



1989 Round 17 Sunday 23rd July Parramatta Stadium



Western Suburbs 24

def.

Parramatta 6

Danny PEACOCK *Fullback*
 Wayne SIMONDS *Wing*
 Jason STAFFORD *Centre*
 Garry SCHOFIELD *Centre*
 Graham MACKAY *Wing*
 Jason LIDDEN *Five-eighth*
 Richard SMITH *Half*
 Ellery HANLEY (c) *Lock*
 Cameron BLAIR *Second Row*
 Dave GALLAGHER *Second Row*
 Pat O'DOHERTY *Front Row*
 Shane FLANAGAN *Hooker*
 Dave WOODS *Front Row*
 Gary BUKOWSKI *Replacement*
 Darren BRITT *Replacement*
 Craig TEITZEL *Replacement*
 Chris BLAIR *Replacement*

Andrew FITZHENRY
 David WOODS
 Brett KENNY
 Andrew LEEDS
 Brett ATKINS
 Mark BARNES
 Paul TAYLOR
 Mark LAURIE
 Craig IZZARD
 Peter WYNN (c)
 Mark CLINTON
 Mark BUGDEN
 Gary VERNON
 Jason BELL
 Peter JOHNSTON
 Jeremy TICEHURST

Tries Ellery HANLEY (2)
 Cameron BLAIR
 Jason STAFFORD

Brett KENNY

Goals Pat O'DOHERTY (4)

Andrew LEEDS (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), C Blair, D Gallagher, D Woods, S Flanagan, P O'Doherty

Parramatta: Full-back: A Fitzhenry; three-quarters: D Woods, B Kenny, A Leeds, B Atkins; five-eighth: M Barnes; half: P Taylor; forwards: M Laurie, C Izzard, P Wynn (c), M Clinton, M Bugden, G Vernon **Referee: E Ward (Rugby League Week 26th July 1989)**

Crafty Wests' half Richrd Smith hit back at his critics in sensational style yesterday to steer the Magpies to their most impressive win in the last two years as they drove the final nail into Parramatta's flickering semi-final hopes. The stocky organiser, branded as overweight and short on pace after crashing into first grade five weeks ago, had the last laugh against the Eels in the four tries to one 24-6 rout. With skipper Ellery Hanley and second-rower Cameron Blair creating havoc with their powerful bursts on the fringe of the rucks, Smith took centre stage as he orchestrated the fluent Magpies' attack. In complete contrast, the Eels, without Peter Sterling, looked lost as they scratched their heads to find a way through the Magpies' defence. Wests' coach John Bailey said Smith's dazzling display had left his critics with egg all over their faces. "Richard has had a lot of knockers since coming into the side, particularly after our loss to Canterbury," Bailey said. "But we've now won four of our last five matches with him. He caught Brett Kenny out there one time so he can't be too slow." In a jubilant Magpie dressing room, Bailey said the whole side was playing with a lot more confidence and were fitting in around Hanley's style of play. "They're really starting to complement Ellery and his way of thinking," he said. "It's starting to fall into place – the strike-power of O'Doherty and Woods up front and a great back-row behind them forms a tremendous base." After a fiery opening five minutes in which referee Eddie Ward issued three warnings for vicious tackles, the Magpies settled into stride and scored the first try after 25 minutes. Five-eighth Jason Lidden set up the four-pointer when he crabbed across the field 40m from the Eels' line and sent centre Jason Stafford through a gaping hole with a pass which appeared to be at least a metre forward. Three minutes later, Wests were on the scoreboard again when Hanley worked a neat run-around with Lidden close to Parramatta's line and charged over after a simple dummy to his outside support. Clearly frustrated by their own lack of team-work and support play in the first half, the Eels caved in again two minutes after the break to hand Wests an unbeatable 18-0 lead. Once more it was Smith who caused the damage with a clever pass to Blair who strolled through the heart of the defence to touch down under the posts. Despite a brief fight-back through a Kenny try eight minutes later, the Eels were never in the hunt and they disintegrated again seven minutes before the end. Desperate to swing the ball around to notch another try, prop Mark Clinton floated a long pass on the halfway line straight into the arms of Hanley who almost walked the 50m to score. **(Daily Telegraph 24th July 1989)**

Notes: Wests played very well to take their record to four wins in the last five games. The pack got on top early, allowing Richard Smith to take over the role of organiser from Ellery Hanley. This allowed Hanley to run riot on the fringes of the ruck, combining brilliantly with Cameron Blair. Smith's performance had even more merit, playing with the news that Wests had signed Ivan Henjak for a three-year term. Darren Britt made his debut as a replacement.