



# 1997 Round 17 Friday 25th July Newcastle Sports



## Newcastle 42

Robbie O'DAVIS  
 Darren ALBERT  
 Mark HUGHES  
 Owen CRAIGIE  
 Evan COCHRANE  
 Matthew JOHNS  
 Andrew JOHNS  
 Marc GLANVILLE  
 Adam MUIR  
 Bill PEDEN  
 Paul HARRAGON (c)  
 Brett CLEMENTS  
 Tony BUTTERFIELD  
 Scott CONLEY  
 Wayne RICHARDS  
 Brett GROGAN  
 Daniel SMAILES

def.

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

## Western Suburbs 18

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



**Tries**  
 Owen CRAIGIE (3)  
 Darren ALBERT (3)  
 Adam MUIR  
 Marc GLANVILLE

Darren WILLIS  
 Ken McGUINNESS  
 Damian KENNEDY

**Goals**  
 Andrew JOHNS (5)

Andrew LEEDS (3)

### 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, J Skandalis, D Hasler, H Howard

**Newcastle:** Full-back: R O'Davis; three-quarters: D Albert, M Hughes, O Craigie, E Cochrane; five-eighth: M Johns; half: A Johns; forwards: M Glanville, A Muir, B Peden, P Harragon (c), B Clements, T Butterfield **Referee: M Hewitt (Big League 25th July 1997)**

Three weeks back from injury and suspension, Andrew Johns last night showed he is fit enough to do everything but walk on water. The day he does, brother Matthew will be just behind him. No less than four times Andrew was the next-to-last handler before the Knights crossed the line. And three times he took the ball from big brother. Between them, they were involved in six of the night's eight tries. It's a double act that is becoming a privilege to see. Their understanding, which has been written about countless times but could never be overstated, was the difference between the Knights and Magpies. A big statement given the final scoreline - one that might even lack a little imagination, too. But you find a way to describe it. They dominated so heavily that Darren Albert and Owen Craigie's three try performances paled when compared. It was the whole arsenal. Deft kicks, superb vision, inside balls to straight runners, cut out passes to straight runners. At one point, Andrew fired out of 30 metre pass from dummy half that found - who else? - Matthew. And the jewel in the crown came in the 10-minute period before half time. It began when Andrew, taking the ball from a standing start, found a hole and then put the ball on his toe. Luck conspired against him. Minutes later, Newcastle received a penalty and Matthew took a quick tap. Taking the ball one off the ruck, first tackle, Johns backed his brilliance. He chip-kicked, the ball dropping into Darren Albert's hands with all the accuracy of a Tiger Woods' short iron. "The tackle before I saw Aseri Laing was compressed," Andrew said. "When you've got Darren out there unmarked, you don't waste him. I thought I'd take a risk." Four minutes later, Matthew fired a long cut out past that hit Andrew, who fired a cut-out pass himself to Mark Hughes, where the Wests' defence was skinny. Hughes then turned the ball inside to Albert, who sprinted away to score. With all this happening, it is hard to understand coach Mal Reilly's complaint that his team could have "finished a bit more clinically" towards the end. Johns was taking risks, and while they all weren't coming off, the ratio finished in his favour. Possibly the worst thing Reilly could do is try to reel in the Johnses. With players of this class, sometimes you just have to hand them the dice. "I'm taking risks," Andrew admitted afterwards. "calculated risks and they're coming off. They're coming off because when you've got blokes like Darren Albert that want to be in the spot to score tries, it makes it easy." Albert, along with centre Owen Craigie, finished with three tries. On any other night their efforts would have been cheered. But they had better get used to playing second fiddle to this double act. **(Sydney Morning Herald 26th July 1997)**

**Notes:** Coach Tom Raudonikis summed up the match well when he said that Wests didn't play particularly well but they ran into a red-hot Newcastle, led by the Johns brothers, who put on nearly all of Newcastle's eight tries. This was a real semis blow, dropping the team to ninth.