

Ten Force stars in local comp

12th June 2008, 14:45 WST

WA's premier rugby competition reaches the halfway point of the season this weekend with Wallabies squad member Richard Brown one of ten Western Force players featuring in Round 11 of the local league.

Brown and Force teammate AJ Whalley will line up for Cottesloe against second-placed Perth-Bayswater as the Seagulls look to keep their slim finals chances alive.

Four Super14 stars will headline the big clash at Kingsway where Wanneroo (fourth) entertain Nedlands (third) in a match that could go a long way to deciding the finals hopes of both sides. Both sides are hot on the tail of Perth-Bayswater and chasing a top-two finish.

Haig Sare and Luke Holmes will suit up for Neddies while veteran Junior Pelesasa and halfback Chris O'Young will be among the men in green.

Homegrown Force product Kieran Longbottom will pull on his old jersey when he is welcomed back by Rockingham, who visit Tompkin's Park this week.

Longbottom will come face-to-face with Super14 teammate Gareth Hardy in the front row of the scrum.

Hardy's Palmyra side is struggling with just one win from nine games in 2008 and will be desperate to get a second victory on the board.

Top-of-the-table Kalamunda hardly need any extra help against battling Wests-Subiaco, who have been unlucky with two wins and two draws to date, but will benefit from the experience of centre Josh Tatupu as they look to keep their unbeaten season alive.

Rookie halfback James Stannard will return to the University side for their clash with mid-table Associates and Allen Park.

SHAYNE HOPE