



1989 Round 16 Sunday 16th July Orana Park



Western Suburbs 20

def.

Newcastle 2

Danny PEACOCK
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Jason STAFFORD
 Garry SCHOFIELD
 Graham MACKAY
 Jason LIDDEN
 Richard SMITH
 Ellery HANLEY (c)
 Cameron BLAIR
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Pat O'DOHERTY
 Shane FLANAGAN
 Dave WOODS
 Gary BUKOWSKI
 Michael MCKINNON
 Alan FALLAH
 Chris BLAIR

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

Gary WURTH
 Brian QUINTON
 Jeff DOYLE
 Steve WALTERS
 Glenn FRENDO
 Michael HAGAN (c)
 Steve FULMER
 Michael MCKIERNAN
 David BOYD
 Tony BUTTERFIELD
 Peter JOHNSTON
 Scott CARTER
 Mark SARGENT
 David THORNE
 Tony TOWNSEND
 Michael REID
 Paul HARRAGON

Tries Wayne SIMONDS
 Danny PEACOCK
 Ellery HANLEY
 Shane FLANAGAN

Goals Graham MACKAY (1) Peter JOHNSTON (1)
 Garry SCHOFIELD (1)

Match Description

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

Newcastle: Full-back: G Wurth; three-quarters: B Quinton, J Doyle, S Walters, G Frendo; five-eighth: M Hagan (c); half: S Fulmer; forwards: M McKiernan, D Boyd, T Butterfield, M Sargent, S Carter, P Johnston **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 19th July 1989)**

Controversy surrounding a mounting injury toll emanating from matches played at Orana Park stole the limelight from Western Suburbs' crushing win over Newcastle yesterday. "I'm not using it as an excuse," Newcastle coach Allan McMahon said bluntly after the game. "But the injury toll from this ground speaks for itself. "We lost both front-rowers at the same time today and one of them, Mark Sargent, may have broken his leg. "I'm led to believe that two players broke their necks here last week and another broke a leg, and Peter Smith (from Gold Coast) also broke his leg here." Wests' coach John Bailey, in response, said: "Well, it works for two sides and we haven't had any serious injuries here." ... The ground controversy aside, Wests snuffed out Newcastle's slender semi-final hopes when they ran in four tries to nil. The Magpies led 6-2 at half-time after lock Ellery Hanley crossed in the 10th minute. The opening 20 minutes of the game were quite ferocious as both sides ripped into each other through their forwards. Wests finally won that encounter on a TKO when Newcastle lost both front-rowers in the 29th minute, Sargent with a suspected broken leg and Peter Johnston with a shoulder ligament injury. That blow knocked the momentum from the Newcastle charge and Wests went right on with the job. The Magpies had many heroes yesterday with Hanley guiding the younger players superbly. Shane Flanagan, Danny Peacock and Wayne Simonds, together with second-rower Cameron Blair and prop Pat O'Doherty, were all in the thick of the action and the Wests' defence, in particular, was rock solid throughout for a change. Newcastle five-eighth Michael Hagan was dominant but without the thrust of his two main forwards he really lacked support. **(Sydney Morning Herald 17th July 1989)**

.... Wests' coach John Bailey said that all season he had been looking for the sort of commitment in defence from his forwards that they showed against the Knights. Wests led 6-2 at half-time after a Hanley try from a break by Peacock, but they should have gone in with a much greater lead. In the 25th minute of the second half a big run by Hanley saw Lidden pulled down short, but hooker Flanagan was able to dive over from dummy half to give his side a 12-2 lead. **(Daily Telegraph 17th July 1989)**

Notes: Wests made it three wins out of four games with another convincing victory on an Orana Park quagmire. The whole ground was covered again with surface water and it led to a ferocious forward clash in the first 20 minutes. Cameron Blair and Shane Flanagan came out on top in the struggle, allowing the backs to take control in the second half. Danny Peacock, returning from a back injury, had an outstanding game. The halves combination of Lidden and Smith were also starting to gel.