WITH A SEASON OF CLOSE RESULTS AND UPSETS, THE VODAFONE SUPER 12 RUBGY SERIES PROVED ONCE AGAIN TO BE A COMPETITION THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Australia's three provinces enjoyed mixed success in the 2003 Vodafone Super 12 competition with the ACT Brumbies recording another Semi Final appearance.

New South Wales went into the final round needing the Queensland Reds to do them a favour and beat the Highlanders, which they did, but then had to defeat the Chiefs and score four tries to get a bonus point.

Unfortunately for the Waratahs, they scored three tries leaving them one place out of the Finals action.

Queensland were the late bolters of the competition storming home after a slow start where they lost their first four matches before an inspired win over the Waratahs in Sydney.

The Blues were once again crowned Vodafone Super 12 champions after edging out the defending premiers, the Crusaders, in the Finals of the competition.

Joe Roff from the ACT Brumbies and Chris Latham from the Queensland Reds were named joint winners of the prestigious Vodafone Super 12 Player of the Series at the annual Vodafone Awards in Sydney.

The 3-2-1 votes of the referees who controlled the Australian team's matches throughout the Super 12 season could not split the two fullbacks, with both players polling 15 votes, just one point ahead of Waratahs' flanker, Phil Waugh.

A panel of overseas journalists judged Australian referee, Peter Marshall, as Referee of the Series. Like Roff and Latham, it is the second time Marshall has picked up the award.

The Rookie of the Series, voted for by a panel of Australian journalists, was awarded to ACT Brumby centre Matt Giteau, who made his debut for the Wallabies last year without having ever played a Super 12 match. The voting for the title was very tight, with the Waratahs' Rocky Elsom and the Reds' Josh Valentine only three votes behind Giteau.

In a big night for the ACT Brumbies, Giteau's coach David Nucifora also picked up the Vodafone Super 12 Coach of the Series award while Tamaiti Horua accepted the Try of the Series award on behalf of the Brumbies. The try came in the Round 7 match against the Chiefs, when six of the eight Brumbies forwards handled the ball for the length-of-the-field five pointer. It was eventually scored by Andrew Walker.

2003 VODAFONE PLAYER OF THE SERIES	JOE ROFF AND CHRIS LATHAM
2003 VODAFONE ROOKIE OF THE SERIES	MATT GITEAU
2003 VODAFONE COACH OF THE SERIES	DAVID NUCIFORA
2003 VODAFONE REFEREE OF THE SERIES	PETER MARSHALL
2003 VODAFONE TRY OF THE SERIES	TAMAITI HORUA, ACT BRUMBIES (SCORED BY ANDREW WALKER)

2003 VODAFONE SUPER 12 RUGBY RESULTS

ROUND 1

21 FEB 2003	CATS	26	BULLS	34
	STORMERS	40	SHARKS	18
	CHIEFS	16	HIGHLANDERS	29
	NSW WARATAHS	18	BLUES	31
22 FEB 2003	QLD REDS	19	ACT BRUMBIES	22
	CRUSADERS	37	HURRICANES	21

ROUND 2

28 FEB 2003	CHIEFS	27	BLUES	30
1 MAR 2003	HIGHLANDERS	41	STORMERS	17
	SHARKS	25	ACT BRUMBIES	17
	HURRICANES	36	BULLS	46
	CATS	36	NSW WARATAHS	48
	CRUSADERS	34	QLD REDS	6

ROUND 3

7 MAR 2003	HURRICANES	33	STORMERS	18
	CATS	34	ACT BRUMBIES	32
	HIGHLANDERS	29	BULLS	22
8 MAR 2003	SHARKS	36	NSW WARATAHS	49
	CHIEFS	43	QLD REDS	27
	BLUES	39	CRUSADERS	5

