



YORK CITY KNIGHTS v LEEDS RHINOS

KO: 15.30

SHIELD FINAL

WARRINGTON WOLVES v FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

KO: 12.30

SUN 18 SEPTEMBER, TOTALLY WICKED STADIUM

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Today's Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final brings the curtain down on what has been another extraordinary year for the women's game. Already this year Warrington Wolves' Halliwell Jones Stadium, and both Elland Road and Headingley in Leeds, have hosted major show-piece occasions – now it's the turn of St Helens' Totally Wicked Stadium.

Saints Women, of course, won't be here today to defend their title. But they do have the Betfred Challenge Cup to console themselves with after another impressive campaign.

Instead, we have League Leaders York City Knights taking on the 2019 champions Leeds Rhinos in a repeat of this year's memorable Challenge Cup semi-final which the Rhinos won 28-26. It was a pulsating match from start to finish and if today's final is half as exciting then we are in for another feast of entertainment. We wish both sides the very best of luck – as we do our Shield finalists Warrington Wolves and Featherstone Rovers.

As we look forward to today's games, we can also reflect upon where the women's game stands as we come to the end of the first phase of our longer term women's and girls' strategy.

Back in 2016, knowing we had RLWC21 on the horizon, we knew we needed a step change in the women's game to capitalise on the opportunities ahead. There will be more eyeballs on Rugby League this autumn than at any other time in the game's history.

The Women's Super League was launched in 2017 with two key objectives of growing the game and preparing England for RLWC2021. Since then we have seen a threefold increase in participation, including the inception and expansion of the Betfred Women's Super League South (BWSLS), and we are heading towards introducing a national pyramid structure in 2024 which will enable the likes of BWSLS champions Cardiff Demons to enter into the national competition.

To support this continued growth, we launched girls' 'future hubs' with new playing offers and leagues right across the country, from Cumbria to Cornwall.

And when the Betfred Challenge Cup Final returns to Wembley Stadium in 2023, the Women's Challenge Cup Final will be part of Rugby League's traditional show-piece occasion for the very first time. Millions of TV viewers will discover Women's Rugby League to be one of the freshest and most exciting women's team sports around. Women's Rugby League deserves that kind of stage and we are really excited about its potential for growth alongside other popular women's team sports.

Finally, a word of thanks to our hosts St Helens, broadcast partner Sky Sports, commercial partner Betfred, and to every player, volunteer, supporter and administrator who has supported Women's Rugby League in 2022.

Marc Lovering

Director of Participation and Development

BETFRED



**PASSIONATE ABOUT
RUGBY LEAGUE**



**WOMEN'S SHIELD FINAL:
WARRINGTON WOLVES V FEATHERSTONE ROVERS,
KO 12.30PM**

Referee: Aaryn Belafonte

Touch judges: Cameron Charnock and Luke Flavell

Reserve referee: Innes Arnold

Timekeeper: Phil Smith

**BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL:
YORK CITY KNIGHTS V LEEDS RHINOS
KO 15.30PM**

Referee: Michael Smaill

Touch judges: Sam Jenkinson and Warren Turley

Reserve referee: Aaryn Belafonte

Video referee: Liam Rush

Timekeeper: Peter Taberner

Match commissioner: Tony Brown



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With the Betfred Women's Challenge Cup taking centre stage in March and April, the league season only got underway in May – but when it did the eventual League Leaders in both groups laid down an early marker.

BETFRED WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE GROUP 1		P	W	L	D	PF	PA	DIFF	PTS
1	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	9	8	1	0	254	62	192	16
2	ST HELENS	9	6	3	0	320	77	243	12
3	LEEDS RHINOS	9	6	3	0	334	122	212	12
4	WIGAN WARRIORS	9	2	7	0	108	325	-217	4
5	HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS	8	0	8	0	32	462	-430	0

In Group 1, York City Knights signalled their intentions with a 50-6 win at Huddersfield Giants, while in Group 2 Warrington Wolves were also victorious on the road at newcomers Barrow Raiders. In stark contrast to the Giants, the Raiders quickly acclimatised and would go on to earn nine wins in their next 11 games to reach the play-off semi-final where they were narrowly beaten (again) by Featherstone Rovers.

