



# 1997 Round 10 Saturday 10th May Wollongong Showground



## Western Suburbs 6

def.

## Illawarra 2

Andrew LEEDS  
 Paul SMITH  
 Ken McGUINNESS  
 Adam DONOVAN  
 Aseri LAING  
 Kevin McGUINNESS  
 Steve GEORGALLIS  
 Paul LANGMACK (c)  
 Damian KENNEDY  
 Bill DUNN  
 John SKANDALIS  
 Des HASLER  
 Harvey HOWARD  
 Brett TAYLOR  
 Shane MILLARD  
 James SMITH  
 Adam DOYLE

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

Brendon REEVES  
 Fili SERU  
 Shaun TIMMINS  
 Brett RODWELL  
 Wayne CLIFFORD  
 Andrew PURCELL  
 Glen AIR  
 John CROSS (c)  
 Adam BRISTOW  
 Darren BRADSTREET  
 Craig SMITH  
 Will ROBINSON  
 Maea DAVID  
 Jason HOPPER  
 Andrew HART  
 David COX  
 Scott CRAM

**Tries** Des HASLER

**Goals** Andrew LEEDS (1)

Darren BRADSTREET (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, Ken McGuinness, A Donovan, A Laing; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, J Skandalis, D Hasler, H Howard

**Illawarra:** Full-back: B Reeves; three-quarters: F Seru, S Timmins, B Rodwell, W Clifford; five-eighth: A Purcell; half: G Air; forwards: J Cross, A Bristow, D Bradstreet, C Smith, W Robinson, M David **Referee: S Hampstead (Big League 10th May 1997)**

It was the kind of night full-backs dread. A howling gale coupled with torrential rain set the stage for last night's clash between Illawarra and Wests at WIN stadium, taken out by the Magpies 6-2. Even in such abhorrent conditions, Wests evergreen fullback Andrew Leeds still managed to thrive. Whether in defence or attack, he was solid. His only blemish was being sin-binned just before half time for a professional foul. A Des Hasler try in the 58th minute was one of the few highlights of a dour game, marred by a multitude of handling errors and an extremely high penalty count. The Steelers were at times awful in attack, failing to make use of the cyclonic wind at their backs in the first half. "Wests just played smarter than us," said coach Andrew Farrar. "Our effort was pleasing, but our kicking let us down." Illawarra had several opportunities to score in the first half, goalkicker Darren Bradstreet failing to convert either of his two penalty goal attempts. Wests win was built around their gritty defence. In particular, prop Harvey Howard and second-rower Damian Kennedy hardly allowed an Illawarra line break all night. **(The Sun-Herald 11th May 1997)**

Veteran Des Hasler showed his champion qualities in Saturday night's grafting win over Illawarra. Coming into the side as a late replacement for the injured Cherry Mescia, Hasler had an outstanding all-round game. The former Test star topped the tackle count with 39 hits and came up with the only try in a tight clash. Hasler is paying his way for the Magpies - both on and off the field. At training during the week, he is an inspiration to the younger players. And on the weekend, his enthusiasm is proving infectious ..... Wests came up with an excellent win in Wollongong despite the late withdrawal of two of their form players. The loss of Mescia and centre Brandon Pearson would hardly have filled the Magpie camp with confidence going into the game against the Steelers. But Wests defended magnificently in the first half to lay the platform for the win ..... The immediate playing future of Mescia is in some doubt. As Big league went to press, the busy hooker was scheduled for groin surgery and could be sidelined for several weeks. **(Big League 12th May 1997)**

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**Notes:** Cherry Mescia was a late withdrawal (groin surgery) as well as Brandon Pearson. Des Hasler, into hooker, had an outstanding game, topping the tackle count with 39. Adam Donovan went into the centres for Pearson. In a magnificent first half defensive effort, Howard and Kennedy were impregnable up-front, while Andrew Leeds was again penetrative from the back. This was a very dour game played under sloppy conditions.