

TWO OF THE GREATEST

FAREWELL TO THE MORRIS TWINS

There was always a sense that this year would be the end for Brett and Josh Morris in the NRL.

Having been mainstays of first grade for the best part of 15 seasons, the twins approached 2021 with hopes of realising a shared dream: winning a premiership, together.

Sadly, some dreams don't come to eventuate.

Few moments have been as heartbreaking in rugby league as the end to Brett Morris' career.

Having started the year in form reminiscent of his representative best, the champion outside back was afforded the honour of captaining the Roosters for the first time during the side's Round 8 trek to Newcastle.

At the time we weren't to know the devastation that lay ahead.

With the result beyond doubt and only minutes left in the match, screams of anguish were followed by Brett's downcast figure, resigned to the realisation of a career-ending injury, refusing a medicab and determined to walk from the field for the final time.

What should have been a joyous moment in the sheds for the Tricolours more closely resembled a funeral.

As Brett embraced his twin brother, Josh, before sitting alongside his teammates in silence, three-time premiership winning coach Trent Robinson prepared for the greatest challenge of his career.

Losing Jake Friend, Boyd Cordner and Morris to mid-year retirements, along with season-ending injuries to Luke Keary and Lindsay Collins, the Roosters had every opportunity to surrender in the face of adversity.

Rather than look for a reason as to why they couldn't win, James Tedesco led a new breed of Rooster to finish the regular season in fifth position.

Holding on for a one-point victory over the Titans in the first week of the finals, the extent of the side's injury toll proved too great to overcome a week later against the Sea Eagles.

The loss was an unfortunate way to end a year that affirmed the traits that made the Roosters a powerhouse.

Rival supporters routinely disparage the foundation club with sombrero barbs, but you would be hard pressed to find a club with the resilience to stand firm quite like the Roosters of 2021.



In the aftermath of their season ending more than 1,700 kilometres away from home, it would have been easy for the Roosters to wallow in disappointment.

Instead, a guard of honour was proudly formed in recognition of Josh Morris' contribution to the game of rugby league.

It wasn't the end he had hoped for alongside his brother, lifting the Provan-Summons trophy on Grand Final day, yet it was an end unlikely to be looked back on in anger.

It's hard to imagine a season without the Morris twins.

Like the animated tones of Ray Warren's commentary, they have seemingly always been there.

As fans we have to be grateful for all they have given at club, state and international levels.

Rugby league is the greatest game of all.

Players like Brett and Josh Morris are the reason rugby league is great.