Rovers had previously impressed in the Challenge Cup, until they ran into eventual winners St Helens, so their presence in today's Shield Final is no surprise.

With the Challenge Cup under their belts St Helens turned their attention towards making it another League/Cup double and defeated both of today's Grand Finalists during the regular season, only to falter at the semi-final stage against a very determined Leeds Rhinos.

For the Rhinos it was sweet revenge for successive defeats at the hands of St Helens – 28-0 in the 2021 Grand Final and 18-8 in this year's Challenge Cup Final at Elland Road. The Rhinos may have lost twice to York in the league 2022, but will take every confidence from that well-served 14-6 semi-final win over St Helens just two weeks ago.

Yet York City Knights will undoubtedly start as favourites in today's Grand Final. After beating Leeds Rhinos 24-10 back in June, it was the second of those two league victories over the Rhinos – 22-14 at Headingley last month – which secured the Knights top spot for the first time in their history. While Wigan Warriors enjoyed an improved campaign in 2022, reaching

and impressing in the semi-final against York, Huddersfield Giants may find themselves replaced in 2023 by one of today's Shield finalists. Warrington, unbeaten in 2022 under coach of the year contended Lee Westwood, start as favourites, but Featherstone Rovers have also offered enough this year to suggest an upset.

BETFRED WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE GROUP 2									
	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	DIFF	PTS	
1 WARRINGTON WOLVES	12	12	0	0	744	30	714	24	
2 BARROW RAIDERS LADIES	12	9	3	0	386	168	218	18	
3 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	12	8	4	0	364	156	208	16	
4 BRADFORD BULLS	12	6	6	0	202	296	-94	12	
5 LEIGH MINERS RANGERS LADIES	12	4	8	0	174	298	-124	8	
6 CASTLEFORD TIGERS	12	2	10	0	106	510	-404	4	
7 WAKEFIELD TRINITY	12	1	11	0	68	586	-518	2	

Overall, the Betfred Women's Super League continues to be a 'good-news' expansion story for Rugby League. There are more people than ever playing and watching Women's Rugby League, and standards continue to advance ahead of the World Cup which for England Women begins on Saturday 1 November against Brazil at Headingley.



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Kelsey Gentles

WING, 29

One of the game's real personalities. Something of an injury-hit campaign but she has scored six tries, including one effort in the semi-final victory over Wigan Warriors a fortnight ago. England World Cup hopeful.

TARA JANE STANLEY, FULL BACK, 29

Joined the Knights from Castleford Tigers ahead of the 2022 Betfred Women's Super League campaign. Nominated for Woman of Steel, regular fixture at full-back for England. 18 tries so far this season and integral to most of the good work the Knights do.

ASH HYDE, WING, 26

York born-and-bred and has played for the club for years. Returned to play shortly after giving birth last season, gaining a lot of attention and admiration in the process. Tough tackler and carrier. Six tries in 2022.

TAMZIN RENOUF, CENTRE, 21

Second season with the Knights after joining in May 2021. Try-scoring centre with punch in her carry. Recently named in the England Women's Knights squad ahead of the upcoming internationals. One of a clutch of former Castleford players in the squad. Eight tries in 2022.

SAVANNAH ANDRADE, SECOND ROW, 22

Impressive at centre in her debut season with the Knights in 2021, Andrade has moved into the back-row on a regular basis this season. She made her England debut last year against France.

GEORGIE HETHERINGTON, HALF BACK, 25

First full season with the Knights after joining late on in 2021. Can play at hooker, but more at home in the halves. Returned from injury against Leeds Rhinos in the final match of the regular season and featured heavily against Wigan Warriors in the semi-final.

KATIE LANGAN, HALF BACK, 31

Co-captain of the Knights and has represented the club for a long time, since before the team came under the Knight's umbrella. More known as a half-back, Langan has lined up recently in the centres. She scored two crucial tries in the victory over Leeds Rhinos in the final match of the regular season, clinching the League Leaders' Shield.

