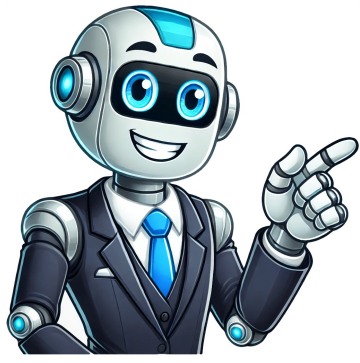


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Skip to main content NRL Score Centre Share The Panthers showed their class once again with a gutsy 14-6 win in the grand final rematch that has left the Broncos' top four chances on life support. Brisbane needed to win this one a lot more than their rivals but when it really mattered it was Penrith who came up with the big plays at Suncorp Stadium. Kevin Walters' men led 6-4 at halftime but didn't trouble the scoreboard in the second half as the three-time reigning premiers grinded their way to victory. MATCH CENTRE: Broncos v Panthers, teams, stats, videoThe Panthers are now outright seccon on the ladder and up to their eyeballs in claiming a fourth minor premiership in five years, and fourth straight title. Penrith playmaker Jack Cole scored the opener on Friday night with his first touch of the ball after finishing a nice team try in the 11th minute. Cole had only just onto the field to replace Dane Laurie who limped up the tunnels with a hamstring injury.In his first game for the Broncos in 40 days, Reece Walsh showed his blistering speed to make a break then burn Panthers rival Dylan Edwards and score in the 27th minute.But the hosts lost halfback Jock Madden for the night in the 42nd minute when he tore his hamstring, an injury that will tests the Brisbane's halves stocks. The Panthers opened the scoring in the second half with an incredible try against the run of play. They were allowed to catch a nothing bomb that was put up on halfway and two passes and a grubber later and Brian To'o finished in the corner.The Broncos looked exhausted in the second half as Penrith just kept grinding away and hooker Mitch Kenny sealed it when he darted out of dummy-half to score in the 69th minute.Here are the three biggest talking points out of the match. BRONCOS' FINALS HOPES FADING The Broncos have now lost five in a row for the first time since 2020, when they won the wooden spoon, and they could sit 12th by the end of the round.They're going to need to win six of their final eight games just to play finals this year.Brisbane face the Dragons, Knights, Bulldogs, Titans, Cowboys, Eels, Dolphins and Storm to finish the season. "In my experience in rugby league, if you keep training well and turning up and putting in the effort we did tonight, it will turn," coach Kevin Walters said. "I've been at clubs as a player and an assistant coach where we've lost five games in a row, I think the record at the Broncos is eight or nine, we don't want to break that record."It's just sticking together. We've got an Origin game to get through now as well, which is part of it, but once we get the crew back together, we'll set sail for a strong finish to the season. It's just not there for us at the moment." NRL great James Graham said on Fox League that Brisbane should have kicked on from last year's grand final. "It can be quite frightening when you're a Broncos supporter looking at that ladder and how it might look on Sunday evening," Graham said. "The situation is this, you need 13 wins to play finals football and the Broncos have eight games left, so they need to find six victories. "It's pretty tough as well, next week they play the Dragons, both teams without their Origin players and then backing up from Origin they take on Newcastle. "Somehow they need to find six wins and you'd even say it's a disappointment if the Broncos don't make the top four. "Look back at last year's grand final, earth shattering (result) but the talk was it was going to be the building of this Broncos' team. "That was the best 40 minutes to start a game that I've seen from the Broncos all season, but it makes you wonder, where was that against the Titans, against South Sydney... had they won those two games then we're not talking about them missing the top eight, we're talking about them in the top four but they're nowhere near that at the moment." THE GAME-CHANGING MOMENTKangaroos, Blues and Panthers workhorse Liam Martin is known for his effort plays and they were full display in a match-turning moment on Friday night. It was Martin who chased down a nothing bomb put up on halfway and hauled it in before finding Lindsay Smith who put Brian To'o over to score. "That was a really good example of competing," Penrith coach Ivan Cleary said."I thought it was a tough game with a lot of end to end footy and it's just all those little moments that make the difference. And usually those moments are won by the players who are prepared to compete the hardest and that was a good example of not just competing but the ability to