

PRIDE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE EDITION 04



KEIGHLEY COUGARS V NORTH WALES CRUSADERS
LEAGUE 1 2024 - ROUND 5
14th APRIL 2024

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FROM THE BOARD ROOM MICK O'NEILL MBE



I would like to welcome everyone down to Cougar Park ahead today's clash against North Wales Crusaders, I hope you have the best time and hopefully we can continue our unbeaten run in the League One season.

I was delighted to see the side continue their winning run on Good Friday against a tough Hunslet side, the side showed real grit and determination to turn around the deficit.

We have also had some good news on the recruitment front as we welcome Mitch Revell and Junior Nuu down to Cougar Park. Revell brings a wealth of experience to the forward pack after his recent stint in the French Elite One. We are very pleased to get him through the door as he will also help our push to return straight back to the Championship.

It is also fantastic to get the services of Junior Nuu as he brings great competition for the backline, and he is a real coup for sure, Nuu has been playing rugby union for Leeds Tykes in the past few years.

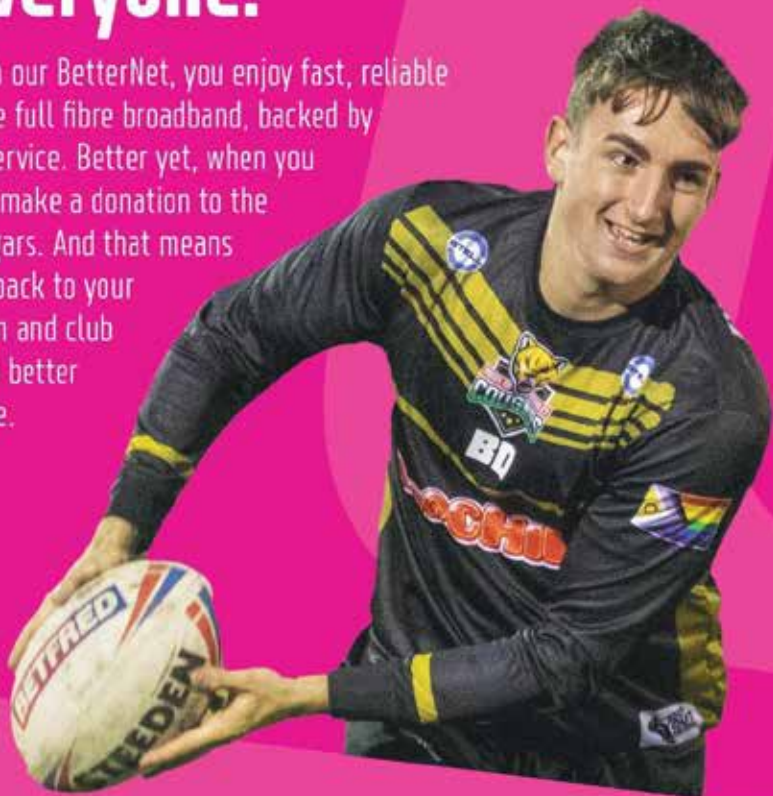
It is also great news as Matt Bailey has had his testimonial granted by the RFL (Rugby Football League), Bailey has been a superb servant for the club for many years and fully deserves this accolade.

Id also like to give Ross the groundsman a shoutout for all the tremendous work he has been doing recently, the weather has been torrential in recent weeks yet Ross has worked tirelessly to make sure that the pitch is in good order for the past few fixtures and the Crusaders clash, well done Ross.

Mick O'Neill

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CLUB UPDATE WITH RYAN & KAUE



Welcome to Cougar Park, where rugby meets community spirit and inclusivity! Today marks a significant milestone as we proudly announce India Willoughby as our club Patron for 2024. But before we delve into the exciting future, let's take a moment to appreciate the significance of this appointment.

India Willoughby is more than just a familiar face; she's a trailblazer in the world of media and transgender advocacy. With a career spanning over three decades, India has fearlessly paved the way for transgender representation in mainstream media. Her journey, marked by authenticity and resilience, serves as a beacon of hope for countless individuals striving for acceptance and visibility.

