



# 1994 Round 1 Sunday 13th March Campbelltown Stadium



## Western Suburbs 20

def.

## Illawarra 14

Andrew LEEDS	<b>Fullback</b>
Paul SMITH	<b>Wing</b>
Damien McGARRY	<b>Centre</b>
Steve GEORGALLIS	<b>Centre</b>
Darren WILLIS	<b>Wing</b>
Dale FRITZ	<b>Five-eighth</b>
Jason ALCHIN	<b>Half</b>
Darren BROWN	<b>Lock</b>
Paul LANGMACK (c)	<b>Second Row</b>
Stephen KEARNEY	<b>Second Row</b>
Brent STUART	<b>Front Row</b>
Jim SERDARIS	<b>Hooker</b>
Neil TIERNEY	<b>Front Row</b>
Scott HARDY	<b>Replacement</b>
Glenn GRIEF	<b>Replacement</b>
Ewan McGRADY	<b>Replacement</b>

Brendan O'MEARA
Rod WISHART
Brett RODWELL
Nigel ROY
Greg CLARKE
Andrew FARRAR
John SIMON
John CROSS
Neil PICCINELLI
Craig DIMOND
Peter JOHNSTON
Joe THOMAS (c)
Steve WADDELL
Barry WARD
Greg KEENAN
David WALSH

**Tries** Paul SMITH (2)  
Stephen KEARNEY

Nigel ROY  
Craig DIMOND

**Goals** Andrew LEEDS (4)

Rod WISHART (2)  
Greg KEENAN (1)

### Match Description

**Illawarra:** Full-back: B O'Meara; three-quarters: R Wishart, B Rodwell, N Roy, G Clarke; five-eighth: A Farrar; half: J Simon; forwards: J Cross, N Piccinelli, C Dimond, P Johnston, J Thomas (c), S Waddell

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, D McGarry, S Georgallis, D Willis; five-eighth: D Fritz; half: J Alchin; forwards: D Brown, P Langmack (c), S Kearney, B Stuart, J Serdaris, N Tierney **Referee: T Mander (Daily Telegraph 14th March 1994)**

Western Suburbs' coach Warren Ryan yesterday continued his growing push for Jim Serdaris' entry into representative football – and then took a light dig at former Magpie hooker Joe Thomas. Hooker Serdaris turned in a starring role for the Magpies in their gutsy 20-14 win over Illawarra at Campbelltown yesterday. And after the game, Ryan claimed Serdaris played all over Thomas, the Steelers' rake who left Ryan and the Magpies at the end of last season. It was common knowledge that Ryan and Thomas were at loggerheads for most of last season. "Serdaris was a standout," Ryan enthused. "He was emphatic up against the other bloke (Thomas). You can draw your own conclusions. Serdaris has a big game every time he goes on – he's a powerhouse. He has been a standout already this season. He has left a big impression on most people and is one of the highlights from our off-season acquisitions." Playing his first Winfield Cup match for Wests, Serdaris gave the Magpies a heap of options from dummy-half and made a number of incisive breaks. He officially threw out his challenge to incumbent Blues' hooker Ben Elias – and did so with a roar. The former Bulldog possesses a number of natural qualities not usually associated with hookers. Serdaris admitted after the match he had served his apprenticeship and was now ready for the big time. "I've done the hard work over the past four years and am now ready for State of origin football," he said. "I'm confident I'll play reps this year. I've learnt heaps under Warren Ryan already... Fullback Andrew Leeds, second-rower Stephen Kearney and replacement Scott Hardy each made significant contributions. Ryan and Serdaris were elated at the fact Wests fought back from an 8-0 deficit to claim victory. "We showed plenty of character," Serdaris said. "Although we still have room for improvement, our form today was a great improvement on that of our trial matches. There was plenty of positive talk on the field today and that wasn't happening in the trials. I couldn't be happier," Ryan, pleased his six new players bonded together, added: "They all pulled together, and helped one another out. It was their first premiership match together but there was plenty of spirit, teamwork and cohesion. There is certainly some football ability in the side." Illawarra led 8-6 at half-time, but could not prevent an enthusiastic Wests outmuscling the visitors during the second half. Aside from Serdaris, the tearaway Hardy revved up the Wests' pack and the 6000 crowd when he entered the fray. He helped set up winger Paul Smith's second try – a four-pointer which sealed the Magpies' victory. Illawarra bridged the gap to two points midway through the second stanza but two late Andrew Leeds penalty goals gave the home side their six-point victory. The Steelers played well in patches, but did not capitalise on their early lead. **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 14th March 1994)**

**Notes:** Wests' new team was stacked full of imports – Paul Smith (Penrith), Dale Fritz (Illawarra), Neil Tierney (St George), Jim Serdaris (Canterbury), Brent Stuart (Kiwi who'd played with Halifax in 1992), and Darren Brown from Souths. Jim Serdaris showed what a buy he would be, with a man-of-the-match performance. Brent Stuart unfortunately left the field with a serious ankle injury. Andrew Leeds and Steve Kearney demonstrated that they were at their best early in the season. Wests were down 8-0 early, into the breeze, but the new players combined well in a sterling comeback, especially in the second half which they dominated. Scott Hardy was absolutely dynamic when he came on as a replacement.