GRACE FIELD, PROP, 25

One of the best forwards in Super League. Dominant presence in the Knights pack and very much a key player for Lindsay Anfield's team. Has been ruled out of the run in with a foot injury. Regular presence in the England national team in recent years.

SINEAD PEACH, HOOKER, 24

Joined the Knights in May 2021 as one of a clutch of signings who arrived at the same time as Lindsay Anfield. Woman of Steel nominee this season. An elusive running game from dummy-half as well as a threatening close-range kicking game. Has recently been named in the England Knights squad.



ALISHA CLAYTON, PROP, 24

Another dominant prop but one who has missed the bulk of 2022 with injury. Did score a try against Leeds in the regular season fixture at the LNER Community Stadium earlier this season. York born-and-bred, Clayton has represented the club for years.

HOLLIE DODD, SECOND ROW, 19

One of the best players in Women's Super League and nominated for both Woman of Steel and Young Player of the Year. Made her Castleford Tigers debut as a sixteen-year-old in the 2019 Challenge Cup Final. Boasts a powerful run and has scored nine tries so far in her debut season with the Knights. Definitely one to watch, both on the pitch on Sunday and in the future as she further develops.



OLIVIA WOOD, PROP, 21

Moved to the Knights in May 2021 as a back-rower but earlier this season moved to prop and earned international recognition against both Wales and France. A workhorse in the middle for the team and a potential England selection in the upcoming World Cup.

JASMINE BELL, LOOSE FORWARD, 23

A new recruit ahead of the 2022 campaign from Castleford Tigers, Bell has been impressive throughout her first season with the club and earned recognition by being included in the England Knights squad. Dominant presence in the middle with a powerful carry but also able to find a pass to link play.

BETTIE LAMBERT, WING, 24

Ireland international who played for York in the years where they were struggling in the Women's Super League and which now impresses at the top of the table.



GEORGIA TAYLOR, WING, 26

A teacher by trade, Taylor has featured regularly on the flank for Anfield's team this season and has crossed for three tries. A pacey, elusive carrier.

DAISY SANDERSON, PROP, 21

One of the most popular players within the group, Sanderson has been with the club for years. Earlier in the campaign, she featured regularly from the bench but has started more often than not in the run in with injuries presenting her with an opportunity. Powerful carry and tough to stop.

EMMA KERSHAW, SECOND-ROW/CENTRE, 18

Recently included in the England Knights squad and a player that many believe has a big future. Joined towards the end of 2021 and has moved to establish herself further this year. Capable of playing in the back-row or at centre, Kershaw has scored eight tries this year.

OLIVIA WHITEHEAD, FULL BACK/WING, 18

A signing late on last season from Wakefield Trinity, Whitehead has further developed this year after working closely with England international Stanley. Scored a memorable length of the field try against Wigan early this season. A capable goal-kicker, perhaps owing to her previous endeavours in football.

MARY TIPLADY, HALF BACK, 28

A player who has represented the club for many years, Tiplady has featured sparingly this year with a couple of injuries hampering her campaign. Scored a try in the first match of the year against Dewsbury Rams.

EMILY FARROW, PROP, 25

York born and bred, Farrow hasn't featured regularly during 2022.

MATILDA BUTLER, PROP, 26

Works for The Army. Butler joined ahead of 2022 and has featured more regularly as the season has gone on. Tough carrier who gives the Knights go-forward.

OLIVIA GALE, HALF BACK, 18

One of the youngest players in the squad, Gale has impressed since making the half-back spot her own this year. Really good rugby brain and brings other players into the game well. Featured heavily in one of the tries of the season against Leeds on the final day. One to watch for the future.

RHIANNION MARSHALL, LOOSE FORWARD, 29

One of the most gifted rugby players in the competition, Marshall was impressing in the Knights shirt until seeing her season ended with suspension. Won't feature today.

