# **Comeback kings Lions** face Crusaders in final



Lions' Andries Coetzee (front), is tackled by Hurricanes' Nehe Milner-Skudder (left), during the rugby semifinal match between Lions and Hurricanes, at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 29. Loins beat Hurricanes by 44-29. (AP)

### Holders Hull storm into Challenge Cup final

JOHANNESBURG, July 29, (Agencies): The Lions will have another shot at a first Super Rugby title and the Crusaders will get a chance at a record-extending eighth.

South Africa's Lions made their second straight final with an astonishing comeback on Saturday to beat defending champions the Hurricanes 44-29 after trailing 22-3.

Emboldened by prop Jacques van Rooyen's try just before halftime, the Lions scored six tries and 41 points to

### RUGBY

just seven points by the Hurricanes in their semifinal fightback in Johannesburg, avenging the loss at the Hurricanes in last year's final.

The Lions, once the first team ever to be relegated from Super Rugby, will now host the final next Saturday against the Crusaders, the tournament's most successful team.

The Christchurch-based Crusaders beat the Chiefs 27-13 in their all-New Zealand semifinal, helped by two tries by former Chiefs winger Seta Tamanivalu. The Crusaders reached the final for the 12th time.

The Chiefs had an abundance of possession but the Crusaders showed playoff temperament, seizing a handful of chances to score four tries that propelled them into the final for the first time since 2014.

The Crusaders have outstanding Super Rugby pedigree, but the Lions have a significant advantage in hosting the final at Ellis Park. The Crusaders will have to make the trek across to South Africa, and also deal with Johannesburg's high altitude, which wore down the Hurricanes. No team has ever won the Super Rugby final after having to travel to another country.

On Saturday, TJ Perenara, Wes Goosen and Ardie Savea scored tries for the Hurricanes to see them race 22-3 ahead after 30 minutes before the Lions

Despite the Lions' surge, the game was still in the balance with just over 20 minutes to go when the Hurricanes' Ngani Laumape scored a Super Rugby record-equaling 15th try this season. A key moment came when the Hur-

ricanes had All Blacks flyhalf Beauden Barrett sin-binned for a deliberate infringement with the Lions on attack a debatable decision by South African referee Jaco Pyper. The Lions, 29-22 down when Barrett

went to the bin, were 39-29 up when he returned.

The Lions put the result beyond doubt with their final try in the 74th, when replacement hooker Akker van der Merwe intercepted to halt a Hurricanes attack from deep inside their 22 and offloaded to flanker Kwagga Smith

In the first semifinal, Tamaniyalu touched down twice in the second half against his former team, and scrumhalf

### **Edmund stuns top seed Sock to reach semis**

## Hanfmann, Fognini in final

Delbonis.

GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 29, ATP title in February at Memphis with-(AFP): German qualifier Yannick out dropping a set. He has never faced Hanfmann reached his maiden career final in Gstaad on Saturday with a tight 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4) win over sixth seed Robin Haase, saving four match points in the process.

The 170th-ranked Hanfmann, who has suffered from a hearing impairment since birth, will face Italy's Fabio Fognini in Sunday's final.

Fourth seed Fognini defeated Spanish second Roberto Bautista Agut 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 in his semi-final.

"I saw him play this whole week and told my team that he's going to be dangerous. But I'm going to go for it and try to win the title.'

In Washington, Britain's Kyle Edmund won nine of the last 10 games to upset US top seed Jack Sock 6-4, 6-1 Friday and reach the ATP BB&T Open

Edmund, a 22-year-old born in South Africa, advanced to his second career ATP semi-final after last year's European Open in Antwerp. He has yet to reach an ATP final.

Sock broke Edmund in the seventh game but the Briton broke back in the eighth and 10th games, capturing the first set in 59 minutes, then took only 29 more to finish off the match.

Blocking the world number 45's path to the championship match of the US Open hardcourt tuneup in Atlanta is American fourth seed Ryan Harrison, who ousted 461st-ranked US wildcard Christopher Eubanks 6-1, 6-2.

Harrison, ranked 42nd, won his only

injury in the second set. Kohlschreiber took the first set 6-4 but quit at 3-2 down in the second. In their two previous meetings on

In Hamburg, Argentina's Leonardo

Mayer will face Germany's Florian

Mayer in the Hamburg claycourt final

on Sunday, the third time the name-

the world and the 2014 champion at

the tournament, made the final with a

6-3, 7-5 win over compatriot Federico

Florian Mayer, 33 years old and 101

in the rankings, reached the champi-

onship match when fellow German

Philipp Kohlschreiber retired through

**TENNIS** 

Leonardo Mayer, ranked 138th in

sakes have clashed on the ATP Tour.

the tour. Leonardo Mayer triumphed in Delray Beach in 2010 with his German rival winning in Halle three years later. In Beijing, Japan's Nao Hibino de-

molished wildcard Wang Yafan in the last four of the Jiangxi Open on Saturday to deny the hosts an all-Chinese final.

