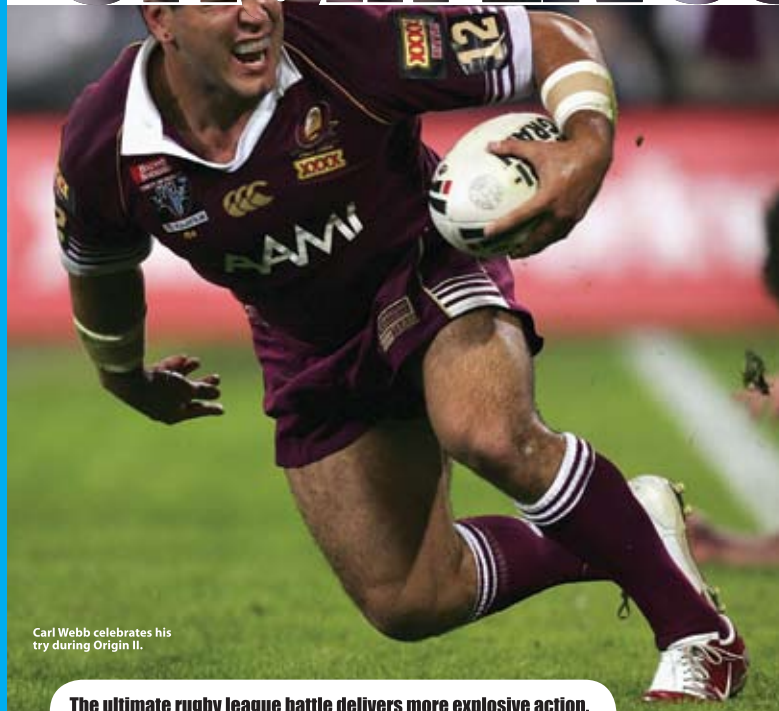


# Origin Lives!



Carl Webb celebrates his try during Origin II.



Johnathan Thurston in action (above); and (below) waving to the crowd after the Maroons' win.



## The ultimate rugby league battle delivers more explosive action.

The pinnacle of Australian rugby league, the State of Origin series, kicked off in May, and once again the frenzied battle of state against state and mate against mate produced some scintillating highlights and more memorable moments to add to the series' rich history. As always, there was a bevy of Indigenous talent on display in the Maroons' line up.

In Game One, Greg Inglis made his State of Origin debut and was one of Queensland's stars, scoring two tries. Sadly, Greg missed out on Game Two due to injury, but his classy performance on debut will ensure that he is bound to enjoy many more Origin appearances in future.

Another of Queensland's best on the night was Justin Hodges who made a

triumphant return to Origin football. Exciting Broncos front rower Sam "Human Wrecking Ball" Thaiday also made his debut for the Maroons, and made an instant impact on the game with some barging runs. The Maroons went down by a single point, setting up a do or die Game Two.

Under heavy criticism and given little hope of a win, the Queenslanders were a different side in the crucial second match, playing with passion and enthusiasm, while a packed house of fanatical Queenslanders urged them on from the stands.

Leading the way forward was Carl Webb, who was absent from Game One and added some much needed grunt, scoring the game's first try. Justin Hodges again played a starring role, easing his Origin nightmares of

the past by snatching a spectacular length of the field intercept try.

Johnathan Thurston also stepped up in the second game. He was involved far more in the Queensland attack, getting his hands on the ball more than in Game One. He also produced a try for winger Adam Mogg, showing off some of his sheer brilliance.

After keeping the Blues from scoring for almost the whole match, the Queenslanders steamrolled the Blues 30 to 6, setting up a cliffhanger third game in Melbourne.

While many are claiming that Origin is dead, the Maroons have breathed new life into the series. Although Game Three was yet to be played at the time of printing, we're sure it will be one of the most thrilling Origin games seen in recent history.

GETTY IMAGES

## ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the heading in the article, the photographs of Carl Webb and Johnathan Thurston under the heading and the sub-heading under the photographs ("The ultimate rugby league battle delivers more explosive action").

1. What do you think this report will be about?

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2. What is described as "the ultimate rugby league battle"?

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3. Who were two of the stars of the State of Origin matches?

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## ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Read paragraph one.

Find and write the words that tell us that the State of Origin series was a memorable sporting event.

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2. Another way to say “a bevy of Indigenous talent on display in the Maroons’ line up” is:

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3. How does the choice of photographs on this page show that the State of Origin matches were full of excitement?

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## ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

WORDS	MEANING
“classy performance on debut”	
“...Sam Thaiday...made an instant impact on the game with some barging runs”	
“...Carl Webb...added some much needed grunt”	
“...the Queenslanders steamrolled the Blues 30 to 6, setting up a cliffhanger third game in Melbourne”	



## ACTIVITY 4: STATE OF ORIGIN STATISTICS

The following table tells us how many wins each State of Origin team has had on different grounds at the end of the 2003 series.

Read the table and answer the questions on the next page.

**Wins per Ground** (As at the end of 2003 series)

GROUND	GAMES	NSW	QLD	DRAW
Lang Park / Suncorp	35	13	21	1
Sydney Football Stadium	14	7	7	
Sydney Cricket Ground	6	3	3	
Stadium Australia	7	6	0	1
Melbourne Cricket Ground	3	2	1	
Olympic Park	1	1	0	
ANZ Stadium	2	0	2	
Long Beach, California *	1	*1	0	
TOTAL	*69	*33	34	2

\* Long Beach was an exhibition game.

1. On which ground have the most State of Origin games been played?

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2. On which ground have three State of Origin games been played?

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3. On which ground has QLD won most games?

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4. On which ground has NSW won six out of seven games?

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5. Where was the only exhibition game played?

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### JUST FOR FUN!

To read more about the State of Origin, go to:

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