



1983 Round 17 Sunday 19th June Lidcombe Oval



St George 25

def.

Western Suburbs 22

Brian JOHNSON
 Steve MORRIS
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Michael O'CONNOR
 Steve GEARIN
 Steve ROGERS (c)
 Ivan HENJAK
 Tony TRUDGETT
 Grahame BUCKLEY
 Craig MADSEN
 Chris WALSH
 John DOWLING
 Pat JARVIS
 Denis KINCHELA
 Graeme WYNN

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

Warren BOLAND (c)
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Wayne SMITH
 David HARRIS
 David GREENE
 Scott GALE
 Brett DAVIDSON
 Michael DUKE
 Ian FREEMAN
 Brian BATTESE
 John DONNELLY
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Bruce CLARK
 Trevor COGGER
 Mark BEAVEN



Tries Steve GEARIN (2)
 Ivan HENJAK (2)
 Michael O'CONNOR

David HARRIS
 Trevor COGGER
 Warren BOLAND

Goals Steve GEARIN (1)
 Steve ROGERS (2) One field goal

David GREENE (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Boland (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, D Harris, D Greene; five-eighth: S Gale; half; B Davidson; forwards: M Duke, I Freeman, B Battese, J Donnelly, A Mountier, B Clark

St George: Full-back: B Johnson; three-quarters: S Morris, B Johnstone, M O'Connor, S Gearin; five-eighth: S Rogers (c); half: I Henjak; forwards: T Trudgett, G Buckley, C Madsen, C Walsh, J Dowling, P Jarvis

Referee: G West (The Sun 20th June 1983)

Two tries, one a 75-metre sizzler, won't save St George winger Steve Gearin from the axe as coach Roy Masters still strives to find the "perfect combination." Masters, happy to see Saints still alive in the race for the semis, sacked Gearin late in the second half against Wests yesterday at Lidcombe Oval for slack defence. And he hinted at another possible big name sacking after Saints, thanks to the ingenuity of Steve Rogers, overcame a stirring Magpie rally to win 25-22. Rogers, a sorry sight after the game, was the difference between the two sides. Masters' belated decision to switch him to five-eighth for yesterday's game came up trumps. Indeed, the switch of five-eighth Tony Trudgett to lock and Brian Johnston from wing to centre also solved major technical problems for Masters. But he wasn't satisfied with Gearin's performance, even though the former Canterbury points machine sprinted 75 metres after pouncing on a dropped ball, and then went over unopposed three minutes from half-time. Saints, without their two "heavies" in Craig Young and Rod Reddy, looked home and hosed when half Ivan Henjak scored the first of two tries two minutes after half-time. Henjak easily beat Wests' full-back Warren Boland after Johnstone had scattered the defence. But it was Boland, who in a Test match display, inspired a thrilling Wests' recovery and left Saints fans wondering if their side really had the talent to make the final five. Boland, a conspicuous figure in an old-fashioned headguard, bobbed up all over the place, firing Wests to great heights. It was a Boland overhead pass that led to stylish young centre David Harris scoring the try that gave Wests the lead in the 61st minute. David Greene, a future international if ever I've seen one, stretched the lead to four points with a penalty 11 minutes from time but Henjak wrapped up the win after Rogers and Johnston had given him a free run to the line. Rogers, who had been crashed to the ground only minutes before Harris scored, recovered to land a field goal in the final minute to cap a magnificent match. Rogers pulled all the strings for Saints but his injured left knee is causing deep concern. Reddy has broken his foot again and there is no telling when and if he'll play again this year. Pat Jarvis clinched his NSW spot with a full-blooded display and was strongly supported by Craig Madsen, nursing a badly bruised hand. Wests have potential and they will give the KB Cup a shake. Greene, Brian Battese, Bruce Clark and Boland in the second half, were the equal of their opponents. **(The Sun 20th June 1983)**

Notes: Wests continued their good form and almost pulled off a huge upset. Coming off a tough mid-week KB Cup match where they beat Illawarra 10-4, they took it right up to St George, with Warren Boland leading the resurgence. Steve Broughton blew a try right on full-time which would have sealed the match. Brian Battese gave his usual solid performance but, in the end, Steve Rogers was the difference. David Harris, a 19-year-old Sydney Uni student, was the best player for Wests.