actually get the job done. "That was a pivotal moment in the game, definitely." Martin also made two try-saving tackles and the backrower was arguably the difference between the sides. "I just felt like the boys really wanted to win tonight and however it was going to work out they were going to find a way to do it and that gives us a lot of heart for the future," Cleary said. BRONCOS WALKING WOUNDEDThe Broncos injury ward grew again on Friday night with Jock Madden limping off with a serious hamstring injury. It means Kevin Walters is down to his fourth-string No. 7 and the coach confirmed they'll need to go outside their top 30 to field a side. Brisbane halfbacks Madden, Adam Reynolds and untested rookie Cody Black are all sidelined which will see Josh Rogers handed the reins against the Dragons next weekend. "(Madden) will be (out) for a good month or longer," Walters said. "(Rogers) has got the bye this week (in Queensland Cup) so he'll be right to go next Saturday against the Dragons. "He was outstanding (in his last game for the Broncos) so it's good for him, not so good for Jock but pretty good for him to get another crack at this level. "(Ben) Te Kura is still a mile off. We get (Jordan) Riki back next week from suspension and Kotoni (Staggs) comes back as well which is a big help. "We're going to have to go outside the top 30 now, Jock down tonight, we'll have two or three in Origin, possibly four. "But we'll get enough jerseys and we'll be out there next week to take on the Dragons." RE-LIVE ALL THE ACTION IN OUR BLOG BELOW. CAN'T SEE IT? CLICK HERE. Follow Brisbane Broncos v Penrith Panthers results, h2h statistics and Brisbane Broncos latest results, news and more information. Flashscore rugby league coverage includes rugby league scores and news from more than 30 rugby league competitions worldwide. Brisbane Broncos, Warrington Wolves, Catalans Dragons, Brisbane Broncos, Super League, NRL,... Show more scores refresh every minute805Tries1Izack TagoThomas Jenkins (2)Nathan ClearyLuron PateaBen Hunt5Conversions10Field Goals040Sets4033Complete Sets31363Tackles39937Tackle Breaks501797Run Metres1534787Kick Metres625140:20 Kicks010Errors113Penalties4 Nathan Cleary has wound back the clock with an insane performance against the Broncos, including a try that mirrored his effort in the 2023 grand final.The halfback produced a masterclass at Magic Round, in a performance described as "10 out of 10" by Andrew Johns on Nine's coverage.Despite his brilliant performance, it wasn't the best start for Cleary after he was outjumped by Ben Hunt who scored first.LIVE UPDATES: NRL Magic Round SundayREAD MORE: Keary's coach backs 'aggressive' Super League sprayREAD MORE: 'Ready, willing and able': Fifth Queensland team backedNathan Cleary of the Panthers celebrates after scoring a try during the round nine NRL match. GettyFrom there though it was all the Panthers.Cleary hit back moments later with a chip kick to Izack Tago who scored.Both sides shared penalty goals before Cleary put his mark on the match with a 40/20 in the 36th minute.A try to Luron Patea followed that moment to put the Panthers back in the lead.Watch the 2025 NRL premiership live and free on Nine and 9Now.Then just before half time, Cleary went back two years. The halfback took the ball at first receiver on the left with five Brisbane defenders all sliding before Cleary stepped inside and went past Adam Reynolds to score.It mirrored the 2023 grand final effort when Cleary scored the match-winner by stepping inside and passing Reynolds on that occasion too."That's grand final like, that was the last try of the grand final," Andrew Johns said of the Magic Round try.Billy Slater added: "That's identical". After the break, Penrith's lead extended through Thomas Jenkins who scored a double to make it 32-8.As Cleary lined up his conversion, Johns was full of praise. "He's been a 10 out of 10 today," the league Immortal said."That early kick then he went down and smashed Cobbo, this could really be turning point in the Panthers season. He has just dragged them along."Phil Gould was also happy to see the champions back at their best.No further points came for either side as the question now sits whether the defending premiers are officially back.Next week the Broncos play Wayne Bennett's Rabbitohs while the Panthers are up against North Queensland. You have skipped the navigation, tab for page content 86:18 Full Match Replay: Broncos v Panthers - Round 18, 2024 Sat 06 Jul, 2024 11:30 Broncos v Panthers - Round 18, 2024 Sat 06 Jul, 2024 03:54 Broncos v Panthers - Round 18, 2024 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 