



1987 Round 11 Sunday 10th May Orana Park



St George 34

def.

Western Suburbs 0

Steve FUNNELL
 Ricky WALFORD
 Michael BEATTIE
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Chris JOHNS
 Steve ROBINSON
 Mark KO'CASS
 Colin FRASER
 Wally FULLERTON-SMITH
 Graeme WYNN
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Billy JOHNSTONE
 John FIFITA
 Mark BLACKBURN
 Bert GORDON
 Geoff SELBY
 Shane FLANAGAN

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

Ian NADEN
 Phillip DUKE
 John ALLANSON
 Allen GEELAN
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Terry DONNELLAN
 Les WHITE
 Mark MESKELL
 Craig ELLIS
 Mark HARRIGAN



Tries Michael BEATTIE (2)
 Chris JOHNS
 Brian JOHNSTONE
 Mark KO'CASS
 Steve ROBINSON
 Graeme WYNN

Goals Steve FUNNELL (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: S Funnell; three-quarters: R Walford, M Beattie, B Johnston, C Johns; five-eighth: S Robinson; half: M Ko'ass; forwards: C Fraser, W Fullerton-Smith, G Wynn, C Young (c), W Johnstone, J Fifita

Western Suburbs: Full-back: I Naden; three-quarters: P Duke, J Allanson, A Geelan, P Sheahan; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, J Bilbija, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 13th May 1987)**

"If they are going to spear me it will have to be in the chest and not in the back." It sounded like the defiant pledge of a forward about to do battle, but the words belonged to Western Suburbs Rugby League general manager Rick Wayde. After Wests' humiliating 34-0 loss to St George at Orana Park yesterday. Wayde said he believed there was a strong move within the club to remove him from his position. He added that tonight's general meeting at Wests League Club in Ashfield would be where he expected his greatest challenge. "Someone within the club told me gleefully on Friday that there will be a 13to 3 vote against me by the committee," Wayde said. "I have given a slice of my life to this place ... 'I'm not going without a fight.' Wests' coach Steve Ghosn played down the conflict in his obligatory post-match press conference but revealed later that the players were worried. "It's not really a happy club at the moment," Ghosn said. "I just hope they (the officials) sort out their problems really quick." Wests' captain Ian Schubert said, "They can do whatever they like but I come here to play football." The drama in the dressing room overshadowed yesterday's match in which St George continued to show improvement with their merciless disposal of the Magpies. Coach Roy Masters was delighted by his team's defence and also their enthusiasm, which was maintained until full-time. "I've always said that it takes time to develop a new team and things are now coming together for us", Masters said. It was like the Saints of old yesterday, a tight yet skilful pack supported by a fast and innovative backline. And the new half combination of Steve Robinson and Mark Ko'Cass is gaining confidence all the time. The Dragons never looked back once centre Michael Beattie scored in the second minute after an appalling error by Wests' second-rower John Bilbija. When caution was needed early in the game, Bilbija ran across field and threw a wild pass that fell neatly into Beattie's hands just inside Wests' half. ... The Magpies suffered by the loss through injury of hooker Alan Fallah just before half-time. Prop Ian Freeman and five-eighth Doug Rawlings were called on to do an unreasonable amount of defence. .. (Sydney Morning Herald 11th May 1987)

Notes: A very poor effort was made to look worse as Wests lost all three grades easily. Alan Fallah's injury before half-time made the task even more difficult, after an intercept try after two minutes. Only John Elias and Phillip Duke played to their best.