

Armstrong was voted player of the tournament in last year's championships, and was then awarded man of the match during the Brumbies Provincial clash with Australian Police. As tough as they come, Armstrong is a dynamic ball-runner and defender and should lead by example this weekend.

9 SAM HOBBS

Waratahs (halfback)

Although he boasts a fast and accurate pass, Hobbs doesn't shy away from taking on forwards twice his size in attack and defence. Hobbs is key to SIRU success and should find dangerous holes in the opposition defence.

10 XAVIER CHIGWIDEN

Ag College (winger)

Naturally talented and versatile, Chigwiden is one of the most valuable players in the SIRU competition. Chigwiden's passing game is second to none and if the SIRU forwards give him enough ball he will cause plenty of headaches to the opposition's defence.

11 JAMES GRIMMETT

Ag College (winger)

Having graduated from high school last year, Grimmett declared his arrival in the zone with a stack of tries for Aggies in the opening rounds. At both outside centre and wing, Grimmett is a hard and speedy runner with a lot of potential.

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Meggison vows to return

By Pamela Whaley

MISSING the representative call-up for the first time in four years could be the best thing to happen to Waratahs forward Matt Meggison.

Troubled by a form slump at the start of the season, Meggison was on the fringe of selection for the Southern Inland Rugby Union squad but a surge in performance from his rivals pushed him out of contention.

As the Brumbies Provincial Tournament kicks off at Conolly Rugby Complex tomorrow, Meggison yesterday declared the disappointment of missing out lies within himself.

"Sure, I was definitely disappointed, but more in myself and within my own game," he said yesterday.

"It was a wake-up call more than anything.

"I'm a great believer in picking a team based on form and I had let my form slip."

Lucking out on his representative goal, the two-time Brumbies Provincial representative set about a task to revamp his form and drive Tans to a third-consecutive title. Since then, a renewed determination has shot Meggison back to his best form in Tans' past two games.

"As soon as I found out I wasn't selected my focus turned straight back to Waratahs and going for the third title, that's the number-one goal now," he said.

"I feel like I have a few things to prove within my team, we have a heap of new players

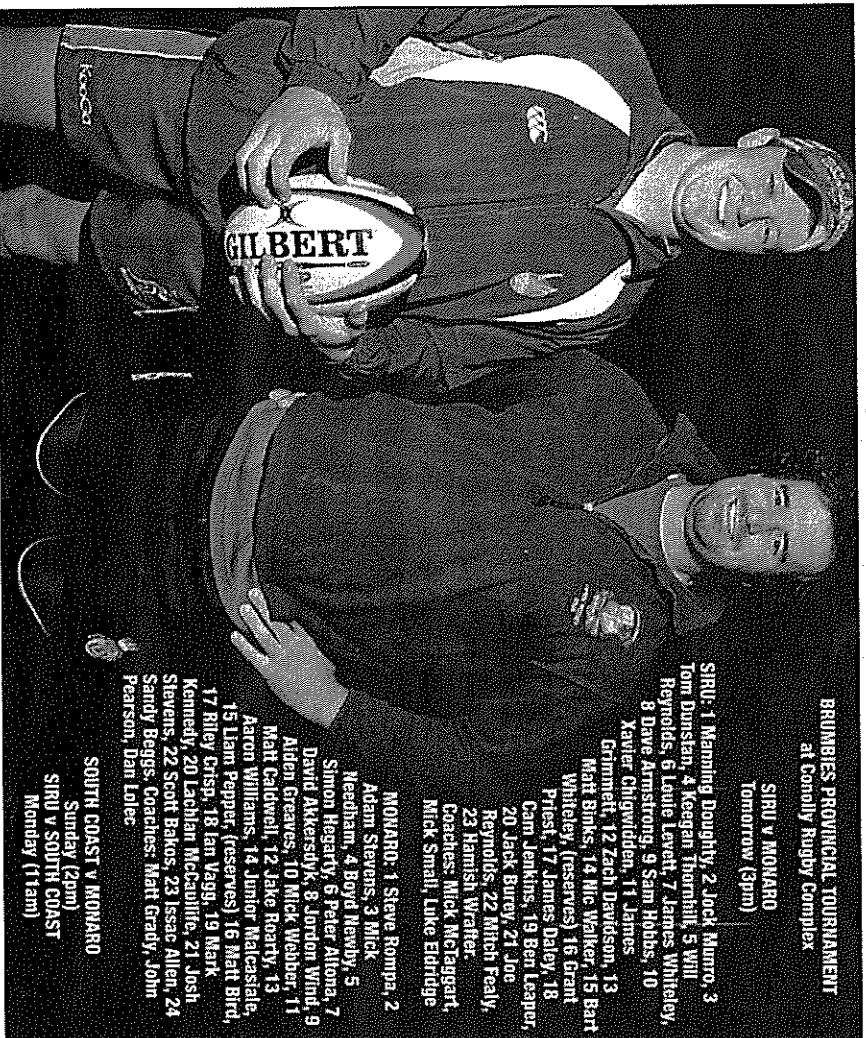
this year and I think the determination to prove a point came through.

