



# 1995 Round 1 Sunday 12th March Campbelltown Stadium



## Western Suburbs 25

def.

## Illawarra 24

Andrew LEEDS  
Paul SMITH  
Brandon PEARSON  
Ken McGUINNESS  
Darren WILLIS  
Steve GEORGALLIS  
Jason ALCHIN  
Darren BURNS  
Paul LANGMACK (c)  
Bill DUNN  
Brent STUART  
Jim SERDARIS  
Glenn GRIEF  
Josh WHITE  
Neil TIERNEY  
Damien DRISCOLL  
Mark HORO

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

Brett RODWELL  
Rod WISHART  
Shaun TIMMINS  
Paul MCGREGOR  
Rex TERP  
Ben DUCKWORTH  
John SIMON  
John CROSS (c)  
Neil PICCINELLI  
Wayne RICHARDS  
Martin MASELLA  
Dean CALLAWAY  
Darren FRITZ  
Craig SIMON  
Anthony BONUS

### Tries

Ken McGUINNESS  
Steve GEORGALLIS  
Brandon PEARSON  
Darren BURNS

John SIMON (3)  
Neil PICCINELLI

### Goals

Andrew LEEDS (5) One field goal

Rod WISHART (4)

### Match Description

**Illawarra:** Full-back: B Rodwell; three-quarters: R Wishart, S Timmins, P McGregor, R Terp; five-eighth: B Duckworth; half: J Simon; forwards: J Cross (c), N Piccinelli, W Richards, M Masella, D Callaway, D Fritz

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, K McGuinness, B Pearson, D Willis; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: J Alchin; forwards: D Burns, P Langmack (c), B Dunn, B Stuart, J Serdaris, G Grief **Referee: M Lewis (Daily Telegraph 13th March 1995)**

Western Suburbs won a thrilling 25-24 victory over Illawarra at Campbelltown yesterday, offering great expectations for an adventurous season under new coach Tom Raudonikis. In an ebullient post-match dressing room, "Tommy Tomato", chain smoking and sipping a can of beer, watched a trainer lead his players in stretching exercises while they ate watermelon and asked incredulously, "Is this what you do?" Raudonikis may have been absent from the high-tech, low cholesterol Sydney scene for more than a decade but he has injected the enthusiasm into Wests that marked his inspirational period as the Magpies' captain in the 1970s. "Did Tommy have a stretch after a game?" Wests' captain Paul Langmack asked as if nothing is relevant to modern football unless it was first tried by Raudonikis. ... In such a game, tries came when least expected. Illawarra scored after 4 minutes when Wests' five-eighth Steve Georgallis ran across field in front of his own posts and was hit with a stinger of a tackle. From that scrum, Simon called the run-around move and scored. It was executed with such a blur of hands that Wests took on the look of commuters who peer up from their newspapers to discover they are on the wrong train. ... But Wests' best player, hooker Jim Serdaris, raced from dummy half in the 34th minute and threw a desperate pass to prop Glenn Grief, lumbering beside him. Grief passed back to Serdaris and it was touched in flight on its way to Georgallis before finally finding lock Darren Brown, a player Raudonikis recruited from Logan City, the Brisbane club he coached last year. This prompted the rolling thunder-like call of "Here they come" from the Wests' ground announcer. Langmack took an intercept as the clock read one minute left before the interval. Centre Ken McGuinness scored for a 12-12 half time score. ... Centre Brandon Pearson scored a scrambling try for 18-12 but just when the ground announcer was about to break into an overture, Wests' fullback Andrew Leeds threw a wild pass on his own line which was gratefully dived on by Illawarra second rower Neil Piccinelli. Georgallis scored in the 71st and Leeds kicked a field goal with three minutes left to bring up a scoreline of 25-18. .. Raudonikis, wearing a pair of trousers held up by a belt which missed at least three loops, led his men in a new club song. Based on *Stupid Cupid*, it has the repetitive refrain: "Hey, hey set me free." Wests played as if they had been released from a mental straitjacket and Langmack even identified a hotel where the players consume on Thursday nights, saying: "I didn't know it existed and I've been coming here five years." He summarised the desire under their new coach by saying: "How couldn't you play well for a man that no one's ever had a bad word for?" (Sydney Morning Herald 13th March 1995)

**Notes:** This was Tommy Raudonikis' first premiership match as a coach and the close win was very well received. New players, Darren Burns (Logan City), Mark Horo (Parramatta) and Damian Driscoll (Newcastle) all played well. Down 12-2 early, Wests' determined defence and open attacking put them back into the game. Langmack was inspirational as captain, while Jim Serdaris was clearly Wests' best. The centre combination of Brandon Pearson and Ken McGuinness was also a decisive attacking factor.