



1998 Round 12 Sunday 31st May Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 36

def.

Adelaide 24

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

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

Deon BIRD
 Matthew DAYLIGHT
 Graham APPO
 David KIDWELL
 Rod JENSEN
 Craig BOWEN
 Noel GOLDTHORPE
 Dean SCHIFILLITI
 Tony IRO
 Alan CANN
 Mark CORVO
 Kerrod WALTERS (c)
 Marty McKENZIE
 Chris QUINN
 Andrew PIERCE
 Adam PEEK
 Andrew HICK

Tries

Brett HODGSON (3)
 Scott COXON (2)
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Aseri LAING
 Ken McGUINNESS

Deon BIRD
 Andrew HICK
 Craig BOWEN
 Mark CORVO
 Graham APPO

Goals

Leo DYNEVOR (2)

Graham APPO (2)

Match Description

Adelaide: Full-back: D Bird; three-quarters: M Daylight, G Appo, D Kidwell, R Jensen; five-eighth: C Bowen; half: N Goldthorpe; forwards: D Schifilliti, T Iro, A Cann, M Corvo, K Walters (c), M McKenzie

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: J Mills, Kevin McGuinness, A Laing, B Hodgson; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: L Dynevor; forwards: S Coxon, D Willis, D Kennedy, J Skandalis, S Georgallis, D Fritz **Referee: S Chiddy (Big League 31st May 1998)**

Never before have two poor performances combined to produce such a stirring game. The biggest criticisms of yesterday's Western Suburbs-Adelaide match were its biggest assets. The two teams played poorly, and, with time ticking away, had fans on edge as Adelaide started to come back. The poor attacking discipline and shoddy defence gave the game something we don't always get but which always adds to the excitement - uncertainty. At half-time Western Suburbs led 24-10 and were so much in control of such a lacklustre game you had to fight yourself from edging towards the exits. It continued shortly after the break, the Magpies going ahead 32-10, but then Adelaide came back to trail 32-24, and suddenly Wests' fans couldn't shout "get him back on side" often enough. Penalty kicks were grubbered into touch; a dropped ball lay on the ground so long Paul Langmack won the sprint for it; Players ran onto the ball and simply fell over, to say nothing of the huge number of missed tackles. Adelaide ran the ball 90 metres upfield, then, on the last tackle, tried to burrow over from dummy half. It was a strange sort of game. ... Wests answered with the next seven tries, however, and if kicker Leo Dynevor had not missed 5 from 7, the Magpies could have called it quits. In that period, Wests scored some spectacular tries, with players sliding balls around defenders and slicing through tacklers. Front-rower Darren Fritz was particularly strong up front and his combination with the Englishman Harvey Howard, which coach Tom Raudonikis admits is still coming together, was particularly pleasing. From his Westie haircut, right through his menacing walk and down to his sprigs, Fritz was born to play for the Magpies. It just suits the joint. On the strength of his charging runs, Wests were able to spread the ball wide and, through the talents of the McGuinness brothers and five-eighth Steve Georgallis and the speed of winger Brett Hodgson, they came up with points. ... Fritz was tackled and, while getting up to play the ball, started a brawl after objecting to Adelaide half Noel Goldthorpe doing, most probably what, all half backs do - annoying the opposition. Raudonikis thought Fritz might have been "swatting flies, I'm not sure. I can't see what he did, though, to get sent off." Either way, Goldthorpe gave Fritz a verbal send-off as he headed towards the sideline. As Fritz approached the sideline, the grandstand erupted into a standing ovation in reply. "How about a big round of applause for Darren Fritz," the ground announcer said. "Onya Fritz!" Somehow, it was a fitting end, to an unusual day. **(Sydney Morning Herald 1st June 1998)**

Notes: This was a very poor defensive game, with a large number of missed tackles, interspersed with some brilliant tries. Wests led 32-10 and in a poor display, let Adelaide back into the match to only trail 32-24. It was the powerhouse up-front combination of Darren Fritz and Harvey Howard that made the difference.