The ACT Brumbies' Tooheys New Super 12 Final victory capped off a mixed but memorable season for the three Australian teams.

The 2004 Tooheys New Super 12 will be remembered as an outstanding season for the ACT Brumbies and a year of what could have been for the Queensland Reds and NSW Waratahs.

In Canberra, the Brumbies won their second Championship, defeating the Crusaders from Christchurch 47-38 in an epic Super 12 Final.

After finishing the regular season on top of the table and then earning the right to host their third Super 12 Final, the Brumbies piled on 33 unanswered points in the opening 20 minutes and were far too good for even a team of the Crusaders quality to peg back.

It was a fitting finale for foundation players Joe Roff and David Giffin, while outgoing Brumbies coach David Nucifora finished his tenure with a Championship and was then named Tooheys New Super 12 Coach of the Year for the third season in a row.

For the Waratahs, 2004 started with three successive wins, only to be restricted by injury and then lose four matches away from home mid-season. Despite defeating both the Brumbies and Crusaders on their way to five wins for the year, the Waratahs finished eighth, six points out of the finals.

It was a similar story for the Queensland Reds, finishing the season 10th, with five victories including two away wins in South Africa. Starting the year on the road in New Zealand, the Reds also struggled with injuries, but continued their undefeated run against the Waratahs in the competition in front of a record Queensland Super 12 crowd of 42,237 at Suncorp Stadium in Round 12.

Queensland fullback Chris Latham was awarded the 2004 Tooheys New Super 12 Player of the Year, after being named a joint winner with Joe Roff in 2003 and winning the award outright in 2000. He finished the 2004 season on 18 points, three points ahead of NSW Waratahs flanker Phil Waugh and four points clear of Queensland Reds lock Nathan Sharpe.

The 2004 Tooheys New Rookie of the Series was shared between Queensland Reds winger/centre Drew Mitchell and ACT Brumbies prop Nic Henderson. A panel of senior Rugby journalists submitted their 3-2-1 votes at the end of the season, but could not split the two rising stars.

Andrew Cole was awarded the 2004 Referee of the Series, with a strong season in the middle. Cole refereed seven Tooheys New Super 12 matches including the Semi Final between the Crusaders and the Stormers and two of the three local derbies.

The 2004 Try of the Series was awarded to the ACT Brumbies for a wonderful five-pointer against the Queensland Reds in Round 6. The sensational team try was scored by Mark Bartholomeusz, but was awarded to the Brumbies' equal top try-scorer Mark Gerrard, who was judged by the Fox Sports commentary team to have played the biggest part in creating the try.

The ACT Brumbies celebrate after winning the 2004 Tooheys New Super 12. *Getty Images*

2004 TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 12 RESULTS

NSW Waratahs lock Daniel Vickerman takes the ball forward against the Sharks at Aussie Stadium. *Getty Images*

