



1987 Round 12 Sunday 17th May Leichhardt Oval



Balmain 16

Garry JACK
 John DAVIDSON
 Gavin HANRAHAN
 Matt CARTER
 Russell GARTNER
 Phil SIGSWORTH
 Scott GALE
 Wayne PEARCE (c)
 David BROOKS
 Paul SIRONEN
 Lee CROOKS
 Ben ELIAS
 Paul CLARKE
 John OWENS
 Michael NEIL
 Kevin HARDWICK

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Steve McCOY
 Allen GEELAN
 John ALLANSON
 Ian NADEN
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 Wayne LAMBKIN
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Bruce CLARK
 Les WHITE
 Phillip DUKE
 Brett CLARK



Tries Matt CARTER (2)

Paul SHEAHAN
John ELIAS

Goals Lee CROOKS (4)

Ian SCHUBERT (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: G Jack; three-quarters: J Davidson, G Hanrahan, M Carter, R Gartner; five-eighth: P Sigsworth; half: S Gale; forwards: W Pearce (c), D Brooks, P Sironen, L Crooks, B Elias, P Clarke

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S McCoy; three-quarters: A Geelan, J Allanson, I Naden, P Sheahan; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, W Lambkin, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc **Referee: P Filmer (Rugby League Week 20th May 1987)**

Western Suburbs officials were fuming last night after Balmain centre Matt Carter scored a controversial last-minute try to lift the Tigers to a thrilling 16-12 win at Leichhardt Oval. Magpie coach Steve Ghosn declared immediately after the match that Carter had been bundled into touch as he scored a sensational match-winning try with only 17 seconds left on the clock. "Carter went into touch," Ghosn fumed. "It wasn't a try. We were the best side for 79 minutes and yet we came away with nothing." It was just like a finish at Randwick races. Wests were in front all the way down the straight before Balmain lunged right on the line and got the judge's verdict. Angry Magpies' officials later lodged a protest with referees' co-ordinator Denis Braybrook but there was nothing he could do. The Magpies started the match in great style and posted first points after 12 minutes when Elias brushed his way past two Tigers' defenders and strolled over under the posts. Skipper Ian Schubert added the extras and Wests laid part of the foundations for an upset victory. Wests stretched their lead to 12-0 in the 25th minute when winger Sheahan sprinted 40m to score after some good lead-up work by team-mate Trevor Cogger. Balmain's representative stars looked weary at times but continued to launch themselves into both attack and defence. Ace lock Wayne Pearce put down two simple passes in the first half but recovered to complete a strong game and set up the Tigers' last-minute try. At half-time, the Magpies, who are running last on the premiership ladder, looked set to topple the competition leaders. In fact, they looked certain to win until the dying moments of the match. But the Tigers proved why they are premiership favourites by bouncing back in the second session. There's no doubting Balmain have the ability to go all the way. They have match winners in both attack and defence, while Wests rely on courage, determination and a couple of class players. Wests would have certainly won yesterday had it not been for Tigers' Test full-back Garry Jack. With the score 12-10 and only eight minutes remaining, the Magpies tossed the ball wide before Sheahan found himself in open spaces. The speedy winger who, like several of his team-mates had a great game, looked certain to score until Jack arrived on the scene. Jack dived and bundled Sheahan into touch with a match-winning tackle. "I wouldn't want to cut it that fine again," Balmain coach Bill Anderson said afterwards. "We were a bit flat today but it's good to get away with the competition points." Anderson said he was convinced Carter had grounded the ball correctly when he scored the match-winner. "Matt told me he scored a fair try," Anderson said. "He's a religious young man who wouldn't lie." Carter later admitted he was very close to going into touch but believed he scored. Several players from both sides turned in outstanding performances. Allen Geelan, Ian Naden, Doug Rawlings, Scott Tronc and Cogger never stopped trying for Wests. Cogger unfortunately was hurt late in the match and was taken to hospital with a neck injury. Magpie winger John Allanson (ribs) and Schubert (eye) were also injured. ... **(Daily Telegraph 18th May 1987)**

Notes: Wests literally led for all the game, only to lose with a hotly contested Balmain try in the last 17 seconds. A Wayne Pearce break led to a Matt Carter try but Wests were amazed that it was ruled he didn't hit the corner post as he was bundled into touch. Wayne Lambkin in his first full First Grade debut played well and Scott Tronc had his best game since coming to the Magpies. Allen Geelan, Ian Naden and Ian Schubert were also very strong. Trevor Cogger had to leave the field with injured ribs.