



1998 Round 14 Saturday 13th June Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 18

def.

Auckland 16



Ken McGUINNESS
 Jared MILLS
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Travis BAKER
 Darryl FISHER
 Damian KENNEDY
 Brett HODGSON
 Steve GEORGALLIS (c)
 Darren WILLIS
 Scott COXON
 Harvey HOWARD
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Darren FRITZ
 Chris YATES
 Aseri LAING
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Nick EDWARDS

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

Lee OUDENRYN
 Anthony SWANN
 Tea ROPATI
 Nigel VAGANA
 Paul STALADI
 Gene NGAMU
 Stacey JONES
 Logan SWANN
 Stephen KEARNEY (c)
 Tony TUIMAVAVE
 Quentin PONGIA
 Syd ERU
 Joe VAGANA
 Jerry SEUSEU
 Tony TATUPU
 Brady MALAM
 Shane ENDACOTT

Tries Damian KENNEDY
 Darryl FISHER
 Kevin McGUINNESS

Nigel VAGANA
 Lee OUDENRYN
 Stacey JONES

Goals Brett HODGSON (3)

Gene NGAMU (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: Ken McGuinness; three-quarters: D Fisher, Kevin McGuinness, T Baker, J Mills; five-eighth: D Kennedy; half: B Hodgson; forwards: S Georgallis (c), S Coxon, D Willis, D Fritz, C Mescia, H Howard

Auckland: Full-back: L Oudenryn.; three-quarters: A Swann, T Ropati, N Vagana, P Staladi; five-eighth: G Ngamu; half: S Jones; forwards: L Swann, S Kearney (c), T Tuimavave, Q Pongia, S Eru, J Vagana **Referee: E Ward (Big League 13th June 1998)**

Western Suburbs players redeemed themselves in the eyes of coach Tom Raudonikis with a hard-fought win over Auckland at Campbelltown yesterday. The Magpies led from start to finish in an impressive display that erased the bad memories of last week's thrashing in North Queensland. The Warriors made a game of it in the final minutes but never deserved to win, making too many elementary errors. The Magpies got off to an ideal start, scoring after just two minutes. Makeshift halfback Brett Hodgson created the try, putting Ken McGuinness into space and he put brother Kevin over in the corner. Three minutes later, the Campbelltown crowd was up in arms when the in-form Damian Kennedy was KO'ed by a high hit from Auckland's Tony Tuimavave that drew no action from referee Eddie Ward. But in the 10th minute, Ward penalised the Warriors right in front of their posts for being offside from a line drop out. Hodgson, who had earlier missed the difficult conversion of the McGuinness try, made no mistake this time as the Magpies went to 6-0. It was almost 12-0 minutes later when Ken McGuinness looked set to score under the posts, only to lose the ball as he stretched out for the line. Auckland made a series of dreadful blunders throughout the first half, and none was worse than that committed by Gene Ngamu in the 25th minute. With the Warriors on the attack near halfway, Ngamu threw a pass to no-one and the Magpies pounced. First Hodgson and then Kevin McGuinness kicked the ball on, with rookie winger Darryl Fisher regathering to cross out wide for a 10-0 lead. Eight minutes from the break, big Warriors' prop Joe Vagana found himself on report for using a forearm in possession. It left Wests' replacement forward Chris Yates with a bloodied nose. The Warriors broke through a minute from the siren, with fullback Lee Oudenryn scoring a controversial try. Ward was confident the ball had been grounded correctly, declining the opportunity to go to the video ref and ruling try. With regular kicker Matthew Ridge injured, Ngamu stepped up to the mound and landed a good kick from wide out to put the Warriors back in proceedings at 10-6. Wests struck a telling blow 30 minutes into the second half when they scored their third try. Again, it was the in-form Ken McGuinness who did the spade work, standing in a tackle before unloading to five-eighth Damian Kennedy who scored. Hodgson added the conversion to give the Magpies a commanding 16-6 lead. Minutes later, Hodgson was the victim of a late tackle after a clearing kick and from the ensuing penalty put the Magpies 18-6 ahead. **(The Sunday Telegraph 14th June 1998)**

Notes: This was a very courageous against the odds win. Paul Langmack and Andrew Leeds were out injured and Steve Georgallis (suspected broken ribs) and Scott Coxon (suspected broken arm) were both injured during the game. The front-row of Howard, Mescia and Fritz stood tall, with constant hit-ups and ferocious tackling. Cherry Mescia had one of his best-ever games for Wests. Leo Dynevor was dropped to reserve grade, while Travis Baker made his debut.