

Steve Walters

NRL

Steve Walters at the peak of his career was considered the best hooker in the game. An Australian Kangaroos and Queensland Maroons representative, he played in the Canberra Raiders' 1st, 2nd and 3rd grand final victories. Steve is the eldest of the three Walters brothers, but was the last of them to gain Australian Test selection honors.

Upon moving to the Raiders and achieving back-to-back grand final wins in 1989 and 1990, many believed that Test selection should have come to Walters. It did come, belatedly, in the 1991 Trans-Tasman Test series. But this was at the expense of his brother Kerrod who lost his representative position due to being suspended. Steve Walters out-pointed New South Wales captain Ben Elias on the scores of consistency and reliability in the open and was one of Australia's best players in the series win against the Kiwis. He was also named man-of-the-match in the second game of the 1991 State of Origin series. Despite Canberra's loss in that year's grand final, Walters was named the Raiders' player of the year and also earned a place on the Australian Tour of Papua New Guinea.

In 1992 Walters was selected for the Ashes series against Great Britain. The Walters brothers had already become the first trio to play for Queensland and Australia when, that year, they achieved another milestone when all three were selected to tour with the World Cup squad. In 1993 Walters was named as *Rugby League Week's* player of the year.

Canberra's win in the 1994 grand final, and Walters' performances for Queensland and Australia, confirmed his reputation as the best dummy-half runner in the world. Despite the good form of Ben Elias in New South Wales' State of Origin wins in 1993-94, Walters retained his place on the 1994 Kangaroo Tour and produced a man-of-the-match effort in the deciding Test of the Ashes series



In 2000 Steve was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to Australia's international standing in the sport of rugby league.

In February 2008, Walters was named in the list of Australia's *100 Greatest Players (1908-2007)* which was commissioned by the NRL and ARL to celebrate the code's centenary year in Australia.



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