ROUND 4

14 MAR 2003	SHARKS	20	HURRICANES	35
	CRUSADERS	36	CHIEFS	29
	ACT BRUMBIES	37	STORMERS	22
15 MAR 2003	CATS	33	HIGHLANDERS	21
	NSW WARATAHS	26	BULLS	16

ROUND 5

21 MAR 2003	BLUES	62	QLD REDS	20
	SHARKS	19	HIGHLANDERS	23
	NSW WARATAHS	29	STORMERS	39
22 MAR 2003	CATS	21	HURRICANES	28
	ACT BRUMBIES	64	BULLS	26

ROUND 6

28 MAR 2003	BLUES	41	ACT BRUMBIES	15
	HIGHLANDERS	16	CRUSADERS	17
29 MAR 2003	CATS	23	SHARKS	29
	HURRICANES	24	CHIEFS	14
	NSW WARATAHS	23	QLD REDS	35

ROUND 7				
3 APR 2003	QLD REDS	23	HURRICANES	26
4 APR 2003	HIGHLANDERS	22	BLUES	11
5 APR 2003	BULLS	24	STORMERS	27
	NSW WARATAHS	34	CRUSADERS	31
6 APR 2003	ACT BRUMBIES	55	CHIEFS	31

ROUND 8				
11 APR 2003	HURRICANES	42	NSW WARATAHS	26
12 APR 2003	BULLS	28	BLUES	56
	STORMERS	20	QLD REDS	41
	CHIEFS	25	SHARKS	31
	CRUSADERS	65	CATS	34

ROUND 9				
18 APR 2003	CRUSADERS	23	SHARKS	18
	ACT BRUMBIES	41	NSW WARATAHS	15
19 APR 2003	STORMERS	8	BLUES	36
	BULLS	39	QLD REDS	19
	CHIEFS	40	CATS	9
	HURRICANES	37	HIGHLANDERS	15

ROUND 10				
25 APR 2003	HIGHLANDERS	45	ACT BRUMBIES	19
26 APR 2003	BULLS	32	CRUSADERS	31
	STORMERS	24	CHIEFS	23
	BLUES	25	SHARKS	16
	QLD REDS	41	CATS	13

ROUND 11				
2 MAY 2003	STORMERS	13	CRUSADERS	51
	BLUES	33	CATS	9
3 MAY 2003	BULLS	29	CHIEFS	26
	HIGHLANDERS	23	NSW WARATAHS	27
	HURRICANES	27	ACT BRUMBIES	35
	QLD REDS	22	SHARKS	13

ROUND 12				
9 MAY 2003	BLUES	29	HURRICANES	17
	ACT BRUMBIES	21	CRUSADERS	28
10 MAY 2003	SHARKS	16	BULLS	24
	STORMERS	27	CATS	21
	QLD REDS	28	HIGHLANDERS	23
	NSW WARATAHS	25	CHIEFS	14

SEMI FINALS				
16 MAY 2003	CRUSADERS	39	HURRICANES	16
17 MAY 2003	BLUES	42	ACT BRUMBIES	21

FINAL				
24 MAY 2003	BLUES	21	CRUSADERS	17

FINAL STANDINGS

TEAM	WIN	DRAW	LOSS	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	POINTS DIFFERENCE	BONUS POINTS	POINTS
BLUES	10	–	1	393	185	+208	9	49
CRUSADERS	8	–	3	358	263	+95	8	40
HURRICANES	7	–	4	324	284	+40	7	35
ACT BRUMBIES	6	–	5	358	313	+45	7	31
NSW WARATAHS	6	–	5	320	344	-24	7	31
BULLS	6	–	5	320	354	-34	6	30
HIGHLANDERS	6	–	5	287	246	+41	5	29
QLD REDS	5	–	6	281	318	-37	6	26
STORMERS	5	–	6	255	354	-99	3	23
CHIEFS	2	–	9	288	319	-31	10	18
SHARKS	3	–	8	241	306	-65	5	17
CATS	2	-	9	259	398	-139	5	13