



1998 Round 18 Sunday 12th July Campbelltown Stadium



Newcastle 18

Mark HUGHES
 Jason MOODIE
 Matthew GIDLEY
 Owen CRAIGIE
 Brett GROGAN
 Matthew JOHNS (c)
 Andrew JOHNS
 Bill PEDEN
 Peter SHIELS
 Neil PICCINELLI
 Troy FLETCHER
 Brett CLEMENTS
 Tony BUTTERFIELD
 Danny BUDERUS
 Evan COCHRANE
 David LOMAX
 Glenn GRIEF

def.

Western Suburbs 17

Brett WARTON
 Darryl FISHER
 Travis BAKER
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Adam DONOVAN
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Brett HODGSON
 Steve GEORGALLIS (c)
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Scott COXON
 Chris YATES
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Darren FRITZ
 John SKANDALIS
 Aaron COTTER
 Damian KENNEDY
 Nick EDWARDS



Tries

Bill PEDEN
 Matthew GIDLEY
 Mark HUGHES
 Owen CRAIGIE

Brett HODGSON
 Scott COXON
 Adam DONOVAN

Goals

Andrew JOHNS (1)

Brett WARTON (2)
 Brett HODGSON (1) Field Goal

Match Description

Newcastle: Full-back: M Hughes; three-quarters: J Moodie, M Gidley, O Craigie, B Grogan; five-eighth: M Johns (c); half: A Johns; forwards: W Peden, P Shiels, N Piccinelli, T Fletcher, B Clements, T Butterfield

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Warton; three-quarters: D Fisher, T Baker, Ken McGuinness, A Donovan; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: B Hodgson; forwards: S Georgallis (c), S Coxon, L Raudonikis, D Fritz, C Mescia, C Yates **Referee: P Simpkins (Big League 13th July 1998)**

Andrew Johns may well become rugby league's next superstar but at Campbelltown yesterday he carried on like a run-of-the-mill park footballer. His silken skills were there for all to see - the player they call 'Joey' has an undisputed touch of genius. But a dark, sullen side emerged yesterday, when the defending premiers were under siege from battlers Wests. With a couple of late tries, Newcastle got out of gaol with an unconvincing 18-17 win but the impression Andrew Johns left was unpalatable, to say the very least. He began the match with more than a touch of arrogance and it seemed to magnify as the contest wore on. Johns took on referee Paul Simpkins a couple of times, and lost. When decisions went against the Knights, he tossed the ball away disdainfully, copping an earful from sections of the crowd. Johns is too good a footballer to pick up shabby habits. Plenty of respected football judges noticed his petulance yesterday and the sooner he ditches it, the sooner he fulfils the countless prophecies of superstardom. ... Wests out-enthused and outplayed them and there's no doubt the better team lost. Had some marginal calls by referee Simpkins gone Wests' way, inquests would already be raging into the Knight's loss of form. Mal Reilly's men were held to a draw at Penrith last week and entered yesterday's game as almost unbackable favourites. The Magpies, without mainstays Andrew Leeds, Paul Langmack and Harvey Howard, entered the fray pretty much with a team of kids and went ever so close to pulling off a mighty upset. Names such as Hodgson, Coxon, Edwards, Fisher, Yates and Warton gave enormous cheek against the championship-winning team bristling with household names. Wests sprinted to an 8-0 lead (two tries) but the Knights found some rhythm to draw level at 10-all by half time. Tom Raudonikis' men tackled tigerishly for long periods of the second half, forcing Newcastle errors and making the odd break with little possession. After the Magpies received piggyback penalties, halfback Brett Hodgson steered over a field goal to put his team ahead with 12 minutes to play. A dubious stripping penalty against Wests enabled Newcastle to forge their way into the attacking zone and fullback Mark Hughes scored the try the Knights so desperately needed. Magpie rake Mescia went close to scoring a short time later but was denied by the video ref and a double movement called. Lock Bill Peden sealed the win with a try through tired defence with three minutes to play and Wests grabbed a late consolation through winger Adam Donovan. **(The Daily Telegraph 13th July 1998)**

Notes: This was clearly Wests' best performance of the year and most pundits agreed that the better team lost. The Magpies combined gritty, fast-moving defence with the backs throwing the ball about, at all times throwing the slick Newcastle team off its game. A couple of marginal calls, including a dubious double-movement call on Cherry Mescia, was the difference in the end.