



1997 Round 11 Sunday 18th May Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 32

def.

South Queensland 12



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

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

Dave WATSON
 Jason HUDSON
 Mat TOSHACK
 Michael EAGER
 Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 Don SAUNDERS
 Nathan ANTONIK
 Craig WILSON
 Mark PROTHEROE
 Matt BICKERSTAFF
 Steele RETCHLESS
 Craig TEEVAN (c)
 Clinton O'BRIEN
 Aaron MOULE
 Danny NUTLEY
 Nathan SOLOGINKIN

Tries Ken McGUINNESS (2)
 Darren WILLIS
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Des HASLER
 Bill DUNN

Dave WATSON
 Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 Michael EAGER

Goals Andrew LEEDS (4)

Match Description

South Queensland: Full-back: D Watson; three-quarters: J Hudson, M Toshack, M Eager, C Schifcofske; five-eighth: D Saunders; half: N Antonik; forwards: C Wilson, M Protheroe, M Bickerstaff, S Retchless, C Teevan (c), C O'Brien

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Kevin McGuinness, Ken McGuinness, A Laing; five-eighth: A Doyle; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, H Howard, C Mescia, J Skandalis **Referee: M Hewitt (Big League 18th June 1997)**

Fifty seconds into yesterday's match between Western Suburbs and South Queensland, the Magpies' worst fears seemed to come true as captain Paul Langmack lay motionless, knocked out after a clash of heads. "I was pretty worried," coach Tom Raudonikis said. "When he's down, you know he's crook. 'Langer' is a pretty tough bloke. He doesn't normally go down." For the next 25 minutes the Magpies appeared directionless, often taking bad options in attack. It was clear they lacked a leader in the absence of their skipper and chief play-maker. Not surprisingly, Langmack's return was the spark Wests needed. They ran in six tries in a display directly contrasting with their gritty 6-2 win over Illawarra last week. "It just goes to show that we can play different styles of football, depending on the game," Raudonikis said. "But Langers was sensational. He is a special kind of player. He set up two of our tries and played really well." When asked about the clash of heads, Langmack remarked: "I thought I was at Wembley in the FA Cup final against Chelsea. But seriously, I've been knocked out heaps of times. In my first year at Canterbury, I think I was KO'ed on six occasions." ... Teevan did not blame the microphone problem or the referees as causes for his team's loss. "There are a few weird decisions, but I don't think that either side was favoured," he said. "We were looking good when Langmack was off the field. They were disorganised we had them all over the place." South Queensland opened the scoring with a try to centre Michael Eager in the 4th minute. But by halftime Wests had piled on three tries - one each to Kevin McGuinness, Bill Dunn and Des Hasler - to lead 14-4. The second half was almost a mirror image of the first. The Crushers' dynamic fullback, Dave Watson, crossed early, only for the Magpies to run away with the match. Afterwards, Raudonikis praised the efforts of five-eighth-cum-centre McGuinness, who had replaced the injured Brandon Pearson and constantly tested the Crushers' defensive line with deft footwork and electrifying pace. "He is a real mature player for his age (20)," Raudonikis said. "He's been great all season." This is a sentiment shared by Langmack. "That's the best I've ever seen Kevin play," he said. "We knew Pearson was going to be out all week. Kevin really stepped up today and showed just how good a player he is. It was probably the best game of his career." **(The Sydney Morning Herald 19th May 1997)**

Notes: Paul Langmack was knocked unconscious after 30 seconds but returned to the field later and set up two of the tries. Wests had looked disorganised when he was off the field. The McGuinness brothers had a rare pairing in the centres, scoring three tries between them, and Kevin McGuinness having most probably his best ever game for the Magpies. Adam Doyle showed he was fitting into five-eighth well, giving excellent service to his outside backs. The dynamic Brett Hodgson made his debut as a replacement.