2006 Tooheys New Super 14

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The addition of the Western Force to the 2006 Tooheys New Super 14 tournament was an instant success, bringing professional rugby to Western Australia and drawing huge support from fans. The Super 14 also welcomed South Africa's Cheetahs in 2006.

The NSW Waratahs again headed the Australian teams with a third place finish in the tournament, losing to the Hurricanes in the semi final at Aussie Stadium.

Several record breaking crowds gathered to watch the Week One matches between the Western Force and Brumbies in Perth and the traditional Reds v Waratahs clash, in Brisbane.

The Brumbies, following their fifth place finish in 2005 had another strong season, just missing out on a semi final berth due to last minute results that bumped them to a sixth place finish.

The Queensland Reds had a mixed year on the field with the retirement of one of its favourite sons, Elton Flatley, due to persistent head and other long-term injuries, all but ending their semi finals hopes.

On the field the focus was on the performance of the Waratahs, while off the field the focus was on the announcement of a new naming rights sponsor. In October, Investec signed a four year deal, beginning in 2007.

At the end of the season Brumbies flanker George Smith was voted Australia's best player, collecting the 2006 Tooheys New Super 14 Player of the Series award.

Smith won the award with 35 votes, seven votes clear of his nearest rivals - Peter Hewat, Stirling Mortlock, David Croft and Scott Staniforth - who all received 28 votes.

The 2006 Tooheys New Rookie of the Series was won by Waratahs prop Benn Robinson, whose big season in the Waratahs front row resulted in him being named as the youngest of 33 Wallabies when the Test squad was announced.

Waratahs coach Ewen McKenzie was recognised for the second year running as the Tooheys New Coach of the Series. Although falling agonisingly short of getting into the Super 14 Final, McKenzie masterminded some memorable victories throughout the season including an emphatic win over the Brumbies (37-14), a record win over the Blues (43-9) and the team's biggest ever Super Rugby victory (50-3 over the Cats).

Scott Young was awarded the 2006 Tooheys New Referee of the Series. It is the second time Young has picked up the award, the first being in 1998 when the inaugural Super 12 Awards were held.

The 2006 Tooheys New Try of the Series was awarded to Waratahs back Sam Norton-Knight for finishing one of the most entertaining and skilful team tries of the season.

The ever-popular Waratahs winger Lote Tuqiri attracted the support of Australian Rugby fans who voted him the winner of the 2006 Tooheys New Medal – the People's Choice Award.