LACEY OWEN, CENTRE, 22

Predominantly known as a centre, Owen has featured both in the halves and at loose-forward in her short time with the Knights since making her debut halfway through the campaign. Will only improve on a promising start the more often she plays with the group.





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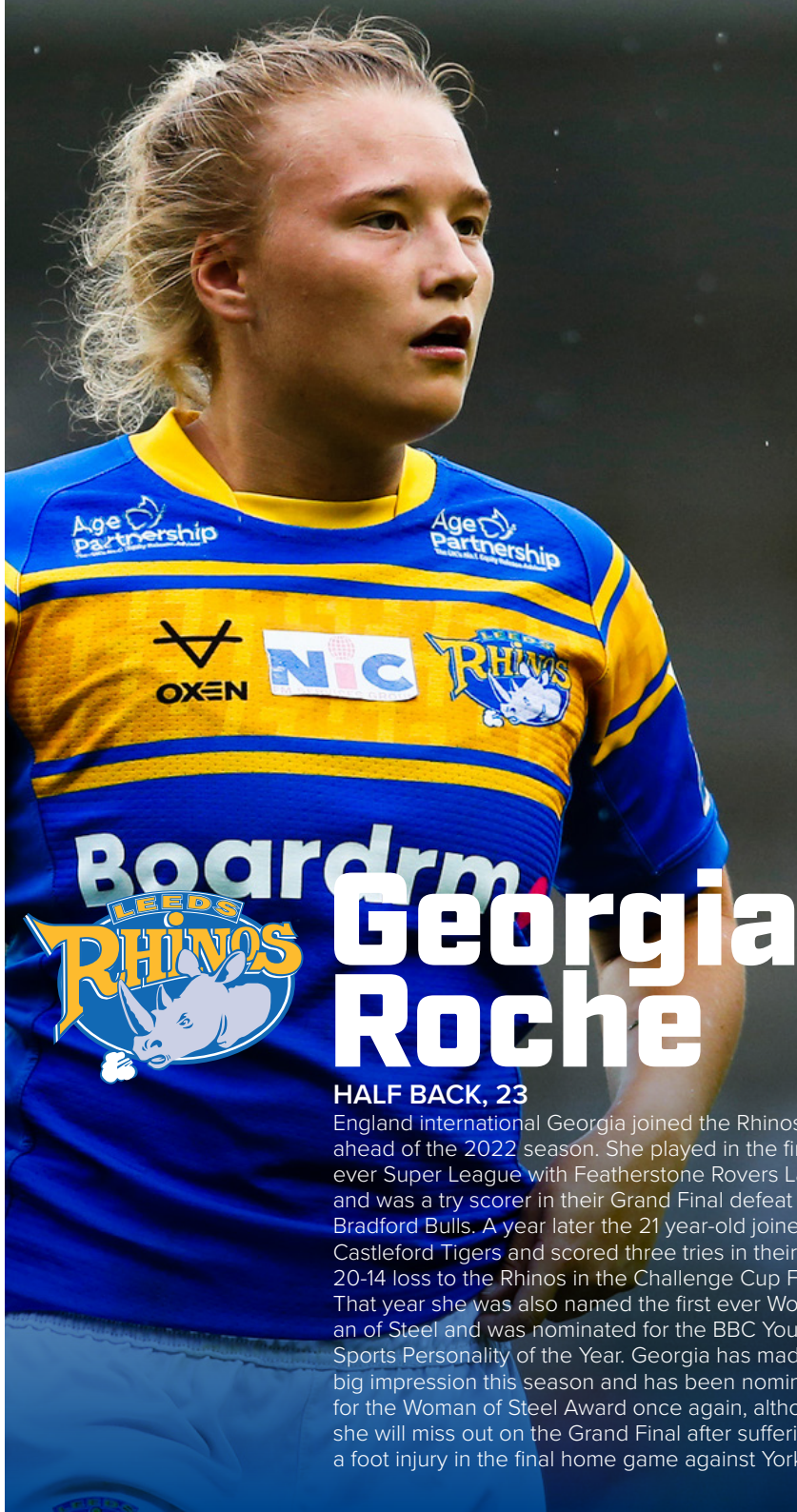
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RHINOS**

