SPORTSMEN IN THE NEWS

By Carol Squires

In the last week of July 2004, two of New Zealand's leading sportsmen made the headlines for entirely different reasons.

RUSSELL COUTTS

Russell Coutts, one of New Zealand's most celebrated yachtsman, led Team New Zealand to victory in the Americas Cup in 1995.

After successfully defending the cup in Auckland in 2000, Coutts did nothing for his popularity stakes when he subsequently announced his decision to join the Swiss Alinghi team, taking several high-profile team mates with him. Howls of protest followed what was seen as nothing short of treason.

Coutts subsequently led Team Alinghi to victory in 2003, thrashing Team New Zealand 5-0 in Auckland last year.

On 26th July it was announced he had been sacked from the Alinghi team 'for repeated violations of his duties' and 'conflict of interests'.

A rule change made the previous week by Alinghi boss Ernesto Bertarelli is seen to effectively preclude Coutts from competing in the 2007 America's Cup for another syndicate.

Coutts has vowed to fight this ruling.

Coutts was born at 1.30 pm, 1st March 1962 in Wellington

No planets in Cardinal signs—interesting, when you think of the Cardinal quality as representing leadership, enterprise and the desire to win. Is it this 'lack' that drives Coutts to overcompensate, to succeed at any cost, that winning is all that matters.

Coutts is often seen as being aggressive to the point of belligerence and rudeness. Not what you'd expect from a Pisces Sun conjunct Venus.

The planetary emphasis is weighted more to Fixed with Jupiter, Mars, Mercury and Saturn in Aquarius, Neptune in Scorpio and Uranus in Leo. The strong Aquarian emphasis points to one with unique views on how things should be done and a belief that their's is the only way. With Uranus opposing Jupiter and Mars we can expect a volatile mix. Mercury conjunct Saturn makes for a formidable tactician but with Mercury's square to Neptune we can expect a talent for keeping his cards very close to his chest.

A strong T-Square through the mutable signs with Sun Pisces opposition Pluto both square the Gemini Ascendant is a driving force that can't be overlooked—Sun/Pluto is a powerful force in itself, although I suspect it is the mutability that leads him to constantly test whatever new waters he finds himself crossing. Another driving force is Mars/Jupiter in the 9th—here is one who must test his prowess in international waters—the local stamping ground may be where he made his mark but may not be where he pits his best.

Fortuna conjunct his MC from the 9th has to work in his favour. Interestingly, at the time news of his sacking was announced, his secondary progressed Mars was conjunct that position—controversy working for rather than against him.

Russell Coutts has already made it clear he's one determined guy prepared to fight for a chance to add another notch to his Americas Cup belt.

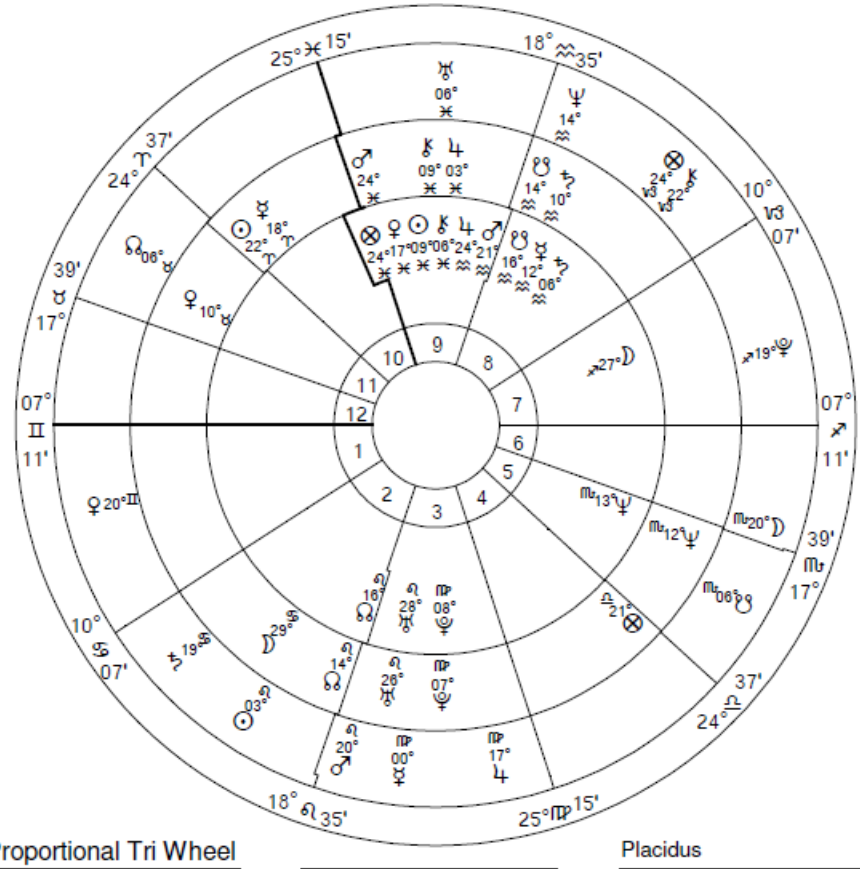
Already we are seeing the effects of Uranus as it prepares to activate his mutable T-Square by conjunction with his Sun. The year 2005 will not be plain sailing but while Uranus courts controversy, transiting Saturn trining the MC in July 2005 may bring some brief respite.