2006 TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 14 AWARDS

2006 Tooheys New Medal
George Smith

2006 Tooheys New Rookie of the Series
Benn Robinson

2006 Tooheys New Coach of the Series
Ewen McKenzie

2006 Tooheys New Referee of the Series
Scott Young

2006 Tooheys New Try of the Series
Sam Norton-Knight

2006 Tooheys New Medal – People's Choice Award
Lote Tuqiri

2006 TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 14 RESULTS

ROUND 1

10 February 2006
Blues 19 Hurricanes 37
Western Force 10 Brumbies 25
Cheetahs 18 Bulls 30

11 February 2006
Crusaders 38 Highlanders 15
Reds 12 Waratahs 16
Cats 12 Stormers 23
Sharks 30 Chiefs 21

ROUND 2

17 February 2006
Highlanders 25 Blues 13
Cats 21 Chiefs 16
Bulls 21 Brumbies 27

18 February 2006
Hurricanes 29 Western Force 5
Reds 21 Crusaders 47
Sharks 26 Cheetahs 27
Stormers 26 Waratahs 32

ROUND 3

24 February 2006
Hurricanes 29 Cats 16
Western Force 9 Chiefs 26
Stormers 15 Brumbies 15

25 February 2006
Crusaders 22 Sharks 20
Reds 20 Blues 21
Bulls 26 Waratahs 17
Cheetahs 12 Highlanders 17

ROUND 4

3 March 2006
Chiefs 35 Reds 17
Brumbies 28 Cats 7

4 March 2006
Waratahs 31 Sharks 16
Crusaders 39 Blues 10
Stormers 15 Highlanders 30
Cheetahs 27 Hurricanes 25

ROUND 5

10 March 2006
Chiefs 19 Crusaders 25
Waratahs 50 Cats 3

11 March 2006
Brumbies 35 Sharks 30
Reds 29 Western Force 18
Bulls 23 Highlanders 16
Stormers 19 Hurricanes 23

ROUND 6

17 March 2006
Crusaders 43 Cats 15
Western Force 7 Waratahs 32
Bulls 23 Hurricanes 26

18 March 2006
Blues 26 Brumbies 15
Highlanders 11 Sharks 26
Stormers 25 Cheetahs 31

ROUND 7

24 March 2006
Hurricanes 23 Sharks 17
Waratahs 43 Blues 9
Cheetahs 10 Reds 6

25 March 2006
Brumbies 28 Chiefs 26
Highlanders 16 Cats 14
Western Force 21 Bulls 30

ROUND 8

31 March 2006
Blues 30 Bulls 17
Waratahs 26 Cheetahs 3
Western Force 25 Stormers 26

1 April 2006
Hurricanes 11 Crusaders 20
Chiefs 16 Highlanders 13
Sharks 26 Reds 28

ROUND 9

7 April 2006
Crusaders 17 Waratahs 11

8 April 2006
Highlanders 25 Western Force 22
Chiefs 26 Bulls 26
Blues 32 Stormers 15
Brumbies 53 Cheetahs 20
Cats 16 Reds 23

ROUND 10

14 April 2006
Blues 39 Western Force 8

15 April 2006
Crusaders 53 Cheetahs 17
Chiefs 30 Stormers 20
Reds 20 Bulls 19
Cats 8 Sharks 36

16 April 2006
Highlanders 13 Hurricanes 29
Waratahs 37 Brumbies 14

ROUND 11

21 April 2006
Chiefs 33 Cheetahs 32
Reds 20 Stormers 24
Western Force 23 Crusaders 23

22 April 2006
Brumbies 21 Hurricanes 16
Sharks 32 Blues 15
Bulls 46 Cats 17

ROUND 12

28 April 2006
Highlanders 3 Waratahs 20
Cats 34 Western Force 34

29 April 2006
Hurricanes 35 Chiefs 10
Brumbies 36 Reds 0
Cheetahs 33 Blues 33
Bulls 34 Sharks 27
Stormers 28 Crusaders 17

ROUND 13

5 May 2006
Hurricanes 26 Reds 22
Bulls 17 Crusaders 35

6 May 2006
Chiefs 37 Waratahs 33
Brumbies 26 Highlanders 28
Cheetahs 14 Western Force 16
Sharks 24 Stormers 17
Cats 32 Blues 33

