1998 Round 10 Sunday 17th May Campbelltown Stadium

Western Suburbs 24

def.

Gold Coast 14



Kevin McGUINNESS Ken McGUINNESS **Brett HODGSON** Paul LANGMACK (c) Aseri LAING Damian KENNEDY Harvey HOWARD Ciriaco MESCIA Darren FRITZ Chris YATES Darren WILLIS Lincoln RAUDONIKIS **Fullback** Wing Centre Centre Wing Five-eighth Half Lock Second Row Second Row Front Row Hooker Front Row Replacement Replacement Replacement Replacement

Andrew KING Jason HUDSON Jason NICOL Graham MACKAY (c) Shane RUSSELL David MYLES Craig TEEVAN Scott SATTLER **Heath CRUKSHANK** Danny McALLISTER Damien DRISCOLL Jamie GODDARD Clinton O'BRIEN Chris NAHL Wes PATTEN Richie ALLAN Steve PARSONS

Tries **Andrew LEEDS** Leo DYNEVOR Scott COXON **Damian KENNEDY**

> Andrew LEEDS (2) Leo DYNEVOR (2)

John SKANDALIS

Danny McALLISTER **Graham MACKAY**

Graham MACKAY (3)

Match Description

Goals

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: J Mills, Kevin McGuinness, Ken McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: S Coxon; half: L Dynevor; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, A Liang, H Howard, C Mescia, D Fritz

Gold Coast: Full-back: A King; three-quarters: J Hudson, G Mackay (c), J Nicol, S Russell; five-eighth: D Myles: half: C Teevan; forwards: S Sattler, H Cruckshank, D McAllister, C O'Brien, J Goddard, D Driscoll Referee: M Jadwat (Big League 17th May 1998)

Size does matter- just ask Wests, who welcomed back there big "go forward" man Harvey Howard at Campbelltown yesterday. It was no coincidence the Magpies won their first match in seven weeks with the powerful Englishman on board. His metre-eating surges, in tandem with another giant, Darren Fritz, gave the Magpies plenty of impetus and resulted in a hard-earned 24-14 victory over the unpredictable Gold Coast. Howard broke a bone in his ankle during the offseason and had surgery. Yesterday was his first run of the season and what he lacked in condition, he more than compensated for with determination. The Magpie faithful loved having him back and the players were similarly excited. "Last year when Harvey got suspended for four weeks, we didn't win a game," said skipper Paul Langmack. "When he came back, we went well again and won I don't know how many games. He is just so important for us and now we've got Darren Fritz and Brenton Pomeroy to come back, we're going to have some big boys up in the front row. We can't win games without them and that goes for any year of football." Howard pulled up well and said he was looking forward to his partnership with Fritz and Pomery. "Were going to be basically running over the top of bodies," Howard said. "We're going to be quite a handful in the weeks ahead." Yesterday's win saw the Magpies fly clear of the competition cellar but had to work hard for the precious competition points. Tom Raudonikis' men led 10-6 at halftime but lost the momentum for long enough for the Chargers to get their noses in front at 14-12. Man of the match Damian Kennedy gave Wests the lead again with the 64th minute try before industrious half back Leo Dynevor wrapped it up with the Magpies' fourth try with three minutes to go. It was an interesting, but at times bizarre, game, thanks to some puzzling rulings by young referee Moghseen Jadwat. (The Daily Telegraph 18th May 1998)

Notes: The return of Harvey Howard after a long absence from ankle surgery made a huge difference, with his runs, along with the other big forward Darren Fritz, creating havoc in the middle of the rucks. Paul Langmack and Andrew Leeds were also back in their natural positions at lock and fullback which emphasised how badly they had been missed. Damian Kennedy was clearly Wests' best in a much-needed win.

