

First Crack Chronicle

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“IT FEELS GREAT TO BE HOME”

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•James Tedesco has done it all. Maiden Premiership, NSW Origin win, Played for Italy and Australia, and now he has returned to where he calls home.

“This to me, is the greatest town on earth” says the man they call “Teddy”.

“I spent some time in the Eastern Suburbs, and obviously a bit out West, but there is just something about the Inner West that makes me feel all warm inside”.

Tedesco's journey hasn't always been smooth. His first debut was ruined by an ACL injury in the 30th minute that made him miss the rest of the season.

“It was tough. Mentally I was not prepared for any sort of injury and I was scared that this was my chance blown at First Grade”.

He returned in Round 4 the following season and hasn't looked back since.

Teddy has been chased by many teams over the years, even showing some acrobatic skills by performing a DCE like backflip on the Canberra Raiders.

“I just couldn't see them playing finals footy' and that has been priority number ones for me since I was a kid”. Some will argue that the Wests Tigers was a poor option also, but he thinks otherwise.

“Poor Benji and Robbie carried this club mate, all on their bloody own”



“Then Brooksy, Woodsy and myself became the Big 3 and we failed to live up to the tag”. When Woodsy jumped ship, I felt I was deserted by not only my captain, but my mate as well. I then chose to head to Bondi”.

Life in Bondi brought many rewards. A Premiership, Test and Origin jerseys and winning the inaugural FCFL premiership with Dazzlers Dingoes.

Speaking about his time at the Dingoes, Tedesco is very open.

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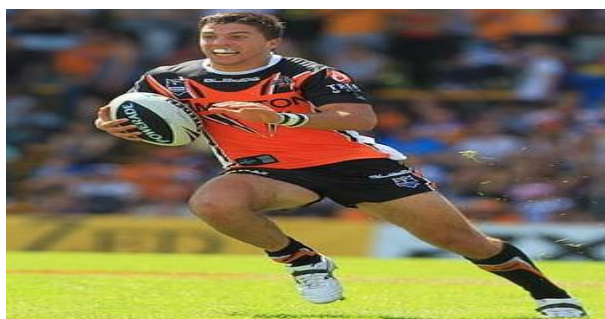
Edward Kiel knew that starting with a new franchise he had to pull off a coup, and Teddy was the one he wanted to be the face of the newly formed Balmain Tigers.

Recently Kiel has shown an interest in bringing back many former Tigers. He has Tedesco, Ryan Matterson and David Nofoaluma on the books, and recently tried to broker a trade deal with Basic B!tches, a deal that would have seen Greg Inglis and Esan Masters trade clubs.

“Thanks but no thanks Ed” was Talia Bevans reply. “trying to swap the games best young centre for a overweight, busted has been.”

So as the Tigers start their quest for Premiership glory, all eyes are on Tedesco and company to gel early and take the league by storm.

“We aren't chasing wins, but we want to be competitive. At the end of the day we know our jobs and need to follow Big 'Ed's game plan and we should be there or thereabouts at seasons end.



THE BACK PAGE

Don McLeod Player of the Week – Sam Burgess

Samuel Burgess (born 14 December 1988), also known by the nickname of "**Slammin' Sam**" is an English professional rugby league footballer who plays as a lock, prop or second-row for the Balmain Tigers in the FCFL.

A big unit known for his stupid penalties and butter fingers, Burgess is also a part time actor, famously portraying the handsome character Sloth in Steven Spielberg's "The Goonies" as well as being the puppeteer in some X-rated home movies

A known family man, Slammin' Sam spends time with his wife Phoebe, their children, brothers George, Thomas and Luke, Mother Julie and Step-Fathers Russell Crowe and Wayne Bennett.

Farah being left to rot in Reserve Grade.

Poor Robbie Farah is playing out of his skin, yet it is not enough to gain a First Grade position. Stuck behind Damian Cook at the Piranhas, Farah has asked Nevan Clarkson to consider offers from rival clubs. "this would be my 3rd club in as many weeks, but I feel my form warrants a starting spot". At least 2 clubs are interested in a trade for the aging Hooker.

Don "Cowboy" McLeod Player of the Year Tally

Grubs v Piranhas - 3 – Blake Ferguson (Grubs) 2 – Luke Keary (Piranhas) 1 – Damian Cook (Piranhas).

Dragons v Rampage- 3 – Corey Oates (Rampage) 2- Cameron Murray (Dragons1015) 1 – Tevita Pangai Jr. (Dragons)

Tigers v Bltches - 3 – Sam Burgess (Tigers) 2 – Jai Arrow (Tigers) 1 – Suliasi Vunivalu (Tigers)

Dingoes v Avengers - 3 – Jake Trbojevic (Dingoes) 2 – Clint Gutherson (Dingoes) 1 – Daly Cherry-Evans (Avengers).

Sam Burgess (Tigers)



McLeod Medal total points leaders

6	Corey Oates
4	Cameron Murray
3	Jason Taumalolo
3	Cameron Munster
3	Addin Fonua-Blake
3	Blake Ferguson
3	Sam Burgess
3	Jake Trbojevic