

Praise Godinet

Pita is a young Vulcans player earning respect

WATCHING THE DIMINUTIVE GODINET RUNNING the Auckland Vulcans around the field makes one wonder why a NRL or Superleague club hasn't yet picked up the 22 year old Samoan playmaker, such is his influence on the matches played over the last three seasons?

Since 2008 Godinet has been the regular in the team coming in at the age of 19. Only Isaac John, Upa Poching and Ian Hayes are still here with Godinet from their entry into the ruthlessly tough NSW club competition.

That might be part of the problem - and the fact is that the Vulcans have been perennial strugglers in a competition where over half the regular players are experienced NRL starters and full time professionals.

Players like the Warriors Ian Henderson can make a difference but even in their match against the Canterbury Bulldogs every second word was "Packer", such was their efforts to contain the explosive Russell Packer. These NRL blokes are known and marked men. Nothing better than a big hit on a big name.

Nigel Vagana, Jeremy Smith, Dean Widders and David Kidwell were all in one North Sydney Bears team in 2008

all getting back on their feet or recovering from an injury. There's no easy ride and no soft games in this competition.

Godinet, 80kg and 1.76m knows all about that, marking the huge David Kidwell who, at the time, was playing tough and uncompromising football. He also rates the Doggies Ben Barba as one talented footballer.

Godinet, born in Christchurch to Frank and Lina, with younger brothers Ione, Sahafo and Koki, originally located in Aranui and played for Woolston and Sydenham in the garden city as a four to seven year old.

After moving to Marist in Auckland the strength of rugby league's legendary school St Paul's College proved too strong and he then turned out for the local Richmond Bulldogs.

The only game Godinet missed was to be expected. You cannot disobey your future wife if you're walking her up the aisle and so it was with Caroline, laughed Godinet, a welder fabricator by trade.

"Sure, I'm after a NRL contract, admits Godinet, and I want it to be the Warriors, but if that's not to be I am "keen as" for a contract with a NRL club and would consider Superleague, if the offer was right for me, asserts Godinet.

"I think if I can put on a little more weight it will help my game but I'm known for my speed and I don't want to lose that attacking weapon. I like to get out from dummy half as well as run the team around on the field. I'm also known for my talking it up, he admits with a disarming grin.

"I'm the bossy guy in the team, I like the pressure and picking up my work rate has been my goal since I came into grade football. Nothing fancy mind - you've got to earn your points in this level of football, said Godinet.

Without a doubt Pita Godinet is a player to watch out for. His fellow players were constantly calling his name - that's a real mark when you want to know who has the respect on the field and Godinet has that in spades. 

