



1997 Round 16 Saturday 12th July Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 20

def.

Balmain 10

Andrew LEEDS
Darren WILLIS
Kevin McGUINNESS
Ken McGUINNESS
Brett HODGSON
Adam DOYLE
Steve GEORGALLIS
Paul LANGMACK (c)
Bill DUNN
Damian KENNEDY
Harvey HOWARD
Des HASLER
Darren CAPOVILLA
Shane MILLARD
Brett TAYLOR
Shayne McMENEMY

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

Ivan CLEARY
Jack ELSEGOOD
Matt SING
Peter CLARKE
Greg BOURKE
Andrew WALKER
Adrian LAM
Luke RICKETSON
Scott GOURLEY
David BARNHILL
Terry HERMANSSON
Sean GARLICK (c)
Jason LOWRIE
Shane RIGON
Nathan WOOD
Julian TROY
Ben DUCKWORTH

Tries Kevin McGUINNESS (2)
Ken McGUINNESS (2)

Laloa MILFORD
William KENNEDY

Goals Andrew LEEDS (2)

Michael WITHERS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, Kevin McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: A Doyle; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, D Capovilla, D Hasler, H Howard

Balmain: Full-back: M Withers; three-quarters: L Milford, W Kennedy, G Donaghey, J Langaloo; five-eighth: M Gillett; half: A Nable; forwards: G Morrison, E Hanley, M Stimson, P Sironen (c), D Senter, S Walker **Referee: K Jeffes (Big League 12th July 1997)**

Magpies Ken and Kevin McGuinness were the toast of Campbelltown last night after spearheading Wests to a 20-10 win over Balmain. The brotherly combination scored two tries each yesterday as Wests kept their finals hopes alive after yet another heart stopper at Campbelltown Sports Ground. Younger brother Kevin, 20, crossed the tryline twice in the first half, with Ken, 14 months older, matching his feat in the second session. The pair dominated the try scoring list for the Minto Cobras in Wests' Junior League three years ago. It was a common occurrence for them to grab two or three tries each but to do so in first grade yesterday made it a red-letter day. The McGuinness boys are very close and readily admit each is feeding off the other's success. Kevin said: "Kenny has made the State of Origin team, he is a star player here at Wests and I look up to him on the field. He is a great player, very easy to follow during a game and when he's going well, I feel I have to follow suit." Ken said: "It's always a great thrill playing alongside your brother at this level and Kevin a couple of years down the track is going to be a freak, there's no risk about that. He has all the skills that are getting better with every game. It was great scoring a couple of tries each today, but the most important thing is the Wests won and we are still in with a great chance of making the finals." It was a typically hard Campbelltown match in which both sides had chances to win. But in the end it boiled down to some McGuinness magic and the fiercely parochial Magpie crowd. It was ten-all at halftime and very much anyone's game, but Ken McGuinness put the Magpies in front with a smart try from dummy half in the 56th minute. The closeness of the scoreline and the overall importance of the game, saw play erupt midway through the second half with a number of skirmishes. It had referee Kelvin Jeffes battling to keep control. He sent Wests' hooker Des Hasler to the sin-bin with 17 minutes to go after he committed a professional foul in a play-the-ball close to the line. The Tigers had their chance to edge ahead in Hasler's absence but brought themselves undone by taking a number of wrong options. Right at the death Ken McGuinness scored his second try to put the result beyond doubt and Andrew Leeds iced the cake with a fabulous sideline conversion. For the winners, the McGuinness boys were fantastic, but there were also fine contributions from five-eighth Adam Doyle, front rower Harvey Howard and the hardworking Billy Dunn. ...Tempers flared with 17 minutes to go after Wests' English forward Howard appeared to take a tackle with a raised forearm. Balmain defenders, including Senter and Hudson Smith, reacted violently in a nasty incident which drew a penalty for the Tigers. A short time later Jeffes sent Hasler to the sin bin. Scores were level after a tough first half but both sides frittered away good scoring opportunities. ... That was before the McGuinness brothers turned on their super show to earn Wests the points. **(The Sunday Telegraph 13th 1997)**

Notes: Cherry Mescia was surprisingly dropped to Reserve Grade for this match but it was revealed he had been suffering from headaches and a nagging groin injury. Des Hasler went to hooker, where he again played a dominant role, although sent to the sin-bin in the second half. This was a tension-packed match with lots of penalties and numerous cautions. The McGuinness brothers were on fire in the centres, scoring two tries each and turning the course of the match when Balmain looked to be gaining momentum.