The 22-year-old Hibino, who has one WTA title already to her name, faces the number two seed and remaining home hope Peng Shuai in the decider on the hard courts of Nanchang, southeast China on Sunday.

Bryn Hall and fullback Israel Dagg also scored tries for the Crusaders.

Meanwhile, Hull turned on the style

as they booked a place in the Challenge



Canterbury Crusaders' Richie Mo'unga kicks a conversion during their Super Rugby semifinal match between the Canterbury Crusaders and Waikato Chiefs at AMI Stadium in Christchurch on July 29. (AFP)

Cup final with a thumping 43-24 win against Leeds at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium on Saturday.

The Cup-holders have yet to play to their full potential this season despite sitting third in the Super League, but they produced an accomplished display to see off 11-time Challenge Cup kings Leeds

Australian Albert Kelly was instrumental throughout as he pulled the strings from stand-off, while Marc Sneyd's accurate kicking undid Leeds on several occasions.

Carlos Tuimavave grabbed two tries for Hull while Kelly, Chris Green and Liam Watts, Jamie Shaul and Scott Taylor also crossed Leeds's line.

Hull, who beat Warrington 12-10 in last season's final, will now return to London's Wembley Stadium to face the winners of Sunday's match between Salford and Wigan.

Hull will take some stopping with Kelly in this kind of form, and coach Lee Radford will be delighted after restoring him to the first team.

The 26-year-old knew all about facing Leeds on the biggest stage, having been on the wrong end of a 50-0 drubbing while at Hull KR in the 2015 final, but he looks more than capable of righting those wrongs this year.

### **Football families**

#### **Continued from Page 39**

Joe Crespino was about 10 years old when he watched his father get tossed from a recreational softball game for arguing a call.

Afterward, Bobby Crespino apologized to the umpire.

"You could almost see him saying, 'What the heck was I doing?" Joe Crespino said. "When I was growing up, my mother would say my father had a temper. That was always explained as: 'He's Italian. Lots of men had tempers at that time.

"Looking back, I wonder if that wasn't related to CTE."

A star at Ole Miss and a first-round pick in the 1961 NFL draft, Crespino played eight years as a split end in Cleveland and New York. He also had a productive post-NFL career, bringing cable television to rural areas, serving as an alderman at-large in the Macon, Mississippi, city council, remaining active in his church.

But in his late 50s, Bobby Crespino also began developing vague neurological symptoms. His left leg became "absolutely inflexible," his

And the temper.

"One of the things that was very frustrating for many years was that he had this broad array of physical ailments, and the doctors couldn't diagnose them really well," Joe said. "I am glad to have a sense of why that might have been happening.

"I didn't need a sense of peace from the study," he said. "My father led a great life; he was a great man. But I'm very excited by the work that they're doing. It's bringing to light the connection between the sport and head injuries.

A former Harvard football player, Chris Nowinski parlayed an Ivy League pedigree and mop of blond hair into a career as a professional wrestling heel.

The wrestling was fake, he likes to say, but the concussions were real. After years of blows to the head,

he developed symptoms of what is known generally as post-concussion syndrome: headaches, memory loss, sleep-walking. He, too, struggled to figure out what was wrong. In shuttling from doctor to doctor, he learned about CTE.

Nowinski retired from wrestling and wrote a book, "Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis," that was made into a movie. With his doctor, Robert Cantu, he created the Concussion Legacy Foundation and speaks to coaches and players and parents about the dangers of repetitive head trauma, from youth football to Premier League soccer.

Now a Ph.D., Nowinski helps round up brains for research, usually contacting families soon after a player dies. The Boston University brain bank has received 425 donations, with more than 1,900 additional pledges from active or retired athletes. (For now, CTE can only be diagnosed posthumously.)

The first was former linebacker John Grimsley, whose wife saw Nowinski on TV. Three concussions were a lot, he said; John Grimsley said he'd had six to nine that he could remember.

"He said it could've been more, because he hardly ever came off the field," Virginia Grimsley said. "We used to always say, 'He got his bell rung too many times' when he forgets things. I said, 'That's not funny anymore."

John Grimsley died in 2008 at the age of 45 from an accidental gunshot wound. It was a new gun — a Christmas present — and Virginia thinks her husband may have forgotten a bullet was in the chamber.

She was at church making funeral arrangements when Nowinski called her home. A friend brought her the message. "I looked at her and said. 'He wants John's brain, doesn't he?' And she said, 'Yeah, he does.' I said, 'What do I have to sign?'" said Grimsley, who was widowed at 46. "It was almost like it was meant to be that I had seen that show."