Russell Coutts
Sailing achievements
2003: Alinghi syndicate winner of the America's Cup
2000: Team NZ defence of the America's Cup
1995: Team New Zealand winner of the America's Cup
1996: World matchracing champion
1994: Ranked No1 on world matchracing circuit
1993 & 1992: World matchracing champion
1984: Olympic Finn-class gold medalist
1981: Finn-class world champion
Honours
Commander of the Order of the British Empire
Distinguished Companion of the NZ Order of Merit
Twice the International Yacht Racing Union's World Sailor of the year

The two benefics are also involved—transiting Jupiter from his 3rd House opposing his strongly placed Venus, exalted in Pisces and close to the MC from the 9th. In September Jupiter enters his 4th house closely followed by a square to his 7th House Moon, before moving into Libra. From that point things get interesting . . . In late October Jupiter forms a grand trine with his Gemini ascendant and the Mercury/Saturn conjunction in the 8th House of other people's resources. It's contact with Mercury followed by trines to his Aquarian Mars/Jupiter conjunction right through to September 2005 throws favourable light on the international and/or legal waters of the 9th House.

From August 2005 right through to 2008, Saturn opposes both his Aquarian and Pisces stelliums; Pluto squares his MC from the 7th and finally conjuncts his Sagittarian Moon.

Coutts will be pitting his strength against some pretty powerful adversaries. May the best man—or the best team—win.



Proportional Tri Wheel

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Middle Wheel	
RUSSELL COUTTS	
Secondary Prog Chart	
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♄ 10♒09	
♅ 26♑36 ℞	
♆ 12♏40 ℞	
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Placidus

Outer Wheel	
Transits	
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JONAH LOMU

For former All Black **Jonah Lomu,** one of New Zealand's most successful and popular rugby players, his July headlines were of the lifesaving kind.

In late 1996, Lomu was diagnosed with a rare kidney disorder, nephrotic syndrome, eventually forcing him out of the All Blacks.

Lomu played the last of his 63 tests for the All Blacks in 2002. By the time of the 2003 World Cup the once unstoppable winger was reduced to a painful shuffle.

Essentially, the disorder could be fatal if left untreated. Awaiting a compatible kidney donor, he has been on a dialysis machine for daily blood cleansing since last year. Dialysis treatment started 31st May 2003.

A compatible donor was found. The *New Zealand Herald* reported that his 5-hour kidney transplant operation took place at midday on Tuesday, 27th July, at Auckland City Hospital.

Despite his wish that the identity of the live donor remain secret, following intense media persistence, Jonah's kidney donor was later identified as a close friend, radio presenter Grant Kereama.

Jonah Tali Lomu was born 11.50 am, 12th May 1975 in Auckland.

When you think of a successful rugby player—and the macho image of rough, tough that goes with it—you don't expect to see an ascendant in the emotional sign of Cancer. Nevertheless, here we have it— but rugby hero aside, Jonah Lomu is an unstinting advocate for the support of sick and disabled children. His ascendant ruler Moon in the 10th House is in mutual reception with a 12th House Venus in Cancer.

Also in his 12th House, Saturn conjuncts the ascendant (the physical body), a major player in anyone's life. In detriment in the sign of Cancer, a pointer that maybe that body may not be as strong as it could be.

Natally, Mars in Pisces exactly trines and certainly energises his ascendant. And while Mars is not exactly at home in a water sign, it draws support from its mutual reception with Jupiter in Aries. At the time of his transplant, secondary progressed Mars squared natal Saturn.

The previous month, transiting Saturn returned to its natal position—his first Saturn return—a life determining event in anyone's life. And a very eventful life it has been for the past year for Jonah. Saturn rules his 7th house of marriage and partnership. On 13th February this year his 9-year business relationship with manager Phil

Kingsley-Jones ended amicably. Jonah's affairs are now managed by his wife Fiona who he married six months previously on 21st August 2003. This was Lomu's second marriage, the first to South African Tanya Rutter in 1996.

On the evening of 3rd May, Lomu launched his autobiography *Jonah My Story*. As well as chronicling the highlights of his rugby life and the many rugby relationships he has developed, the book deals with much of his early life. It reveals a childhood spent in Tonga and returning to New Zealand against his wishes. Rebelling against an abusive father, Lomu associated with the gangs of South Auckland, stealing and fighting.

However, it was the deputy principal at Wesley College who recognised Jonah's talent and potential and introduced him to the game of rugby. Jonah had found his first true love – rugby — and the rest, as they say, is history. This influence and the helpful contacts Jonah has formed since reflects the truly 'opportunity' sextile aspect from his 12th house Saturn to the MC.