06:40 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 04:50 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 39:33 NRL Press Conference: Broncos v Panthers - Round 18, 2024 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 02:41 Broncos v Panthers: Round 18 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:44 Most watched NRL tries of 2024: 20 Tue 24 Dec, 2024 00:31 Sat 06 Jul, 2024 00:42 The type of D that wins premierships Sat 06 Jul, 2024 01:35 Sat 06 Jul, 2024 00:44 A try so nice you'll have to watch it twice Sat 06 Jul, 2024 01:11 All Tries - Broncos v Panthers Sat 06 Jul, 2024 01:00 Introducing rugby league's 200,000th participant Fri 05 Jul, 2024 01:13 A step in the right direction for Walsh Fri 05 Jul, 2024 01:40 Yeo: We built that game on our defence Fri 05 Jul, 2024 Gritty Panthers fight back to hunt down determined Broncos Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:14 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:15 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:13 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:14 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 00:15 Fri 05 Jul, 2024 Broncos v Panthers: Origin trio return; Fab four good to go Presented by Fri 05 Jul, 2024 Broncos have belief to buck losing trend as Penrith loom Tue 02 Jul, 2024 National Rugby League respects and honours the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands we meet, gather and play on. They were minutes away from a premiership last year, but the Broncos are on the brink of missing the finals altogether this season after nemesis Penrith condemned Kevin Walters' side to a fifth straight loss on Friday night. Potentially needing to win six of their last eight games just to make the play-offs, an improved effort will be little consolation to Brisbane supporters after the Panthers clawed their way to a 14-6 win at Suncorp Stadium.A moment of Reece Walsh magic lit up the venue for the State of Origin decider, but Ivan Cleary's side continued their stranglehold over their title rivals, overcoming a half-time deficit to down Brisbane in wet conditions.Walters will be forced to look outside his top 30 to field a team next week against the Dragons given a host of players will be on State of Origin duty and back-up halfback Jock Madden limped from the field with a serious hamstring injury. Adam Reynolds is not due back for weeks from a biceps problem.It would seem unthinkable at the start of the year, but will the Broncos be top eight casualties? They remain two points outside a logjam of teams from fifth through to eight, all of whom are yet to play this round."We're nowhere near the [chocolates] at the moment." Walters said. A dejected Payne Haas after Brisbane's fifth straight loss.Credit: Getty Images"[But] if anyone would want to come down to training one day and have a look at training, it's a high standard. Eventually, in my experience in rugby league, if you keep training well, turning up each week and putting in the effort we did tonight, it will turn."I've been at clubs as a player and as an assistant coach, where we've lost five games in a row. It's sticking together, working hard and training. Once we get the crew back together, we'll set sail for a strong finish to the season."Walsh scored a stunning solo try in the opening half - his first since the sickening State of Origin knockout in game one - but Brisbane looked impotent at times as the Panthers' near flawless defence swallowed up attack after attack.Walsh's effort gifted the Broncos a 6-4 half-time lead after Jack Cole opened the scoring for Panthers seconds after running onto the field to replace the injured Dane Laurie (hamstring).James Fisher-Harris takes on the Brisbane defence.Credit: Getty ImagesBut the Panthers ground their way to the win with a miraculous try in the second half. Liam Martin catching Jarome Lua's midfield bomb uncontested, then dumping the ball to prop Lindsay Smith, who kicked expertly for Brian To'o to score.Mitch Kenny's dummy-half effort 12 minutes from time secured the victory, which lifted the Panthers into second, two points behind the table-topping Storm. Melbourne clash with the Tigers at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday night.Two-time Clive Churchill Medal winner Nathan Cleary is expected to return after the Panthers' bye when they take on the Dolphins."I felt like the boys really wanted to win tonight," Panthers coach Ivan Cleary said. "However it was going to work out, we were going to find a way to do it. That gives a lot of heart for the future. [But] there's so much footy still to play."