

ODDS ON



with
NICK WALSHAW

One Roo to top Kiwis' tally

JAMES Tamou, before his controversial Test debut in New Zealand, was so upset by the criticism he stayed in his hotel room for a week.

Funny how things change, isn't it?

Some 18 months after playing his first game for the Kangaroos — which caused heated debate on both sides of the Tasman — Tamou is tonight headlining a unique betting market which, requested by Odds On, gives punters the chance to back individual Aussies to outscore the battling New Zealanders.

With the Kiwis set to toss out arguably their most inexperienced side in years, including Windsor Wolves playmaker **Isaac John** at five-eighth, the Allianz Stadium match is shaping as a bloodbath.

So with the Aussies unbackable, what chance all 113kg of tattooed Tamou will score more points than his, er, countrymen?

"That option is paying \$26," TAB spokesman **Matt Jenkins** said. "A little more likely, however, is **Greg Inglis**, who has scored 22 tries in 28 Tests and, only last week, scored one of the greatest solo tries of the modern era against Brisbane."

According to the market, both Inglis and fullback **Billy Slater** are \$5.75 to score more tries than New Zealand.

Also worth a look is **Brett Morris** (\$4.50), who has an outstanding international strike rate — scoring 21 tries from only 17 Test matches.

"Right now you'd have to

BILLY SLATER

- Most tries \$5.75
- Tie \$4.50
- New Zealand \$1.45

GREG INGLIS

- Most tries \$5.75
- Tie \$4.50
- New Zealand \$1.45

BRETT MORRIS

- Most tries \$4.50
- Tie \$4.50
- New Zealand \$1.55

JAMES TAMOU

- Most tries \$26
- Tie \$5.50
- New Zealand \$1.15

say Morris is the best winger in the world," Jenkins said. "It really is scary to think how many tries he will score for the Kangaroos in his career."

Having smashed the Kiwis in the World Cup final,

Kangaroos coach **Tim Sheens** this week conceded that "everyone probably thinks their mother could coach this Test team ... and maybe they could".

Apart from John being plucked from NSW Cup —

which revives memories of **Olsen Filipaina** famously being plucked from reserves in 1983 — Warriors utility **Ben Henry** has been named at hooker while **Siliva Havili**, who has never even completed

an NRL game, comes off the bench. Asked about their chances, coach Stephen Kearney said: "We're under no illusions about the task ahead of us. The Aussies are a world champion side and we will

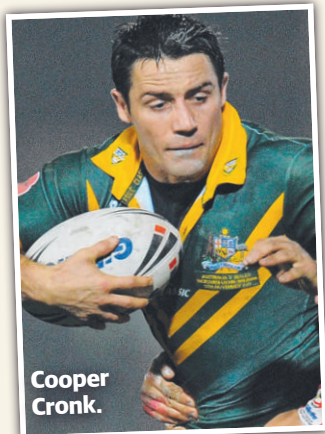
have to be on top of our game to match them.

"But we have confidence in our talent, and there's definitely a spirit in this group that augurs well for this game and beyond."

HE'S IN EVERYTHING

Most Linebreaks + Assists + Link Plays

Player	Involvements
1 Jarryd Hayne	17
2 Steve Matai	16
3 Billy Slater	14
3 Ben Hunt	14
3 Josh Reynolds	14
6 Greg Inglis	13
6 Johnathan Thurston	13



SHOW STOPPERS

Most tackles shutting down a linebreak

Player	Tackles
1 Billy Slater	9
2 David Nofoaluma	5
2 William Zillman	5
2 Anthony Minichiello	5
2 Cooper Cronk	5
6 Sam Perrett	4
6 Michael Morgan	4
6 Michael Gordon	4

JAIL BREAKERS

Most linebreaks from own half

Player	Linebreaks
1 Greg Inglis	4
1 Daly Cherry-Evans	4
1 Anthony Milford	4
4 Steve Matai	3
4 Daniel Tupou	3
4 Konrad Hurrell	3
4 Brett Morris	3
4 Billy Slater	3
4 Manu Vatuvei	3

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

Most tackle busts in the opening 20 mins

Player	Tackle Busts
1 Greg Inglis	17
2 Jarryd Hayne	16
3 James Tedesco	13
4 Steve Matai	12
4 Jamal Idris	12
6 Jason Nightingale	11
6 Josh Mansour	11
8 Sam Moa	10

HEART ATTACK MERCHANTS

Most errors in own 40m

Player	Errors
1 Peta Hiku	9
2 Sam Tomkins	7
2 Billy Slater	7
2 Ben Barba	7
2 David Mead	7
6 Anthony Minichiello	6
6 Sam Perrett	6

Could Merritt go from Bunny to an Eel

SAM ALEXANDER

DUMPED to reserve grade and off contract at the end of the year, speculation is rising that South Sydney great Nathan Merritt could be leaving the club.

Merritt, 31, played in North Sydney's loss to Wentworthville in the NSW Cup last week.

Coach Wayne Lambkin said Merritt had shown the right attitude towards his demotion.

"Nathan Merritt had a great impact," Lambkin said. "He was responsible for some really good kick returns. He involved himself right from the very first set."

"Me and Matty King both thought he really took it the right way and got himself involved in the game and really shone."

Merritt has not been named in the side this week. Lambkin indicated South Sydney coach Michael Maguire had decided to rest the winger as cover for Rabbitohs

players who are in action over this representative weekend.

Merritt's problem is Souths' generation next has caught up with him. Maguire has already blooded five rookies this season.

If Merritt does leave, Parramatta looms as a logical new home for the 153-try flyer. With Eels coach Brad Arthur taking a more flamboyant approach to his side's structure, Merritt's finishing ability would be a welcome addition to a relatively inexperienced backline.



Nathan Merritt

MONEY BACK

AUSTRALIA v NZ

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