



1993 Round 18 Sunday 1st August Sydney Football Stadium



Eastern Suburbs 40

def.

Western Suburbs 24

Rod SILVA
 Jeff ORFORD
 Luke RICKETSON
 Nigel GAFFEY
 Shane WHEREAT
 Brendan HALL
 Gary FREEMAN
 Tony COSATTO
 Jason LOWRIE
 Mark PROTHEROE (c)
 Harvey HOWARD
 Wayne MARSHALL
 Bruce SINCLAIR
 John MOSES
 Jason KEOUGH
 Colin WARD

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Damien McGARRY
 Terry HILL
 Russell WYER
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Jason TAYLOR
 Jason LIDDEN
 Justin DOOLEY
 Joe THOMAS (c)
 Stephen KEARNEY
 Jason ALCHIN
 Kyle WHITE
 Scott HARDY
 Matt RYAN
 Brett CULLEN



Tries
 Nigel GAFFEY (2)
 Rod SILVA (2)
 Shane WHEREAT
 Brendan HALL
 Gary FREEMAN

Andrew LEEDS (2)
 Russell WYER
 Darren WILLIS

Goals
 Brendan HALL (6)

Jason TAYLOR (4)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Silva; three-quarters: J Orford, L Ricketson, N Gaffey, S Whereat; five-eighth: B Hall; half: G Freeman; forwards: T Cosatto, J Lowrie, M Protheroe, H Howard, W Marshall, B Sinclair

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, D McGarry, T Hill, R Wyer; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: J Taylor; forwards: J Lidden, J Dooley, J Thomas (c), K White, J Alchin, S Kearney **Referee: T Kelly (Daily Telegraph 2nd August 1993)**

Two minutes before full-time yesterday, Western Suburbs forward Joe Thomas threw a most notable punch. It broke the nose of Eastern Suburbs winger Jeff Orford, who had his back to Thomas at the time, and resulted in Thomas' immediate dismissal. The punch may be the last thing Thomas does in Wests' colours. Unwanted, he is leaving the Magpies at the end of the season, ... The right hook was significant for another reason; it was one of few reminders during Easts' 40-24 win that the activity on the Sydney Football Stadium was first-grade rugby league, and that any resemblance to an exhibition match – or touch football – was purely coincidental. "We didn't get our second innings," was Wests' coach Warren Ryan's first comment on an 11-try match in which his team trailed 22-0 after 21 minutes, then led 24-22 five minutes into the second half before succumbing to a second wave of Rooster' attacks. "It was nearly a good day's cricket," Ryan said of an afternoon in which 190 points were scored in the three grades. The main event was not untypical for a match played late in the season between two non-contenders. Both teams' interest was attack – anytime, anywhere. Concepts like field position and ball security were for the most part disregarded, and the result was spectacular ball movement and broken-play running, aided by woolly defence. Such a carnival was the perfect scene for one of the game's best ringmasters, Gary Freeman, who was hyperactive, handling on almost every ruck and constantly putting supports into space. "That looked like the '92 version of him," coach Mark Murray said of Freeman. His performance was the more remarkable for his ongoing contract dispute at Easts, and reports yesterday that linked him with Wests and Penrith next year and another which claimed he and Easts' football manager Jack Gibson had a blazing row in the dressing-room before the game, a report which both Gibson and Freeman denied. ... Asked whether he had provoked Thomas, Orford said: "I don't think I did, but he reckons I did. He came in after the game and apologised, but then he turned around and said I elbowed him in the head. "Coach Murray said: "I'm pleased it wasn't my head. I haven't seen anything like that on a football field for a while." A sidelight to the incident was Thomas' public criticism of coach Ryan in a newspaper report yesterday. Thomas accused Ryan of not respecting his senior players. Ryan was displeased with the article but said of the send-off: "All I can say is that something must have happened to him to make him react like that." **(Sydney Morning Herald 2nd August 1993)**

Notes: Defence was certainly not a priority in this match and Wests were down 22-0 early. A comeback was on the cards but a 7-2 penalty deficit in the second half made that difficult. Joe Thomas was sent off just before half-time after throwing a wild punch, seemingly out of frustration.