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State of Origin: Queensland Maroons win series after beating New South Wales Blues 52-6

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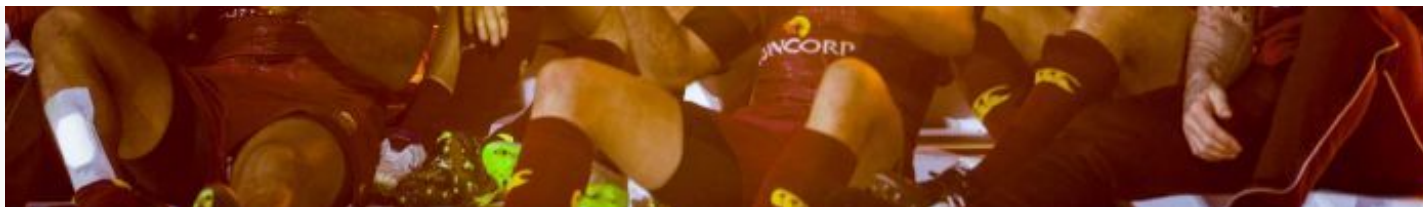


PHOTO: [Back in Queensland ... The Maroons celebrate reclaiming the shield.](#) (AAP: Glenn Hunt)

The Queensland Maroons have regained State of Origin supremacy after humiliating the New South Wales Blues with a record 52-6 victory in the series decider at Lang Park.

The Maroons, who led 22-2 at half-time, registered the largest winning margin in Origin history and scored their highest total via the eight tries to one display against a shell-shocked Blues outfit.

The home side claimed their ninth victory from the past 10 series in what was Justin Hodges's farewell appearance for the Maroons.

Man of the match Johnathan Thurston also collected a slice of history with a perfect outing with the boot, kicking a Maroons record nine goals from as many attempts.

Maroons captain Cameron Smith said the loss to the Blues in Origin II in Melbourne last month had given his team-mates the determination to make amends in the series decider.



"Coming off a pretty difficult loss in Melbourne, our Game Two wasn't the best by our standards," he told Grandstand.

"We had to be brutally honest with our review at the start of this week. I think it shows the quality of this side and the way we all played for each other and

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SCOREBOARD: QLD 52-6 NSW

	52-6	
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at Lang Park on July 8, 2015

Tackles:	M Ennis (NSW) - 49
Hit-ups:	P Gallen (NSW) - 16
Offloads:	C Parker (QLD) - 5
Run (m):	G Inglis (QLD) - 136

Queensland: D Gagai, J Papalii, G Inglis, M Gillett, M Morgan, D Boyd, W Chambers, A Guerra tries, J Thurston 9 goals, J Hodges 1
New South Wales: M Jennings try, T Hodgkinson 1 goal

[Full stats here](#)

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stood up for each other ... it's quite a proud moment."

Smith admitted it was challenging to deal with the media coverage of Alex McKinnon's comments made during a television interview last Sunday but it had not shifted his focus.

"I think it would be tough for anyone to be honest," he said.

"My focus was the team and the job I needed to do tonight and thankfully we got that done."

The Maroons had actually started poorly when Hodges knocked on in the opening set and the Blues soon took advantage of the field position to earn a penalty in front of the posts.

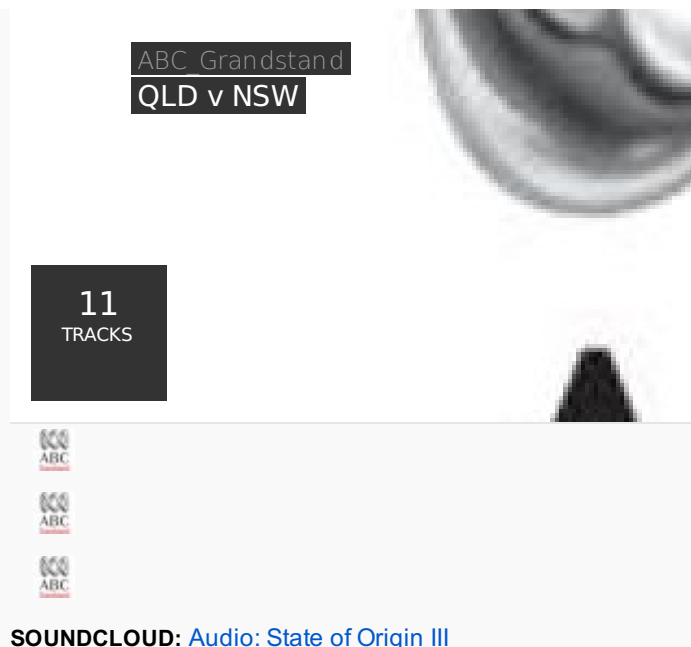
Trent Hodgkinson made no mistake from the tee to give the Blues an early 2-0 lead but only minutes later it was the turn of the visitors to give away a penalty in an almost identical position up the other end of the field allowing Thurston to level scores.

