



1989 Round 14 Sunday 2nd July Orana Park



Western Suburbs 8

def.

Illawarra 6

Brett DOCHERTY
Wayne SIMONDS
Jason LIDDEN
Garry SCHOFIELD
Graham MACKAY
Ellery HANLEY (c)
Richard SMITH
Brendon TUUTA
Cameron BLAIR
Dave GALLAGHER
Pat O'DOHERTY
Shane FLANAGAN
Dave WOODS
Gary BUKOWSKI
Doug RAWLINGS
Alan FALLAH
Craig TEITZEL

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

Steve HAMPSON
Rod WISHART
Brett RODWELL
Jeff HARDY
Martin EBB
Tony SMITH
Andy GREGORY
Ian RUSSELL
Les MORRISSEY
Dean HANSON
Michael CARBERRY
Dean SCHIFILITI
Chris WALSH (c)
Michael BOLT
Frazer HAMMENT

Tries Richard SMITH
Dave WOODS

Michael CARBERRY

Goals Rod WISHART (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Docherty; three-quarters: W Simonds, G Schofield, J Lidden, G Mackay; five-eighth: E Hanley (c); half: R Smith; forwards: B Tuuta, C Blair, D Gallagher, D Woods, S Flanagan, P O'Doherty

Illawarra: Full-back: S Hampson; three-quarters: R Wishart, B Rodwell, J Hardy, M Ebb; five-eighth: T Smith; half: A Gregory; forwards: I Russell, L Morrissey, D Hanson, M Carberry, D Schifiliti, C Walsh (c) **Referee: N Almond (Rugby League Week 5th July 1989)**

Powerhouse Wests' props Pat O'Doherty and Dave Woods produced 40 minutes of old-fashioned Magpie muscle yesterday to engineer a gutsy 8-6 over Illawarra. In a ferocious first-half display which would have done former Wests' tough guys John Donnelly and Les Boyd proud, the pair ripped into the Steelers from the opening whistle to set up a handy two-try lead at the break. Although the Steelers made a second-half comeback, Wests' coach John Bailey was adamant after the match the damage had already been done by his pack, led by the fiery front-rows. "It's the second week in a row they've come up trumps – they did the same to Canberra last week," Bailey said. "Our forwards are really starting to hunt as a pack now." Clever half-back Richard Smith opened the scoring in the 11th minute after he backed up a smart blindside movement worked from the scrum-base by lock Brendon Tuuta and English Test star Garry Schofield. Eight minutes before the break, Smith was involved again when the Steelers stood and watched as he popped up a short ball for Woods to surge over from 10m out. Bailey was ecstatic over Wests' second successive victory. He said the win, which pushed the club five points clear of Illawarra, almost ensured Wests wouldn't finish with the wooden spoon for the second year running. "I think we'll give a good account of ourselves against Canterbury next Friday as well," Bailey said. Steelers' coach Ron Hilditch criticised his side for a lack of enthusiasm and a total disregard for holding on to possession throughout the match. However, the Steelers showed some signs of fight in the second half. With 15 minutes remaining, prop Michael Carberry crashed over in the corner after a long break by winger Rod Wishart had left the Magpies short on numbers wide out. Although Wishart converted to bring the Steelers within two points, they couldn't finish off a number of half-chances. **(Daily Telegraph 3rd July 1989)**

Replacement second-rower Gary Bukowski took just 10 minutes to convince Wests' coach John Bailey that he will fill the forward spot up for grabs in the Magpies' next three games. Bukowski made several bustling runs up the middle late in the game to put Illawarra under a lot of pressure and help Wests hang on to win 8-6. His part was noted by Bailey, who admitted he "looks to have the goods." And it will make the former Brisbane forward an automatic selection in a re-shuffled Wests' pack while regular lock Brendon Tuuta goes home to represent New Zealand in the three-Test series against Australia. **(Daily Mirror 3rd July 1989)**

Notes: Wests won two in a row for the first time in a long time, with a win over Illawarra in a very dour, scrappy struggle. Gary Bukowski was dynamic as a replacement, ensuring his selection for the following weeks when Brendon Tuuta would be out, representing New Zealand. The props, Pat O'Doherty and Dave Woods, set the foundations for the win with a powerful first-half display, while half, Richard Smith, was again impressive.