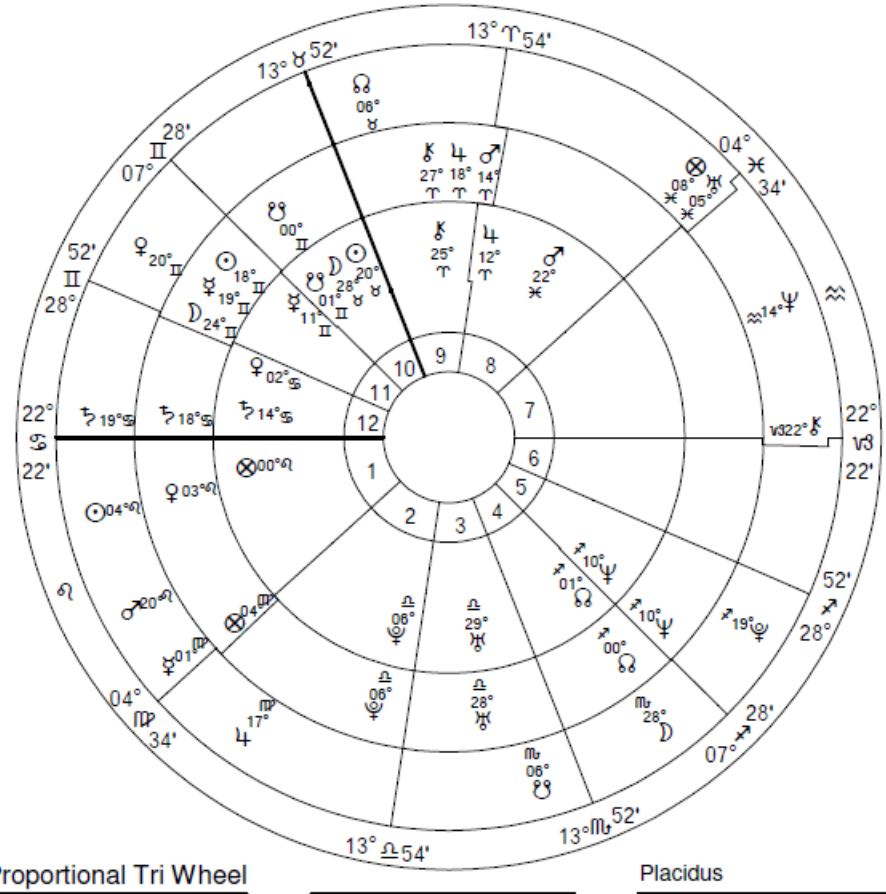
Saturn is the great player in Lomu's chart and with all those with the drive to succeed you will find a strong T-Square. In Lomu's case his Saturn is at the apex of a Jupiter opposition Pluto, forming a Cardinal T-Square. This same T-Square could also be seen as the main contributing factor to his health problems.

As with all Saturn Returns, one looks ahead to the future while building on past experience and success.

While Lomu's progress since his transplant has been reported as excellent, the success of the transplant will not be known for at least three months. Transiting Saturn speaks loud and clear—over the next two months, Saturn sextiles his 10th house Sun, a very positive and helpful influence, before conjuncting his ascendant and trining natal Mars. Renewed strength and rebuilding of confidence going hand in hand with self-discipline; a need and willingness to accept his present limitations and work within them.

In the first week of November, just before its sextile to his ascendant ruler Moon in the 10th house, Saturn turns retrograde, retracing the steps gained over the following four months. In March 2005, Saturn—right back to the sextile to natal Sun—stations and turns direct, again travelling over old—but hopefully healthier—ground. I believe it will be July next year before we will know for sure that Jonah Lomu is well on the road to full recovery.

Lomu's dream is to return to the rugby field. Focused on this desire, his new kidney has been put in the less vulnerable position behind the ribcage, rather than in the lower abdomen. We wish him well.



Proportional Tri Wheel

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Middle Wheel	
JONAH LOMU	
Secondary Prog Chart	
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New Zealand	
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Geocentric, Tropical	
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♂ 14♈47	
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Placidus

Outer Wheel	
Jonah transplant	
Natal Chart	
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♇ 19♐50 ℞	
☊ 06♉41 ℞	

References:

http://www.jonahlomu.com * http://www.nzherald.co.nz

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Carol Squires has been a student, teacher and practitioner of astrology for over thirty years, holding classes and workshops, and running a successful practice. She continues to learn, her students and clients being an ongoing source of inspiration.

Carol is a Diploma Teacher Member of the Astrological Society of New Zealand, Inc (DTASNZ), and established the Astrology Correspondence School in 1983. In 1995 she qualified for Professional Membership of the American Federation of Astrologers (PMAFA).

Since 2004, Carol has been Editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Astrology*, published by the Astrology Foundation Inc, a position she has found to be a particularly enjoyable challenging and learning experience. Carol's website is located at www.astrologyschool.com