"I just wanted to prove that I'm still the same player I have been, but my focus is back."

Meggison's return to form made him impossible to overlook when Far South Coast president Peter Ryan called on SIRU for an extra second-rower for the tournament.

While he won't be playing with SIRU, Meggison will get a third crack at the Brumbies Provincial team with Far South Coast this weekend.

"That's the fairly amusing thing about getting the call-up is that it's a bit more of an opportunity there but in saying that, the guys that have been picked for SIRU are the ones in form," he said.



BRUMBIES PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT at Conolly Rugby Complex

SIRU v MONARO Tomorrow (3pm)

SIRU: 1 Manning Doughty, 2 Jock Munro, 3 Tom Dunstan, 4 Keegan Thornhill, 5 Will Reynolds, 6 Louie Levett, 7 James Whiteley, 8 Dave Armstrong, 9 Sam Hobbs, 10 Xavier Chigwiden, 11 James Grimmett, 12 Zach Davidson, 13 Matt Binks, 14 Nic Walker, 15 Bart Whiteley (reserves), 16 Grant Priest, 17 James Daley, 18 Cam Jenkins, 19 Ben Leaper, 20 Jack Burey, 21 Joe Reynolds, 22 Mitch Fealy, 23 Hamish Wrafter. Coaches: Mick McGart, Mick Small, Luke Edridge.

MONARO: 1 Steve Rompa, 2 Adam Stevens, 3 Mick Neesham, 4 Boyd Newby, 5 Simon Hearty, 6 Peter Albana, 7 David Akersoyk, 8 Jordon Wind, 9 Aiden Greaves, 10 Mick Weber, 11 Matt Caldwell, 12 Jake Roarty, 13 Aaron Williams, 14 Junior Malcassale, 15 Liam Pepper (reserves), 16 Matt Bird, 17 Riley Crisp, 18 Ian Vagg, 19 Mark Kennedy, 20 Lachlan McCollie, 21 Josh Stevens, 22 Scott Banks, 23 Jesse Allen, 24 Sandy Beggs. Coaches: Matt Grady, John Pearson, Dan Lolic.

SOUTH COAST v MONARO Sunday (2pm) SIRU v SOUTH COAST Monday (11am)

LEADERS: Vice-captain Xavier Chigwiden and captain David Armstrong will march SIRU onto the paddock in tomorrow's opening clash of the Brumbies Provincial Tournament at Conolly Rugby Complex.

SIRU's finest rounded up

By Pamela Whaley

WITH back-to-back titles on the line, Southern Inland Rugby Union coach Mick McGart is taking no chances in the Brumbies Provincial Tournament opener tomorrow.

Speaking yesterday, McGart spruiked size and speed in announcing the 23-man team to open the tournament against Monaro at Conolly Rugby Complex.