At Cougar Park, we understand the power of representation. It's not just about showcasing diversity; it's about empowering individuals to embrace their true selves unapologetically. India's involvement reaffirms our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of gender identity, feels valued and supported.

As we embark on this new chapter with India by our side, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Raiseprint for their unwavering support. From crafting eye-catching signage to producing quirky merchandise like fridge magnets, Raiseprint has been instrumental in bringing our vision to life. Their dedication to quality and creativity mirrors our own values, making them invaluable partners in our journey.

But that's not all – brace yourselves for an exhilarating lineup of rugby tournaments like never before! We're cooking up some truly unique experiences that promise to ignite your passion for the sport. Stay tuned for more details as we unveil our plans in the coming weeks.

In conclusion, Cougar Park isn't just a rugby club; it's a community where diversity thrives, and dreams are realized. With India Willoughby as our beacon of inspiration and Raiseprint as our steadfast ally, the future looks brighter than ever. Join us as we embark on this exciting journey together, where every try scored is a testament to the power of unity and inclusivity.

Ryan & Kaue



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COACH'S CORNER

HEAD COACH MATT FOSTER



Good afternoon and welcome to today's game against North Wales in our 2024 League 1 campaign.

The season has started well with 3 good wins under our belt, particularly at Hunslet 2 weeks ago which is a traditionally tricky place for us to go.

Our opponents today have had a great start to the League campaign themselves with an unbeaten start of 3 from 3.

We know they are a very dangerous team who can play with physicality or finesse.

Their middles are all big and with good hands, led well by player coach Carl Forster so our forwards are looking forward to a big challenge today in the middle of the park.

Next week we welcome Mitch Revell to Cougar Park who was announced last week as our latest acquisition. He is a strong running back row or middle and LOVES the physical stuff so im sure you

will all enjoy watching him play this year.

For our boys they continue to work hard in all areas of their game at training and today we hope to continue our development and progression as a group.

Look forward to hearing you all today!

Matt

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REACH OUT CHECK-IN FOLLOW UP

OPPOSITION GUIDE

NORTH WALES CRUSADERS



2024 SEASON PREVIEW

FOR a side who played virtually the whole season away from home, finishing the year 80 minutes away from promotion to the Championship was certainly an achievement worth celebrating for North Wales Crusaders.

Delayed works on the pitch at Eirias Park meant the Crusaders had to play seven of their nine home matches at other venues around North Wales and the north east. Add to that a string of injury problems at the start of the season, a late season surge to see them finish sixth and then go on to make the play-off Grand Final, shows just what potential Carl Forster's side possesses.

With a bigger squad more adapted to cope with any injury setbacks, and their home venue set to be available to them for the full season, Forster will be hoping that the stability both those factors will bring, will allow his team to remain fully focused on realising that.

ONE TO WATCH

PATRICK AH VAN has returned for a second spell at the club after a year with Oldham. As a proven try scorer throughout his career, Ah Van will add further firepower to the Crusaders' three-quarter line. With goal-kicking abilities too, his points could have a major say in where the Crusaders finish.