ROUND 14

12 May 2006
Crusaders 33 Brumbies 3
Reds 22 Highlanders 16
Sharks 41 Western Force 25

13 May 2006
Blues 9 Chiefs 30
Waratahs 14 Hurricanes 19
Cheetahs 28 Cats 23
Stormers 10 Bulls 43

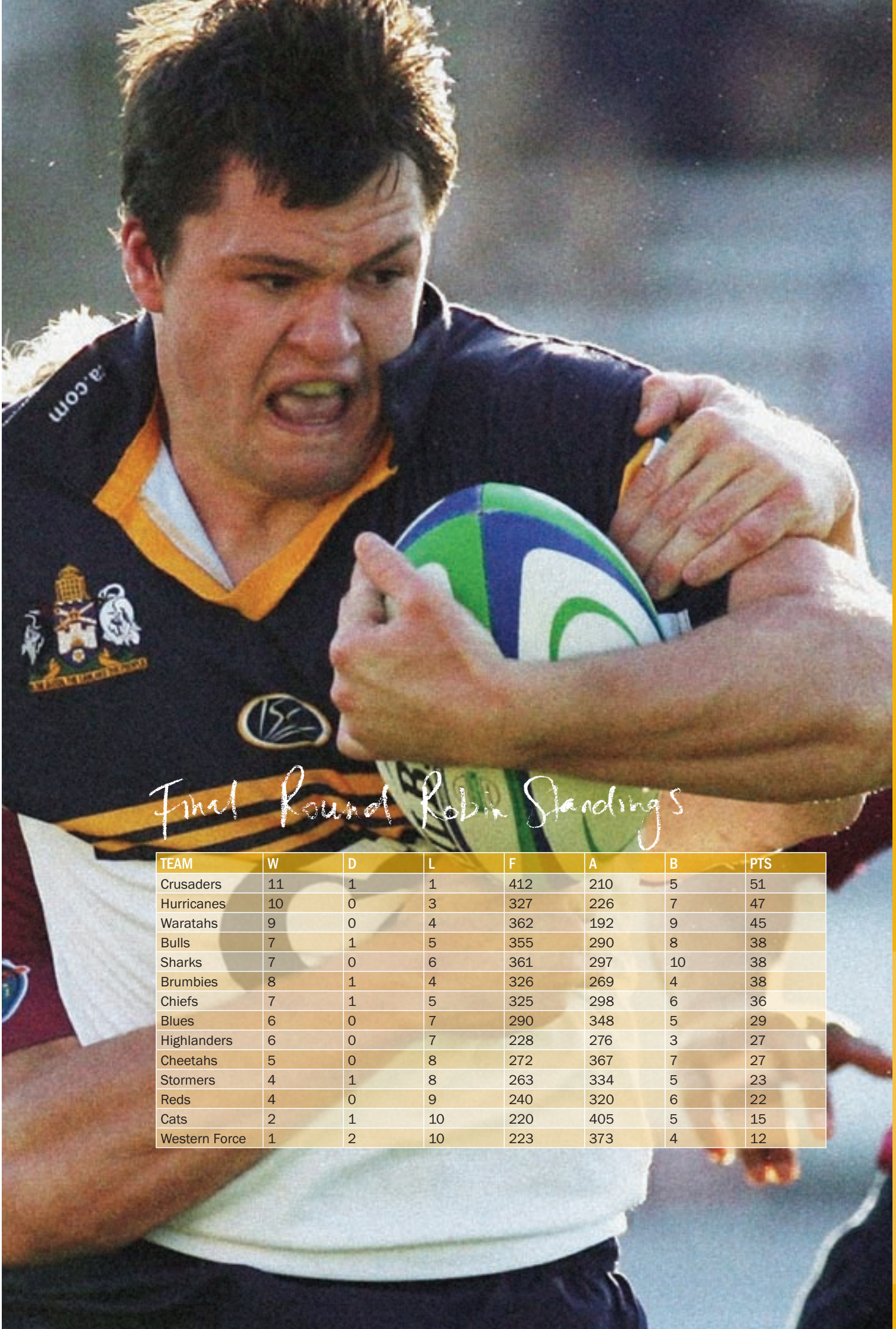
SEMI FINALS

19 May 2006
Hurricanes 16 Waratahs 14

20 May 2006
Crusaders 35 Bulls 15

FINAL

27 May 2006
Crusaders 19 Hurricanes 12



Final Round Robin Standings

TEAM	W	D	L	F	A	B	PTS
Crusaders	11	1	1	412	210	5	51
Hurricanes	10	0	3	327	226	7	47
Waratahs	9	0	4	362	192	9	45
Bulls	7	1	5	355	290	8	38
Sharks	7	0	6	361	297	10	38
Brumbies	8	1	4	326	269	4	38
Chiefs	7	1	5	325	298	6	36
Blues	6	0	7	290	348	5	29
Highlanders	6	0	7	228	276	3	27
Cheetahs	5	0	8	272	367	7	27
Stormers	4	1	8	263	334	5	23
Reds	4	0	9	240	320	6	22
Cats	2	1	10	220	405	5	15
Western Force	1	2	10	223	373	4	12