Round 1

20 Feb 2004
Highlanders 39 Queensland Reds 8
Cats 23 **Stormers 28**

21 Feb 2004
Chiefs 19 Hurricanes 7
Crusaders 19 **NSW Waratahs 43**
ACT Brumbies 44 Blues 27
Bulls 18 **Sharks 23**

Round 2

27 Feb 2004
Crusaders 29 **Blues 38**
ACT Brumbies 68 Cats 28

28 Feb 2004
NSW Waratahs 48 Sharks 14
Queensland Reds 39 Chiefs 25
Stormers 46 Highlanders 25
Bulls 40 Hurricanes 19

Round 3

5 Mar 2004
Blues 20 **Chiefs 27**
NSW Waratahs 46 Cats 10
Bulls 16 Highlanders 16

6 Mar 2004
ACT Brumbies 23 Sharks 20
Queensland Reds 17 **Crusaders 20**
Stormers 19 **Hurricanes 25**

Round 4

12 Mar 2004
Highlanders 35 **Sharks 36**

13 Mar 2004
Hurricanes 42 Cats 25
Queensland Reds 20 Blues 3
Bulls 32 ACT Brumbies 21
Stormers 27 NSW Waratahs 23

Round 5

19 Mar 2004
Hurricanes 20 **Sharks 21**
Bulls 38 NSW Waratahs 27
Highlanders 29 Cats 17

20 Mar 2004
Chiefs 15 **Crusaders 36**
Stormers 15 **ACT Brumbies 33**

Round 6

26 Mar 2004
Hurricanes 26 Blues 26

27 Mar 2004
Chiefs 32 NSW Waratahs 17
Crusaders 46 Highlanders 29
Stormers 25 Bulls 11
ACT Brumbies 51 Queensland Reds 8

Round 7

2 Apr 2004
Highlanders 31 **Chiefs 36**

3 Apr 2004
Crusaders 47 ACT Brumbies 28
Hurricanes 29 Queensland Reds 12
Sharks 42 Cats 28

4 Apr 2004
Blues 22 NSW Waratahs 17

Round 8

9 Apr 2004
Blues 56 Bulls 19
ACT Brumbies 50 Highlanders 18

10 Apr 2004
Queensland Reds 20 **Stormers 21**
Sharks 29 Crusaders 25
Cats 23 Chiefs 21

Round 9

16 Apr 2004
Blues 23 **Stormers 51**
Queensland Reds 17 **Bulls 23**
Sharks 27 **Chiefs 34**

17 Apr 2004
NSW Waratahs 49 Hurricanes 31
Cats 37 **Crusaders 39**

Round 10

23 Apr 2004
Chiefs 29 Stormers 14

24 Apr 2004
Crusaders 40 Bulls 21
Highlanders 26 Hurricanes 14
NSW Waratahs 37 ACT Brumbies 29
Sharks 5 **Queensland Reds 6**
Cats 28 **Blues 35**

TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 12

2004 TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 12 RESULTS

Round 11

30 Apr 2004
Chiefs 24 Bulls 22
Sharks 26 **Blues 37**

1 May 2004
Crusaders 24 Stormers 9
NSW Waratahs 28 **Highlanders 29**
ACT Brumbies 46 Hurricanes 25
Cats 23 **Queensland Reds 47**

Round 12

7 May 2004
Hurricanes 37 Crusaders 20

8 May 2004
Chiefs 12 **ACT Brumbies 15**
Blues 50 Highlanders 22
Queensland Reds 23 NSW Waratahs 7
Bulls 62 Cats 52
Sharks 24 **Stormers 31**

Semi Finals

15 May 2004
Crusaders 27 Stormers 16
ACT Brumbies 32 Chiefs 17

Final

ACT Brumbies 47 Crusaders 38

Phil Waugh, Drew Mitchell, Chris Latham, David Nucifora, Nic Henderson, Mark Gerard and Andrew Cole. *Getty Images*

Queensland Reds' flanker David Croft breaks free against the NSW Waratahs at Suncorp Stadium. *Getty Images*

2004 TOOHEYS NEW SUPER 12 AWARDS

2004 Tooheys New Medal
Phil Waugh (NSW)

2004 Tooheys New Rookie of the Series
Drew Mitchell (QLD) & Nic Henderson (ACT)

2004 Tooheys New Coach of the Series
David Nucifora (ACT)

2004 Tooheys New Referee of the Series
Andrew Cole

2004 Tooheys New Try of the Series
Mark Gerrard (ACT)

2004 Tooheys New Player of the Series
Chris Latham (QLD)

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	BP	PTS
Brumbies	11	8	0	3	408	269	+139	8	40
Crusaders	11	7	0	4	345	303	+42	6	34
Stormers	11	7	0	4	286	260	+26	5	33
Chiefs	11	7	0	4	274	251	+23	5	33
Blues	11	6	1	4	337	309	+28	6	32
Bulls	11	5	1	5	302	320	-18	6	28
Waratahs	11	5	0	6	342	274	+68	7	27
Sharks	11	5	0	6	267	305	-38	7	27
Highlanders	11	4	1	6	299	347	-48	8	26
Reds	11	5	0	6	217	246	-29	5	25
Hurricanes	11	4	1	6	275	303	-28	5	23
Cats	11	1	0	10	294	459	-165	7	11

KEY: **W** = Wins **D** = Draws **L** = Losses **PF** = Points For
PA = Points Against **PD** = Points Difference **BP** = Bonus Points **PTS** = Points