



1996 Round 14 Sunday 7th July Lang Park



South Queensland 24

def.

Western Suburbs 22

Travis NORTON
 Craig WESTON
 Nigel GAFFEY
 Jason HUDSON
 Jason WENDT
 Kerry CARMICHAEL
 Gary JARRETT
 Phillip LEE
 Mark PROTHEROE
 Trevor GILLMEISTER (c)
 Grant YOUNG
 Craig TEEVAN
 Clinton O'BRIEN
 Mark TOOKEY
 Rod DOYLE
 Jeff WITTENBERG
 Brett HORSNELL

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Craig COLEMAN
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Jason BENGE
 Damian KENNEDY
 John SKANDALIS
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Andrew HICK
 Justin DOOLEY
 Andrew WILLIS
 Bill DUNN



Tries

Craig WESTON
 Jason WENDT
 Kerry CARMICHAEL
 Gary JARRETT
 Clinton O'BRIEN

Damian KENNEDY (2)
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Darren WILLIS

Goals

Gary JARRETT (1)
 Travis NORTON (1)

Andrew LEEDS (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, Kevin McGuinness; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: C Coleman; forwards: P Langmack (c), J Benge, D Kennedy, A Hick, C Mescia, J Skandalis

South Queensland: Full-back: T Norton.; three-quarters: C Weston, N Gaffey, J Hudson, J Wendt; five-eighth: K Carmichael; half: G Jarrett; forwards: P Lee, M Protheroe, T Gillmeister, G Young, C Teevan, C O'Brien **Referee: P Simpkins (Daily Telegraph 8th July 1996)**

By his own admission, Tommy Raudonikis was not a happy Vegemite after Wests were bundled out of the eight in a boilover loss to the South Queensland Crushers at Suncorp Stadium yesterday. "I'm not only disgusted, I'm filthy," said Raudonikis of the 24-22 defeat that threatens to torpedo the Magpies' season. A length-of-the-field try in the dying seconds could have salvaged the game with a draw but Andrew Leeds' attempted conversion from the sideline fell short. "I would have settled for a draw. This was a must-win game for us but we didn't deserve to take the points," Raudonikis said. Two tries in the first 13 minutes saw the Crushers lead 10-0, but the stunned Magpies bounced back to lead 12-10 at the approach of the halftime break. "We played our game in patches," Raudonikis said. "Late in the first half we made mistake after mistake and eventually paid the price for it when they scored at the death." Raudonikis was angry his side failed to carry out halftime instructions. When Damian Kennedy crossed for his second try of the match, to give the Magpies an 18-14 lead early in the last half, he thought they would win. But Crushers' coach Bob Lindner gambled with an 18-year-old rookie forward - who had played his first reserve grade game earlier in the afternoon - and it paid off. Mark Tookey put back the spark in the Crushers' forwards that have been lacking with Tony Hearn sidelined by suspension and John Jones out with injury. Every time took he took the ball forward or made a tackle the crowd was on its feet. Another comparative rookie to the first grade, Jason Wendt, scored an opportunist try in the 66th minute which gave the Crushers the lead at 20-18. Minutes later, Gary Jarrett split the Wests' defence and increased the home side's lead to six. In desperation, Wests came back with a length-of-the-field try, scored by winger Darren Willis as the final siren sounded. Leeds, who had kicked three conversions from as many attempts and saved at least two tries, was left with the chance of salvaging the game. He made a valiant attempt from the sideline but the kick fell short. The crowd, just short of 9,000, was the worst on record to see the Crushers shed their easy-to-beat tag. (Sydney Morning Herald 8th July 1996)

Notes: In a re-shuffled team, Andrew Leeds went back to full-back, Steve Georgallis to five-eighth to accommodate Jason Benge into the forwards and Andrew Willis as a replacement. As a consequence, it was a mistake-ridden performance by Wests. Even so, Andrew Leeds had a chance to force a draw with a conversion attempt from the side-line after the bell. Damian Kennedy was clearly Wests' best. Wests were looking forward to throwing English forward, Harvey Howard, who had arrived during the week, into the team.