



1983 Round 1 Sunday 27th February Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 29

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Mike EDEN
 Ricky WALFORD
 Mick RYAN
 Peter GROUNDS
 David MICHAEL
 Kevin HASTINGS (c)
 Alan NEIL
 John TOBIN
 John MACKAY
 Ian BARKLEY
 Terry REGAN
 Jeff MASTERMAN
 Royce AYLIFFE
 Marty GURR
 Rick HANNAN
 Seamus O'CONNELL

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

Wayne SMITH
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Scott GALE
 Mark BEAVEN
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Greg COX
 Michael DUKE
 Brett GALE
 Brian BATTESE
 Ian FREEMAN
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 John DONNELLY
 David GREENE
 David HALL
 Greg McELHONE
 Peter BURGMANN



Tries
 Ian BARKLEY (2)
 John TOBIN
 Jeff MASTERMAN

Scott GALE

Goals
 Mike EDEN (6)
 Kevin HASTINGS (1) Field Goal

Greg COX (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: S Broughton, S Gale, M Beaven, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: G Cox; forwards: M Duke, B Gale, B Battese, J Donnelly, A Mountier, I Freeman

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: M Eden; three-quarters: R Walford, M Ryan, P Grounds, D Michael; five-eighth: K Hastings (c); half: A Neil; forwards: J Tobin, J Mackay, I Barkley, T Regan, J Masterman, R Ayliffe

Referee: G O'Donnell (The Sun 28th February 1983)

It took only 90 minutes for Len Stacker, the new Western Suburbs Rugby League coach, to realise that he has enormous problems. Stacker watched his team go down 29-6 to Eastern Suburbs at the Sydney Cricket Ground and noted with dismay the number of important players injured. He knows the team's lack of depth and players' lack of size will cause big worries in the long season ahead. "Lack of depth is a big concern," he said. "This is the best team we could put on the field, and to get these injuries so early is hard. We just have to sort something out." The club's two worst worries are second-rower Brian Battese and lock Michael Duke. Battese, in his first match with the club after coming from Brisbane, stretched ligaments in his ankle, and the talented Duke has knee and ankle injuries. Both are likely to miss Wests' match with Balmain next weekend. Another big worry for Stacker is his team's shoddy handling which ruined so many strong scoring chances yesterday. For a lot of the match the Magpies dominated the play and continually worked themselves into good positions. Then they would wreck everything with silly passes and fumbles. In contrast, Easts, although not impressive, played relatively error-free football and waited patiently for openings. This simple theory worked. Wests gradually became frustrated, kinks began to appear in their armour, and Easts' score-line slowly grew, with second-rower Ian Barkley leading the charge with two tries. Despite the big margin, Laurie Freier, Easts' coach, was not completely happy. He wants a more satisfactory level of team-work. **(Sydney Morning Herald 28th February 1983)**

The only thing cool at the Sydney Sports Ground yesterday was Terry Regan's temper and it brought a new dimension to Easts' premiership hope. While Wests' forwards gouged him, trying to rekindle his hot, fiery temper, Regan turned the other cheek and set about helping the Roosters to a first-up 29-6 win. Regan finished last year on the wing in the reserve grade final. Yesterday he played prop. He tore into Wests, accepted the niggling, remained cool and set up John Tobin's try in the 59th minute with a quick and clever pass. "Easts have given me my chance and everyone here is right behind me. I can't afford to do anything silly," Regan said after the game. **(The Sun 28th February 1983)**

Notes: Played in heatwave conditions, Wests were well in the match with the scores 2-2 in a penalty-ridden (36) match until shortly before half-time. The heat took its toll on the forwards and it didn't help that new forward, ex-Country Firsts Brian Battese, was forced off with ligament damage. Wests continued to blow multiple chances they created and couldn't get back into the game. John Donnelly had a strong first up match in a season where the rule changes of four points for a try and the lock being forced to pack in the scrum made for open football. Apart from Battese, Ian Freeman, Peter Burgmann and Scott Gale also debuted.