2024

DATE	OPPOSITION	SCORE	FB	W	C	C	W	SO	SH
28/01/24	Dewsbury Rams (H) <small>1895 R1</small>	35-6	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (2T)	RYDER	SA'U	WALKLEY	DEAN (1T)	MILLER (5G 10G)
11/02/24	Hunslet (A) <small>CC R3</small>	14-22	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (1T)	RYDER (1T)	SA'U	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1T, 1G)	MILLER
18/02/24	Bradford Bulls (H) <small>1895 R3</small>	18-28	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (1T)	RYDER	SA'U	WALKLEY	THOMAS	MILLER (3G)
25/02/24	Featherstone Rovers (H) <small>CC R4</small>	14-58	PICKERSGILL (1T)	DOWNEY (1T)	RYDER	GRAHAM	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1G)	MILLER (2G)
17/03/24	Cornwall RLFC (H) <small>LI R01</small>	56-12	PICKERSGILL (2T)	RYDER (1T)	GRAHAM	SA'U	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1T)	MILLER (8G)
24/03/24	Workington Town (H) <small>LI R02</small>	58-16	PICKERSGILL (2T)	RYDER	GRAHAM	SA'U (2T)	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1T)	MILLER (1T, 9G)
28/03/24	Hunslet RLFC (A) <small>LI R03</small>	14-42	PICKERSGILL	RYDER	GRAHAM	SA'U (1T)	WALKLEY (2T)	THOMAS	MILLER (5G)
14/04/24	NW Crusaders (H) <small>LI R05</small>								
21/04/24	Newcastle Thunder (A) <small>LI R06</small>								
28/04/24	Rochdale Hornets (A) <small>LI R07</small>								
05/05/24	Hunslet RLFC (H) <small>LI R08</small>								
19/05/24	NW Crusaders (A) <small>LI R10</small>								
26/05/24	Oldham RLFC (H) <small>LI R11</small>								
02/06/24	Midlands Hurricanes (A) <small>LI R12</small>								
23/06/24	Cornwall RLFC (A) <small>LI R14</small>								
30/06/24	Workington Town (A) <small>LI R15</small>								
07/07/24	Rochdale Hornets (H) <small>LI R16</small>								
21/07/24	Oldham RLFC (A) <small>LI R18</small>								
28/07/24	Midlands Hurricanes (H) <small>LI R19</small>								
04/08/24	Newcastle Thunder (H) <small>LI R20</small>								
11/08/24	NW Crusaders (A) <small>LI R22</small>								
18/08/24	Oldham RLFC (H) <small>LI R23</small>								
25/08/24	Hunslet RLFC (H) <small>LI R24</small>								

FIXTURES

<i>P</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>LF</i>	<i>INT</i>	<i>INT</i>	<i>INT</i>	<i>INT</i>	<i>18</i>
MAHER	BROWN (1T)	IOANE	ROBSON	LANSKEY (1T)	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON (2T)	LANSKEY	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
MAHER	BROWN	IOANE (1T)	ROBSON	LANSKEY (1T)	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	LYNAM	SCHOFIELD	DEAN
MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON	LANSKEY	PARKER	DEAN	CONROY	LYNAM	SCHOFIELD	STEAD
MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON (3T)	LANSKEY	PARKER (1T)	BISHOP (1T)	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	DEAN
MAHER	KESIK	IOANE (2T)	ROBSON (1T)	LANSKEY	BROWN	BISHOP	PARKER (1T)	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	DEAN
MAHER	KESIK	IOANE (1T)	ROBSON (2T)	LANSKEY	BROWN (1T)	BISHOP (1T)	PARKER	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	DEAN
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WOMEN'S TEAM CATCH UP

WITH STEVE

It's been another bust few weeks in the office as we work on the Women's and Girls talent pathways.

We've had a lot of interest, more than we expected really and it's great to announce our first meeting and skills session with those who showed an interest this coming week.

We've appointed a head coach, who will be revealed next week and it's all starting to come together piece by piece.

Myself, Dan Grimshaw and Mickey Hurley are in constant dialogue daily about where we see this project going and it's really exciting. We've set ourselves some internal goals, which I will keep close to my chest for now but the reality is we are on the road to achieving those.

We're on the lookout for volunteers to help with the project, from gameday coordinators, kit persons and social media - if this is you, drop me an email.

We're also making waves with the Foundation and have some exciting community projects up and coming that we can't wait to work on.

You might have seen a post go out on socials in association with Luke Gale's Kicking for Grassroots charity, proof that despite the way in which Luke came and left, we are still able to attract that kind of attention as a club and that really pleases me as we build the Cougar brand to new heights.

We've progressed with the new brewery deal and have a final selection of drinks and bar layouts now which should start to come to fruition in the next month or so, along with the shop re-fit which is planned for June, so the work never stops.

I'd like to pass on my thanks to Tim, Geoff, Richard and Dave - the volunteers who look after this place and are always here with a smile on their faces - even if it's raining!!

