



Hey Presto!

A known game-breaker and prolific finisher, Preston Campbell displayed once again why he is one of the most exciting and potent attacking players in the NRL during the Panthers' Round 16 match against the Canberra Raiders.

With Penrith leading 10-6 in the 54th minute and in possession, rookie winger Michael Gordon made a break down the right sideline on the last tackle. With the Raiders defence closing in on him, Michael kicked downfield. Canberra's David Howell was closest to the ball and seemed sure to recover for the Raiders before Preston pounced.

Utilising his blinding pace, Preston got to the ball first from an unlikely position and finished off the exciting 54 metre movement with a try that gave the Panthers a game-winning margin.

Comeback Kings

The 2006 State of Origin series was decided in spectacular style last month in front of more than 50,000 spectators at Melbourne's Telstra Dome.

Coming into this year's series, the Queensland side faced plenty of criticism, and after losing the past three series on the trot, the Maroons had their backs to the wall even before the first kick off.

The fact that they narrowly lost the first game didn't make things any easier – keeping in mind that the team who has lost the first game has only come back to win the series four times in Origin history.

While Darren Lockyer was named man of the series, the star for the Queenslanders was undoubtedly half back Johnathan Thurston.

After making his Origin debut last year, Johnathan proved himself to be the future of the Maroons this year, and is set to fill the shoes of Darren Lockyer as the Maroons head into the next decade.

In the decider, it was Johnathan's personal brilliance that helped lift the Queenslanders to a two point victory. Trailing by 10 points with only 10 minutes to go, Johnathan's break from deep in his own half set up a Brent Tate try which was the highlight of the match, swinging the momentum the Queenslanders' way.



ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

1. Who is this report about?

2. Which team does he play for in the NRL?

3. According to the report, what was it that helped Preston finish off the try against the Canberra Raiders in Round 16?



ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Preston Campbell is described as “one of the most _____ and _____ attacking players in the NRL”.

What do you think this means?

2. Why is the title Hey Presto! a good one for this report?

3. The sentence “With the Raiders defence closing in on him, Michael kicked downfield” means _____

ACTIVITY 3: LIST FIVE QUALITIES THAT GREAT NRL PLAYERS ALL HAVE IN COMMON. (THE FIRST HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU)

1. They are very fit.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

ACTIVITY 4: SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT PRESTON CAMPBELL ARE LISTED IN THE MIDDLE COLUMN. ADD INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN

Name	Preston Campbell
Date of birth	02/06/77
Place of birth	Inverell, NSW
First school	Tingha PS, NSW
Height	172cm
Weight	76 kg
Position	Utility back
Junior Club	Inverell Hawks
Awards	2001 winner of rugby league’s Dally M Award
Other Interests	Family, fishing, golf

NSW

To read more about Preston Campbell and the Penrith Panthers, go to:

www.panthers.com.au