



1987 Round 14 Sunday 31st May Orana Park



Western Suburbs 16

def.

Penrith 8

Steve McCOY
 Allen GEELAN
 Phillip DUKE
 Ian NADEN
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 Wayne LAMBKIN
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Bruce CLARK
 Les WHITE
 Brett CLARK
 Terry DONNELLAN

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

Robbie ROBARDS
 Mark ROBINSON
 Col BENTLEY
 Darren CURRIE
 Paul SMITH
 Brad IZZARD (c)
 Andrew FITZHENRY
 Craig IZZARD
 Mark GEYER
 John CARTWRIGHT
 Paul AKKARY
 Garry LONGHURST
 Joe VITANZA
 Colin Van Der VOORT
 Ken GITTENS
 Matt GOODWIN
 Mark CARROLL

Tries Scott TRONC
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Alan FALLAH

Matt GOODWIN

Goals Ian SCHUBERT (2)

Andrew FITZHENRY (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S McCoy; three-quarters: A Geelan, P Duke, I Naden, P Sheahan; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, W Lambkin, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc

Penrith: Full-back: R Robards; three-quarters: M Robinson, C Bentley, D Currie, P Smith; five-eighth: B Izzard (c); half: A Fitzhenry; forwards: C Izzard, M Geyer, J Cartwright, P Akkary, G Longhurst, J Vitanza **Referee: W Harrigan (Rugby League Week 3rd June 1987)**

Three Western Suburbs old-stagers – Ian Schubert, Bruce Clark and Ian Freeman – yesterday combined to lead the Magpies to a 16-8 Winfield Cup victory over a rookie Penrith side at Orana Park. Schubert, 30, Clark, 30, and Freeman, 29, showed experience is often more valuable than youth with rip-roaring performances against the Panthers. Schubert was outstanding as he continually punched holes in the Penrith defence and he never stopped rallying his team-mates in an inspiring performance. Freeman made some of the hardest tackles of the season, driving Penrith attackers backwards with smashing defence. Clark, all 17 stone of him, played 50 minutes of the game and Penrith had no answer to his powerhouse bursts up the middle. The giant prop has been a regular member of the Wests' reserve grade side since returning from an off-season stint in England. "I've been playing okay but I reckon they are still dirty on me because I went to play in England," he said in the dressing room. "I played 28 games in England so my fitness is all right. I just want to get back into first grade and show them that I can play." Yesterday, he certainly showed coach Steve Ghosn he **COULD** play. The Magpies led 6-2 at half-time and wrapped up the game with two early tries in the second half to five-eighth Doug Rawlings and prop Scott Tronc. Had it not been for the fact that they didn't receive one penalty in the second half, the scoreline would have been greater. "A sensational team performance," said coach Steve Ghosn. "I thought Schubert was outstanding and Tronc had a tremendous game. But overall, it was a real team effort, and if we played like that every week, we'd win more games than we lose." Halves Trevor Cogger and Doug Rawlings both had exceptional games. Cogger found plenty of openings through the Penrith defence and Rawlings did an exceptional job to provide his outside players with plenty of chances. Penrith's form, on the other hand, was very ordinary. Coach Tim Sheens refused to blame the absence of Royce Simmons and Greg Alexander or last Wednesday night's National Panasonic game against Parramatta. The Panthers continually coughed up possession on the first, second or third tackles. Simmons' leadership and experience was missed more than anything else. He would have guided them along and not allowed so much wasted ball. Sheens was disgusted with the team. "I just wish we could bottle our enthusiasm from Wednesday nights and display some of it on Sunday," he said. "We just fell down on the fundamentals. It was a terrible performance and I'm very disappointed with all of them." (**Daily Telegraph 1st June 1987**)

Notes: This appeared to be a huge upset but it was only a continuation of the form they displayed the previous week against competition leaders Balmain. A clash between John Elias and Mark Geyer which left Elias concussed and with a possible broken jaw, fired up the Magpie forwards, particularly the replacement for Elias, "Bruiser" Clark. Ian Schubert had an absolute blinder, inspiring Scott Tronc to another strong game, while Ian Freeman led the way with a number of pile-driving tackles. The whole team gave a demonstration of how to back up the ball carrier.