Georgia Roche

HALF BACK, 23

England international Georgia joined the Rhinos ahead of the 2022 season. She played in the first ever Super League with Featherstone Rovers Ladies and was a try scorer in their Grand Final defeat to Bradford Bulls. A year later the 21 year-old joined Castleford Tigers and scored three tries in their 20-14 loss to the Rhinos in the Challenge Cup Final. That year she was also named the first ever Woman of Steel and was nominated for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year. Georgia has made a big impression this season and has been nominated for the Woman of Steel Award once again, although she will miss out on the Grand Final after suffering a foot injury in the final home game against York.

ADAOHA AKWIWU, WING, 18

One of six academy players to make the step up to the Leeds Rhinos Women's first team in 2021. Making her debut aged 17 she opened her try scoring account with a brace against over York City Knights. After a superb start her season came to an early end when she suffered an ACL injury in the Challenge Cup quarter final, but she returned this season against St Helens and has made four appearances this season.

DANNIELLE ANDERSON, PROP, 21

England international Dannielle was ruled out for the entire 2021 season with an ACL injury and returned this year in the quarter final against Warrington Wolves. She was Player of the Match in the Women's semi-final against St Helens and her consistency in the run up to the final has been huge for the Rhinos. She is a strong running forward known for her ability to play the full 80 minutes in the front row. She regularly tops the stats for both tackles and carries in a game and is keen to offload when she can.

ALEX BARNES, PROP, 31

Alexandra Barnes earned her place in the Rhinos squad after a successful trial ahead of the 2022 season. Before joining the Rhinos, the prop first got involved in rugby through her job with the Royal Air Force. Speaking with her Warrant Officer at the time, she was asked if she would play Rugby Union for the RAF side in the Inter Services match against The Army in 2019 and she got involved. Winning the game is one of her most memorable rugby moments, as well as being selected for the UK Armed Forces rugby league team and successfully trialling for the Rhinos.

CAITLIN BEEVERS, CENTRE, 20

England international Caitlin signed at 16 from the Academy and hasn't looked back since. She can play wing, centre and full back. She was named Players Player of the Year in 2021 and this year has been in impressive form with 11 tries in 13 games. She is very quick off the mark and one of the fastest in the league in full flight, and earned a spot on the wing for England in the Autumn match against France.

KEARA BENNETT, HOOKER, 19

Keara was promoted to the first team during the 2019 season from the Academy after impressing on trial. She had been an ever-present during this year's Super League campaign, but missed the semi-final through concussion. Kearar previously played for Featherstone Lionesses, where she received coaching sessions by her current coach Lois Forsell in her development role with Leeds Rhinos Foundation. She can play at hooker and half back.

HANNA BUTCHER, STAND OFF/SECOND ROW/CENTRE, 31

The Rhinos Vice-Captain is one of the first names on the team sheet. She gives 100% at everything she does and is ferocious in defence, always near the top of the tackle charts. She has regularly played stand-off for the Rhinos, but this year has switched to the second row and has played the Super League season at centre, where she has excelled. She's has a keen eye in attack and regularly breaks defences down with her direct running and slick handling. She has played in all the Rhinos Finals.

JASMINE EARNSHAW-CUDJOE, HOOKER/HALF BACK, 23

Jasmine was part of a double signing made by the Rhinos ahead of the 2022 season alongside Emma Lumley. The 23-year old, who can play hooker or in the halves, joined Castleford Tigers when they formed in 2016 after starting her playing career with Lindley Swifts and Brighouse Rangers. The Huddersfield born player featured in two Challenge Cup Finals and a Grand Final with the Tigers and has been a regular in the side for the last five years.

ELLE FRAIN, SECOND ROW, 20

Elle was vice captain for the Academy throughout 2018 and broke into the women's squad late in the season. She was then promoted to the full squad in 2019 and is known for her strong work ethic and attitude. She originally played at back row, but has become a useful utility and has covered second row, centre and wing. She played in the 2019 winning Challenge Cup Final team and was a try scorer in the Grand Final to help her team secure the double.

