

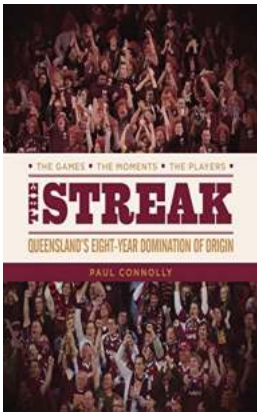
The Untold Story: Queensland's Eight Year Domination of Origin



We've all heard of the legendary State of Origin rivalry between Queensland and New South Wales, but there's an untold story behind Queensland's eight-year domination of this prestigious rugby league competition.

The Beginning of a Dynasty

It all started in 2006, when Queensland, captained by the highly celebrated Darren Lockyer, came out on top to clinch their first State of Origin series victory in three years. This victory ignited a fire within the Maroons, and little did anyone know that this would be the beginning of an unprecedented era of dominance.



The Streak: Queensland's eight-year domination of Origin by Andrew Vietze (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 82638 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 323 pages



The Mastermind Behind the Magic

Behind every successful team, there's a mastermind strategist. In Queensland's case, that person was Mal Meninga. Meninga, one of the greatest players in rugby league history, took charge of the Maroons as head coach and transformed them into an unstoppable force. Through meticulous planning, clever tactics, and exceptional man management skills, Meninga led Queensland to eight consecutive series victories.

The Champion Squad

Queensland's dominance of Origin can also be attributed to their exceptionally talented squad. The Maroons boasted a roster of superstars including the likes of Cameron Smith, Billy Slater, Johnathan Thurston, and Greg Inglis. These players were not only highly skilled but also possessed an unyielding determination to win. Their impressive teamwork, unwavering spirit, and exceptional individual performances were integral to Queensland's consistent success.

Mental Toughness and Resilience

One of the key factors that contributed to Queensland's eight-year domination was their mental toughness and resilience. Being able to handle the immense pressure and expectation that came with every Origin clash is no easy feat. However, the Maroons thrived under pressure and used it to their advantage. Their unwavering belief in their ability, ability to adapt to different game situations, and never-say-die attitude were crucial in demolishing New South Wales' hopes year after year.

Strategic Innovations

In addition to their mental fortitude, Queensland introduced several strategic innovations that left New South Wales struggling to keep up. They perfected their offensive and defensive tactics, making them a formidable force to be reckoned with. The Maroons' ability to exploit their opponents' weaknesses, adapt their game plan as required, and execute flawlessly on the field set them apart from their competitors.

Lethal Combinations and Game-Changing Moments

Throughout their eight-year dominance, Queensland produced numerous game-changing moments that will be forever etched in State of Origin history. The chemistry between key players allowed for devastating attacking plays, lightning-fast counterattacks, and awe-inspiring defensive displays. These lethal combinations and jaw-dropping moments were the pinnacle of the Maroons' reign.

A Legacy for the Ages

Queensland's eight-year domination of Origin will forever be remembered as one of the greatest feats in rugby league history. They proved their unrivaled superiority on the Origin battlefield and left an indelible mark on the competition.

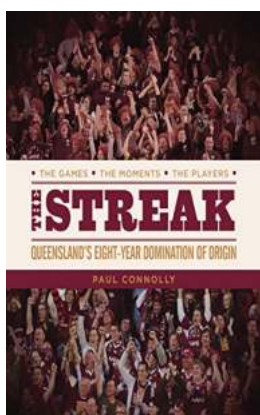
The Maroons' extraordinary run created a legacy that future generations of rugby league players can only aspire to achieve.

The End of an Era

As with all great dynasties, Queensland's reign eventually came to an end. In 2014, New South Wales finally broke the Maroons' stranglehold and emerged victorious. While it marked the end of an unforgettable era, it also served as a testament to the remarkable accomplishments of Queensland's eight-year domination.

Legacy Lives On

Though Queensland's reign has ended, their legacy lives on. Their extraordinary dominance will forever serve as a reminder of what can be achieved with determination, teamwork, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As we eagerly anticipate future State of Origin clashes, we can only wonder if another team will ever replicate the awe-inspiring feat that Queensland accomplished during their eight-year domination. Only time will tell.



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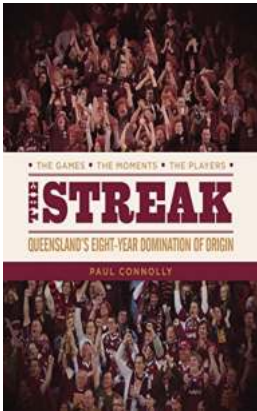
In *The Streak*, Paul Connolly takes a lively look back at Queensland's history-making eight-year dominance of rugby league's State of Origin between 2006 and 2013. From last-gasp field goals to stirring comebacks, from spectacular tries to a couple of punches that changed the game, *The Streak* recounts the crucial games, the memorable moments, the star players and the controversies that kept us enthralled during the eight seasons in which the Queensland Maroons reigned supreme.

It may be hard to believe now but ahead of the 2006 State of Origin series the concept of Origin football was questioned, such was the dominance of New South Wales, who had won 10 of the previous 16 series, three of them consecutively between 2002 and 2005. The glory days of Wally Lewis & Co. had well and truly faded and were turning up at the corners like old photographs.

Heading into the 2006 series the Maroons were not expected to trouble NSW. New coach Mal Meninga's club coaching record hardly inspired unqualified confidence, stalwarts Petero Civoniceva and Darren Lockyer were supposedly past their best, and seven of the Queensland squad—youngsters such as Greg Inglis, Sam Thaiday, Nate Myles and Matt Scott—were debutants, untested in the cauldron of Origin football.

But after the hiccup of a one-point loss in the 2006 opener, the Maroons won 17 of the next 23 games and by doing so won an unprecedented—and scarcely believable—eight consecutive Origin series, driving NSW to distraction and despair. Captained by Lockyer and, later, Cameron Smith, Meninga's magnificent Maroons rediscovered the 'Queenslander' ethos and proved themselves to be one of the greatest teams in league history; at once a team of champions and a champion team.

“It’s not as if Queenslanders need a reason to beat NSW at anything, for the desire to do so seems to be in their very DNA.”



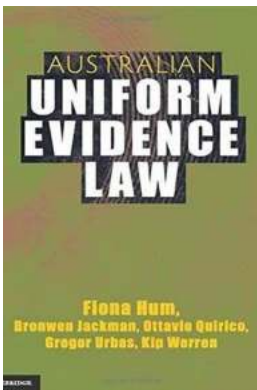
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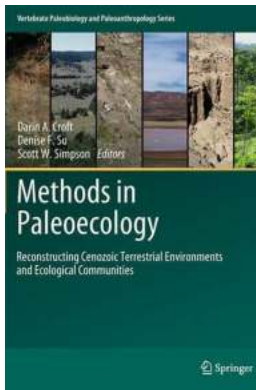
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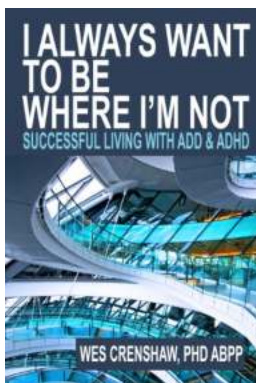
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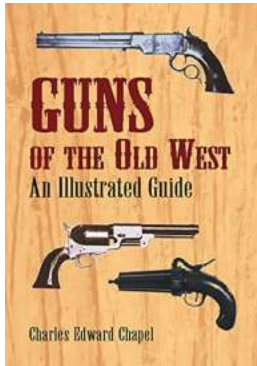
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