



1991 Round 18 Saturday 28th July Brookvale Oval



Western Suburbs 9

def.

Manly-Warringah 8

Shaun DEVINE *Fullback*
 Wayne SIMONDS *Wing*
 Andrew FARRAR (c) *Centre*
 Tony COSATTO *Centre*
 Jamie AINSCOUGH *Wing*
 Jason LIDDEN *Five-eighth*
 Jason TAYLOR *Half*
 Graeme WYNN *Lock*
 Doug RAWLINGS *Second Row*
 Cameron BLAIR *Second Row*
 Steve JACKSON *Front Row*
 Shane FLANAGAN *Hooker*
 Darren BRITT *Front Row*
 Stephen BURNS *Replacement*
 Stan PRESDEE *Replacement*

Matthew RIDGE
 Craig HANCOCK
 David RONSON
 Michael O'CONNOR (c)
 Frank STOKES
 Cliff LYONS
 Geoff TOOVEY
 Owen CUNNINGHAM
 Chris WHITE
 John JONES
 David HOSKING
 David O'DONNELL
 Glenn BOURNE
 Grant DOOVEY
 John GRIEVE

Tries Shaun DEVINE

John JONES

Goals Jason TAYLOR (3) One field goal

Matthew RIDGE (2)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: M Ridge; three-quarters: C Hancock, D Ronson, M O'Connor (c), F Stokes; five-eighth: C Lyons; half: G Toovey; forwards: O Cunningham, C White, J Jones, D Hosking, D O'Donnell, G Bourne

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, A Farrar (c), T Cosatto, J Ainscough; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: J Taylor; forwards: G Wynn, D Rawlings, C Blair, S Jackson, S Flanagan, D Britt **Referee: G Annesley (Big League 31st July 1991)**

Half Jason Taylor was as good as dubbed with a Knighthood after a field goal earned Western Suburbs another last-card win at Brookvale Oval yesterday. Taylor's measured pot, six minutes from time, got the Magpies home 9-8 and keeps them in the premiership top three, while Manly are now equal fourth, at least for a week. It's one of several times the precocious and prodigious Taylor has saved Wests near the death this season with either a field goal or penalty goal and earned perhaps the most eloquent tribute coach Warren Ryan has given. "Thanks be for Taylor," Ryan said. "If only his foot wasn't so dirty, I was going to kiss it." He did offer a mock pucker at the boot, however. There would have been no jocularly in the Wests' camp if not for Taylor. Referee Graham Annesley had an afternoon from which sleepless nights follow. There were controversies aplenty, and the major one concerned an on-field protest from Manly captain Michael O'Connor near half-time. O'Connor complained of Wests' alleged off-side tactics, and specifically those of opposing captain, centre Andrew Farrar. Annesley ruled the complaint inadmissible, but whether by coincidence or not, Manly received five second-half penalties for off-side. By contrast, Wests did not receive one in the match. Asked Ryan: "In view of the evidence, are we to draw the conclusion the on-field protest had an effect on the referee? Is that cricket?" Ryan's words were measured, considered, but there might have been a more colourfully-phrased opinion had the result been different. ... Then there was the game, and disinterested observers would conclude it was one Wests didn't deserve to lose. A draw would have been fair, at least. It was also one which won't be remembered for skills, flamboyance and precision of execution. It will be remembered for its defence and competitiveness as two depleted teams slugged it out, with neither gaining a decisive advantage. Most memorably, it will be recalled for a Wests who performed heroics to keep the more potent Manly tryless for 75 minutes, despite the marked advantage the Sea Eagles enjoyed in possession and territory in the second half. Said Ryan, "All we did was tackle, tackle. We don't need to do any tackling practice this week - their time in possession must have been astronomical. Led by props Steven Jackson and Darren Britt, the Wests' forwards took the game to Manly and were unyielding as they repelled Manly's attempted thrusts, and behind them Taylor and Jason Lidden were just as effective. ... Two Taylor penalties put Wests back in business and they hit the credit side after 25 minutes when Taylor's long pass sent Wayne Simonds heading for the corner and Devine doubled around to dive over for another doubtful try. ... So, it all came down to Taylor. "On the previous six I put up a bomb and thought to myself: Why didn't I kick a field-goal?" "I thought I might get another chance. When I got the ball, I didn't have any intention of going for it but the Manly defence hung off and it was there waiting." Knighthoods and all sorts of things might await if Taylor keeps doing it. (Sydney Morning Herald 29th July 1991)

Notes: Jason Taylor's brilliant 35m field goal, six minutes from full-time was again the match-winner. Doug Rawlings made a rare first-grade appearance and played well. Wests were down 6-8 at half-time and prevailed in a dour arm-wrestle. Steve Jackson and Darren Britt, up front, provided the foundation for the win, turning back Manly attacks time and again. The tackling was both ferocious and sustained.