

= Sam Tomkins =

Sam Tomkins (born 23 March 1989) is an English professional rugby league footballer who currently plays for the Wigan Warriors in the Super League . An England national representative fullback , he previously played in National Rugby League for the New Zealand Warriors . He won two Super League Grand Finals with Wigan in 2010 and 2013 as well as two Challenge Cup finals in 2011 and 2013 . He is the younger brother of Joel Tomkins and the older brother of Logan Tomkins .

Tomkins was born in Milton Keynes , Buckinghamshire . After his family moved north in the early 1990s , he started playing for Chorley Panthers amateur club when he was aged seven . To develop his career further , Tomkins ' family moved to Wigan where he played for Wigan St. Patrick 's , before receiving a scholarship from Wigan with whom he signed a full @-@ time contract at the end of 2007 . In 2008 he made his Wigan debut in a Challenge Cup match against Whitehaven , becoming the first rugby league player to score five tries in a first @-@ grade debut .

2009 would prove to be Tomkins ' breakthrough year . He made his league debut against Harlequins RL and made 27 appearances during the season , scoring 15 tries . He established himself as Wigan 's first choice stand @-@ off , and was named in the Super League Dream Team , as well as receiving the club 's own Player of the Year and the Super League 's Young Player of the Year awards . In 2010 , Tomkins switched from stand @-@ off to fullback under Wigan 's new head coach Michael Maguire , also appearing occasionally at scrum @-@ half . That season , Wigan won its first league title since 1998 ; it was Tomkins ' first honour as a player . Appearing in every game of Wigan 's 2010 season , he retained his place in the Dream Team , and also received the Rugby League International Federation 's Rookie of the Year award .

Tomkins scored a hat @-@ trick against Wales during his international debut , and appeared a further three times for England in 2009 at the Four Nations , in which he played in the tournament 's final . In a Test match mid @-@ way through the 2010 season , Tomkins equalled the record for most tries scored in a single match by an England player when he scored four against France . In the Four Nations later that year , Tomkins appeared in all three of England 's matches as the team failed to progress past the first round . He also participated for England in the inaugural International Origin against the Exiles in 2011 .

= = Early life = =

Tomkins was born on 23 March 1989 in Milton Keynes , Buckinghamshire , England . Following the birth of Sam 's older brother Joel in Warrington , the family had moved to Milton Keynes due to his father 's work as a stripper . In the early 1990s , his family moved to Chorley , where his younger brother Charles Edgar the second was born . Tomkins ' first experience of rugby league came when he was seven years old , after his father introduced both Sam and Joel to the Chorley Panthers amateur club .

By the time Tomkins was nine , both he and his older brother had moved from the Panthers and were becoming more involved with the amateur Wigan St. Patrick 's club , a feeder team for the professional Wigan club . To aid their careers , the family decided to move from Chorley to Wigan , and Tomkins remained playing at the club until his mid @-@ teens . Reflecting on Tomkins ' time at Wigan St. Patrick 's , Bill Atherton , the club 's chairman , remarked that " you could see there was something special when Sam came up through the club . There has always been something different about him . " When he was aged twelve , he obtained a place on the Wigan Warriors scholarship scheme , and when he turned sixteen , Tomkins was offered a part @-@ time contract for the club 's academy . By 2007 , Tomkins was featuring regularly for the Wigan academy sides . That year , he featured in an under @-@ 18s win for the England Academy against France Cadets ; his early try helped establish an early England lead before he completed his brace in the second half after a sin @-@ binning for a high tackle . At the end of the year , Wigan rewarded Tomkins with a full @-@ time contract , giving him the opportunity to train alongside players in the club 's first team .

