



1995 Round 18 Saturday 29th July Bruce Stadium



Canberra 50

Brett MULLINS
 Albert FULIVAI
 David BOYLE
 Ruben WIKI
 Noa NADRUKU
 Laurie DALEY (c)
 Steve STONE
 Bradley CLYDE
 David FURNER
 Jason CROKER
 Luke DAVICO
 Steve WALTERS
 David WESTLEY
 Roger KENWORTHY
 Graham APPO
 Jason DEATH
 Shaun MAHONY

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Andrew LEEDS
 Tony WALL
 Paul BELL
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Darren WILLIS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Mark HORO
 Bill DUNN
 Mark AFFLICK
 Jim SERDARIS
 Brent STUART
 Justin DOOLEY
 Brandon PEARSON
 Damian DRISCOLL
 Kevin McGUINNESS



Tries

Jason CROKER (3)
 Brett MULLINS (2)
 Ruben WIKI
 Steve STONE
 Noa NADRUKU
 David FURNER
 David BOYLE

Ken McGUINNESS (2)
 Paul BELL

Goals

David FURNER (5)

Andrew LEEDS (3)

Match Description

Canberra: Full-back: B Mullins; three-quarters: A Fulivai, D Boyle, R Wiki, N Nadruku; five-eighth: L Daley (c); half: S Stone; forwards: B Clyde, D Furner, J Croker, L Davico, S Walters, D Westley

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: T Wall, P Bell, K McGuinness, D Willis; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: C Mescia; forwards: P Langmack (c), B Dunn, M Horo, B Stuart, J Serdaris, M Afflick **Referee: D Manson (Big League 29th July 1995)**

Through halftime Tim Sheens must have had some concerns. With the Raiders enjoying a fairly easy run to the semi-finals, Sheens would have wanted his side to work on ball control and quality football in preparation for the big matches. That didn't happen until the second 40 minutes when the Raiders piled on the tries to take the score from 14-6 at the break to 50-18 at full time. Admittedly, the Magpies were always going to suffer after prop Mark Afflick was sent off in the first half for an alleged high tackle, but most pleasing was that the Raiders tried many of their set plays - which worked with confidence and precision. Deft passes behind the backs of a player or two, inside passes, decoy runners ... they showed the lot. It was enough for coach Tim Sheens to offer a deceptive smile after the game. "For most of the day, up and down the park, we were pretty strong," Sheens said. "We were determined to stop them off-loading the ball and having good second phase play, which they do have, and we did. So, I was happy with the commitment." If anything, the match served to showcase the marvellous talents of men such as Brett Mullins and Jason Croker and serve warning that with players of the calibre of Ricky Stuart, John Lomax, Quentin Pongia and Jason Hetherington to come back into the side, the Raiders look in excellent shape. Mullins again showed how difficult he is to contain in broken play, crossing for two second half tries and playing a major hand in several others. Croker showed his versatility is a big plus. Moving from the backs to the second row this week, he crossed for three tries and proved a problem whenever he became involved. It was an unhappy afternoon for Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis, who admitted his team got off to a poor start and couldn't turn it around. The Magpies' day grew blacker in the 21st minute when Afflick was sent off for an alleged high tackle on Luke Davico. As the final rounds count down, the Raiders, who have joined Manly at the top of the competition, meet Souths, Gold Coast, Auckland and the Crushers. It's hardly a solid hit out for the semi-finals, which means it will be important for the team to click. ... **(The Sun-Herald 30th July 1995)**

Notes: Wests were only down 14-6 at half-time and still in the game but Mark Afflick had been sent off and Wests tired in the second half with only 12 men, and the class of Canberra took over. Mark Afflick was in for an injured Glenn Grief and Tony Wall was also called up on the wing. In a bright spot, Ken McGuinness scored two tries, bringing his total to twelve for the year.