

Stomp in the name of love



OUCH: Cowboys forward Dayne Weston receives medical attention on Friday night, and (right) the scars yesterday
Picture: Cameron Laird



Mentoring good option for rebels

PLAYERS go off the rails from time to time — and we saw a couple of examples last week.

So what do we do about it? Give them a kick up the backside? Perhaps.

Sack them? Maybe. The first thing to do is go back to the source and get them into some good habits. A player mentor program is a step in the right direction.

Not just a mentor from within the footy fold — most clubs already have something like that.

I'm talking about lining up a group of community leaders from outside the club to mentor young players.

It would work on a ratio of one mentor for four or five players, who would sit down with their player once a month to chew the fat over a coffee.

Not necessarily a sponsor, the mentor could be a teacher, a business owner, a retiree or a dentist. Anything at all. But definitely someone not directly involved in the footy club.

We had a similar program at the Cowboys started by Peter Parr a few years back. And I know for a fact retired former Cowboy and Titan David Myles still keeps in touch with his mentor.

Players could talk about where they are headed and life after football.

If that's too heavy they could just discuss last week's game or the one coming up. I think this would work because players don't always open up to the coach, the chief executive officer or the club sport psychologist.

It would give them access to people who've been around and jumped a few gullies in their time.

That is important because players are going straight to professional football from school and all they know is rugby league. I know this from my time as a school teacher.

Not everyone needs a mentor and we're probably only talking about two or three players at each club who might be open to temptation.

Strong, positive direction might be all they need to become good citizens.

Those who do receive a little nudge in the right direction may even come up with solutions on their own, without intervention from the club.

And isn't that what we are after?

David Riccio

AN ugly stomping involving Eels international Jarryd Hayne was the result of a spiteful feud with rival Cowboys forward Dayne Weston over a girlfriend.

In a bitter aftermath to Friday night's 16-4 win by Parramatta, *The Sunday Mail* has learned of the personal vendetta that left a battered Weston requiring five stitches to his head and Cowboys officials fuming.

Weston was heard repeatedly warning Hayne during the match to "leave the personal stuff off the field".

Hayne then finished on report in the 62nd minute for jamming his right boot across Weston's head.

Footage of the incident shows Weston contributing to the tension by grabbing at Hayne's right leg before then reeling from the blow. The incident will come under heavy scrutiny

by the NRL match review committee tomorrow.

Any suspension for Hayne would prove a bitter pill for Parramatta's late charge to the finals.

Hayne's actions were 12 months in the making, one North Queensland official has claimed.

"It was personal," he said. "It goes back a while, don't worry about that."

Weston, who moved to North Queensland after making his NRL debut with the Cronulla Sharks last year, returned to Townsville yesterday — but not before again widening the rift between the pair.

The 22-year-old claimed Hayne's form of payback had tarnished the image of the game.

"It's disappointing, you just don't want to see that in the game," Weston said. "I know my teammates were filthy with the way it looked. It's not

the image you want to send to young kids and mums and dads.

"I felt something hit my face and I didn't know what was happening... I was dazed.

"I'll be happy for the judiciary to look at it but as far as my opinion goes, it's not a good look."

"I know Dayne is disappointed, that's for sure," Cowboys coach Ian Millward said yesterday. "Nobody likes finishing a match with stitches to your head. Myself and my players have a definite view on it, but we have respect for the system in place and we expect it to run its course on Monday."

Hayne did not return repeated *Sunday Mail* phone calls yesterday to give his side of the story.

Eels coach Michael Hagan said Weston was the instigator and he was confident Hayne would have no case

to answer. "I think the Cowboys player, whatever his name is, has contributed to it more than Hayne has. I would happily argue that," Hagan said. "I'd be extremely surprised if Jarryd had a case to answer after reviewing it again today."

"The player grabs his foot and ankle and drags it towards his face.

"I don't know that Jarryd had much choice really, he was trying to release from the clutches of the other player."

Hagan said he was unaware of any underlying tension between Hayne and Weston or motive behind the incident.

