



# 1986 Round 13 Sunday 1st June Orana Park



## Western Suburbs 16

def.

## Eastern Suburbs 14



Rod PETHYBRIDGE  
 Brett CLARK  
 Wilfred WILLIAMS  
 Ian NADEN  
 Paul SHEAHAN  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Deryck FOX  
 Ian SCHUBERT  
 Geoff DILLON  
 John BILBIJA  
 Lee CROOKS (c)  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Craig ELLIS  
 Grant FYVIE  
 Des DRUMMOND

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

Gary WURTH  
 Scott BENNETT  
 Brian JOHNSON  
 David FRENCH  
 Ron GRIFFEN  
 Tony MELROSE  
 Laurie SPINA  
 Kevin HASTINGS  
 Hugh McGAHAN (c)  
 Brian BATTESE  
 Dave BROWN  
 Robert SIMPKINS  
 Brad TESSMANN  
 Carlos PARRA  
 Steve HARDY  
 Jim HARVEY

### Tries

Ian NADEN  
 Lee CROOKS  
 Brett CLARK

Robert SIMPKINS  
 Hugh McGAHAN

### Goals

Lee CROOKS (2)

Tony MELROSE (3)

### Match Description

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back: G Wurth; three-quarters: S Bennett, B Johnson, D French, R Griffen; five-eighth: T Melrose; half: L Spina; forwards: K Hastings, B Battese, H McGahan (c), B Tessman, R Simpkins, D Brown

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: B Clark, W Williams, I Naden, P Sheahan; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: D Fox; forwards: I Schubert, G Dillon, J Bilbija, L Crooks (c), A Fallah, C Ellis **Referee: G McCallum (The Daily Mirror 2nd June 1986)**

"I'll always remember this game," said Kevin Hastings, pulling off his sweaty Easts jersey for the 200th time. "It's the one we should have won but threw away." It should have been a glorious day for Hastings – becoming the first player at Easts to chalk up 200 games and receiving a glowing tribute from the club before the kick-off. But after eight minutes of frustration, the man they call Horrie sat in a corner of the Orana Park dressing room, knowing this was a game he would remember for all the wrong reasons. "The day started off great and I was touched by the presentations from the supporters' club," Hastings said after Easts' 16-14 loss to Wests. "It would have been great to win but, once we got on the field, everything went horribly wrong. Our moves weren't coming off, we dropped the ball continually and just didn't seem to know what we were doing." Wests kept their semi-final hopes alive with a scrappy win in an entertaining but mistake-riddled match. The Magpies had 10 chances to score and finished with three tries; Easts had eight opportunities and scored twice – it was that sort of game. But for Wests, it was their first taste of victory away from Lidcombe Oval this year and a morale-booster for the upcoming second round. "I told the boys they were lucky to win but they would have been unlucky to lose," Wests' coach Steve Ghosn said later. "We scored an early try and our discipline seemed to go out the window. We let Easts back into the game but luckily finished strongly." English imports Lee Crooks and Deryck Fox provided the guile behind the Magpies' win, while second-rower John Bilbija provided the muscle. Bilbija, who was running around for Merrylands A Grade this time last year, stunned the Easts' pack with a powerhouse performance. He continually made ground up the middle and had a field day running onto Crooks' deft passes. But while Crooks and Fox starred for the Magpies, the third member of Wests' English connection had a horror debut. Test winger Des Drummond was a bundle of nerves when thrown into the fray 13 minutes from the finish. Twice he almost cost Wests victory with uncharacteristic errors. "I think he'll have to stay in reserve grade for a while to get used to the pace of Sydney football," Ghosn said. Hastings tried hard for the Roosters, with support from Hugh McGahan and fullback Gary Wurth but, sadly, it just wasn't Horrie's day. **(Daily Mirror 2nd June 1986)**

**Notes:** Wests won two matches in a row for the first time in the season with a nail-biting win over Easts. They hit the front with 15 minutes to go and held on with dogged defence. In a scrappy match, both teams blew multiple chances at tries. John Bilbija had his best game so far for Wests and was clearly the best player on the field. Lee Crooks and Deryck Fox were again driving forces in the win but Englishman, Des Drummond, who came on as replacement, had an unhappy 13 minutes.