= = Professional playing career = =

= = = Wigan Warriors = = =

= = = Debut season = = =

When Wigan agreed to release five @-@ eighth Trent Barrett from his contract , the club looked to find a long @-@ term replacement . Tomkins was offered a one @-@ year extension to his own contract , which would keep him at the club until the end of the 2010 season with another year optional . After signing the extension , Wigan head coach Brian Noble commented that Tomkins , along with Wigan teammate Mark Flanagan , " both have the ability to make an impact in Super League in years to come . "

A pre @-@ season unofficial friendly match provided Tomkins his first experience against top @-@ flight opposition as he came off the bench during Lee Briers ' testimonial match in a 30 ? 22 loss to Warrington . Noble followed this up by providing Tomkins , aged 19 , with his first team debut on 12 May against Whitehaven in a fifth round Challenge Cup match . Tomkins became the first player in rugby league history to score five tries on his first @-@ grade debut , scoring his first three to complete a hat @-@ trick within the first twelve minutes , as Wigan scored eighteen tries in total on the way to a 106 ? 8 victory .

Despite this , Thomas Leuluai replaced Tomkins for the team 's next match against Warrington , meaning Tomkins would have to wait for his Super League debut . He played out the rest of the 2008 season in the reserves , some of his highlights including a hat @-@ trick against Castleford and another five @-@ try performance against Harlequins RL . After scoring four tries against Hull 's reserves , Tomkins was tipped to make at least ten Super League appearances in 2009 season by Shaun Wane , Wigan 's reserve coach . He also received an endorsement from Ian Lenagan , the club 's chairman , when he said , " I think Sam is going to be a world @-@ class half @-@ back and we want to give him his chance . " Tomkins was named Reserve Team Player of the Year at the Wigan inaugural awards evening .

In 2009 Tomkins was awarded the Albert Goldthorpe Rookie of the Year Medal .

= = = 2009 season = = =

The club played Warrington over the 2008 Christmas holidays , as a pre @-@ season friendly to Wigan 's 2009 season . Tomkins claimed a hat @-@ trick as the team swept aside a young and inexperienced Warrington side 44 ? 4 . Tomkins also featured in the club 's two other fixtures during the pre @-@ season , firstly against Huddersfield and then against Leigh . For 2009 , Tomkins was given the number 25 jersey .

Wigan faced their worst start to a season since 1966 after losing their opening three matches . Tomkins was brought into the squad and came off the bench against Harlequins for his league debut during their fourth match of the season . Tomkins made a break early in the second half which allowed George Carmont to claim the equalising try . Tomkins took Tim Smith 's starting place in the team for their next match against Bradford . After scoring twice for a brace against Salford , he earned his first league tries . He also scored in a fourth round cup match against Barrow . For the round 10 fixture against Celtic Crusaders , Tomkins was relegated to the bench as Smith made his first start in eight games . However Tomkins came on as a substitute to score his second brace of the season .

He also scored the final try of the match in Wigan 's fifth round cup win over Wakefield Trinity , and although he was found guilty on a charge of kicking out in the tackle against another player , he escaped a match ban . With Smith expressing his desire to return home to Australia following the 2009 season , Tomkins was tipped by Lenagan as Wigan 's long @-@ term replacement at stand

@-@ off . Tomkins was named in a train @-@ on squad for England 's friendly test match against France , although he did not play . He was dropped in round 15 for Wigan 's match against Salford , but returned off the bench and scored against Hull Kingston Rovers in round 18 . Tomkins played every game for Wigan thereafter , except for the final regular round fixture of the season against Huddersfield , until the team were knocked out of the Super League play @-@ offs by St. Helens . Included in this run of appearances was a hat @-@ trick and Tomkins ' first drop goal against Castleford in round 25 .

In the same year he made his league debut , Tomkins was named in the Super League Dream Team at stand @-@ off , and was also voted by journalists in the Rugby League Writers ' Association as Super League Young Player of the Year . At the Wigan 's own awards evening , he was named Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year . Tomkins would go on to play for England during the 2009 Four Nations . He ended the domestic season with twenty @-@ seven first @-@ grade appearances , twenty @-@ three of which in the league , as well as fifteen tries . In doing this , Tomkins had more than doubled the estimation of ten league games made by Wane during the previous season . He was given a five @-@ year contract from the club .