TASHA GAINES, HOOKER/WING, 27

Tasha was ruled out for the whole of 2018 through injury but bounced back in 2019 to start in both the Challenge Cup and Grand Final winning sides. At home at half back, wing or hooker, she is one of the most adaptable players in the squad and is having success the season on the wing and was a try scorer in the semi-final. She tackles above her weight and is a great character to have in the squad. Her debut season saw her win the Grand Final and Challenge Cup and she played in last year's Grand Final against St Helens.

FRAN GOLDTHORP, WING/FULL BACK, 19

England international Fran was selected for the Women's Academy at the start of the 2019 season, having previously played Rugby Union for West Park Leeds and cricket. She had a brief spell with Guiseley Rangers and was coached at her school, Benton Park, by Lois Forsell. She was also coached at cricket by her captain Courtney Hill. She was a try scorer in the Challenge Cup Grand Final win in 2019, becoming one of the youngest ever players to win a Challenge Cup Final winner's medal at 16 and 118 days old. She was in outstanding form in the Grand Final, scoring two tries and winning Player of the Match. She made her England debut in 2021 and is the top try scorer for the Rhinos this season and is nominated for the Woman of Steel award.



ELOISE HAYWARD, CENTRE, 23

Leeds Rhinos Women bolstered their squad midway through the 2021 season by signing Saracens and England rugby union international Eloise Hayward after a successful trial. She made a try scoring debut against Warrington Wolves and

gained a regular place in the team. Portsmouth-born, Hayward first started playing rugby union on sand pitches in Muscat, Oman where her dad was head coach of the Navy team. She went on to play rugby union for many clubs around the world including Muscat Pirates, Jakarta Komodo Dragons, Sharjah Wanderers and Dubai Hurricanes before returning to the UK to play for West Park Leeds, Gloucester, Worcester Valkyries and Saracens, where she came off the bench to help the club lift the Premier 15s Cup in 2019.

ZOE HORNBY, LOOSE FORWARD, 23

Zoe earned her place with the Rhinos after a successful trial and made her debut against York City Knights after the Women's competition resumed in 2021. She was a try scorer and Player of the Match in this year's Challenge Cup Final against St Helens and then scored a try in the Super League semi-final to help her side book a place in the Grand Final.



SAM HULME, HOOKER, 23

Sam Hulme was one of six players to make the step from the Academy into Lois Forsell's Rhinos Women first team in 2021 and earned a place in the Grand Final squad. This season she has scored eight tries in nine appearances and 20 goals. Newcastle born, Hulme was first inspired to play Rugby League by Lee Carbutt, who was a Development Officer in schools in the North East, and from her first session Hulme was hooked. She joined Whitley Bay Barbarians, where she played with team mates Orla McCallion and Zoe Hornby and the three make the hour drive to training together twice a week.

ELLA JOHNSON, SECOND ROW, 20

Former Oulton Raidette Ella was promoted to the first team squad ahead of the 2021 season and made her debut in the opening game of the season against York City Knights. This year she has spent time on loan with Featherstone Rovers Women. The Pontefract born player started playing rugby with Featherstone Lionesses, where she won the WRLA Challenge Cup in 2019, before joining Oulton Raidettes where she was selected for the Rhinos Academy.

CHLOE KERRIGAN, CENTRE, 22

Another former Oulton Raidette, Chloe joined from the Rhinos Academy in 2018. She had her first taste of playing Rugby League through the Leeds Rhinos Foundation with Lois Forsell who coached her at school as a 13 year old. She's at home in either the centres or second row and is known for her no-nonsense attitude and desire in defence. She played in the 2019 Grand Final and Challenge Cup Final winning squads and in the 2021 Grand Final and 2022 Challenge Cup Final.