Stellar Ag college talent Bart Whiteley was given the nod at starting fullback ahead of experienced CSU star Mitch Fealy and Youngs Nic Walker for the clash, on the back of outstanding season form.

"Whiteley is in such great form at the moment, we just couldn't go past him," McGart said.

"He's been killing it and that to me says he deserves his

spot ahead of the other options.

"He represented last year as well but he's another year older and wiser, Xavier

(Chigwiden) has a great pass and most of the time I think he'll find him in the backline." Chigwiden has been paired with Waratahs teammate Sam Hobbs in the halves, with CSU's Jack Burey and Wagga City's Hamish Wrafter on the bench as possible replacements.

McGart said the massive forward pack "picked itself" on the basis of form, with plenty of impact coming off the bench with Ben Leaper, Grant Priest and James Daley.

After a year away from the paddock, Yabbies centre Zach Davidson has been given his chance in the starting 15 next to Waratahs Matt Binks.

"The team pretty much picked itself," he said. "It hasn't caused us any headaches, it's been pretty commonsense.

12 ZACH DAVIDSON Young (centre) Resuming his representative career after a year off, Davidson is a terrific defender who puts his body on the line with every single tackle.

13 MATT BINKS Waratahs (centre)

New to the zone, the ferocious defender is light on his feet and versatile having played both five-eighth and centre for Waratahs this season.

14 NIC WALKER Young (winger or fullback)

The 2008 Bill Castle medalist returned to Young at the end of last season after playing for Gordon colts in Sydney. Walker has a wealth of skills to pull from, and the more times he touches the ball the better SIRU will play.

15 BART WHITELEY Ag College (utility back)

Arguably the form back of SIRU, Whiteley has been the leading light for Aggies at five-eighth, centre and fullback this year. Whiteley has been given a licence to roam this weekend and wherever he pops up will spell trouble for the opposition.

16 GRANT PRIEST Ag College (prop)

Priest has built a reputation as one of the strongest scrummagers in the zone and his excellent support play is a big feature of his game.

17 JAMES DALEY Waratahs (hooker or prop)

Mr. Versatile of the front row, Daley can play loose-head prop, tight-head prop or hooker, and is renowned for his accurate drop kick. If the score is tight don't be surprised if Daley positions himself to take a late field goal to save the day.

18 CAM JENKINS Ag College (back-rower)

Jenkins is a never-say-die workhorse who is very strong at the breakdowns and is prepared to do a lot of the dirty work. Jenkins is an unsung hero for Aggies, and his combination with Whiteley is a huge asset to the squad.

19 BEN LEAPER Ag College (lock)

Man of the match performances against CSU, Waratahs and Temora forced Leaper's selection this year after spending the pre-season in the gym. Although his running game is solid, his defensive work around the ruck and mauls is invaluable.

20 JACK BUREY CSU (halfback or five-eighth)

Burey graduated from a SIRU fringe player to a Brumbies Provincial representative last season with plenty of confidence. Burey is first choice back up for the halves, with his accurate goal-kicking a huge bonus to the squad.

21 JOE REYNOLDS Ag College (centre)

On the basis of reputation, Reynolds was selected for SIRU despite being overseas for the past month. Reynolds runs straight and hard, and is a proven performer in both centre position and on the wing.

22 MITCH FEALY CSU (fullback-winger)

The Reddies star is playing with plenty of confidence this season and his versatility at the end of the SIRU backline is a big boost to the squad. At fullback, Fealy has the ability to inject himself into the backline on every occasion and a counter kick can start an attacking charge.

23 HAMISH WRAFTER Wagga City (utility back)

The English import has made waves at Wagga City this season, and is the perfect utility back for the SIRU squad.

24 RICHARD LAMONT Waratahs (winger)

Lamont is young and fast, with an "X-factor" about his play that's exciting and unpredictable.

25 ALEX HARDIE Goolamundra (back rower)

In dangerous form this season, Hardie has an outstanding ability to break tackles in heavy traffic, to give his team plenty of go-forward in attack.