



# 1991 Minor Semi Saturday 31st August Sydney Sports



## Canberra 22

def.

## Western Suburbs 8

Gary BELCHER  
 Paul MARTIN  
 Mal MENINGA (c)  
 Mark BELL  
 Brett MULLINS  
 Laurie DALEY  
 Ricky STUART  
 Bradley CLYDE  
 David BARNHILL  
 Gary COYNE  
 Darren FRITZ  
 Steve WALTERS  
 Brent TODD  
 Jason GREGORY  
 Glenn LAZARUS  
 Matthew WOOD  
 Brett BOYD

**Fullback**  
**Wing**  
**Centre**  
**Centre**  
**Wing**  
**Five-eighth**  
**Half**  
**Lock**  
**Second Row**  
**Second Row**  
**Front Row**  
**Hooker**  
**Front Row**  
**Replacement**  
**Replacement**  
**Replacement**  
**Replacement**

Shaun DEVINE  
 Stan PRESDEE  
 Andrew FARRAR  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Wayne SIMONDS  
 Jason LIDDEN  
 Jason TAYLOR  
 Graeme WYNN  
 David GILLESPIE  
 Paul LANGMACK  
 Steve JACKSON  
 Joe THOMAS (c)  
 Darren BRITT  
 Tony RAMPLING  
 Tony COSATTO



**Tries** Gary BELCHER (2)  
 Mark BELL  
 Mal MENINGA

Andrew FARRAR

**Goals** Mal MENINGA (3)

Jason TAYLOR (2)

### Match Description

**Canberra:** Full-back: G Belcher; three-quarters: P Martin, M Meninga (c), M Bell, B Mullins; five-eighth: L Daley; half: R Stuart; forwards: B Clyde, G Coyne, D Barnhill, D Fritz, S Walters, B Todd

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, A Farrar, T Cogger, S Presdee; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: J Taylor; forwards: G Wynn, D Gillespie, P Langmack, S Jackson, J Thomas (c), D Britt **Referee: E Ward (Big League 4th September 1991)**

..... Lazarus and the rest of Canberra forwards recovered from a brutal opening assault by the Magpies to take control of the match slowly but surely as time wore on in the second half. Wests stunned the defending premiers and 12/1 on favourites by leading for the opening 35 minutes through an Andrew Farrar try and Jason Taylor penalty goal. With Paul Langmack producing an absolute blinder to set up most of the attack, the Magpies had easily the best of the opening exchanges. But the turning point came in the 27th minute when Wests' winger Wayne Simonds went within a whisker of scoring a try from a wayward Langmack field goal attempt. The ball was allowed to bounce loose in the Canberra in-goal area with Simonds going desperately close to pouncing on it for a try. Just 90 seconds later, Canberra turned on a spectacular 80 metre movement featuring Laurie Daley, Meninga and winger Paul Martin before Gary Belcher went scooting over in the corner. Two minutes before half-time Meninga made up for a missed tackle on Farrar – which had allowed Wests their first try – by storming over to take the Raiders to the front for the first time. The Test skipper trampled over Langmack, David Gillespie and Jason Taylor after taking a brilliantly-timed pass from Daley. Wests had plenty of possession early in the second half but just couldn't crack the spirited Canberra defence. Tries to centre Mark Bell in the 59th minute and Belcher in the 76th rammed home the advantage against a Wests' side that tired from the Tuesday night play-off against Canterbury at Parramatta. While Walters picked up most of the man-of-the-match awards, it was the brutal power-running of Meninga and Clyde that really told on the Wests' defence. Whenever the Raiders were struggling to get out of their territory, it was Clyde who would lurk onto the scene and come up with a surge they needed. Afterwards, the great lock revealed he had been playing with a possible cracked bone in his hand for several weeks but was too scared to have x-rays. Out wide, Big Mal was virtually unstoppable. He punched holes through the defence almost every time the football came his way. At halfback, Ricky Stuart again showed enormous courage to ignore the stabbing pain of a serious groin injury to continually probe for openings in the Wests' defence. Five-eighth Laurie Daley produced yet another class performance, setting his outside men up with a slick service. ....Wests may have been beaten but they were far from disgraced. Warren Ryan's charges battled bravely for 80 minutes but were simply beaten by a classier football outfit on the day. **(Sunday Telegraph 1st September 1991)**

**Notes:** Wests' coach, Warren Ryan, let fly with a blistering attack on Canberra's salary cap breaches after Wests couldn't withstand a blistering Canberra attack. The Magpies launched an early assault on the Raiders and were well in the match until Belcher scored a 100m try just before half-time, after a failed Langmack field goal. Wests showed great courage in backing up from a torrid mid-week play-off and facing a Canberra team bristling with an unusually large number of internationals. Paul Langmack produced an absolute blinder, while Joe Thomas, Darren Britt and Wayne Simonds all capped off a brilliant 1991 with very strong displays.