

jobs @ mycareer

cars @ drive

homes @ domain

news

breaking
national
world
business
technology
sport
rugbyheaven
entertainment

special reports

obituaries
video
photo galleries

commentary

opinion
editorials
letters
cartoons
webdiary

time out

column 8
spike
strange but true
crosswords
weather
tv guide

sections

travel
money
employment
property
motoring
education
radar

classifieds

place an ad
adonline
real estate
cars
jobs
dating
announcements
other classifieds

editions

am today
last 8 days
text
rss version
mobile & pda

services

member centre
smh store
subscriptions
overseas sales
advertise
archive
photosales
about us
events & charity

site map

contact us

Home > Sport > League > Article

Rabbitohs hit the market with a \$2m shopping list

By Andrew Webster

May 1, 2005

The Sun-Herald



The cashed-up Rabbitohs have drawn up a hit-list of some of the game's biggest names in a bid to make the club more competitive next year.

The Sun-Herald has learned of South Sydney's spending plans for next season, with Penrith five-eighth Preston Campbell, Bulldogs playmaker Braith Anasta, Dragons prop Luke Bailey and Melbourne halfback Matt Orford heading an impressive shopping list.

It is also understood the club is interested in signing in-form Storm centre Matt King.

But one big-name off-contract player in whom the club is believed to have no interest is injured Bulldogs back-rower Willie Mason.

While Souths chief executive Shane Richardson refused to speculate about the signatures he would be chasing after the June 30 anti-tampering deadline, he rejected claims that he won't be able to attract marquee players because of the side's sluggish start to the season.

"I had the same problem at Cronulla and the same problem at Penrith and the same problem at Hull," Richardson said.

"It's the chicken or the egg. I've never been at a club where it's easy to attract players.

"Remember, it was only 18 months ago that people were saying that if you went to North Queensland you wouldn't be able to make representative teams or get on TV. Now the Cowboys are on TV every week and their players are making those sides.

"It was the same at Penrith when we had no internationals - now they've got six or seven. It doesn't take too long to turn it around."

It is no secret that Souths are cashed up, with \$2 million to spend on big-name signings. In another sign that they will be aggressive in the market, Souths have announced they have signed Cowboys recruitment officer David Roberts.

"We'll be extremely active on the 30th of June," Richardson said. "We've got a lot of money to spend and we're in the marketplace to buy marquee players. What we're not going to do is go out there and buy second-rate players."

Shoring up the halves appears to be Souths' No. 1 priority.

Campbell has been strongly tipped to sign with the Gold Coast - should they be granted the licence to become the NRL's 16th franchise - but he also has an affiliation with Richardson from his days at Penrith.

The Bulldogs are keen to re-sign Anasta before June 30. But he may hold out to speak to his junior club because of an association through his uncle and Souths patriarch George Piggins.

Mason is not wanted, though, as there is a belief at the club that he is too high maintenance and not worth the trouble.

Souths are hopeful of retaining lock Ashley Harrison, whose manager Chris Orr told the club last week his client could go on to the open market after June 30 if the Rabbitohs did not sign some "blue-chip" players soon.

"Ashley Harrison is not unhappy with the offer we made him," Richardson said. "I'm confident that he'll stick with us and have faith in what we're doing.

"We're trying to build a club that's based on character. And build it for the long term as well as the short term.

Search

SPONSORED BY:

ING DIRECT

 Go

Sport

- [Cassidy protest dismissed](#)
- [Three cheers for Guy as Gumnuts snares classic](#)
- [I want to stay at United: Rio](#)
- [Shane is fair game in England](#)
- [Start playing league and I quit, says Mundine's dad](#)
- [Warne puts his own spin on sledging accusations](#)
- [Protecting your pals is what Anzac Day is all about](#)
- [The future of Origin football](#)
- [Team Mundine launches attack on Brown](#)
- [Warne's final fling may be a Sydney thing](#)

National

- [Reinventing the broily](#)
- [Smarter approach to keep teen mums in school](#)
- [Bank on this for \\$800,000](#)

World

- [Hitler's shadow still falls over Germany](#)
- [Blair survives pre-poll storm as voters back his credibility](#)
- [Heavens above: that planet's outside our solar system](#)

Business

- [Beware the pitfalls in an early recovery](#)

Technology

- [Meet your doom](#)
- [QA](#)
- [To cap it off](#)

Entertainment

- [Isoqawa makes a Grand entrance](#)
- [Olsen wins Archibald](#)
- [Onions](#)

INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC?

News Store Alert will keep you informed. [Find out more](#)

NEWS BY EMAIL

Get free news emails from smh.com.au. [Sign-up now](#)

"The decisions we make this year are going to have an effect on us for the next three years. We're still paying for the decisions that were made three years ago. That's why it's important that we don't rush in."

[Get the SMH delivered for as little as \\$3 a week - SAVE 21%](#)

[Top of Page](#)



Our Advertisers

More news

- [Kimmerley tastes success against Storm](#)
- [Gold Coast won't hang about on big signings](#)
- [Folkes holds out cap](#)

Search

Go

[Search Tips](#)

 [Add smh.com.au to your rss feeds](#)

[Home](#) | [National](#) | [World](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Sport](#) | [Entertainment](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Conditions](#) | [Member Agreement](#)

Copyright © 2005. The Sydney Morning Herald.