



1991 Round 11 Friday 7th June Sydney Football Stadium



Eastern Suburbs 20

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Rod SILVA
 Mark PROTHEROE
 Steve DEACON
 Terry HILL
 Jeff ORFORD
 Brendan HALL
 Kurt SHERLOCK
 Paul VAUTIN
 Hugh McGAHAN (c)
 Tim RUSSELL
 Denis BEECRAFT
 Wayne MARSHALL
 Steve HARDY
 Jason TASSELL

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

Shaun DEVINE
 Stephen BURNS
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Andrew FARRAR
 Tony COSATTO
 Jim DYMOCK
 Jason TAYLOR
 Jason LIDDEN
 Ron GIBBS
 Graeme WYNN
 Mark WILLIAMS
 Joe THOMAS (c)
 Darren BRITT
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Noel GOLDTHORPE
 Russell WYER



Tries Mark PROTHEROE
 Terry HILL
 Steve DEACON
 Steve HARDY

Russell WYER
 Jamie AINSCOUGH

Goals Kurt SHERLOCK (2)

Jason TAYLOR (2)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Silva; three-quarters: M Protheroe, S Deacon, T Hill, J Orford; five-eighth: B Hall; half: K Sherlock; forwards: P Vautin, H McGahan (c), T Russell, D Beecraft, W Marshall, S Hardy

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: S Burns, A Farrar, J Ainscough, T Cosatto; five-eighth: J Dymock; half: J Taylor; forwards: J Lidden, R Gibbs, G Wynn, M Williams, J Thomas (c), D Britt **Referee: W Harrigan (Big League 12th June 1991)**

Eastern Suburbs ground out a 20-12 win against Western Suburbs in the battle of the season's big improvers at a sodden Sydney Football Stadium last night. ... The Magpies were coming off a six-match winning streak and looked the better side for much of the first half. Easts hung in, jagged a couple of tries to edge in front, then defended and scrambled until Wests' raids became more desperate than fluent. The Roosters have shown more flair in previous victories, but never more steel and self-belief. Lock Paul Vautin embodied the tackling spirit, and hooker Wayne Marshall was outstanding, but as coach Mark Murray challenged: "Name a bad player." Steve Hardy scored a memorable prop's try two minutes before half-time which gave Easts the lead and altered the run of the game. In the backs, Steve Deacon was the man most responsible for two tries, and winger Mark Protheroe prevented two with last-gasp scything tackles. Terry Hill wasn't unstoppable but caused sufficient problems to earn a mention, given his original intention to play at Campbelltown. Murray played down the broader implication of the victory: "From day one, we've never highlighted the final five. We've had other priorities and taken the attitude that if the five happens, then that's great." Wests ran straighter, kicked better and looked more dangerous in the first half, but still trailed at the break. The story for them was failure to convert chances – and they had plenty, of varying degrees of promise. Down 14-6 after 10 minutes of the second half, Wests had a surfeit of possession and quality field position. Easts' defensive pattern was excellent but the Magpies took one wrong option after another. Coach Warren Ryan listed several instances of poor selection, then summed up: "Blokes tried to throw the absolute pass." Wests' cause was not helped by the replacement of pivot Jim Dymock after 10 minutes. His departure caused a backline reshuffle which partly explains the lack of fluency. A preliminary examination of Dymock's knee suggested cruciate damage. Protheroe opened the scoring with a try from a bomb, one of two Easts scored by this means. Wests achieved parity through replacement Russell Wyer, who touched down after a neat pass from Jason Taylor and a leap over the defence. Hardy made the decisive contribution just before the break, and Deacon virtually settled the issue when he caught a Hugh McGahan floater and bisected two defenders to score. From there, defence was everything. Easts' supporters like this winning feeling as much as the Bears' fans. A crowd of 11,366 ignored the leaky SFS roof and the delayed telecast to see their team take a provisional top five slot. **(Sydney Morning Herald 8th June 1991)**

Notes: This game was played in slushy conditions, with a couple of bouts of torrential rain. Wests looked the better side in the first half but bombed a number of genuine scoring opportunities. The backline had to be reshuffled after 10 minutes when Jim Dymock suffered a serious ankle injury. Replacement Russell Wyer also suffered a shoulder injury. Shaun Devine and Ivan Henjak also added to the growing injury list. Easts were coming off three straight wins and Wests six, so it was an exciting match but, in the end, the Wests' errors were the telling factor.