

FINALS FOOTY FAN PACK

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FOOTY RECORD

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MELBOURNE STORM 2020 GRAND FINAL TEAM

RYAN PAPENHUYZEN

1

FULLBACK



2020
19

FINALS
5

GF
0

CAREER
41

SULIASI VUNIVALU

2

RIGHT WING



2020
16

FINALS
13

GF
3

CAREER
110

BRENKO LEE

3

RIGHT CENTRE



2020
13

FINALS
2

GF
0

CAREER
66

JUSTIN OLAM

4

LEFT CENTRE



2020
20

FINALS
5

GF
0

CAREER
37

JOSH ADDO-CARR

LEFT WING

5



2020
20

FINALS
11

GF
2

CAREER
105

CAMERON MUNSTER

FIVE-EIGHTH

6



2020
17

FINALS
16

GF
3

CAREER
131

JAHROME HUGHES

HALFBACK

7



2020
18

FINALS
5

GF
0

CAREER
59

JESSE BROMWICH

PROP

8



2020
18

FINALS
24

GF
4

CAREER
247

MELBOURNE STORM 2020 GRAND FINAL TEAM

CAMERON SMITH

HOOKER

9



2020
18

FINALS
41

GF
7

CAREER
429

CHRISTIAN WELCH

PROP

10



2020
18

FINALS
7

GF
2

CAREER
95

FELISE KAUFUSI

SECOND ROW

11



2020
20

FINALS
11

GF
2

CAREER
131

KENNY BROMWICH

SECOND ROW

12



2020
20

FINALS
18

GF
3

CAREER
170

NELSON ASOFA-SOLOMONA

LOCK



13

2020
19

FINALS
13

GF
2

CAREER
124

BRANDON SMITH

INTERCHANGE



14

2020
17

FINALS
8

GF
1

CAREER
62

TINO FA'ASUAMALEUAI

INTERCHANGE



15

2020
2

FINALS
2

GF
0

CAREER
26

DALE FINUCANE

INTERCHANGE



16

2020
20

FINALS
23

GF
5

CAREER
200

MELBOURNE STORM 2020 GRAND FINAL TEAM

NICHO HYNES

17

INTERCHANGE



2020
12

FINALS
2

GF
0

CAREER
12

TOM EISENHUTH

18

RESERVE



2020
13

FINALS
0

GF
0

CAREER
18

PAUL MOMIROVSKI

19

RESERVE



2020
6

FINALS
1

GF
0

CAREER
19

TUI KAMIKAMICA

20

RESERVE



2020
5

FINALS
3

GF
0

CAREER
33

RYLEY JACKS

RESERVE

21



2020

9

FINALS

0

GF

0

CAREER

47

CRAIG BELLAMY

COACH



FINALS

41

GF

9

CAREER

471



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PANTHERS



1. FULLBACK
DYLAN EDWARDS



2. RIGHT WING
JOSH MANSOUR



3. RIGHT CENTRE
BRENT NADEN



4. LEFT CENTRE
STEPHEN CRICHTON



5. LEFT WING
BRIAN TO'O



6. FIVE-EIGHTH
JAROME LUAI



7. HALFBACK
NATHAN CLEARY



8. PROP
JAMES TAMOU



9. HOOKER
APISAI KOROISAU



10. PROP
JAMES FISHER-HARRIS



11. SECOND ROW
VILIAME KIKAU



12. SECOND ROW
LIAM MARTIN



13. LOCK
ISAAH YEO



INTERCHANGE
TYRONE MAY



INTERCHANGE
KURT CAPEWELL



INTERCHANGE
MOSES LEOTA



INTERCHANGE
ZANE TETEVANO



COACH:
IVAN CLEARY

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MATCH PREVIEW

**IS A FAIRYTALE FINISH
LOOMING FOR ARGUABLY THE
GREATEST PLAYER OF ALL
TIME, OR WILL YOUTHFUL
EXUBERANCE AND CONFIDENCE
TAKE A SPECIAL GROUP OF
KIDS TO THE TOP?**

VIA: NRL.COM

Melbourne and Penrith will meet in the 2020 Telstra Premiership decider having been the two best teams all year, finishing second and first respectively.

All eyes are on Storm captain Cameron Smith. Will he retire after a peerless 430 matches across 19 seasons?

He's given nothing away despite the intense interest, but the scenes at Suncorp Stadium after Melbourne's preliminary final win over Canberra were perhaps indicative of a man bidding farewell.

The Panthers are shooting for 18 straight victories, led by star halfback Nathan Cleary and his father, coach Ivan.

Penrith are conceding vast experience to the Storm, but they're yet to be overawed as belief courses through them.

