



Head of the Pack

It was the Brisbane Broncos who dominated the final rounds of the Telstra Premiership. Hitting top form at precisely the right moment, they solidified themselves as real contenders, thanks largely to the stellar play of one of their stars – Justin Hodges.

Despite suffering a head cut in the opening minute of the Broncos' final round clash with the New Zealand Warriors, Justin enjoyed another outstanding game playing at full back.

In the 62nd minute of the match he took on the Warriors defence, crashing over out wide to give Brisbane a handy 18 point lead.

Eight minutes before full time Justin put the result beyond doubt, twice beating Warriors centre Simon Mannering during a spectacular 45 metre run to the try line.



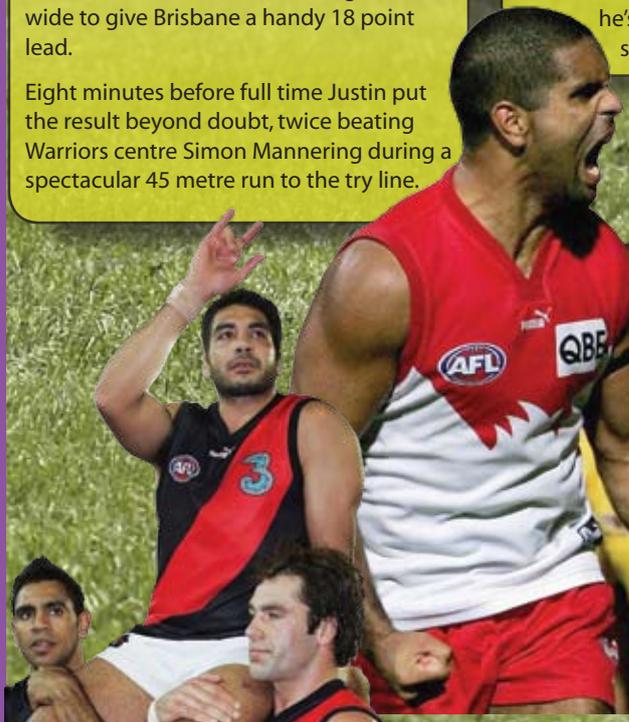
Risin' to the Top

Topping off a superb season, 20 year-old Port Adelaide midfielder Danyle Pearce won the 2006 NAB AFL Rising Star award.

Nominated in round three, Danyle played all 22 games this season, averaging more than 19 possessions a game and kicking the most goals (12) of all 22 Rising Star nominees.

"Danyle plays in a way that excites not just Port Adelaide supporters but football fans in general," said Port Adelaide coach Mark Williams. "He runs hard, he carries the ball, he's fast, he's agile, he can tackle, he wins clearances, he kicks the ball inside-50 and kicks goals.

"He can do anything you'd want from a player, and is someone young players can look at and say, 'Gee, he's only little and he's only skinny'. It just says that AFL football is for everyone."



Magic Moment

Sydney swans coach Paul Roos described Michael O'Loughlin's performance against the Eagles in the first preliminary finals match as the best of his 245 game career.

In the team's last two encounters at Subiaco oval, the Eagles had fought from behind to scrape their way to victory. But "Magic Mick" ensured the Eagles were stealing another last-gasp win this time around.

After kicking two early goals, Michael overcame groin pain at different stages of the game, and his fourth goal would be the match-winner as the Swans held on for a stirring one point triumph.

End of the Road

A Bombers favourite, Dean Rioli's 100th AFL game was also his last. At only 28, Dean's early retirement was brought on by chronic knee problems that have plagued this talented player throughout his career, causing him to spend long stretches on the sidelines. In a cruel twist of fate, Dean's suffered a suspected fractured wrist in his farewell match. In spite of this, Dean still managed to gather eight possessions, kicking one final goal. At the full time siren he was chaired off the ground by team mates Nathan Lovett-Murray and Dean Solomon to a rousing reception by the Bombers' faithful.



Head of the Pack tells us that Brisbane Broncos were in top form in the match against New Zealand Warriors. Justin Hodges had an outstanding game at fullback.

ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

1. Who is this report about?

2. Which team does he play for in the NRL?

3. According to the report, what were the highlights of Justin Hodges' performance in the Broncos' win over New Zealand Warriors in the final round?

ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Justin Hodges is described as enjoying "another _____ game at full back."

2. What happened to Hodges in the opening minute of the game?

3. Did this affect Hodges' game? _____

4. How did "Justin put the result beyond doubt" eight minutes before full time?

ACTIVITY 3

Some facts and figures about Justin Hodges are listed in the middle column. **Add information about yourself in the right hand column.**

Name	Justin Hodges	Your Information
Date of birth	25/05/82	
Place of birth	Cairns, Qld	
Height	190cm	
Weight	98 kg	
Position	Centre	
Tries	53	
Goals	1	
Field Goals	0	
Points	214	
NRL games	114	

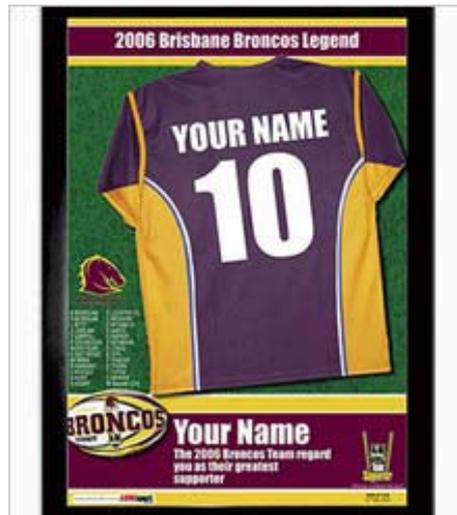




ACTIVITY 4: DESIGN A SHIRT

Below is the logo for the Brisbane Broncos and an example of a personalised football shirt.

Create your own design for a shirt with your favourite team, your favourite number and your name on it.



My design

To read more about Justin Hodges and the Brisbane Broncos, head to:
www.broncos.com.au