



1998 Round 17 Sunday 5th July North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 32

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Ben IKIN
 Brett DALLAS
 Nigel ROY
 Matt SEERS
 Scott PETHYBRIDGE
 Michael BUETTNER
 Jason TAYLOR (c)
 Billy MOORE
 William LEYSHON
 David FAIRLEIGH
 Gary LARSON
 Mark SODEN
 Steve TRINDALL
 Joel WILSON
 Glenn MORRISON
 Paul STRINGER
 Mark REBER

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

Brett WARTON
 Darryl FISHER
 Travis BAKER
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Adam DONOVAN
 Steve GEORGALLIS (c)
 Brett HODGSON
 Scott COXON
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Adrian RAINEY
 Chris YATES
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Darren FRITZ
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Aaron COTTER
 Shayne McMENEMY
 Nick EDWARDS



Tries
 Brett DALLAS (2)
 Mark SODEN
 David FAIRLEIGH
 Ben IKIN
 Scott PETHYBRIDGE

Darryl FISHER (2)
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Brett WARTON

Goals
 Jason TAYLOR (4)

Brett HODGSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Warton; three-quarters: D Fisher, Kevin McGuinness, T Baker, A Donovan; five-eighth: S Georgallis (c); half: B Hodgson; forwards: S Coxon, A Rainey, L Raudonikis, D Fritz, C Mescia, C Yates

North Sydney: Full-back: B Ikin; three-quarters: B Dallas, N Roy, M Seers, S Pethybridge; five-eighth: M Buettner; half: J Taylor (c); forwards: W Moore, W Leyshon, D Fairleigh, G Larson, M Soden, S Trindall **Referee: S Hampstead (Big League 5th July 1998)**

... The Bears led 26-0. Even at their worst - even the fabled North Sydney teams of old - they couldn't have given this one away. Or could they? For the third time in four weeks, the Bears tore away to a fine start, only to fall asleep and allow their opponents back to within nuisance distance. Wests were simply woeful early, their ball possession terrible. North Sydney scored tries in the 5th (David Fairleigh), 8th (Brett Dallas), 17th (Ben Ikin), 20th (Scott Pethybridge) and 24th (Dallas) minutes. Wests did not have a clue what was going on, turning over so much cheap possession the Bears were giddy with delight. If Norths had settled their minds and concentrated on continuing what they were doing, which was working, the score could have been anything. They were scoring at a point a minute. But Norths fell into old habits. "... Wests came back with impressive action. Lincoln Raudonikis, whose aggression looks to be cut from the same mould as his coaching father, put the Magpies on the scoreboard with a neat try eight minutes before half-time. The Magpies then responded in the second half with some brilliant efforts, confirming what Taylor said and what Louis had, cautiously, agreed with. On the last tackle, Wests' half Brett Hodgson was caught with seemingly nowhere to go. He produced a chip-kick that was regathered and eventually found the resurgent Ken McGuinness, who threw out to the wide running Raudonikis who looped an overhead pass to the winger Brett Warton to score in the corner. Minutes later, again on the last tackle, McGuinness hit a hole inside Hodgson and, coming to the cover defence, kicked to the corner where Darryl Fisher won the chase. It was exciting, seat-of-the-pants stuff, and if Hodgson had been a little more accurate with his conversion attempts and the score had been rising by six at a time rather than four, the pressure on the Bears would have been heavy. Fisher carried his part, though, racing over for another try which brought the score to 28-18. With 15 minutes remaining the crowd found voice for the first time all afternoon. The scent of the impossible was in the air - until the Bears closed it with a try in the 75th minute, when Mark Sowden dived through the play the ball from dummy half.. (Sydney Morning Herald 6th July 1998)

Notes: Wests' handling was atrocious early and with endless possession to Norths, the Magpies were down 26-0 after 25 minutes. To their credit they improved greatly in the second half and scored some brilliant tries. Lincoln Raudonikis had his best match so far, while Aaron Cotter, on debut, was impressive.