Steve

steven@cougarmania.co.uk



CLUB TITBITS

JUNIOR NUU JOINS KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Keighley Cougars are delighted to announce the signing 30-year-old outside back, Junior Nuu, for the rest of the 2024 season. Junior weighs in at 100 kg and 6ft1 inches tall.

Nuu is an important addition to the squad as the Cougars are getting ready for the rest of the 2024 League One season. Junior has been on a 'trial' period with the club for 6 weeks as he gets used to playing rugby league after most of his career spent in union.

Nuu has switched codes after he recently played for Leeds Tykes in rugby union for the past few years.

Nuu was born in Auckland to Samoan parents. He has also featured for Melbourne Rebels U20's and Samoa U20's at the World Cup in union and will be hoping to hit the ground running at the Cougars.

Nuu has a nickname of 'Junzez' and spent he moved to Spain for three years playing for El Salvador in Madrid, he then moved to France to play for Tarbes in the 2018/19 season, during that season the COVID pandemic hit, so the season was cut short.

Jake Webster DOR (Director of Rugby) at Keighley Cougars spoke about the 'trial' period he has had "he has showed a lot of promise and has really stepped up the last few weeks, and he has also really bought into what we are as a club and the culture of the club," said Webster.

Junior is available to sponsor. For any enquiries, please email steven@cougarmania.co.uk



CLUB INDEX
SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



THE BOARD ROOM

Mick O'Neill MBE (Chairman), Kaue Garcia (MD), Ryan O'Neill (CEO), Jackie O'Neill (Director), Mike Smith (Director).

RUGBY

Steve Watkinson (COO), Jake Webster (DOR), Matt Foster (Head Coach), Paul Royston (SGC), Adam Mitchell (Assistant Coach), Craig McDowell (Assistant Coach).

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Darran Millar (Doctor), Lyndsey Hatton (Physio), Steph Petty (Masseur)

MEDIA TEAM

Jonny Tomes-Green (Club Photographer), Kian Parker (Match Assistant), Brad Foulds (Match Day Videographer)

BEHIND THE SCENES


Ross Normington (Groundsman), Dave Roberts (PA Announcer), John Pitchford (Club Historian)

VOLUNTEERS

Tim Powell, Margaret Proctor, Dave Proctor, Stephen Artist, Sue Artist, David Baldwin, Geoff Baxter, Ben Emmott, Alan Inman, Carol Inman, Richard Lee, Maz Reape, Hazel Stevens, Paul Wilson, Phil Robinson.

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		THE GRUMPY GARDENER		
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BILLY WALKLEY



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A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINE

Club photographer Jonny Tomes-Green provides his insights

First of all, looking back at that impressive win for the side against Workington Town in our last outing at Cougar Park, the Cougars will be hoping to repeat the same feat this weekend vs North Wales.

I was hoping for a bigger test from Workington - the scoreline was impressive but never looked like a particularly even game, you could tell that's a side who were struggling for a bit of size which you don't often see from the Cumbrian outfits.

We will hope to continue our unbeaten start to the League One season this weekend, but it won't be an easy task as we face an also unbeaten Crusaders side spearheaded by Carl Forster.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic meeting between ourselves and North Wales, from my memory of the games in 2022 they had a very vocal group of supporters and hope for another strong turnout at CP.

After our second trip to the South Leeds Stadium this season on Good Friday I was delighted with the support for the team, but admitted the side could have started better. I've lost count of the amount of trips to the South Leeds stadium I have

made with Cougars but a few take-aways - our away support is absolutely fantastic and from the sidelines it was clear who was making the most noise.

I hoped to see us make a bit of a more commanding start though as a team - well aware that against certain teams we won't be able to let them creep out to a two score lead before we start playing.

With us being second in the league now we will look to press forward in the coming weeks to maintain a solid start to the season.

The table looks nice at the moment and there's been some pleasing scoreline from the last few games, but I am looking forward to seeing some variations when it comes to selection -I'm not sure if we've seen the best that we can do yet from this group of players.

JT



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