Online

Video and pictures from Friday's game
thesundaymail.com.au

AROUND THE GROUNDS



WARRIORS v STORM

Noon, Mt Smart Stadium. TV: Live, Fox 2



L Hohaia	1/2	S Turner
M Solomona	2/18	B Anderson
B Tate	3	M Geyer
S Fai	4	I Folau
A Kirk	5	A Quinn
N Fien	6	G Inglis
G Rovelli	7	C Cronk
R Wiki	8	J Lima
I Henderson	9	C Smith (c)
S Price (c)	10/15A	Blair
S Mannering	11	M Crocker
L Swann	12	R Hoffman
M Luck	13	D Johnson
INTERCHANGE		
J Ropati	14	J Smith
E Tuimavave	15	
S Rapira	16	S Manu
B Matulino	17	A Kaufusi
	18	S Anderson

Referee: Jared Maxwell
Betting: Warriors \$3.15
Storm \$1.33

Peter Badel

STEVE Turner is expected to replace suspended Melbourne fullback Billy Slater. Brett Anderson would then come on to the wing, although Russell Aitken has also been added to the squad. In a blow for Nathan Fien, the Warriors playmaker has been told he is not part of the club's plans beyond next year. He is looking for opportunities in England and may leave early. The corresponding game last year finished in a 4-2 win to the Storm, the lowest-scoring game since 1992. Melbourne has won five of its past six matches against the Warriors.



KNIGHTS v SOUTHS

2pm, EnergyAustralia. TV: Live, Fox 2



K Gidley	1	N Merritt
J McManus	2/19	L Capewell
J Sau	3	J Simpson
A MacDougall	4	B Champion
C Vuna	5	F Talanoa
C Bailey	6	C Wing
J Mullen	7	C Sandow
D Tolar	8	S Geddes
D Buderus (c)	9	G Ndaira
M White	10	R Asotasi (c)
C Houston	11	L Stuart
S Simpson	12	D Fa'alogo
Z Taia	13	J Sutton
INTERCHANGE		
C Paterson	14	B Falloon
C Ciraldo	15	S McPherson
R Fa'aoso	16	M Manuokafoa
	17	M Greenfield
M Taufua	18	D Kidwell
A Uate	19	
S Dureau	20	

Referee: Ben Cummins
Betting: Knights \$1.40
Rabbitohs \$2.80

Peter Badel

SOUTH Sydney has called in Luke Capewell after losing winger Shannon Hegarty to a groin injury. For the Knights, captain Danny Buderus (knee) and centre Adam MacDougall (calf) look certain to play. However, second-rower Steve Simpson (ankle) and halfback Jarrod Mullen (hip flexor) are doubtful. Simpson has missed most of the week's training sessions, while Mullen ran only lightly on Thursday. Souths are shooting for four consecutive away wins. The Knights have lost four in a row at home.



ROOSTERS v SEA EAGLES

3pm, Sydney Football Stadium. TV: 4pm, Nine



A Roberts	1	B Stewart
S Kenny-Dowall	2	M Robertson
M Aubusson	3	S Bell
I Soliola	4	S Matai
S Perrett	5	D Williams
B Anasta	6	S Menzies
M Pearce	7	M Orford (c)
M O'Meley	8	B Kite
R Brown	9	M Ballin
D Shillington	10	J Perry
W Mason	11	A Watmough
A Tupou	12	G Hall
C Fitzgibbon (c)	13	G Stewart
INTERCHANGE		
L Paea	14	H L'Estrange
FP Nuuausala	15	M Bryant
A Cherrington	16	A Cuthbertson
J Aubusson	17	J Afamasaga
B Grose	18	J Robson

Referee: Jason Robinson
Betting: Roosters \$1.95
Manly \$1.85

Peter Badel

MANLY interchange player Luke Williamson is out with a hamstring. Skipper Matt Orford, who missed last week's win over the Eels, is expected to play despite a groin injury. Des Hasler still has two players to omit. Brent Grose is the man to drop off Roosters coach Brad Fittler's bench. Manly has beaten the Roosters on six consecutive occasions, scoring an aggregate of 128 to eight in the past three games. Manly thumped the Roosters 42-0 earlier this year but the Chooks have won five from seven at home.