



1996 Round 17 Sunday 28th July Belmore Sports



Western Suburbs 20

def.

Sydney Bulldogs 16



Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Aseri LAING
 Brandon PEARSON
 Paul SMITH
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Andrew WILLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Justin DOOLEY
 Bill DUNN
 Dareen CAPOVILLA
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Harvey HOWARD
 Damian KENNEDY
 Darren BURNS
 Mark AFFLICK
 Ken MCGUINNESS

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

Rod SILVA
 Hazem El MASRI
 John TIMU
 Steven HUGHES
 Daryl HALLIGAN
 Terry LAMB (c)
 Craig POLLA-MOUNTER
 Glen HUGHES
 Steve PRICE
 Robert RELF
 Mitch NEWTON
 Jason HETHERINGTON
 Darren BRITT
 Brett CLEMENTS
 Michael SMITH
 Jason LIDDEN

Tries
 Andrew WILLIS
 Paul SMITH
 Brandon PEARSON

Rod SILVA
 Steven HUGHES

Goals
 Andrew LEEDS (4)

Daryl HALLIGAN (4)

Match Description

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

Sydney Bulldogs: Full-back: R Silva; three-quarters: H El Masri, J Timu, S Hughes, D Halligan; five-eighth: T Lamb (c); half: C Polla-Mounter; forwards: G Hughes, S Price, R Relf, M Newton, J Hetherington, D Britt **Referee: E Ward (Daily Telegraph 29th July 1996)**

If it wasn't for youthful exuberance, there would not have been a winner at Belmore Oval yesterday. The few thousand league loyalists who chose to spend a dark, damp and gloomy day at the footy were mostly punished quite cruelly for their dedication. Despite the anticipated battle of Belmore between two sides playing for their finals' survival, each seemed hell bent on delivering victory to the other, only to find each was equally incapable of taking even the simplest of chances. It was fitting that the match-winning try came from a bungled move, after Wests received the ball inside Bulldogs' territory after yet another inexplicable loss of possession from the defending premiers. With just over two minutes remaining and the scores locked at 16-all, the Magpies were working the ball to field goal position under the posts and 20 metres out. Then, with former rugby drop-goal specialist Andrew Leeds spitting on his hands in anticipation, a call of youthful desperation from five-eight Steve Georgallis down the blind, instead took the ball out of play for the match-winning single point. However, when Georgallis speared the ball to the rising star Brandon Pearson on the burst, the young Country Origin centre charged over to steal a win from the never-never. Ten minutes earlier, Pearson sparked Wests' revival when he ran around Craig Polla-Mounter 20m out from his own line before delivering to winger Paul Smith, who finished the 80 metre move which levelled the scores after Wests had trailed 14-8 at half time. "It was just a bit of excitement from the young blokes," was the explanation of the triumphant disobedience from thirty-something hardhead Paul Langmack, who was inspired to enter the post-match media conference shadow-boxing in his Magpies' dressing gown. "We were set for the field goal and they went the other way so it was lucky for them they scored." The two points lifted Wests into a four-way battle for 7th spot. "I don't care how we played, it is just what we needed," puffed the relieved Magpie coach, Tom Raudonikis. For counterpart Chris Anderson the symbolism of the loss was simple "Yeah, that's f.....ed us for the year." Anderson said. "We had half a dozen chances to finish it off and we didn't." Such as when Olympic-standard sharpshooter Darrell Halligan was given a shot directly in front, 31 metres out to break the 16-all deadlock with seven minutes remaining. But Halligan produced a horror strike from his usually sweet right boot. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 29th July 1996)**

Notes: In a mistake-ridden match, Brandon Pearson scored the winning try with two minutes to go, after Andrew Leeds was ignored for a field-goal attempt. Brandon Pearson also set up the 80-metre match-levelling try a few minutes earlier. Andrew Willis, in at half for the dropped Craig Coleman, had an outstanding game, while Bill Dunn was a powerhouse up front.