



1989 Round 1 Sunday 19th March Newcastle Sports



Newcastle 19

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Gary WURTH
 Brian QUINTON
 Jeff DOYLE
 Robbie McCORMACK
 Glenn FRENDO
 Michael HAGAN
 Steve FULMER
 Marc GLANVILLE
 Sam STEWART (c)
 David THORNE
 Mark SARGENT
 Tony BUTTERFIELD
 Peter JOHNSTON
 Michael MCKIERNAN
 Arnold KREWANTY
 James GOULDING
 John ALLANSON

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

Danny PEACOCK
 Graham MACKAY
 Jason LIDDEN
 Jason STAFFORD
 Shane LEIGH
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Steve FUNNELL
 Cameron BLAIR (c)
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Dave WOODS
 Alan FALLAH
 Pat O'DOHERTY
 Ian HOWCROFT
 Ian FREEMAN
 Allen GEELAN
 Ian SCHUBERT



Tries Michael HAGAN
 Steve FULMER
 Jeff DOYLE

Wayne SIMONDS
 Cameron BLAIR

Goals Brian QUINTON (3)
 Gary WURTH (1) Field Goal

Graham MACKAY (1)

Match Description

Newcastle: Full-back: G Wurth; three-quarters: B Quinton, J Doyle, R McCormack, G Frendo; five-eighth: M Hagan; half: S Fulmer; forwards: M Glanville, S Stewart (c), D Thorne, M Sargent, T Butterfield, P Johnston

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: G Mackay, J Lidden, J Stafford, S Leigh; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: W Simonds; forwards: S Funnell, D Gallagher, C Blair (c), D Woods, A Fallah, P O'Doherty **Referee: C Ward (Rugby League Week 22nd March 1989)**

Newcastle fullback Gary Wurth found the form which has made him one of the most dangerous running backs in the Winfield Cup to set up an emphatic 19-10 win over Western Suburbs yesterday. Just two minutes of vintage Wurth was enough to sink the Magpies who never recovered from a half-time deficit of 18-nil. Wurth, who has struggled to produce his best form since joining the Knights, proved a handful each time he touched the ball. But it was his two 50-metre bursts late in the first half that resulted in tries that really laid the foundations for Newcastle's win. In the 32nd minute, he split the defence after gathering in a Western Suburbs' clearing kick in a movement which eventually saw centre Jeff Doyle barge over. Then, from the kick-off, he again busted the defence before sending half-back Steve Fulmer on a 40m run to the line. Wurth's brilliance turned a 6-0 lead into an 18-point advantage in the space of two minutes to shut Wests right out of the game. Wurth said it was a good feeling to be finally getting back to his old form. "I struggled during the trials and was lacking in confidence and that affected my form," Wurth said. "But I felt my running game starting to come back over the past few weeks and things just fell into place for me against Wests." Wurth completed an outstanding match when he kicked a field goal late in the match to wrap up the victory. Newcastle, under fire after its midweek loss to Canterbury in the Panasonic Cup, was a different side against the Magpies. After getting on top early in the forwards, half Steve Fulmer and five-eighth Michael Hagan opened the game up and found plenty of holes in the Wests' defence. Both players were heavily involved in the Knights' first try which Hagan scored under the posts in the 13th minute. Wests were found wanting up the middle and coach John Bailey admitted it was his forwards' inability to match it with Newcastle in the first half that cost them the match. "The forwards really let us down early on and the Knights were able to get a lot of momentum up," he said. "We dropped the ball 16 times and missed 14 tackles in the first half and that really told the story of the game. It is pretty hard to come back when you give away that much start." To their credit, the Magpies hit back in the second half to post two tries but never really threatened to win the game. Half-back Wayne Simonds said second-rower Cameron Blair tried really hard to rally their side, but they lacked the support to really mount a big challenge. **(Daily Telegraph 20th March 1989)**

Notes: Shane Leigh (ex-Illawarra), Steve Funnell (ex-St George) and Pat O'Doherty (ex-Ipswich) were all on debut and Wests were coming off very good trial form but they looked disorganised, dropped the ball 16 times and missed 14 tackles. Not surprisingly, they were down 18-0 at half-time but played much better in the second half. New Captain, Cameron Blair, was outstanding while Wayne Simonds was also in good form. Poor tactical kicking gave Gary Wurth way too much latitude.