



## 1998 Round 11 Saturday 23rd May Leichhardt Oval



### Balmain 20

Shannon NEVIN  
Laloa MILFORD  
William KENNEDY  
Jason WEBBER  
Greg DONAGHEY  
Michael GILLETT  
Shayne DUNLEY  
Ben DUCKWORTH  
Mark O'NEILL  
Mark STIMSON  
Paul SIRONEN (c)  
Adam NABLE  
Shane WALKER  
Hudson SMITH  
Chris McPHERSON  
Jim GANNON

def.

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

### Western Suburbs 12

Andrew LEEDS  
Jared MILLS  
Ken McGUINNESS  
Kevin McGUINNESS  
Brett HODGSON  
Steve GEORGALLIS  
Leo DYNEVOR  
Paul LANGMACK (c)  
Damian KENNEDY  
Scott COXON  
Chris YATES  
Ciriaco MESCIA  
Harvey HOWARD  
Darren FRITZ  
Darren WILLIS  
Aseri LAING  
John SKANDALIS



**Tries** Jason WEBBER  
Mark O'NEILL  
William KENNEDY

Brett HODGSON  
Jared MILLS

**Goals** Shannon NEVIN (4)

Leo DYNEVOR (2)

#### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: S Nevin; three-quarters: L Milford, W Kennedy, J Webber, G Donaghey; five-eighth: M Gillett; half: S Dunley; forwards: B Duckworth, M O'Neill, M Stimson, P Sironen (c), A Nable, S Walker

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: J Mills, Kevin McGuinness, Ken McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: L Dynevor; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, S Coxon, H Howard, C Mescia, C Yates **Referee: P McBlane (Big League 24th May 1998)**

Balmain left Tommy Raudonikis to lament the most frustrating 24 hours of his coaching career at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. Less than 24 hours after the Blues' nail-biting State of Origin loss to Queensland, his Western Suburbs Magpies lost to Balmain in the vital NRL premiership match. Balmain ended a four-match losing streak with their 20-12 win. In a game which was a huge letdown after the State of Origin treat the night before, the Tigers finished the stronger over the struggling Magpies. Balmain ran in three tries to two - all five of them coming in the second half. It was not apparent if players from both sides were out at all night State of Origin parties, but they certainly played that way. The amount of handling errors in the first half had to be seen to be believed. It was a frustrating experience for the Leichhardt Oval crowd. Ken McGuinness got the ball rolling when he dropped a simple pass with the line wide open after just two minutes of play. Trying to forget the disappointment of not getting a run off the bench in Origin 1, it was the worst possible start for McGuinness. A few minutes later, Wests were caught inside the 10 metres by referee Paul McBlane and Shannon Nevin potted a simple penalty. Wests levelled in the 15th minute when Leo Dynevor kicked a penalty goal from right in front. It was one of those halves of football where the standard was so bad that the crowd spent all their time appealing for penalties. Eventually, the jeering Leichhardt crowd got the penalty they were after and Nevin duly kicked his second goal to give the Tigers a 4-2 lead. The Magpies had a chance to hit back straight away when presented with a two-man overlap but, in keeping with the standard of the game, they switched play the wrong way. Balmain returned the favour a few minutes later when replacement James Gannon threw a shocking pass to Laloa Milford, who spilled the ball with a try begging. The game was in the balance midway through the second half with Balmain holding a 14-8 lead. Both sides livened the game up with a try straight after the halftime break after a mind-numbing first 40 minutes. Balmain led 14-2 at halftime but extended that lead when centre Jason Webber crossed out wide after a 60-metre run by William Kennedy. But the Magpies replied minutes later when a Dynevor bomb bounced into the arms of their winger Jared Mills from his Balmain opposite Greg Donaghy. Dynevor's wobbly conversion from near the sideline levelled the scores. Balmain regained the lead in the 65th minute when second-rower Mark O'Neill scored from a Michael Gillett bomb spilt by Mills. **(The Sunday Telegraph 24th May 1998)**

**Notes:** In a very poor quality, fumbling, game, Wests had lots of chances but failed to capitalise on most of them. Ken McGuinness dropped an easy pass with the tryline wide open in a match-changing blunder. Jared Mills scored his second try in as many games, while Paul Langmack was forced off with a buttock injury, much to the amusement of coach, Tom Raudonikis.