The last time the Panthers played in a grand final was 2003, when they collected the club's second title, while Melbourne have now made four of the past five deciders, losing in 2016 and 2018 and tasting success in 2017.

THE RUNDOWN

TEAM NEWS

Panthers: Viliame Kikau returns from a one-game suspension in the back row, with Kurt Capewell dropping to the bench and Mitch Kenny out of the 17.

Brent Naden has been named to start at centre after not getting on the field from the interchange last week, with Tyrone May reverting to the pine.

Hooker Api Koroisau insisted his shoulder was fine after Saturday's win over South Sydney despite having to leave the field in the second half. He returned late in the match.

Storm: The Storm have named the same side that beat the Raiders last week.

Bench forward Brandon Smith copped a head knock but was cleared of anything serious. Five-eighth Cameron Munster (knee) made it through the prelim with no dramas, so too Dale Finucane (calf).

KEY MATCH-UP

Cameron Smith v Api Koroisau:

Smith's controlling influence is still unrivalled and his endless big-game experience - this will be his seventh grand final - could prove crucial. Koroisau's return to Penrith this year has been a key reason for their form and he was immense in the preliminary final, creating constant havoc by jumping from dummy-half.

STAT ATTACK

Penrith beat Melbourne 21-14 in round six in what was the start of their winning streak. They've gone on to smash their previous club record of nine straight victories. But the Storm have had the wood on the Panthers overall, losing only three games against them since 2006.

■



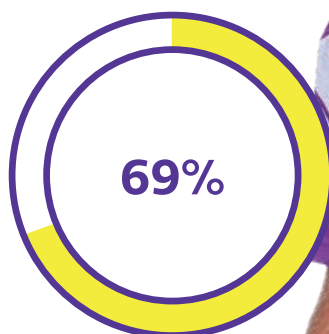
FINALS YOUNITED 2020 FINALS YOUNITED



CRAIG BELLAMY

COACH

AGE	61
JOINED THE CLUB	2003
GAMES COACHED	471
GAMES WON	324
GAMES LOST	143
WIN PERCENTAGE	



PLAYER MATCHUPS

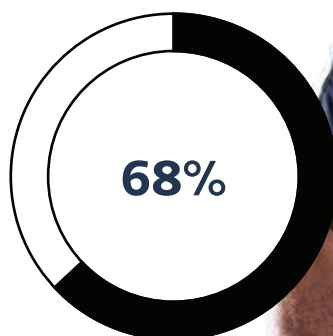




IVAN CLEARY

COACH

AGE	49
JOINED THE CLUB	2019
GAMES COACHED	355 (OVERALL)
GAMES WON	30
GAMES LOST	14
WIN PERCENTAGE	



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CAMERON MUNSTER

FIVE-EIGHTH

AGE	26
WEIGHT	89KG
HEIGHT	185CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	130
2020 APPEARANCES	17
2020 TRIES	4
TRY ASSISTS	8
LINE BREAK ASSISTS	7
AVERAGE KICK METERS	172.4M
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	1665M



PLAYER MATCHUPS



JAROME LUAI

FIVE-EIGHTH

AGE	23
WEIGHT	88KG
HEIGHT	184CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	39
2020 APPEARANCES	22
2020 TRIES	7
TRY ASSISTS	22
LINE BREAK ASSISTS	19
AVERAGE KICK METERS	95.9M
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	1476



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JAHROME HUGHES

HALFBACK

AGE	26
WEIGHT	90KG
HEIGHT	183CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	59
2020 APPEARANCES	18
2020 TRIES	7
TRY ASSISTS	15
LINE BREAK ASSISTS	8
AVERAGE KICK METERS	171.6M
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	1379M



PLAYER MATCHUPS



NATHAN CLEARY

HALFBACK

AGE	22
WEIGHT	92KG
HEIGHT	182CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	99
2020 APPEARANCES	20
2020 TRIES	7
TRY ASSISTS	17
LINE BREAK ASSISTS	11
AVERAGE KICK METERS	507.1M
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	1726M



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CAMERON SMITH

HOOKER

AGE	37
WEIGHT	90KG
HEIGHT	185CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	429
2020 APPEARANCES	18
CAREER TRIES	47
TRY ASSISTS	15
TACKLES MADE	644
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	799M



PLAYER MATCHUPS



APISAI KOROISAU

HOOKER

AGE	27
WEIGHT	88KG
HEIGHT	172CM
CAREER APPEARANCES	126
2020 APPEARANCES	19
CAREER TRIES	16
TRY ASSISTS	4
TACKLES MADE	959
TOTAL RUNNING METERS	1117M



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SMITH'S PATH FROM GEYER'S BASEMENT TO NRL PENTHOUSE

FROM MATT GEYER'S MELBOURNE BASEMENT TO THE PENTHOUSE OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD.