SHANNON LACEY, UTILITY FORWARD, 22

England international Shannon has been a regular in the squad since the start of 2018, often utilised as an impact player off the bench she is a strong runner and one of the quickest in the squad, a great asset in her position in the middle of the park. She represented Yorkshire in 2019 and was the England Women's team for their tour to Papua New Guinea. She played in the Challenge Cup Final in 2019, but an injury ruled her out of a place in the Grand Final. She was ruled out with injury for the entire 2021 season. She returned to the team this year and played in the Challenge Cup Final at Elland Road.

BETH LOCKWOOD, PROP, 23

Former York City Knight Beth was part of the inaugural Rhinos squad and made her debut in the club's first game against Bradford Bulls. She made a further three appearances that season before leaving the club to join York while she studied for a degree in Sport and Exercise Science at university in the city. She returned to the Rhinos in 2021 and after a successful trial was given a place in the squad and earned a starting place in the semi-final against her old club York.

EMMA LUMLEY, PROP, 30

Emma Lumley became Leeds' second signing for the 2022 season from Castleford Tigers. The 30-year old began her playing career in Rugby Union with Wasps before switching codes to join Castleford Tigers in 2017. The London born prop also played in the Tigers side who took on the Rhinos in two Challenge Cups Finals and a Grand Final and this year was called into the England Performance Unit. She made her Leeds debut in the 2021 Betfred Women's Challenge Cup group match against Huddersfield Giants. She played in the Challenge Cup Final this year at Elland Road and was part of the semi-final winning team who secured their place in the 2022 Grand Final.

TARA MOXON, WING, 25

Tara Moxon joined Leeds Rhinos Women in from Wakefield Trinity Ladies, where she impressed enough in her first year in the Women's Super League to earn herself a call up to the England Knights squad. She made a try scoring debut against York City Knights. As the league season continued into July the winger came into her own, scoring four tries to help the Rhinos dominate Warrington Wolves 56-0 and along with her centre partner Fran Goldthorp, the two added two tries each against Wigan Warriors Women in the Rhinos' final match of the regular season. Moxon grew up in East New Britain in Papua New Guinea and was first introduced to the sport when she was around five years-old as she watched the Blues vs Maroons in the State of Origin series.

LUCY MURRAY, SECOND ROW, 19

Lucy came through the Rhinos Women's Academy to make her debut on the opening day of the season against York City Knights before earning a regular place in the squad and being one of the team's most consistent performers. She attended Corpus Christi where she was part of their successful team. After missing the majority of the season, she returned to the squad in their final home game against York and made a big impression and earned a place in the starting line-up in the semi-final against St Helens.

ORLA MCCALLION, HOOKER, 21

Orla made her Rhinos debut while still part of the club's Academy in 2019 and was then elevated to the first team squad, although she had to wait over a year to play again after the Women's competition was cancelled due to Covid. She started the first game of the season against York and then earned a regular spot in Forsell's squad, including starting in the Challenge Cup Final against St Helens. Her dad, Seamus, was a Challenge Cup winner with Halifax in 1987, while mum Lesley played at international level for England and European Select squads.

SOPHIE NUTTALL, WING, 22

The workhorse of the team and a genuine utility player who can play full back, wing, centre or back row. She started 2019 in the back row and was a consistent performer in each game, her attitude to defence and attack, playing well above her weight has earned her the respect of the whole squad. She played in the Challenge Cup and Grand Final winning squads in 2019, but missed the start of the current season due to injury. She returned to be a regular and her two tries in the play off semi against York helped her team to the Grand Final. She played at Headingley in the Grand Final but suffered an injury during the game. She has been a regular this season in the league but missed out on the Challenge Cup Final through injury.

SOPHIE ROBINSON, WING, 25

Sophie has been with the Rhinos since the first season and in this year's Super League semi-final against St Helens she scored two tries and her 100th point to see her team through to the Grand Final. She's a clever defender and dangerous strike player in attack, ending 2018 as one of the team's top try scorers. She's quick and agile and has proved to be a great threat out wide for the team.



