



1995 Round 13 Sunday 25th June Campbelltown Stadium



Auckland 16

Greg ALEXANDER
 Sean HOPPE
 Dean BELL (c)
 Tea ROPATI
 John KIRWAN
 Phil BLAKE
 Stacey JONES
 Tony TUIMAVAVE
 Tony TATUPU
 Denis BETTS
 Andy PLATT
 Syd ERU
 Joe VAGANA
 Duane MANN
 Logan EDWARDS
 Stephne KEARNEY
 Manoa THOMPSON

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Andrew LEEDS
 Paul SMITH
 Paul BELL
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Darren WILLIS
 Jason ALCHIN
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Mark HORO
 Jim SERDARIS
 Brent STUART
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Glenn GRIEF
 Kyle WHITE
 Bill DUNN
 Brandon PEARSON
 Chris WILLIAMS



Tries Tony TUIMAVAVE
 Tony TATUPU
 Stacey JONES

Paul LANGMACK
 Paul BELL

Goals Stacey JONES (2)

Andrew LEEDS (2)

Match Description

Auckland: Full-back: G Alexander; three-quarters: S Hoppe, D Bell (c), T Ropati, J Kirwan; five-eighth: P Blake; half: S Jones; forwards: T Tuimavave, T Tatupu, D Betts, A Platt, S Eru, J Vagana

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, P Bell, K McGuinness, D Willis; five-eighth: J Alchin; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), M Horo, J Serdaris, B Stuart, C Mescia, G Grief **Referee: E Ward (Daily Telegraph 26th June 1995)**

Magpie veteran Paul Langmack wasn't down in the dumps after yesterday's last-gasp 16-12 loss to Auckland Warriors. The Wests' captain was quite the opposite. "I don't like losing any game but this was a toss of the coin affair, we both had chances and it could easily have gone either way," said the evergreen lock after his 250th first grade game. "Sure, we lost when we thought we'd win but a few decisions went against us and that's rugby league. It was good fun out there and that's why you play football. It was all about confrontation, everyone was whacking one another, there were fights, controversy, plenty of blood spilt and some stuff-ups by both teams. The crowd came alive and the atmosphere was terrific. That is what football is all about, the confrontations and challenges, the character-building stuff. It was the sort of game that will stick in the back of the mind for ages. The sort that will probably see me signing up with Wests for another term..." Langmack wasn't wrong with his description of the contest. It had everything except victory for the 10,000 or so Magpie fans who turned up in full voice and eager to see their heroes cement a spot in the top eight. They witnessed a physical, entertaining duel which tossed up plenty of ball movement, errors galore and a grandstand finish. There were flare-ups and fireworks, sin-bins and blood bins. And the now customary post-match rumblings about referees from the losing coach. I enjoyed the visit to the Wild West where the Magpies and Warriors turned on a good old fashioned 80 minutes stoush. Too many matches this year have been dullsville and almost devoid of character. Tommy Raudonikis' men got off to the start they wanted with centre Paul Bell dummied over for a try after just five minutes. The Warriors replied with neat touchdowns by Stacy Jones and Tony Tatupu, to take a 12-4 advantage. Huge hits by the rival forward packs had the fans right into the contest but referee Eddie Ward wasn't enjoying it at all and ordered sin-bin stints for Wests' Mark Horo and Auckland's Denis Betts after separate skirmishes. By halftime, the Magpies had clawed their way back into the game with a 12 all score line. In the second stanza, both sides created realistic scoring chances and were denied two tries apiece by referee Ward. When a draw seemed imminent, Magpie hooker Cherry Mescia was penalised for a high tackle on Englishman Andy Platt, allowing the Warriors to kick up-field and fire up the blowtorch. After just three tackles, second rower Tony Tatupu crashed through a weary Wests' defence to grab the clincher. Raudonikis was clearly disappointed after his charges faltered with so little to go in the match. "Overall, it was a big effort but we made too many mistakes and paid the price," he said. **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 26th June 1995)**

Notes: This was a very fiery clash with some huge up-front hits. There was a 12-all deadlock for most of the second half, with a late Tatupu try sealing the Auckland win. Wests had numerous chances in this period and a number of Wests' "tries" were disallowed, particularly a dubious decision on a McGuinness try minutes before the match-clincher. It was a disappointment to be unlucky losers in Paul Langmack's 250th game. Jason Alchin was back at five-eighth and Jim Serdaris was also back after injury.