



1987 Round 17 Sunday 28th June Orana Park



Canterbury 24

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Andrew FARRAR
 Steve O'BRIEN
 Colin WHITFIELD
 Peter MORTIMER
 Tony CURRIE
 Terry LAMB
 Steve MORTIMER (c)
 Paul LANGMACK
 Chris MORTIMER
 Greg WHITBREAD
 Pat JARVIS
 Mark BUGDEN
 Peter TUNKS
 Sandy CAMPBELL
 Michael REID

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

Paul SHEAHAN
 Phillip DUKE
 Allen GEELAN
 John ALLANSON
 Denis KINCHELA
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 Terry DONNELLAN
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Brett DAVIS
 Brett CLARK



Tries Greg WHITBREAD
 Steve O'BRIEN
 Paul LANGMACK
 Tony CURRIE

Allen GEELAN

Goals Terry LAMB (4)

Ian SCHUBERT (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: P Sheahan; three-quarters: P Duke, A Geelan, J Allanson, D Kinchela; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half; T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, T Donnellan, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: A Farrar; three-quarters: S O'Brien, C Whitfield, P Mortimer, T Currie; five-eighth: T Lamb; half: S Mortimer (c); forwards: P Langmack, C Mortimer, G Whitbread, P Jarvis, M Bugden, P Tunks **Referee: B Barnes (Rugby League Week 1st July 1987)**

Champion halfback Steve Mortimer declared Canterbury had regained the defensive dynamite which swept the club to two straight premierships triumphs after the Bulldogs crushed Wests 24-8 at Orana Park yesterday. In leaving no doubt he was supremely confident the Bulldogs were ready to tackle themselves all the way to this season's Grand Final. Only a week after scoring four tries in going down unluckily 26-25 to Winfield Cup pacesetters Manly, Wests were treated to a devastating display of Bulldogs tackle-power yesterday. Even Wests' coach Steve Ghosn later had to admit he was incredibly impressed by the Bulldogs' super tackling effort. "Today, Canterbury produced the defence that won them two Grand Finals," Ghosn said. "I can't bag any of my players. They played as well as they can, but Canterbury just kept them out of it." In scoring four tries, including a couple of superb team tries which had the ball carried 50 metres up field through a series of players. Canterbury held the Magpies to one try with only 19 minutes to go. And that was one of the most freakish of the season. Wests' hooker Alan Fallah seemed to have misjudged the distance when he chipped the ball over the Canterbury try-line. The ball looked headed over the dead-ball line when it left Fallah's boot, but instead it fell a metre short, pulled up quick and allowed the Magpie centre to race through and score. Although the try, when converted by second-rower Ian Schubert, reduced Canterbury's lead to 16-8 and momentarily raised the Wests' fans spirit, it didn't halt the Bulldogs' rampage. Only eight minutes later Canterbury ripped Wests apart when winger Steve O'Brien finished off a backline movement to score in the corner. A magnificent Terry Lamb conversion from the sideline pushed the Bulldogs clear again with a 22-8 advantage. Although Ghosn and Mortimer agreed the team were right back in the premierships hunt, Canterbury coach Warren Ryan was not entirely pleased with the performance. "We made a lot of mistakes," Ryan said. "We gave away silly penalties and we have to cut them out of our game." Ryan stressed he had expected Wests to make life tough for his team – and they certainly did in the opening 20 minutes at least. "I saw Wests against Manly and knew they wouldn't be easy today," he said. "They'll be a real nuisance team for the rest of the season. What we now have to hope for is that Manly keep winning – that will help us." **(Daily Telegraph 29th June 1987)**

Notes: Canterbury came with their Premiership winning defence and blotted Wests out of the game. The Allen Geelan try was a freakish effort but Wests just couldn't get into the game. As Steve Ghosn said: "Canterbury produced the defence that won them two premierships. I couldn't bag any of my players at all. We could have won the penalty count 20-1 but their defence would still have been too good."