



Newcastle Hunter Win Country Championships

Newcastle Hunter has won the 2009 Country Championships to claim the Caldwell Cup for the second year in a row.

The Wildfires defeated Illawarra 14 – 13 in a hard fought final which saw the result go right down to the final whistle at Apex Park, Dubbo.

Illawarra had the better of the first half, but their domination of possession and field position only netted them a converted try, which in the end proved costly. The few occasions the Wildfires got into the Illawarriors half, David Kennedy kicked three penalty goals to give them a 9 – 7 lead going into the break.

As in their previous matches, the Wildfires took control of the early exchanges in the second half and posted a converted try to skip out to a 14 – 7 lead. Illawarra kept knocking on the door, but they couldn't cross for a second try and had to settle for two penalty goals to narrow the gap to one point.

The defence by both teams in the final ten minutes was very physical, and in the end Newcastle Hunter held on to claim the title.

In the Richardson Shield Final, Central North scored a converted try in the last few minutes to defeat New England 24 – 22. New England scored four tries to three, but only converted one try and missed four kicks at penalty goal, which was the telling factor in the match.

In other matches Central West defeated Central Coast 27 – 5 to claim third spot, while Western Plains handed Far North Coast the wooden spoon following their 33 -17 victory.

Newcastle Hunter made it a double for the zone when they defeated Central North 16 – 0 to take out the Colts Championship.

Central North made all the play in the first half but came up scoreless, and found themselves behind 6 – 0 on the score board at half time. The young Wildfires controlled the match in the second half and steadily build the score line to take out the match and the championship.

The Plate Final saw Central West have too much power and pace to account for the Central Coast 43 – 7.

Illawarra claimed third position with a 21 – 12 victory over New England, while the Far North Coast finished seventh with a grafting 27 – 12 win over Western Plains.

Senior Results

Qualifying Matches

Central Coast	17	New England	15
Central West	24	Central North	24 (Count Back)
Illawarra	57	Western Plains	0
Newcastle Hunter	39	Far North Coast	9

Caldwell Cup Semi-Finals

Illawarra	9	Central West	5
Newcastle Hunter	36	Central Coast	30

Richardson Shield Semi-Finals

Central North	38	Western Plains	17
New England	56	Far North Coast	17

Caldwell Cup Final

Newcastle Hunter	14	Illawarra	13
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Richardson Shield Final

Central North	24	New England	22
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3rd & 4th Play Off

Central West	27	Central Coast	5
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7th & 8th Play Off

Western Plains	33	Far North Coast	17
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Colts Results

Qualifying Matches

Central North	22	Central West	14
Illawarra	41	Western Plains	0
New England	24	Central Coast	23
Newcastle Hunter	43	Far North Coast	3

Championship Semi-Finals

Central North	20	Illawarra	19
Newcastle Hunter	21	New England	9

Plate Semi-Finals

Central Coast	24	Far North Coast	23
Central West	90	Western Plains	0

Championship Final

Newcastle Hunter	16	Central North	0
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Plate Final

Central West	43	Central Coast	7
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3rd & 4th Play Off

Illawarra	21	New England	12
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7th & 8th Play Off

Far North Coast	27	Western Plains	12
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