



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Hansard 17 September 1998

LANG PARK GRAND FINALS

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (10.09 a.m.): It is a solemn occasion indeed when a member has to stand in this place and speak against the wishes of his own leader. But as patron of the greatest Rugby League team in Queensland, I have a duty to urge fans to flock to the real home of football this Saturday—Lang Park—and support Norths, the Mighty Devils, in their quest to win no less than three grand final trophies. Norths play Wests in the Queensland Cup, Wynnum in the A Grade and Brothers and the Colts. We are, of course, expecting three great wins in each division to add to victories in the preseason championship and the minor premiership.

This will be a spectacle that no genuine Rugby League fan can afford to miss. Whereas I wish the Broncos well in their match against Sydney, without a doubt the best games of football this weekend will be played in our own Queensland league competition at "The Cauldron". Norths' last A Grade premiership was won in 1980 with current coach, Mark Murray, as captain. Mark is poised to further ingrain himself in Devil's history with wins in the Queensland Cup on Saturday. I pass on my congratulations to all players in all divisions for a great season. I make special mention of Colts coach Anthony Griffin and captain Brad Watts; A Grade coach Craig Grauf and captain Geoff Huxtable; and premier coach Mark Murray and captain Kevin Carmichael. I mention also the leading try scorer for the season, Paul Hubbard, and leading points scorer, John Wilshire.

It is important also to recognise the significant contributions of the club office bearers, administrative staff and supporters. Their efforts have underpinned one of the most successful years in the club's history. I wish all of the players well and look forward to a great celebration on Saturday night. Go the Mighty Devils.

Mr SPEAKER: I might mention that coach Mark Murray was trained at Redcliffe. That is where he learned to play football.
