

Force		Crusaders
Pek Cowan	1	Wyatt Crockett
Nathan Charles	2	Corey Flynn
Matt Dunning	3	Ben Franks
Sam Wykes	4	Luke Romano
Nathan Sharpe (C)	5	Chris Jack
Richard Brown	6	George Whitelock
David Pocock	7	Matt Todd
Ben McCalman	8	Richie McCaw (C)
Brett Sheehan	9	Kahn Fotuali'i
Willie Ripia	10	Matt Berquist
David Smith	11	Zac Guildford
James O'Conner	12	Sonny Bill Williams
Pat Dellit	13	Robbie Fruean
Nick Cummins	14	Sean Maitland
Cameron Shephard	15	Israel Dagg

Reserves

Ben Whittacker	16	Quentin MacDonald
Kieran Longbottom	17	Owen Franks
Matt Hodgson	18	? Reuben Thorne ?
Tevita Metuisela	19	Jonathan Poff
James Stannard	20	Willie Heinz
Rory Sidey	21	Tom Marshall
Alfi Mafi	22	Adam Whitelock

KEY MATCH-UPS

The highlight of the match will, as usual, be the clash of the two back rows and the ensuing scrap-fest at the breakdown. Last weekend we were treated to a showdown between line-out kingpins Victor Matfield and Nathan Sharpe; this weekend will be a master class at the breakdown from David Pocock and Richie McCaw. Pocock is more than ably supported by form forwards, Richard Brown and Ben McCalman- both no doubt keen to impress Robbie Deans. McCaw is also not without strong support from young dynamos Matt Todd and George Whitelock. The Crusaders pair are not short on talent, however you can't help but feel the Force will have the Crusader's number here, particularly with Matt Hodgson ready to fire from the bench. You can bet your ass they will need to with the backline that the men in red are about to unleash.



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V

CRUSADERS

Saturday 9th April 2011
nib Stadium, Perth

Kick Off: 8.05pm



J.B. O'Reilly's

SALTIRE
 ENGINEERING SERVICES

**FORCE V CRUSADERS... ALWAYS
 A SURPRISE**

THE PREVIEW

Excluding the aberration of 2007, games between the Western Force and the Crusaders have been nothing short of epic. This is the big clash on our calendar. This is the one the fans are waiting for. The Crusaders are the benchmark of Super rugby and last year's win would have to rate as one of the clubs finest and most thrilling.

The long awaited return of David Pocock, along with watching the Crusaders limping off the plane at Perth airport, will have buoyed the Force in the lead up to the game. The Crusaders meanwhile are not so fortunate with injured players. No less than five All Blacks have been left out of the side in Brad Thorn, Sam Whitelock, Kieran Read, Andy Ellis and Daniel Carter. The loss of the former three is devastating for the Crusaders line-out, while Carter and Ellis' absence forces Blackadder to persist with a halves pairing that didn't cut the mustard against the Highlanders last weekend.

Despite their injuries, the Crusaders are still a danger team right across the park and this undoubtedly starts with their front row. The undisputed form pigs in the competition have troubled better front rows than the Force's. Pek Cowan, Nathan Charles and Matt Dunning will have their work cut out for them coming against an All Black front row of Wyatt Crocket, Corey Flynn and Ben Franks. Having a prop of the calibre of Owen Franks on the bench is means there will be no respite.

The Force will, find some reprieve in the line-outs where Nathan Sharpe and Sam Wykes continue their excellent partnership. The Crusaders have struggled to cope with their injuries in the second row and there will be an opportunity here for Sharpe to do the same kind of damage he inflicted on the Brumbies.

Few sides in world rugby would turn away backs like Israel Dagg, Zac Guildford, SBW, and Robbie Fruean. There will be no hiding place in defence for the Force backs. James O'Connor in particular will have a tough assignment in neutralizing a rampaging SBW.

Richard Graham will no doubt be looking towards a game-plan somewhat similar to that against the Brumbies. The Crusaders can attack from anywhere but keeping them locked in their own territory will remove some of that freedom and give us time to scramble in defence if they do make a break. -

This game is without a doubt a bookmaker's conundrum. I don't envy the vbookie this weekend. The Force have only won three in a row once in their history, while the Crusaders don't often lose back to back, especially when their finals aspirations are on the line. Then again, the Force did win last year's fixture and have recently been in a rich vein of form. An injury depleted Crusaders side is not the calibre of beast that we overcame last year. It's hard not to see this one being close, if not breathtakingly so. Have your heart pills on standby guys. This one is too close to call- I'm going with 3 points in either direction.

James @ TWF.com.au

PAT DELLIT

Position: Full Back
Height: 192cm
Weight: 1000kg
Date of Birth: 21/08/1986
Super 12/14 Caps: 5 (Debut 2011 v Lions, Johannesburg)



Pat Dellit has been an outstanding find for the Force and has stepped into the fullback roll admirably. He has shown tough characteristics and was cool headed in easily tacking his first 'up and under' from the Lions.

Patrick is a new recruit to the Emirates Western Force for season 2011, earning his chance at the top level following several impressive seasons playing for Eastern Suburbs in the NSW Shute Shield competition. Comfortable filling any of the back three positions, Patrick will give Force coaching staff several options next season.

He was pursued by a number of franchises but rejected their advances to join the WA based side believing Perth offered the best chance of fulfilling his Super Rugby goals following the success of players coming west and establishing themselves as consistent performers at the top level.

THE STATS

	T	C	P	DG	Total
Force	2	2	3	0	23
Crusaders	3	1	2	0	23
Crusaders	8	5	1	0	53
Force	0	0	0	0	0
Force	4	2	0	0	24
Crusaders	5	2	0	0	29
Crusaders	3	1	2	0	23
Force	2	2	3	0	23
Force	3	3	1	0	24

Check out **TWF.com.au** for all your Force news and information (as well as discussions and arguments!)



Pat Dellit in action for Eastern Suburbs