Although the family has held onto his Texans season tickets, Virginia has been to just a couple of games.

"Anytime somebody would be hit, I would just close my eyes and cringe and think, 'Please, oh God, let them get up and please don't let him have his eggs scrambled," she said. "I just watch it with completely different

Lew Carpenter grew up poor in West Memphis, and football, though not nearly as lucrative as it is now, was a ladder to the middle class.

"Football really was this ticket to, I'm just going to say a more interesting life. A profoundly elevating situation for them," his daughter, Rebecca Carpenter said. "That was the big gift football gave us. Instead of being tenant farmers, we were solidly middle

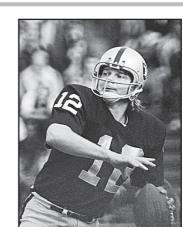
So when Nowinski called after her father died, Carpenter did not take it well. "My first instinct is: 'Why is this (expletive) Chris Nowinski try-ing to take football away from us?" she said. "I thought: 'Surely this was another person out to exploit former NFL players to make a name for him-

But she talked to the people she knew, the "football family" she had acquired over her father's 40 years in

Her mother did a little research, too. "Mom took out old rosters, putting two and two together: 'He was diagnosed with dementia; he was diagnosed with early Alzheimer's; he had a temper," Rebecca Carpenter said. "I was gutted."

Lew Carpenter was diagnosed with CTE six years ago. When the study was published on Tuesday, Rebecca burst into tears.

"I am not a crier," she said, again breaking down on the telephone. "I am so crushed by the existence of this



In this 1974 file photo, Oakland Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler looks to pass. Research on the brains of 202 former football players has confirmed what many feared in life - evidence chronic encephalopathy, or CTE, a devastating disease in nearly all the samples, from athletes in the NFL, college and even high school. Stabler is among the cases previously reported. (AP)

disease that I can't begin to tell you." Ollie Matson was a two-time Olympic medalist and a running back for the Chicago Cardinals before he was traded — for nine players — to the Los Angeles Rams.

When he retired, he was second only to Jim Brown in all-purpose

For the last four years of his life, he barely spoke.

"I'd show up and he would say, 'Hi.' And he'd say 'Bye' when I left. That was it," Ollie Matson Jr. said.

The Pro Football Hall of Famer washed the family's four cars almost every day, and barbecued chicken at 6:30 in the morning. He had trouble telling a \$10 bill from a \$100.

"At first we thought it was kind of funny because we didn't know about concussions or CTE. Nobody knew," Matson Jr. said. "We kind of laughed it off, but then it got a little worse.'

Before dying of dementia complications in 2011 at age 80, Matson needed a wheelchair and a nurse.

"You feel like you got cheated out of some of the best years of your life, not having your father," Ollie Jr. said. Scott Gilchrist can empathize in a way that many of the other survivors

The son of Bills, Broncos and Dolphins fullback Cookie Gilchrist sustained his own traumatic brain injury when he fell 40 feet from scaffolding during the renovations of his Toronto home. The seizures cost him his driver's license, and he remains on disability from his job with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"I have a better understanding of the last bunch of years with my dad," Gilchrist said.

Carlton Chester "Cookie" Gilchrist went straight from high school to pro football, playing in Canada before joining the Bills of the pre-merger American Football League in 1962. He led the league in rushing twice and touchdowns four times and was

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voted the top player in both the CFL and AFL, winning championships in each league.

He began showing symptoms of brain damage in his late 30s, his son said. As Cookie's symptoms intensified — he died in 2011 at the age of 75 — he recorded 10,000 hours of routine conversation with family and

"My brother and I both thought the old man was just crazy. Now I have a way better understanding of why he couldn't give up on certain things,' Scott said. "He would say, 'Here's what's happening to the people I knew. I don't want to end up like

"He was told, 'Put your head down and go for the guy's chin and then lift up. Use that head. And he told us those stories even before any of this came out." -- Rani Lendzion, daughter of Don Paul, a leather helmetwearing linebacker and center for the Los Angeles Rams. Matt Morrall remembers the dad jokes.

"Here was a guy, he was playing until he was 42 years old, until he was old enough to be the dad of some of the players he was playing with," the quarterback's son said. "So he had that 'older guy' mentality."

Morrall played 21 years in the NFL, earning the league MVP in 1968, winning three Super Bowl championships and contributing to Miami's 17-0 record in 1972 that remains the league's only perfect season. When he retired, he put his civil engineering degree to use.

Then there was a change in his personality, his ability to think and be coordinated," Matt Morrall said.

