



1998 Round 1 Sunday 15th March Kogarah Oval



St George 36

Dean RAPER
 Lee MURPHY
 Mark COYNE (c)
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Daniel WAGON
 Anthony MUNDINE
 Matthew RODWELL
 Wayne BARTRIM
 Darren TREACY
 Andrew TANGATA-TOA
 Colin WARD
 Nathan BROWN
 Corey PEARSON
 Luke FELSCH
 Robbie SIMPSON
 Jeff HARDY
 Adrian BRUNKER

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Brett HODGSON
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Andrew LEEDS
 Adam DONOVAN
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Damian KENNEDY
 Darren RAMEKA
 John SKANDALIS
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Chris YATES
 Aseri LAING
 Shayne McMENEMY
 Scott COXON



Tries Matthew RODWELL (2)
 Daniel WAGON
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Mark COYNE
 Corey PEARSON

Damian KENNEDY
 Brett HODGSON

Goals Wayne BARTRIM (6)

Andrew LEEDS (5)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: D Raper; three-quarters: L Murphy, M Coyne (c), J Ainscough, D Wagon; five-eighth: A Mundine; half: M Rodwell; forwards: W Bartrim, D Treacy, A Tangata-Toa, C Ward, N Brown, C Pearson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Hodgson; three-quarters: D Willis, A Leeds, Ken McGuinness, A Donovan; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Rameka, D Kennedy, J Skandalis, C Mescia, C Yates **Referee: T Mander (Big League 15th March 1998)**

Paul Langmack and Nathan Brown continued their habitual battle of wits yesterday. The pair call each other everything but "pal". But occasionally things get a little animated and as both players walked onto the field for the second half Langmack looked at Brown and then referee Tim Mander and said: "Tell him to stop saying I'm a bad sort." Langmack still hasn't lost his sense of humour. But when he looked over at Mander nine minutes from full time and said "He king hit him, he should be sent for that," he forgot Mander doesn't share Brown's sense of humour. Mander sent Langmack to the sin bin for dissent. He then marched St. George's Andrew Tangata-Toa for 10 minutes for starting a fight and Wests' Cherry Mescia for getting involved as well. Then, bless him, he awarded Wests the penalty. The Magpies were attacking St. George's line, they trailed 26-18, and while they were deemed in the right they lost two players to the opposition's one. This is the new world order. No longer will players get away with talking to the referee, no longer will tackled players do everything short of the rumba to milk a penalty while trying to get up; No longer will tacklers be able to leave their hands all over the ball as the attacking players strives for a quick play the ball. "We probably learned the days of milking penalties are gone," Saints' captain Mark Coyne said afterwards. "You can't afford to keep struggling, you have to leave it to the referee to make his mind up." Even so, whenever the Saints got on a roll, they did something to shoot themselves in the foot. The scrappy Magpies fed from this and began to compete. They scored a nice try through fullback Brett Hodgson, who may shape into one of the season's finds, and went into the break happy at 10-10. .. The Dragons came back with bad intentions for Wests. Two minutes in and prop Corey Pearson charged back from a Wests' dropout, smashed into the defence, and set the tone for the remainder of the afternoon. Two tackles later he caught a nice pass, pushed off Langmack, still talking to Brown, then threw a dummy and scored. ... But Wests, who haven't been competitive this long in a match for some time now, had the smell of blood in their nostrils. That it might have been their own, only stirred them more. Wests' Damien Kennedy pulled in a nice Langmack pass and sprinted about 25 metres to score adjacent to the uprights. ... Wests could never get in front and Saints could never quite put them away. That was the tone of the afternoon - until Mander played his hand. Losing two players cost Western Suburbs any chance of winning the match. ... **(Sydney Morning Herald 16th March 1998)**

Notes: Darren Rameka (ex-St George) debuted against his old club. Wests were well in the match, down 18-26 and attacking the St George line when a scuffle broke out and Steve Georgallis and Tangata-Toa were both sent to the sin-bin. Paul Langmack queried the decision, saying that Georgallis had been king-hit, and he was also sent to the bin for dissent. The loss of both players stopped all the momentum, after Damian Kennedy had been instrumental in leading the fightback.