Tom Sangster

Paul Gallen claims he is determined to play State of Origin next year and is “upset and disappointed” at Cronulla coach Shane Flanagan’s claims Wednes-
nesday’s week’s decision will be his last game for New South Wales.

Gallen also blasted the “drop-
kick” Sharks supporter who re-
vealed Flanagan’s comments in a club podcast on Friday.

“At first I was pretty disap-
pointed and upset about it,” said
Gallen on radio station Triple M yesterday. “If it’s going to be an-
ounced and it’s true, it should be announced by me.”

The NSW skipper also said:  “He wants to lead the Blues next year.

* He has not spoken about his
Origin availability for 2016 with
NSW coach Laurie Daley or club coach Flanagan.

* ORIGIN availability is not a fac-
tor in current contract negoti-
ations with the Sharks.

Gallen said the podcast was
only meant to be heard by Cron-
ulla fans.

The podcast creators claimed
later yesterday that they did not
approach media and simply
shared the piece on social media,
as they do every week.

“They (to quit Origin) are his
(Flanagan’s) wishes, they are probably the club’s wishes,” said
Gallen. “But at the end of the day
it’s my decision and it will be left
up to me.”

“People have asked me if it’s part of my contract negotiations – it’s not part of our contract ne-
gotiations. It’s never been spoken about and to be honest it’s not a big issue for me.”

“I definitely haven’t spoken to
Laurie (Daley) or anybody about
this being my last (Origin) game.

“And that’s where I want to
leave it because I don’t want this
next week going into Origin camp being about ‘This is going to be my last game’.

“It’s not about me, it’s about
Game Three for State of Origin
and us preparing to win that
game. That’s all I care about.”

Gallen confirmed he would re-
main in Australia in 2016.

Gal says listen pal, I’ll decide my Origin life

NRL Sport

Top Tryscorers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<td>P Richards</td>
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<td>S Johnson</td>
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<td>Eels</td>
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Top Pointscorers

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Warragul Raiders

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<td>Lions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharks</td>
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NT teens to tackle league’s big boys

Rebekka Wake

Four Darwin teenagers will take their next step towards their
Dreams of playing in the NRL when they head to Sydney this
week.

Seventeen-year-old Reid
Moyle (Palmerston Raiders),
Abel Shirley (Nightcliff Dragons) and Blake Fletcher (Brothers),
and 16-year-old Nic Edwards
(Brothers) will represent the
Combined Affiliated States team
to take on New South Wales,
Queensland and the ACT in the
Australian Secondary Schools
Rugby League National Cham-
onships.

While in the past the CAS
team has struggled against the
might of sides from the rugby
league stronghold states on the
east coast, these championships
are a breeding ground for future
NRL talent.

Alice Springs teenager Jake
Johan, who was spotted by Mel-
bourne Storm scouts at last year’s
CAS Championships, will also be
in the CAS side. His pathway to
an NRL signing is one he has
friends hope they too can follow.

Aside for Shirley, who made
the CAS representative side for
last year’s championships, the ex-
erience will be a new one for
Moyle, Fletcher and Edwards,
who were all humble when it
came to talking about their
skills.

“I’m a bit nervous actually be-
cause it’s first grade comp
against New South Wales and
Queensland but it should be
good,” Moyde said.

“The NRL is everyone’s dream
who plays league I reckon. If it’s not
then there’s no real point playing,” he said.

Moyle and Fletcher will start
off the bench in their first game
against the ACT on Monday, July
6, while Edwards and Shirley
are part of the starting line.

The pair have also been ident-
ified by the Parramatta Eels as
talent for the future, and will
need to think carefully about a
move to Sydney to pursue their
football dreams.

“I’m just playing footy now
and trying to enjoy it but if it
comes then I’ll take it with both
hands,” Shirley said.

Likewise for Edwards.

“I’d love to play in the NRL
one day, that’s a big goal of mine
to achieve,” Edwards said.