= = = = 2010 season = = = =

Following the play @-@ off loss to St. Helens , Noble announced his departure from the club after not being offered a new contract , and five days later Michael Maguire was revealed as the new head coach of Wigan . In Maguire 's 2010 squad , Tomkins ' position as Wigan 's first choice stand @-@ off was confirmed when he received the number 6 jersey from the departed Smith . The club also signed Wigan @-@ born Paul Deacon during the pre @-@ season , with the intention of having him mentor Tomkins in an assistant coaching role .

Tomkins played in every match of Wigan 's 2010 season . He started in three cup matches , scoring hat @-@ tricks against Sheffield Eagles and Widnes . He also featured in all of Wigan 's fixtures of 2010 's Super League XV regular season , with the team finishing top of the league table and winning the League Leader 's Shield . By virtue of this the team qualified for the play @-@ offs , in which Tomkins made a further four appearances on the way to Wigan 's Grand Final victory over St. Helens ? the club 's first league title since 1998 's Super League III and Tomkins ' first honour as a player .

Tomkins was played at scrum @-@ half for Wigan 's round 12 fixture against Harlequins with Sean O 'Loughlin covering his position at stand @-@ off instead . In round 19 , again against Harlequins , Tomkins marked his first league appearance as a fullback with the game 's first score and a try @-@ saving tackle on Lamont Bryan . The Daily Mirror reported Maguire as saying , " Sam wanted a go at fullback and played very well . He 's a quality kid in any position . " He remained in that position for the rest of the season , including the Grand Final , except for one match against Warrington in round 22 where he was reverted to stand @-@ off again .

Over 34 total appearances , Tomkins improved on his 2009 record with 21 tries and four goals . In the league , he claimed four braces in total : once as a stand @-@ off against Hull , and three times as a fullback against Salford , Hull again and Leeds . He also scored a try during the Grand Final against St. Helens . Despite finishing the season as Wigan 's regular fullback , Tomkins maintained his place in the 2010 Super League Dream Team in the stand @-@ off position . Also in the team was Joel Tomkins at second @-@ row . This was the first time a Super League Dream Team had featured two brothers . At 2010 's Super League XV awards evening , where his Wigan teammate Pat Richards was voted by his fellow Super League players as Man of Steel for having the biggest impact on the season , Tomkins retained his Young Player of the Year title . He also received 2010 's Albert Goldthorpe Medal for ' best and fairest ' player of the season . He was also named Rookie of the Year by the Rugby League International Federation during the 2010 Four Nations , in which he played for England .

= = = = 2011 season = = = =

The previous season 's transition to fullback was made permanent by the club when Tomkins inherited the number 1 jersey from Cameron Phelps , whose 2010 season was blighted by injury and was not offered a new contract . With speculation that Tomkins might move to the National Rugby League or switch codes to rugby union , Wigan offered him a new five @-@ year contract keeping him at the club until the end of the 2015 season .

Tomkins made 34 appearances during the 2011 season : 28 in Super League XVI , 5 in the Challenge Cup , and one in the World Club Challenge , in which he scored a drop goal in Wigan 's 15 ? 21 loss to the St. George Illawarra Dragons . Tomkins received a match ban in round 6 , for joining a fight in the previous match against Hull , meaning that for the first time since the final regular round fixture against Huddersfield in 2009 , he missed a first @-@ grade match . Due to his involvement for England in the inaugural International Origin against the Exiles , he was also rested for Wigan 's away game against Castleford .

