



Country V City



Country Origin Week

The VB Gold Country Origin Team to play City is listed below. The game will be played at Regional Stadium, Port Macquarie Friday 7th May kick off at 7.30pm.

1. Josh Dugan	Canberra Raiders	Tuggeranong
2. Michael Robertson	Manly Sea Eagles	Valley Dragons
3. Jamal Idris	Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs	Forster
4. Timana Tahu	Parramatta Eels	Central Charlestown
5. Luke Burt	Parramatta Eels	Valentine
6. Greg Bird	Gold Coast Titans	Valentine
7. Brett Kimmorley	Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs	Lakes United CAPTAIN
8. Kade Snowden	Cronulla Sharks	Lakes United
9. Michael Ennis	Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs	Valentine
10. Brett White	Melbourne Storm	Cooma
11. Ben Creagh	St George Illawarra Dragons	Wollongong University
12. Glenn Stewart	Manly Sea Eagles	Wests Wollongong
13. Anthony Laffranchi	Gold Coast Titans	Murwillumbah
14. Todd Carney	Sydney Roosters	Goulburn
15. Tom Learoyd Lahrs	Canberra Raiders	Tamworth
16. Willie Mason	North Queensland Cowboys	Toronto
17. Dean Young	St George Illawarra Dragons	Dapto
18. Joel Thompson	Canberra Raiders	Forbes

Country Origin Snippets

Anthony Laffranchi Well I'm back Country Camp 2010! To be back in camp with a great group of guys and support team is very refreshing and I find it always a great mix up from your week to week duties with your club team (Gold Coast Titans). We are here in Port Macquarie the camp is nice and relaxed, the team has come together great and coach Laurie has done a great job. I know there is a lot of pride and passion with myself being a proud country man and I hope to do everyone proud in Murwillumbah-my grass roots.

Jamal Idris It's been good having the game in good ol Port, even though Foster is "gods country". Getting this Country jersey means a lot to me because the atmosphere in any small town surrounding footy is amazing. We (Country) people are pretty enthusiastic about our Rugby League. Dare I say more than the city folk (wink wink) and for me personally having it close to my home town brings back memories of when I was younger. It gives me the chance for my family members who cant usually get to my games to be able to come out and watch me and that's all the motivation I need.

Josh Dugan Came into camp ion Sunday night after 4 days in New Zealand playing for the Raiders. I was very excited to hear the news about being picked in the side. I met the other players and I was a bit star struck with some of them as I looked up to them before I started playing first grade. All the players are good blokes and I get along with them well. Training has been good, we have just been learning our plays for tonight's game and getting to know how each other play. Thursday morning we had a captains run training session which was our last session before Friday nights game. I hope the crowd gets behind us and supports us on Friday Night.

Willie Mason Haven't been in camp for a couple years and it is good to see some new faces and familiar faces. Training has been fun and its been good to get out of Townsville for a week. Cant wait to play for what seems to be a genuine Origin trial. Good to see the other players train like Mick "The Pest" Ennis and see why he is such a little grub on the field. Just cant wait to play its been an enjoyable week.

Timana Tahu It has been a honour to be selected in the Country side. I treat this jumper exactly the same as a NSW or Kangaroos jumper. It's been a great experience in camp meeting new and young players like Todd Carney, Josh Dugan and Jamal Idris and players that I've known and played rep footy with since I was 16 in Willie Mason and Luke Burt. Its been a positive week cant wait to run out for Country.

Joel Thompson It is good to represent where I am from the country and also good to represent my family and the people who played the part in getting me here. To be in camp with so many good players is a great opportunity ad although I might not play I've learnt a lot this week and hopefully I will be back next year in the starting 17.

AAMI

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Country Origin Snippets—continued



Mick Ennis It's been a great week. Second time around and its been much more relaxing and an enjoyable week. Having big Willie in the team has kept us all entertained. Training has been great and really looking forward to playing with Country and hopefully turn the tide on last years performance. P.s Noddy hates coffee.

Ben Creagh Its always a highlight of my year to be involved with the Country side. It's 5 days of hard training most days but also a lot of downtime between sessions. It's always a gradual buildup all week, on Monday it's a pretty relaxed session but by Thursday it's a very intense session preparing for tonight's game. It has been a good time catching up with mates I have played with before and also meeting new players like the veteran in his first rep game Luke Burt and also one of the best new talents on debut Josh Dugan. Willie Mason has been great to have around the team, he brings a lot of experience and also a lot of laughs with his stories and remarks. I am extremely proud to wear the country jersey and just really looking forward to running out against City with a great group of blokes.

Luke Burt Thought my time was up on representing at any level, but to be given an opportunity to represent Country who I cheered for growing up is an absolute honour. This week has been one of the best experiences in my footballing career and being around the boys, many of whom I'm meeting for the first time. They are all great blokes. Its been a great week of training and just cant wait to get out there and play in that Country Jersey with all the boys. Also a massive thanks to my family and friends for all the support and messages I have received.

Tom Learoyd-Lahrs Arrived in camp on Sunday night at Sydney to meet the rest of the team and coaching staff. We had a few beers, sat around and had a bit of a chat. We had an early start Monday which left a few of the boys worse for wear, but it was good to get up in Port Macquarie and start getting ready for tonight's game. The week has been really enjoyable so far with a really good bunch of blokes there's a few good characters amongst them which is great to have, it helps everyone stay in a good frame of mind. It hasn't been all fun and games though, we have also done some hard work to prepare for the match and I think we look pretty sharp so that only leaves one thing to do— get a win!

Glenn Stewart This is my second time in Country camp and by far the more enjoyable of camps that you could be involved with as Country guys, I think we find it easier then others just to come straight into camp and get on with guys that we might not even have met yet. I'm proud to be called a Country boy and I know my family are too.

Greg Bird My second time in a Country camp has been a lot more relaxed than I remember it. Probably because my first was my debut rep jersey, it's a bit easier now though a few of the young debutants such as Jamal, Dugan and the likes seem to relish in it with their outspoken personalities and I know it'll be their first of many. This will be my first rep jersey since my stint in Super League and I have welcomed it with open arms and there's no more honourable than representing the Country, where I think the passion for the game is the strongest. Growing up and watching the likes of Stuart, Clyde and Daley was always a highlight as a child and some of the personal battles with Harrigan and Carroll will always be remembered from those clashes. My only complaint is something needs to be done with Luke Burt's nickname- "Burty" as it's resemblance to mine has caused us both many problems.

Todd Carney Firstly its good to be back in a Country Jersey. This will be my second time round in a Country jersey and I am really looking forward to the opportunity of representing my family and friends. To be coached under Origin and Test legend Laurie Daley has been a great experience as I looked up to him as a young player.

Laurie Daley What a wonderful group of people the Country boys are. Very well mannered, enthusiastic , knowledgeable and happy to lend a hand. Always a very special experience for players from the bush coming together because they have a special bond. The players have been very responsive to the system we've put in place. It has been a very enjoyable camp and tried to make it as relaxed as we possibly can and the players have responded to that. The sign of a good camp is when it goes really quickly. Hopefully the boys can go out there tonight and get the result they have trained for. The coaching staff have been terrific and the support staff have been great. Looking forward to the game tonight and hopefully we can get the result the they deserve. All the players and staff would like to take the opportunity to thank the people of Port Macquarie for their fine hospitality this week and their support of the team while they've been in camp. Hopefully the Country boys can get a win and bring the shield back to the bush after a three year absence.