



# 1997 Round 13 Saturday 14th June Campbelltown Stadium



## Western Suburbs 24

def.

## Sydney City 18



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

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

Ivan CLEARY  
Jack ELSEGOOD  
Matt SING  
Peter CLARKE  
Greg BOURKE  
Andrew WALKER  
Adrian LAM  
Luke RICKETSON  
Scott GOURLEY  
David BARNHILL  
Terry HERMANSSON  
Sean GARLICK (c)  
Jason LOWRIE  
Shane RIGON  
Nathan WOOD  
Julian TROY  
Ben DUCKWORTH

**Tries** Des HASLER (2)  
Brett HODGSON (2)  
Kevin McGUINNESS

Andrew WALKER (2)  
Ben DUCKWORTH

**Goals** Andrew LEEDS (2)

Ivan CLEARY (3)

### Match Description

**Sydney City:** Full-back: I Cleary; three-quarters: J Elsegood, M Sing, P Clarke, G Bourke; five-eighth: A Walker; half: A Lam; forwards: L Ricketson, S Gourley, D Barnhill, T Hermansson, S Garlick (c), J Lowrie

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, Kevin McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: A Doyle; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), S Millard, B Dunn, J Smith, C Mescia, H Howard **Referee: D Manson (Big League 14th June 1997)**

Des Hasler's ears pricked like a hungry old man's at supper time. Hasler was standing on the sideline, warming up to return to the field midway through the game. And then it happened. A lone voice from the top of the Campbelltown Sports Grandstand yelled: "Hey, Hasler, when are you going to go out there and earn your money?" It was all he needed. Hasler didn't go and just earn his money, he went out and played for his own future, the future of his side, the future of each club in the future of every supporter. He scored two tries in Wests' stirring second-half fightback to lift the Magpies to a 24-18 win over the Sydney City Roosters yesterday. A try early in the second half to opposition five-eighth Andrew Walker looked certain to give his side victory with the Roosters leading 18-10. But nothing is certain at Campbelltown. Not when the Magpies and blokes like Hasler are playing football. Hasler sparked the Magpies' comeback with a try midway through the second half and then posted his second with 10 minutes left, to level the scores at 18-18. It was left to teammate Ken McGuinness to secure the victory with his side's fifth and final try. But it was Hasler, the ageing warrior who has now played with Penrith, Manly and the fibros at Wests, who deserved the biggest applause. On top of his two try performance, he also pulled off two decisive tackles in the final moments of the game. "I think we were more desperate to get the two competition points than they were for the draw," said Hasler who began his great career in 1980 and last admitted to being about 36. "It's going to be the same next week." The Magpies made a brilliant start to the match when winger Brett Hodgson scored the first of his two first-half tries in the third minute. Sydney City hit back with a try to Walker in the ninth minute and then gained the halftime lead after captain Adrian Lam took a quick penalty tap and Ben Duckworth crossed in the 38th minute. Despite being behind 12-10 at the break, Wests played smart percentage football, sustaining pressure when in the Roosters' half and slowing play down to their own speed when necessary. Cherry Mescia, Steve Georgallis and Andrew Leeds continually found touch with deft kicks. After the game, Sydney City coach Phil Gould made his feelings known on the difficulties team face when they play Wests at home. "It's not easy to play at Campbelltown, and it's not easy to referee at Campbelltown," Gould said. "It's not easy to win here." **(The Sun-Herald 15th June 1997)**

**Notes:** This was a tremendous win by Wests, after being down 18-10 midway through the second half. Des Hasler was inspirational in the comeback, scoring two decisive tries and tackling himself to a standstill. Harvey Howard was also a powerhouse upfront and Andrew Leeds' kicking game was critical. Brandon Pearson and Aseri Laing were both out, but Brett Hodgson, in his first full First Grade game, scored two brilliant tries.