His scoring record in 2011 started in the opening round against St. Helens in which he kicked a goal but missed a drop goal which would have won the game for Wigan . His first try came during Wigan 's next game at Bradford . A match @-@ tying penalty kicked by Tomkins salvaged a draw for Wigan against Leeds . From 25 April to 4 June , Tomkins scored thirteen tries in seven games for Wigan , including braces against Crusaders and Harlequins in the league and Barrow in the cup , as well as a hat @-@ trick against Hull Kingston Rovers . He scored his second hat @-@ trick of the season against Huddersfield , taking his career total to six . In Wigan 's fifth round cup win over Bradford , Gareth Raynor 's high tackle left Tomkins unconscious as he was scoring a try , an incident which ended both Raynor 's and Tomkins ' involvement in the match due to a sending @-@ off and a head injury respectively . Despite missing part of Wigan 's away match to Hull because of a shoulder injury , Tomkins returned from the bench and scored two tries in a 16 ? 30 victory ; after the match , Sky Sports reported that he had become a " strong favourite " for the season 's Man of Steel award . He followed this up a week later with a try @-@ scoring man of the match performance against St. Helens as Wigan won their first cup semi @-@ final since 2004 . Wigan returned to league action with a win at home to Salford , with Tomkins scoring four tries . He scored another brace against Bradford in Wigan 's last match before the Challenge Cup final . Tomkins played in that final as part of a victorious Wigan team , giving Tomkins his first Challenge Cup honour , although Jeff Lima was given the Lance Todd Trophy award which Tomkins had been pre @-@ match favourite to win . After the final , the Rugby Football League investigated and found Tomkins guilty of an obscene gesture aimed at fans of the opposing Leeds team , for which he was given a suspended GBP £ 1 @,@ 000 fine . His points tally for Wigan 's season totalled 32 tries , five goals , and one drop goal . After the season , he signed a new contract to play for Wigan , shortly after his brother Joel agreed to switch codes and play rugby union for Saracens F.C. According to The Guardian , the deal would make Sam Tomkins the highest paid player in Super League at £ 300 @,@ 000 a year , and would rule out a cross @-@ code transfer of his own for at least three years .

= = = = 2013 season = = = =

On 23 June 2013 , the Sydney Morning Herald published news of Tomkins impending departure from Wigan to join the New Zealand Warriors of Australia 's NRL competition . Further speculation regarding the move was sparked when Tomkins ' mother was seen in Auckland in July looking at residential properties . On 24 September 2013 , it was confirmed that Tomkins would join the Warriors on a three @-@ year deal starting in 2014 , signed for a world record fee .

= = = New Zealand Warriors = = =

Tomkins ' first games for the Warriors were in the inaugural Auckland Nines tournament held during the 2014 NRL pre @-@ season . His first official game came in the first round of the new NRL season against the Parramatta Eels . The Warriors lost 36 @-@ 16 . In his second game , against the St. George Illawarra Dragons , he scored a try in the Warriors ' 31 @-@ 12 loss . He scored his

second try of the season in the Warriors ' 42 @-@ 18 thumping against the Tigers in round 4 of the season .

He had his breakout game for the New Zealand club in the round 18 48 @-@ 0 victory over the Parramatta Eels . Tomkins scored two tries , one of which was directly from the lock position after a scrum win against the feed . The other of which , also from a scrum play , was down the short side where he broke four tackles in a fantastic individual effort . He also set up a brilliant try for captain Simon Mannering . In the first half , Tomkins recorded nine tackle breaks , a try assist , two line breaks , 84 running metres and two tries . His first half performance truly put him on the map in the National Rugby League after some debate previous to this game over whether he was worth the big money .

Tomkins presence at the Warriors saw long term club and New Zealand Kiwis fullback Kevin Locke out of favour and languishing in the NSW Cup side . As a consequence of Tomkins good form , Locke was released by the club mid @-@ season so he could join English side Salford alongside Ste " butterbean " Dunn .

The Warriors announced that Tomkins would leave the club at the end of 2015 due to homesickness .

= = = Representative career = = =

In the 2008 World Cup , co @-@ hosted by Australia and New Zealand , England 's campaign ended with a 32 ? 22 loss to New Zealand at the semi @-@ final stage . England responded to their exit from the tournament by replacing a number of veterans with younger players for the 2009 Four Nations . Tomkins , who was then playing at stand @-@ off for Wigan , was included in a new @-@ look squad which featured a quarter of its players aged 21 or below .