Joel Gould VIA: NRL.COM



It has been some journey for 37-year-old Storm skipper Cameron Smith as he prepares for his eighth grand final and 430th first-grade game at the club for which he made his debut 18 seasons ago.

As for when that journey will end, Smith is not giving anything away but as he prepares for Sunday's grand final against the Panthers it is with no fear of life beyond the arena where he has etched his indelible mark.

"I totally understand there is going to be interest in what I am going to be doing next year but players retire all the time so let us enjoy both teams and what we've been able to achieve this year and hopefully we can put on a good show," Smith said on Monday before the Storm trained on the Sunshine Coast.

"I don't fear life after football. I am comfortable with where I am at. If this is to be my last game

then I will have to adjust to life after playing footy.

"I am lucky to have three beautiful children and a lovely wife who have sacrificed plenty in their own life to enable me to play for such a long time. Moving forward that is all I need.

"I have a beautiful family and I will have some great memories about the game if it is my last. If not, you will see me running around next year."

Smith's start at Melbourne was humble but rewarding while living with Storm premiership-winner Matt Geyer.

"Boofa [Geyer] has been a huge part of my life in not only my journey as a football player but as person, husband and father," he said.

"I learned a lot from Matty, particularly in the early years. He took me in for a couple of months early in my career down in Melbourne when I didn't have a lot of money in the bank and was trying to save up for a house.

"There was one pre-season where instead of paying rent he opened up his basement and I was living in his basement. He

didn't charge me rent. The way I paid off the rent was to babysit his three children which allowed him and his wife to go out and have dinners every couple of nights."

Geyer had no concept in 2002 that his housemate's career would unfold as it has. The club had 1999 premiership-winning rake Richard Swain on board and Smith was the new kid on the block.

"Not me. I don't mean to be insulting but I don't think anyone could have seen this," Geyer told NRL.com when asked whether he had foreseen Smith's greatness.

"They let Richie [Swain] go and brought Cam in so we knew there must have been a decent wrap on him, because Swainy had been so good for us.

"So we knew there was something there, but I don't think anyone could see what you see now. He has broken every record known to man and is still going.

"I don't try and compare myself to Cam but I am fascinated by how at the end of my career I was fighting for my spot in the NRL team, and if I had played another year I didn't know if I would have been in the team ... and that was at 33.

**"I DON'T FEAR LIFE
AFTER FOOTBALL...."**

"Cam is 37 and if they picked an Australian team tomorrow and he made himself available he would captain it."

As for the young footballer in the basement, Geyer said it was the start of an enduring friendship.

"The kids loved him and every now and then he would look after them, and I thought it would be great to have another helping hand around the house," Geyer grinned.

"I always used to joke that I would be in the yard working in the hot Melbourne summer and Cam would be in the kids' room falling asleep watching Toy Story or something but it was great for us both.

"We formed a lifelong friendship and for such a young bloke he was an old soul, which is why we got along so well."

Talk to those close to Smith and it is his journey rather than the final destination that makes them most proud.

None of them knows when the end date on his career will be.

"I seriously don't know. Whatever he is doing he is holding seriously close to his chest," Cameron's father Wayne Smith told NRL.com.

"Cam likes to make decisions with the emotion taken out of it. Win or lose this week – euphoria

or bitter disappointment – he won't want to say what he is thinking. He will want to let all the dust settle.

"He would be telling the young blokes this week 'it is not about any individual, it is about us, because one person won't help us win'.

"Looking in, I get the feeling that Cam is savouring being part of this 2020 team's development as young men and footballers. It is like a project they have been doing for a couple of years that is coming to fruition."

Cameron has told his players to soak in the build-up.

"I told the boys to embrace grand final week and everything that comes with it," Cameron said.

"It's been a remarkable effort for this team to make a grand final, but what we have done over the past 22 matches won't get us the result on Sunday. We need another good week of preparation and do our best against Penrith who have been the best team in the premiership by far.

"Outside of 2010, for different reasons, this has been the most difficult season, but it's more been about our relocation.

"We haven't been in our homes and our beds for five months and for this group to turn around and

play so consistently throughout the season and put the organisation back in a grand final is nothing short of remarkable."

It was Geyer who famously tagged Smith "a footballer in an accountant's body".

He also insists if you could GPS plot every move he made on a football field, and then review it, all the moves would be the right ones.

Last week Smith ran 65 metres to stop Nick Cotric scoring a try a metre from the line in an amazing combination of reading the play and desire.

"That tackle on Nick Cotric, that was phenomenal. He made a similar one last year on Dane Gagai against Souths when he was about to score in the corner, and he had no right to be there," Geyer said.

