



1991 Play-off Tuesday 27th August Parramatta Stadium



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Canterbury-Bankstown 14

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

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

Ewan MCGRADY
Paul DOOLAN
Darren SMITH
Jonathan DAVIES
Matthew RYAN
Terry LAMB (c)
Kevin MOORE
Steve FOLKES
Steve REARDON
Simon GILLIES
Bruce McGUIRE
Geordi PEATS
Mark BROKENSHIRE
Sean SKELTON
Scott TRONC
Troy CASSELL
Andrew PATTMORE

Tries Wayne SIMONDS
David GILLESPIE

Ewan McGRADY
Paul DOOLAN

Goals Jason TAYLOR (6) One Field Goal

Jonathan DAVIES (3)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: E McGrady; three-quarters: P Doolan, D Smith, J Davies, M Ryan; five-eighth: T Lamb (c); half: K Moore; forwards: S Folkes, S Reardon, S Gillies, B McGuire, G Peats, M Brokenshire

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, A Farrar, T Cogger, S Burns; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: J Taylor; forwards: G Wynn, D Gillespie, P Langmack, S Jackson, J Thomas (c), D Britt **Referee: W Harrigan (Big League 29th August 1991)**

Western Suburbs won through to Saturday's sudden-death semi-final against Canberra with a 19-14 win over Canterbury at Parramatta Stadium last night. There have been several nominations for match-of-the-season in recent weeks, and last night's game was right up there with them. It had dozens of highlights, but most of all it was of the character which was expected. Wests showed their limitations in pace and penetration, but demonstrated their assets of defence, discipline and courage.Taylor said afterwards he did not risk reading newspapers. "If I read them tomorrow, I'll think I'm a genius and Canberra will flog us," he said. There are plenty who would think last night confirmed the teenage Taylor as a genius. "You're a legend," said one of his teenage supporters. The Taylor comment illustrated his maturity. Saturday's match against Canberra was already on his mind. He said of the Simonds try: "It wasn't really a rehearsed move. I heard Wayne yell out 'Drop it through'". Coach Warren Ryan said the Taylor kick from 45m which got Wests away 12-2 had not been rehearsed either. A message had gone out to kick for touch and keep the pressure on, but Taylor acted first. Ryan was forgiving and wasted no time starting mind-games in preparation for the confrontation with Canberra. "Only a lunatic tip would say we could win," he said. "It's a hellish proposition. Absolutely frightening." When it was suggested he was laying an old foundation on with a trowel, Ryan said: "And I want it laid on with a trowel." Wests' win was laid on foundations provided by the forwards, led by David Gillespie and Darren Britt, with Taylor and Simonds able to show there was some spark in the Wests' backs, combined with the big-match experience of Andrew Farrar. For Canterbury, it was a stylish end. They scored two flashing tries which reflected their season. Said coach Chris Anderson: "It was a good game of footy. We should have been a couple of tries up in the first half and didn't get the bounce in the second." Captain Terry Lamb was involved in a heated argument with referee Bill Harrigan in the second half after Taylor had kicked his field goal. "The ball hit the bandage on my right arm but the referee hasn't got eyes in the back of his head. I apologise for it," Lamb said. It was Wests who scored first in the second half, however. Gillespie strolled over against his old club after the Magpies had regained possession from a bomb. He raised the ball aloft before planting it under the posts. "I would have preferred him to put it down before celebrating," Ryan said. "If he had dropped it he could have jumped the fence and kept going to Narromine." ... It took Simond's try five minutes later to wrap up the win Wests' just deserved. Despite the Magpie spirit, Ryan's words are true. Canberra will be a hellish proposition. **(Sydney Morning Herald 28th August 1991)**

Notes: This was a very exciting match, where Wests' defence was outstanding. This was a courageous effort considering the large injury toll and the re-shuffled team. The forward combination of Gillespie and Britt laid the foundation for the win, although Gillespie earned the ire of the coach with a 'war dance' before planting the ball for his try. In the final analysis, it was the effective kick-and-chase game and Jason Taylor's boot (5/6 penalties plus a field goal) that was the difference. Joe Thomas played with pain-killing injections while Wayne Simonds was voted the 'players' player'. Wests were left with the daunting prospect of playing a fresh Canberra in four days.