

BBC London 94.9's Ian Ramsdale reflects on solo inspiration



Can just one player determine the outcome of a game? I mean, surely with Rugby League being a team sport it's about working together and putting in a collective effort? No, I disagree: a game can be run – and won – by just one man.

How many times do we talk about the influence of players like Scott Hill, Henry Paul, Stacey Jones et al and how they – and they alone – can change a game. Trent Barrett, Lesley Vainikolo and Keiron Cunningham are three more names that spring to mind here.

If one man turns on the flair then this can, and I say can – not will – win the game. I accept that everyone else helps, if they just walked, dropped the ball and didn't tackle then, you're right, the one man would make no difference. So now you're asking, "Surely we have a form player every

week, so why do we not win every game?" I see my argument falling apart around me, but I'd argue it's a vicious circle that requires the rest of the cast to support the one player in the starring role if they're to achieve their best.

It's that one man who can give the rest of the team a reason to raise their game. It could be an immaculate catch, run and drive, a flamboyant long pass to put someone over in the corner or a cheeky backdoor hand-off breaching the opposition defence. Whatever and wherever it comes from can be enough to be the 'match winner'.

It's the same in life: you can be influenced by just one single person.

For me it was the man who shook my right hand (firmly) whilst giving me my GCSE certificates with the other. He was a Rugby League player who'd been taught at my school a few years previously and went on to become the Great Britain captain. His speech that day inspired me and so I say thank you to a certain Phillip Clarke.

If any RL player now is half as inspiring as the former Wigan man was then, I say one man can win any game for any team, and there's a 50:50 chance the one inspiration could be on your side tonight.

Rammo

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Lesley Vainikolo has the ability to change a game on his own