



# 1985 Round 11 Sunday 19th May Penrith Park



## Western Suburbs 18

def.

## Penrith 9

John McARTHUR  
 Greg DUVAL  
 Brett GALE  
 Wayne WIGHAM  
 Chris STEPHANDELLIS  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Michael NEIL  
 Dave STAFFORD  
 Lee CROOKS  
 Craig CLARKE  
 Terry LEABEATER (c)  
 Grant FYVIE  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Peter WORTH  
 Mark HARRIGAN

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

Brett LOBB  
 Warren GENTLES  
 Brad IZZARD  
 Steve ROBINSON  
 Ben GONZALES  
 Tony TRUDGETT  
 Greg ALEXANDER  
 Warren FENTON  
 Craig CONNOR  
 Matt GOODWIN  
 Lew ZIVANOVIC  
 Royce SIMMONS (c)  
 Geoff GERARD  
 Chris BLAIR  
 Craig IZZARD

**Tries** Wayne WIGHAM (2)  
 Lee CROOKS

Craig CONNOR

**Goals** Chris STEPHANDELLIS (2)  
 Peter WORTH (1)

Greg ALEXANDER (2) One Field Goal  
 Brett LOBB (1)

### Match Description

**Penrith:** Full-back: B Lobb; three-quarters: B Gonzales, S Robinson, B Izzard, W Gentles; five-eighth: T Trudgett; half: G Alexander; forwards: W Fenton, C Connor, M Goodwin, L Zivanovic, R Simmons (c), G Gerard

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: G Duval, W Wigham, B Gale, C Stephandellis; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: M Neil; forwards: D Stafford, C Clarke, L Crooks, T Leabeater (c), G Fyvie, B Clark **Referee: M Stone (The Daily Mirror 20th May 1985)**

English Test forward Lee Crooks burst spectacularly onto the Sydney first-grade rugby league scene at Penrith Park yesterday to spearhead Western Suburbs to a second shock win of the season over semi-final aspirant Penrith. The well-built Crooks, who has just completed a full season with Wembley Challenge Cup loser, Hull, made light work of the Panthers as Wests streaked home 18-9. The 21-year-old Pommie prop, who gained notoriety in the First Test last year by being sent off for elbowing Australian hooker Greg Conescu, yesterday turned menacing Magpie to end Penrith's five-match winning sequence. Crooks' second-row performance can only be described as magnificent. The highlights were:

- Giving a beautifully directed and perfectly-timed pass as he fell to the turf for centre Wayne Wigham to crash over for Wests' first try in the 33rd minute.
- Charging through after a Trevor Cogger bomb to grab the ball when it was spilled by Penrith and going on to score Wests' second try under the posts in the 61st minute
- To loft a towering bomb with pin-point accuracy at the Penrith posts which was retrieved by Wigham, who scored his second try 30 seconds from the end of the game.
- To top the count for both teams with 45 tackles, including a massive 30 in the first half when Penrith hammered away with non-stop attack

Crooks' display naturally delighted Wests' coach Ken Gentle, who several weeks ago plotted Penrith's demise in a quarter-final of the National Panasonic Cup game. "It was a terrific team effort, but Crooks was the difference," beamed Gentle. "He has done remarkably well for a player who has been with us for only a fortnight. He's still learning our plays and will be even better after he's been here a couple more weeks." While the Magpies and club management were loudly applauding Crooks, the quietly spoken Englishman would not take any of the credit away from his new team-mates. "The lads played well," said Crooks. "If you can rely on the blokes beside you, things will always turn out all right. (Daily Telegraph 20th May 1985)

**Notes:** Lee Crooks made a sensational debut to Australian First Grade football, although still obviously below peak fitness. He scored a try, set up another and made 45 tackles, 30 in the first half. He combined brilliantly with Bruce Clark and Michael Neil, who completely outplayed his halfback rival, Greg Alexander. Grant Fyvie came in for the injured Alan Fallah and was also a very strong contributor to the Magpies' second win in a row.