ELYCHIA WATSON, CENTRE, 25

Elychia joined the Rhinos last season after a successful trial. She made her debut in the play-off game against Wigan Warriors. She was in top form for the Rhinos this season and started in the Challenge Cup Final against St Helens, but an injury picked up early in the Super League season has ruled her out for the Grand Final. She is currently serving as a Soldier in the British Army and her job involves speaking in schools about her career and life experience.

COURTNEY WINFIELD-HILL, HALF BACK, 35

A former cricketer in Australia with Queensland Fire and Brisbane Heat, Courtney signed joined the Rhinos after moving to England in 2018. Despite not playing competitive Rugby League before, she quickly took to the role of half back and

has settled in to being a key cog in the Rhinos team. Her professional attitude has earned her the respect of the whole squad and staff and due to this she was named captain in 2019. She scored the match winning try in the 2019 Women's Challenge Cup Final and was named Player of the Match. She was named the 2019 Woman of Steel and at the start of 2020 represented Sydney Roosters in the NRL 9s. She also played in last year's Grand Final against St Helens.

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Today's Grand Final is the first to feature two female head coaches – and both Lindsay Anfield and Lois Forsell are shortlisted alongside Warrington Wolves' Lee Westwood for the first Betfred Women's Super League **Coach (BWSL) of the Year** award.

Anfield was recognised as a pioneer for women's coaches when she received the first RFL President's Award from Andy Burnham in 2019 and has this year steered York City Knights to their first League Leaders' Shield title.

Former England international Forsell was a member of the Bradford Bulls team who won the inaugural Women's Super League in 2017 and succeeded Adam Cuthbertson as head coach of the Rhinos in 2020. The Covid pandemic cancelled her debut season in 2020, but Lois has since taken her side to consecutive grand finals and a Challenge Cup Final at Elland Road earlier this year.

Westwood's Warrington Wolves have dominated BWSL2, winning all 12 of their matches, amassing more than 700 points and conceding only 30. The Wolves face Featherstone Rovers in today's BWSL Shield Final hoping to secure promotion to BWSL1 in 2023.

BWSL Coach of the Year is one of two new awards to be presented before the Men's Betfred Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford next Saturday week. Keara Bennett, Hollie Dodd and Fran Goldthorp – all on show today – are in the running to be crowned the BWSL's first Young Player of the Year.

The 2022 Woman of Steel will be announced on Thursday (September 22) and the recipient will invited to Old Trafford as part of the BWSL Awards Celebration.



WOMAN OF STEEL 2022

SHORTLIST



**AMY HARDCASTLE • TARA-JANE STANLEY • HOLLIE DODD
JODIE CUNNINGHAM • SINEAD PEACH • GEORGIA ROCHE**



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'DEVASTATING' DEMONS DELIVER GRAND FINAL MASTERCLASS TO LIFT BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SOUTH TITLE

Cardiff Demons were at their devastating best when they retained the Betfred Women's Super League South trophy with a convincing 34-4 Grand Final victory over London Broncos at Pandy Park in Gwent.

Broncos were the only team to defeat the Demons in the regular season, but revenge was sweet and for the side with the best points-for-and-against record in 2022.

Competing alongside the Demons and the Broncos during 2022 were Bedford Tigers, British Army, Cornish Rebels, Bristol's Golden and newcomers Oxford Cavaliers.

The Tigers made the semi-finals, only to be beaten 44-6 at the Broncos' Cherry Red Records Stadium in Plough Lane. The British Army also made the semi-finals to set up a rematch of the 2021 BWSLS Grand Final with Cardiff Demons and fought all the way before going down 30-16.

In the final, the Demons displayed all their finest qualities from first minute to last, with Wales international and hat-trick hero Leanne Burnell outstanding throughout alongside player of the match Amberley Ruck. And while Broncos can be proud of how far they've travelled in just two seasons and of their collective efforts on the day, the Welsh were simply a class apart on the day.

As Women's Rugby League goes from strength to strength, the game heads towards introducing a national pyramid structure in 2024 which will enable the likes of BWSLS champions Cardiff Demons to enter into the national competition.

TACKLE it

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