Thurston was called upon again when Dane Gagai scored a try in the 15th minute, the Maroons debutant crossing on the right edge after taking a deflected Parker pass.

Both sides traded repeat sets before the Maroons' 8-2 lead was built upon after 26 minutes, interchange forward Josh Papalii cruising through a gap set up by a delayed Thurston offload that drew in the Blues defence.

The conversion from Thurston gave the Maroons a 12-point buffer and he added another penalty six minutes later following a lifting tackle from Beau Scott on Smith, one of many flashpoints in the first half.

Another came when [Trent Merrin was placed on report for a dangerous tackle on Parker](#) and the ensuing



SOUNDCLOUD: [Audio: State of Origin III](#)



GIF: Maroons' second-half tries in Origin III

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penalty gave the Maroons a trip deep inside Blues territory, which ultimately saw Inglis streak over out wide late in the first half.

Thurston added the extras yet again, giving the Maroons a 20-point advantage at half-time and it did not take the hosts long after the break to move further ahead on the scoreboard.

Maroons pounce early in second half



PHOTO: All wrapped up ... Blues captain Paul Gallen is tackled by his Maroons counterpart Cameron Smith
(Getty Images: Cameron Spencer)

A Cooper Cronk grubber into the in-goal area was tapped back by Hodges just before the deadball line, with Gillett taking receipt of the ball amid much defensive traffic to touch down.

Thurston converted and he kicked his seventh goal of the evening soon after when he added the two points to a brilliant try from Maroons interchange back Michael Morgan to establish a 34-2 lead.

The tension between the two sides then boiled over twice more with brawls breaking out, the second erupting after James Tamou launched a swinging arm on Jacob Lillyman in a tackle.

Tamou was perhaps fortunate not to be sent from the field but was placed on report, the incident doing nothing to stem the tide of the Maroons scoring with Darius Boyd dotting over in the left-hand corner minutes later.

The Maroons were on the press close to the Blues line when Morgan sent a well-timed cut pass to an unmarked Boyd, who flew over to add the Maroons' sixth try.

The Blues, however, were refusing to give up and they gained a degree of consolation midway through the half courtesy of a runaway Michael Jennings try.

Jennings's excellent solo effort did little to disrupt the Maroons' momentum, as Will Chambers posted their seventh try just six minutes later out on the left edge, with Thurston then making it nine from nine with his conversion.

Thurston later had a try disallowed but it was not the final chance for the Maroons to cross the stripe, as Aidan Guerra recorded their eighth try in the 78th minute.

Corey Parker was named man of the series, just reward for the Maroons veteran who was pivotal in leaving the Blues' defence of the Origin shield in tatters.

Parker paid tribute to the Maroons supporters, giving the crowd credit for inspiring his team to victory.

"We didn't do this on our own tonight, we did it for the state of Queensland," he said.

"The support we've had since Game Two has been phenomenal. To get the shield back on home soil is something special."

Origin bloodbath: as it happened



- [Look back at how Queensland's record thrashing of New South Wales unfolded in Grandstand's live blog.](#)
-



Johnathan Thurston of the Maroons reacts towards Mitchell Pearce after Will Chambers crossed over to score during State of Origin Game III between the NSW Blues and Queensland Maroons at Lang Park, Brisbane, Wednesday, July 8, 2015. (AAP: Dave Hunt)

1 of 11



GALLERY: [State of Origin III](#)

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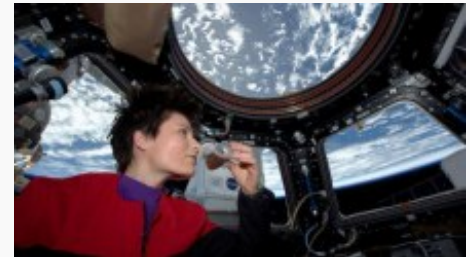
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