1993 Round 1 Saturday 13th March Campbelltown Sports

Western Suburbs 14

Paul LANGMACK

Jason TAYLOR



Craig WESTON Ali DAVYS

Jason LIDDEN Lock **Brett HORSNELL** Stephen KEARNEY Second Row **Darren WOLENS** David GILLESPIE (c) Second Row Michael SEARLE **Kyle WHITE** Front Row Brent TODD (c) Jason ALCHIN Hooker **Ray HERRING** Darren BRITT Front Row Steve JACKSON Steve GEORGALLIS Replacement Jason HETHERINGTON

Five-eighth

Half

Justin DOOLEY Replacement Wayne BARTRIM Shaun DEVINE Replacement Adrian VOWLES Josh WHITE Replacement John SKARDON

Tries **Kyle WHITE** Paul MARTIN Jason TAYLOR Ali DAVYS

Goals Jason TAYLOR (3) Adrian VOWLES (1)

Match Description

Gold Coast: Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: P Martin, T Cook, D Shearer, R Thorne; five-eighth: C Weston; half: A Davys; forwards: B Horsnell, D Woolens, M Searle, B Todd (c), R Herring, S Jackson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: M Bell, S O'Dea, T Hill, D Willis; five-eighth: P Langmack; half: J Taylor; forwards: J Lidden, S Kearney, D Gillespie (c), K White, J Alchin, D Britt Referee: T Kelly (as per program Big League 13th March 1993)

Coach Warren Ryan blamed a pre-season "hangover" for Wests' patchy 14-10 win over Gold Coast in the Winfield Cup match at Campbelltown last night. The Magpies were brilliant early in the 1993 premiership campaign opener but blundered late in the match. Ryan said senior players later complained they had grown accustomed to four-quarter football after their charge through to the final of the Tooheys Pre-Season Challenge series. "The boys opened up superbly but hit the wall," Ryan said. "When you consider everything, the four-quarter thing seems a reasonable excuse. That's pretty much all we have been doing this year. For the first twenty minutes of the first half tonight we played some sensational football but you would have to say it was pretty sub-standard after that." The Magpies can thank "born-again" halfback Jason Taylor for the precious two competition points that will kick-start their premiership charge. At the end of last year, he wanted to quit the club and head off for Penrith after becoming frustrated with his game and what he thought were the club's plans for his future. Top-level talks with coach Ryan and the Magpie management solved the problems and Taylor responded with a fantastic display, especially in the first half. In that period, he handled twice in the opening Wests' try by prop Kyle White and scored a beauty himself when he side-stepped Seagulls' fullback Danny Peacock to dive over handy to the posts. Taylor's running game in the opening stanza caused a mountain of problems for Gold Coast – he bobbed up everywhere on the field. Taylor worked hard in the summer months with renowned sprint trainer Fred Turner and seems to have added a metre or two of pace. Curiously, like the rest of his team-mates, Taylor went off the boil in the second half as the Seagulls launched a good-looking comeback. The sparkle and razzle-dazzle that punctuated the Magpie attack in the first half vanished and then errors set in. A lot of other teams may have buckled under the pressure Wests applied early on but Wally Lewis's men gritted their teeth and hauled themselves into contention. They trailed 4-14 at the break and scrambled magnificently in defence to get the Wests' ball-carriers to the ground. In the 54th minute, Magpie centre Steve O'Dea swooped on a loose ball and hared 60 metres to the try line but was cut down by a glorious Terry Cook tackle centimetres from scoring. O'Dea lost the ball in the tackle and the chance went out the window. (Sunday Telegraph 14th March 1993)

Notes: Wests played dazzling football in the first twenty minutes, spearheaded by Jason Taylor, who continued his early-season dominance. He set up a try and scored another in a best-on-ground display. Wests were in control for most of the match but couldn't score in the last twenty minutes when they camped in the Gold Coast quarter. Some stalwarts made their debuts – Andrew Leeds (Penrith) at fullback, Steve O'Dea (Souths) in the centres and replacements Steve Georgallis and Justin Dooley from Easts.

