



1996 Round 16 Sunday 21st July Kogarah Oval



St George 24

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Dean RAPER
 Ricky WALFORD
 Mark BELL
 Mark COYNE (c)
 Adrian BRUNKER
 Jeff HARDY
 Noel GOLDTHORPE
 Wayne BARTRIM
 David BARNHILL
 Kevin CAMPION
 Luke FELSCH
 Nathan BROWN
 Troy STONE
 Colin WARD
 Chris QUINN
 Nick ZISTI
 Lance THOMPSON

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
 Brandon PEARSON
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Paul SMITH
 Andrew WILLIS
 Craig COLEMAN
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Bill DUNN
 Andrew HICK
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Harvey HOWARD
 Justin DOOLEY
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Damian KENNEDY
 Mark AFFLICK



Tries
 Nick ZISTI
 Colin WARD
 David BARNHILL

Andrew WILLIS
 Brandon PEARSON

Goals
 Wayne BARTRIM (5)
 Lance THOMPSON (1)

Andrew LEEDS (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, P Smith; five-eighth: A Willis; half: C Coleman; forwards: S Georgallis, P Langmack (c), B Dunn, A Hick, C Mescia, H Howard

St George: Full-back: D Raper; three-quarters: R Walford, M Coyne (c), M Bell, A Bruncker; five-eighth: J Hardy; half: N Goldthorpe; forwards: W Bartrim, D Barnhill, K Campion, L Felsch, N Brown, T Stone **Referee: P McBlane (Daily Telegraph 22nd July 1996)**

St George got their first look at life after Anthony Mundine at Kogarah Oval yesterday, and the picture was anything but pretty. Mundine, the club's best attacking player, was a late withdrawal from the Dragons' team to meet Wests because of a leg injury. And throughout the Dragons' dour 24-16 win, Saints' players appeared to be waiting for Mundine to make a break. Last week Mundine was the lone shining light in Saints' win over Penrith, bagging two slashing tries. Without Mundine yesterday they struggled from start to finish to find a match winner. With their star pivot heading off to the Broncos in 1997, Saints are going to have to get accustomed to getting by without their classiest performer. The Dragons' win takes them to just one point outside the top eight and could prove a landmark victory. In 1995, Saints began their memorable run of seven straight wins to steam into the top eight with a win over Wests at the SCG. Yesterday's win may not have been as impressive as that, but it was just as important. A scrappy first half saw Saints go to the break with a 10-2 lead and they went on with the job in the second half. Both teams tested the patience of referee Paul McBlane with Wests being the away team getting the worse end of the stick. Two Magpies were sin binned, one in each half, and Saints punished the Magpies with tries within six tackles on both occasions. "Neither side was willing to listen," McBlane said afterwards. "I could easily have whistled up 30 penalties." What Saints lacked in flair they made up for with good old-fashioned determination. Locked Wayne Bartrim, the Dragons' most consistent player all season, was again prominent with good support up front from Colin Ward, David Barnhill and Troy Stone. Neil Goldthorpe used the strong winds to good advantage, putting the Magpies on the backfoot with his efficient kicking game. Saints' outside backs had little clean ball due to the untidy nature of the game but will come into their own in coming weeks. For Wests, the picture is starting to look grim. The Magpies were one point ahead of their current tally of 17 this time last year and still missed the finals. With a tough run home, Wests are starting to feel the pinch and need to turn things around in a hurry. The only highlights for Wests was a strong performance from English import Harvey Howard in his starting debut and hooker Cherry Mescia's continued good form. Howard, a typically skilful British ball-playing forward, is certain to be an asset for the Magpies. And Mescia was again a tower of strength around the rucks, confirming his rating as one of league's big improvers. **(The Daily Telegraph 22nd July 1996)**

Notes: Wests started slowly in a very dour match, and they struggled to get into the game with a large number of dropped balls. The key to the loss was the sin-binnings of Steve Georgallis and Darren Willis. Saints scored within 30 seconds both times. Englishman Harvey Howard debuted in the front row and was very strong, while Cherry Mescia was Wests' best, ably supported by the reliable Andrew Leeds.