



1997 Round 12 Saturday 24th May Carrara Stadium



Western Suburbs 26

def.

Gold Coast 10

Andrew LEEDS
Darren WILLIS
Kevin McGUINNESS
Brandon PEARSON
Aseri LAING
Adam DOYLE
Steve GEORGALLIS
Paul LANGMACK (c)
Bill DUNN
Damian KENNEDY
Harvey HOWARD
Ciriaco MESCIA
James SMITH
Des HASLER
Brett HODGSON
Shane MILLARD
John SKANDALIS

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

Ros STONE
Lee OUDENRYN
Jason NICOL
Kris CURRIE
Jeff ORFORD
Shane KENWARD
Stuart TOPPER
Jeremy SCHLOSS
Des CLARK
Tony DURHEIM
Damien DRISCOLL
Jamie GODDARD
Martin BELLA (c)
Brett GILLARD
Brett PLOWMAN
Tim FULLER
Henry SULUVALE

Tries John SKANDALIS
Des HASLER
Shane MILLARD
Adam DOYLE

Scott SATTLER
Tom O'REILLY

Goals Andrew LEEDS (5)

Graham MACKAY (1)

Match Description

Gold Coast: Full-back: A King; three-quarters: G Mackay (c), J McKelleher, J Nicol, M Bai; five-eighth: T O'Reilly; half: W Patten; forwards: C Nahi, B Hurst, S Sattler, S Parsons, C Orr, D Clark

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Kevin McGuinness, B Pearson, A Laing; five-eighth: A Doyle; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, H Howard, C Mescia, J Smith **Referee: E Ward (Big League 24th May 1997)**

It's lucky Tom Raudonikis is a positive sort of bloke, otherwise he could be forgiven for being a bit concerned about the Magpies' form yesterday. Not that they played poorly in beating Gold Coast 26-10 - four tries to two - at Carrara Stadium to lift themselves into the top seven. It's more they did so at the end of a week in which they hardly saw their coach, who was on duty with the New South Wales State of Origin side. As Raudonikis himself pointed out: "When I was away with the Country side, they got up and beat Manly. They play pretty good when I'm away." After the match, Raudonikis asked his players to give reserve grade coach Jason Alchin, who paired with skipper Paul Langmack to prepare the side, a round of applause. The Magpies have lost just once since Raudonikis made his top-flight representative coaching debut on April 25. The only blight on a tradesman-like Wests' victory, which came after a 14-6 halftime lead, was a hamstring injury to Brandon Pearson. It may keep him on the sideline for longer than a month. Wests did what they had to do in the first half, watch the Chargers draw within four points, and then pounced on the home side's errors to seal victory with late tries to replacements Shane Miller and Des Hasler. The victory allowed them to leapfrog Gold Coast and Illawarra into equal 5th spot. It also avenged the Chargers 24-16 first round win at Campbelltown Sports Ground. While Raudonikis savoured his beer and cigarette and caught up with friends from his Logan City Brothers, Brisbane Norths and Ipswich days, Gold Coast coach Phil Economidis provided some of the most cutting comments from a losing coach this season. The best came when he was asked if there were any positives out of his team's performance, aside from the efforts of winger Marcus Bai and fullback Andrew King. "I'm just positive a few blokes might not be in the side next time we play," said Economidis, who described the performance as "embarrassing". (Sydney Morning Herald 25th May 1997)

Notes: The old heads of Des Hasler and Paul Langmack were again instrumental in carving out a Wests' win, with Langmack again setting up two tries. Andrew Leeds was safe as houses at the back in very difficult conditions. Late tries to Hasler and Millard sealed the victory, with the only issue a re-occurring hamstring injury to Brandon Pearson in the early minutes of the match.