"We are great mates and I have to be careful I don't turn into his fan but I went to the Sunny Coast for Old Boys' day when the Storm played the Cowboys, and because I hadn't seen him live for a while I thought I'd watch his game closely for a bit.

"He is still very efficient, very economical and has such a feel for the game that he knows where the ball is going before it goes there."

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It is why Geyer won't be surprised if Smith plays on next year.

"If he drops ten per cent over the next few years he is still going to be at a very high level and be one of the best players in the game," Geyer said.

"It sounds weird to say that he could be 40 and still one of the NRL's top players.

"To me Cam has been selfless. He doesn't want to make this run to the grand final about his retirement.

"He can't control the media but I am sure that if he did tell everyone that he is retiring it would become 'the Cameron Smith farewell tour' and that is what he doesn't want.

"Cam has taken a lot of heat for it and could have easily buckled but has stayed strong and true to his way."

The Smiths have their children enrolled in the primary section of Marymount College where Geyer is a teacher on the Gold Coast.

"I'm just proud of him and his family. My wife [Belinda] and his wife [Barb] are in touch quite a lot and it is tough time for them as well, and they are doing their best to keep that all together.

"I am really proud of how they have grown up from those teenagers we knew in Melbourne to the family they are now."

In another piece of symmetry, the Geyers have three children, as do the Smiths.

"He wanted to be like me ... so he definitely stopped. You are only human," Matt said with a grin.

Geyer was part of the 1999 side which blazed a trail for what was to come.

They weren't meant to win the grand final but they did in extraordinary fashion after trailing the Dragons 14-0 at half-time.

...THIS WEEK 'IT IS NOT ABOUT ANY INDIVIDUAL, IT IS ABOUT ALL OF US, BECAUSE ONE PERSON WON'T HELP US WIN...



"A lot of teams when they are new to the competition target being competitive but by winning it that became the bar and the level, and that has been a huge benefit," Geyer said.

"Obviously getting Craig Bellamy on board to team up with Cam ... what a great partnership they have been for so long. Listening to them talk about eight prelims in the last decade and five grand finals, the numbers are baffling.

"I read recently that Cam has captained 320 games. Ten players have probably played more than that. Recently he won his 300th game. Far out. Throw in his hundred rep games ... and he is going all right."

And still going strong too and fresh as a daisy.

"I have got through most seasons quite well physically. The last season of my rep career in 2017 is where I struggled the most physically and mentally," Smith said.

"I always wanted to make myself available for the team post-Origin but I didn't back up once

“
**WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH
JUST MAKING THE GRAND FINAL,
WE WANT TO GO THERE
AND PLAY WELL AND
GIVE OURSELVES A
SHOT AT WINNING.**
”

after those three games and that was probably the major factor in giving rep footy away.

"The last three seasons with no rep commitments it has made it a bit easier. This year it took a bit of adjusting to game-day travel. The first couple of games I didn't enjoy but you tend to adapt and get on with things. I feel good.

"My focus is solely on this week's preparation and my role in the team and what my coach and teammates need from me. I will go out and do my best on the weekend, and whatever happens on the weekend happens."



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LAST TIME THEY MET...

ROUND 6 - FRIDAY 19TH JUNE | CAMPBELLTOWN STADIUM, SYDNEY

MELBOURNE
STORM



PANTHERS



14

FINAL SCORE

21

2

TRIES

3

2/2

CONVERSIONS

3/3

1/1

PENALTY GOALS

1/1

0

SIN BINS

1



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YOU UNITED 2020 FINALS



STAT TRACKER

MELBOURNE STORM

PLAYER	TRY	POINT	GOAL
1. Ryan Papenhuyzen			
2. Suliasi Vunivalu			
3. Brenko Lee			
4. Justin Olam			
5. Josh Addo-Carr			
6. Cameron Munster			
7. Jahrome Hughes			
8. Jesse Bromwich			
9. Cameron Smith			
10. Christian Welch			
11. Felise Kaufusi			
12. Kenny Bromwich			
13. Nelson Asofa-Solomona			
14. Brandon Smith			
15. Tino Fa'asuamaleu'ai			
16. Dale Finucane			
17. Nicho Hynes			
Total - Half time			
Total - Full Time			

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PENRITH PANTHERS

PLAYER	TRY	POINT	GOAL
1. Dylan Edwards			
2. Josh Mansour			
3. Brent Naden			
4. Stepgen Crichton			
5. Brian To'o			
6. Jarome Luai			
7. Nathan Cleary			
8. James Tamou			
9. Apisai Koroisau			
10. James Fisher-Harris			
11. Viliame Kikau			
12. Liam Martin			
13. Isaah Yeo			
14. Tyrone May			
15. Kurt Capewell			
16. Moses Leota			
17. Zane Tetevano			
Total - Half time			
Total - Full Time			



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