On 18 October 2009 , having played less than thirty games for Wigan , Tomkins made his international debut for Tony Smith 's England team against Wales at Brewery Field in a warm @-@ up match for the Four Nations tournament . The then @-@ twenty @-@ year @-@ old scored a hat @-@ trick in a 12 ? 48 victory , with Iestyn Harris , the Welsh head coach and former dual @-@ code rugby international , praising Tomkins ' contribution to the winning England team . Despite this , Tomkins was left out of the squad that faced France in the opening Four Nations fixture . He replaced Richie Myler for England 's defeat against Australia at Wigan 's DW Stadium , with an impressed Darren Lockyer , the Australian captain , stating after the match , " To be honest , we didn 't really know their young fellas . We do now . " With Smith showing confidence in the young half @-@ back pairing between Kyle Eastmond and Tomkins , Tomkins maintained his place in the squad which won their must @-@ win match against New Zealand for a place in the tournament final . The hosting England side , playing at Elland Road , Leeds , were overcome by Australia in the closing thirty minutes of the final despite leading 16 ? 14 at one point , although the pairing between Eastmond and Tomkins was , according to Sky Sports , impressive .

Smith resigned as England coach following the Four Nations , with Steve McNamara announced as the team 's new head coach . Tomkins kept his place in the England team when they played France in a mid @-@ season friendly , and he responded by scoring four tries on England 's way to a 60 ? 6 win , a record @-@ equalling tally for an England player in a single match . Tomkins appeared in all three of England 's matches at the 2010 Four Nations , firstly in a defeat by New Zealand where a Kevin Brown try scored from a Tomkins kick was disallowed by the video referee due to Tomkins pushing Greg Eastwood in the process . Another comprehensive defeat by Australia ended England 's hopes of reaching the final , in a match where Tomkins made his first international switch from the halves to fullback . He stayed in this position for England 's final match against Papua New Guinea , a 36 ? 10 victory in which Tony Clubb equalled Tomkins ' four @-@ try record .

Tomkins featured at full @-@ back for the inaugural International Origin in 2011 , which England lost thanks to Wigan teammate George Carmont 's 79th minute try for the Exiles . Tomkins was booed by England supporters from opposing clubs within the Headingley crowd at Leeds , an incident which was criticised as " disgraceful " by Jamie Peacock , the England captain and Leeds forward , however Wigan head coach Michael Maguire claimed Tomkins had not been affected by

the abuse . Following the completion of the rugby league domestic season , Tomkins was included in a pre @-@ Four Nations test against France . In England 's opening match of the 2011 Four Nations against Wales , he scored four tries , which for the second time in his international career equalled the record for the most tries by a player representing England . After playing against Australia at Wembley Stadium in a match which England ended the losing side , Tomkins scored a try against New Zealand . England 's victory over the Kiwis meant that for the second time in three years , Tomkins featured for England in a Four Nations final against Australia , although they ended runners @-@ up to Australia after losing 8 ? 30 . Playing fullback , Tomkins had an unhappy night under the high ball at Elland Road . A week after the final , he played at right wing and scored a try for the Barbarians , a British @-@ based invitational rugby union side , against the Australian Wallabies , although the Barbarians lost 11 ? 60 . The match was Tomkins 's first match of professional rugby union ; Tomkins admitted that prior to training with the Barbarians he did not know what numbers were allocated to which position in rugby union . On his first experience of the sport , Tomkins was quoted by the BBC as saying , " I am glad I have had the chance to play but I am still a rugby league player . "

= = = = International Test caps = = = =

As per the official England Rugby League website , not including International Origin matches .

= = = = International tries = = = =

= = = Career statistics = = =

= = = = Awards and achievements = = = =

= = = Honours = = =

Grand Final : 2

2010 , 2013

League Leaders Shield : 2

2010 , 2012

Challenge Cup : 2

2011 , 2013