



**R**ugby league fans were saddened at the end of last season when mercurial full back David Peachey announced his retirement from the NRL. For eleven seasons, "Peach", as he is

the club to return home to be with his sick father. Unhappy with the time he was taking off, Widnes terminated David's contract. Despite the treatment from the club's management, David still looks back on his time in England positively.

David wasted little time getting back to the kind of football that made him a star. He's had an immediate impact; helping the Bunnies to their first win of the season in only his second game. Now David is focused on maintaining his form after signing with the club for 2007.

**David Peachey is back in the NRL and doing what he does best.**



Main picture: "The Peach" says goodbye to Sharks' fans; inset: David in the cardinal and myrtle.

## Return of the Peach



affectionately known, was one of the shining jewels of the NRL. He became an icon at the Sharks; his athleticism, speed, magic hands, turn of pace and likeable nature all combined to make him one of the best loved players in the competition.

David's decision to retire from the NRL last year was a difficult one. While he still felt as though he had plenty of fuel left in the tank, the club he had long served felt it was best that he moved on. Eventually he opted to head to England and sign with the Widnes Vikings.

Unfortunately, Widnes was relegated to the second division before David arrived. But he instantly made an impact on the team, becoming a crowd favourite. During this time David twice requested leave from

"Overall it was a great experience," he says. "I signed for two years and it was something that I was really looking forward to. I mean, it was cold and the training facilities weren't that good, but the football was great.

"I enjoyed playing over there and it was unfortunate the ways things turned out, but right now I have another opportunity in the NRL and that's what I'm concentrating on."

David has now signed with the South Sydney Rabbitohs, and is excited to have the opportunity to be playing in the NRL again.

"It was a little strange, putting on the red and green jersey at first after playing in blue, black and white for so long," he admits. "But to come home and play for a club like Souths that has such a rich history is great."

"I think I have at least another two years of football left in me," he says. "So far I think I've done pretty well. Hopefully the boys can help me out, and we can get a few more wins by the end of the season."

For now, with a fresh start, David feels like a 19-year-old again, playing for the first time. "That's the great thing about it," he says. "I'm enjoying my football more than ever."

Here's hoping the Peach can weave some more magic before the end of the year and get the struggling Bunnies out of the cellar.

### ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

1. According to this report, where will David Peachey play rugby league during the rest of the 2006 season?

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2. Which NRL team did David Peachey play for last season?

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3. The sentence "David Peachey is back in the NRL and doing what he does best" means:

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4. Describe what is happening in the two photographs of David Peachey.

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### **ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

1. What were five things that made David Peachey one of the best loved players in the NRL competition?

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2. Which team did Peachey play for in England?

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3. What impact has Peachey had on his new team so far?

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### ACTIVITY 3

In the boxes below, fill in what happened and when in the last two seasons of David Peachey's career.

WHEN	WHAT HAPPENED
End of last season	Retired from _____
After retiring from NRL Sharks	Headed to England to sign with _____
	Signed with South Sydney Rabbitohs
Second game for the South Sydney Rabbitohs	

What do you think makes David Peachey "one of the shining jewels of the NRL"?

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### ACTIVITY 4: GOALSETTING

David Peachey has signed up with the South Sydney Rabbitohs for the 2007 season.

What would be five goals that he would set himself for the new season?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### FURTHER READING:

To read more about South Sydney Rabbitohs, or to read more about David Peachey, go to:

[www.souths.com.au](http://www.souths.com.au)