



1994 Round 12 Sunday 12th June Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 32

def.

Balmain 28

Andrew LEEDS
Paul SMITH
Damien McGARRY
Ken McGUINNESS
Darren WILLIS
Steve GEORGALLIS
Josh WHITE
Paul LANGMACK (c)
Mark AFFLICK
Stephen KEARNEY
Glenn GRIEF
Jim SERDARIS
Neil TIERNEY
Scott HARDY
Bill DUNN

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

Morvin EDWARDS
Graham LYONS
Tim BRASHER
Marty MOORE
John BENTLEY
David BAYSSARI
Nathan WOOD
Des CLARK
Matt MUNRO
Paul SIRONEN (c)
Steve EDMED
Michael BROWN
Derek McVEY
Stephen SCAHILL
Shane POWELL
Jason DARCY

Tries

Ken McGUINNESS (2)
Andrew LEEDS
Paul SMITH
Stephen KEARNEY

Tim BRASHER (2)
Derek McVEY
Marty MOORE
Graham LYONS

Goals

Andrew LEEDS (6)

Tim BRASHER (3)
Morvin EDWARDS (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: M Edwards; three-quarters: G Lyons, T Brasher, M Moore, J Bentley; five-eighth: D Bayssari; half: N Wood; forwards: D Clark, M Munro, P Sironen (c), S Edmed, M Brown, D McKey

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, D McGarry, K McGuinness, D Willis; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: J White; forwards: P Langmack (c), S Kearney, M Afflick, G Grief, J Sedaris, N Tierney **Referee: P McBlane (Daily Telegraph 13th June 1994)**

Western Suburbs coach Warren Ryan provided a finish to rival Balmain's epic comeback as he ignited yesterday's post-match media conference at Campbelltown Sports Ground. His Magpies had succeeded - only just - in stopping the Tigers from turning a nondescript match into one of the game's greatest escapes. Balmain stormed back from 32-6 down with 19 minutes to go, to lose 32-28. Nothing that could be said after, it appeared, could possibly have diverted the spotlight from the bizarre twist yesterday's otherwise insignificant encounter took in its final stages. But that was not the case. Asked whether a last gasp loss after holding such a lead would have been one of the most disastrous, he had been involved with, Ryan said: "Yes, it would have been. But we didn't lose." As he walked off towards the door, Ryan added: "But it's better than that Wayne Pierce loses, because he is a media darling." Reporters exchanged long stares of bewilderment: Did he really say that? Ryan was clearly referring to the fact the Tigers have just six competition points from 11 starts but Pearce has perhaps avoided some of the scrutiny his predecessor, Alan Jones, endured during two terms at Leichhardt. In 1992, Balmain had twice as many points at this stage of the season and last year also had six. ... Man of the match, winger Ken McGuinness, scored the Magpies' first try in the 4th minute after a ball bounced badly for Balmain's origin back Tim Brasher, who hit back with a four-pointer of his own soon after. Wests 16-6 half time lead came from winger Paul Smith's 21st minute try and three more goals by fullback Andrew Leeds, but after the break the Magpies seemed to ensure a comfortable victory with touchdowns to McGuinness again, second rowers Stephen Kearney and Leeds against a tardy defence. It was not that the Magpies were superhuman, rather Balmain were at times woeful. Then, just when a half century loomed as a possibility, rookie Balmain centre Marty Moore scored from a loose ball 70 metres out. Then prop Derek McVey charged through two tackles and scored. Winger Graham Lyons, once an Origin player, ignored support and kicked ahead with 12 to go, regaining triumphantly in the in-goal. Lock Matt Monro stood in a tackle for Brasher's second. Suddenly, there were four points in it. ... Ryan said the late withdrawal of Balmain hooker Ben Elias with a groin injury may have detracted from Wests' rake Jim Sedaris. Sedaris said he was looking forward to a tussle with the man he hoped to unseat from the New South Wales hooking spot. "It's unfortunate he was injured as it was probably the last chance I had to play against him before he retires," Sedaris said. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 13th June 1994)**

Notes: The talk after the game was how Ken McGuinness, still 18, had stamped his authority and highlighted his stellar future, after scoring two tries in a dominant display. Leeds and Kearney were also standouts but it was disappointing that Wests let them back into the game after leading 32-6. Coach Ryan pointed out that they were coming off a three-week break and tired late.