And his dad's sense of humor was slipping away, as well. The family pledged Earl's brain to

BU's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center. "It was such a dramatic change, we wanted to see if that was one of the reasons," Matt said. As a member of the Orange Bowl

Committee, Matt Morrall works with coaches and referees to teach better tackling techniques, and to spot players with concussions so they can be pulled from the game. "That's the goal: continue with the

education, help make this better," he said. "I think there's a lot of valuable lessons associated with football, and there's some risks there. And those have to be weighed."

Jeff Staggs began forgetting appointments, including the one to have his brain examined after he joined a lawsuit that accused the NFL of hiding the true dangers of football.

When the San Diego Chargers linebacker finally did make it to the assessment, he didn't want to know

"He knew the last few years before he passed that something just wasn't right," said his wife, Sarah Staggs. "He couldn't remember his sons' girlfriends' names, and things like that. He would pay the bills and pay \$2,300 instead of \$230. I'd come home and the car would still be run-

ning in the driveway. The exam was one step in claiming part of a \$1 billion settlement between the NFL and its retired players. The average award for players who retired before 2014 is expected to be about \$190,000 for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease or moderate de-

Staggs was 70 when he died in his sleep of arrhythmia in September

Sarah Staggs said her husband was proud of his football career, playing for his hometown team. But she encouraged former players to become brain donors.

"He felt all future generations should have the right information," she said.

In his better days, his wife said, Larry Morris was known as a Southern gentleman and a "man of his

Then he got involved in a bad real estate deal and landed on probation. Another deal gone wrong cost Larry and Kay Morris their house.

She went to work for the first time since quitting college to get married, but she had to leave her job when Larry started wandering off.

"He had about eight years where he could neither walk nor talk," Kay said. "It was like you lost him many years before he was gone.

A linebacker on the NFL's All-1960s team, Morris did receive assistance through the 88 Plan, a program negotiated between the league and the players union that helps retired players with dementia. But nursing aides cost \$15-20 an hour, and the reimbursements would take six weeks.

"I was living paycheck to paycheck," Kay said. "That made it very difficult."

Larry died in 2012 and was diagnosed with severe CTE. Kay Morris, now retired, is still paying the mortgage on a house she refinanced several times. "We're still trying to recover from the financial damage. To say nothing of the loneliness and the sorrow that losing him to this disease has brought," she said. "It's brought a lot of financial distress also.'

"I will tell you that I go to reunions of my high school, and then I'm at the same time going to reunions of my high school football team. The high school football team's in a lot better shape than the general condition of my high school, I promise you that." Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, an Arkansas teammate of Ronnie Caveness, who was diagnosed

with CTE.

Many former football players, the league is quick to note, never show any symptoms of CTE. Others may play for years without a diagnosed concussion.

Mike Keating, whose father and uncle both played in the NFL, warns them not to get too confident. "I'd be very, very concerned if I was a professional football player

who had concussions or head hits and I'm 40 years old and I'm saying, 'I'm fine," Keating said. "That's not how this movie's going to end.'  $Tom \, Keating, \bar{M}ike's \, uncle, played$ 

most of his 11 years as a defensive

tackle for the Raiders and was among those diagnosed with CTE. Bill Keating, Mike's father, spent two years in the NFL and wasn't tested. Mike Keating said his uncle had a great memory in his youth and could rattle off teammates' colleges and

even their high schools long after he'd retired. As he got older, he coped by taking extensive notes. Playing on the defensive line, Tom Keating wasn't involved in as many bone-jarring hits as a quarterback,

running back or receiver. So the

family was surprised when his brain

showed signs of CTE. "They all focus on concussions, but yet it's a sport that's built on just hitting each other every play," Mike Keating said. "It's kind of like being Muhammad Ali and jabbing the head. It might not be the knockouts that cause you to become demented, but the jabs will."

Lew Carpenter wasn't just a CTE victim. He was also a carrier of the disease.

A running back who won three NFL championships in a 10-year career with the Lions, Browns and Packers, Carpenter stuck around the sidelines for another 31 years as an assistant coach. Working for eight NFL teams, plus a stint in the World League of American Football and another at Southwest Texas State, he preached what he heard from Hall of Fame coaches like Vince Lombardi: walk it off, or we'll find someone who

"He was promulgating it," Rebecca Carpenter said in a telephone interview, at times choking back sobs: "'Rub a little dirt in it. Get back out there. There are 1,000 guys who want your job. Is this the moment that you're going to choose to be weak, and let everybody down?'

"That's a distillation of who he was. Not because he's a (jerk)," she said. "My father really understood something about football at the professional level: You can't let anybody see your vulnerability, because then you're dead."

A Harvard-educated former schoolteacher, Rebecca Carpenter wrote and directed an autobiographical film called "Football Family" in 1994 about growing up as a selfdescribed football brat whose father moved from team to team.

Her second film, about a daughter whose father keeps telling the same story over and over, is more loosely based on her experience. Her next project, the documentary "Requiem for a Running Back," is due out in