

BBC London's Ian Ramsdale shares his theories on the Curse of Cas



I know it's unusual to find an article in a matchday programme that isn't about the two teams you're about to watch, but today I'm going to write about Castleford Tigers.

Why? Well, you might have noticed that this season they've only scored 7 points. To be fair, St Helens might be more aware of it having surrendered two points to them in Round 10, whereas Harlequins Rugby League have won two from two against them in 2008.

But beating them, or even games against them, is not what's concerning me – it's the curse that follows their opponent's opponents in the following round.

And those opponents' opponents are always Harlequins RL.

'The Curse of Cas' so far is thus:

"Castleford will only register points in 2008, when the opposition face Harlequins RL in their next game. And in that game, Quins will be beaten."

For example: Saints were beaten 24-30 at The Jungle, then beat Harlequins 58-12 in the following round. And there lies my point... it's Harlequins who've been on the receiving end of every Castleford backlash. Every single time!

It happened with Leeds, Warrington and most recently last weekend in Round 19 with Wigan. Each side had, in the previous round, points taken from them by Super League's bottom club.

Now, if the curse is that simple, then Castleford will not score any more points this season – as none of their opponents go on to play Harlequins in their next game for the remainder of the year. But, my worry is, the curse isn't yet complete.

I fear Harlequins could be on the receiving end of more Castleford capers.

Today is Round 20. In Round 21, Saints play Cas. In Round 22, Harlequins play Cas. It's just too ironic.

If there's one thing I'm not it's superstitious, but I wonder if it'll work in reverse? Saints give Cas payback for the result earlier in the year, then they come out to complete the curse against Quins in Round 22, to drive the stake in further. You heard it (well, read it) here first.

Maybe it'll just disappear under the radar? Or will it return next season?

BBC London 94.9 has extended its rugby league

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coverage for the summer, to an hour-long programme on Thursday nights at 9pm. You can email your comments and contributions at any time to london.sport@bbc.co.uk.

BBC London continues to exclusively cover every engage Super League match that involves Quins RL across the season. For exclusive commentary, both home and away, through the BBC London website, go to www.bbc.co.uk/london/sport.

If Cas do finish the season with 7 points (or maybe 9 after a round 22 win over Quins...) providing the two sides are in the same league in 2009, I'll be the first person checking if they face an opponent the round before Harlequins do.

Rammo



Are Castleford's wins inadvertently causing Quins to lose in 2008?