

## 1994 Round 18 Sunday 31st July Campbelltown Stadium

## Manly-Warringah 28 def. **Western Suburbs 14**

Matthew RIDGE **Fullback Andrew LEEDS** Paul SMITH Craig HANCOCK Wing Terry HILL **Brandon PEARSON** Centre Danny MOORE Centre Ken McGUINNESS Anthony ROGERS Wing Darren WILLIS Cliff LYONS Five-eighth Josh WHITE Geoff TOOVEY (c) Half Jason ALCHIN Owen CUNNINGHAM Lock Steve GEORGALLIS Steve MENZIES Second Row Stephen KEARNEY Daniel GARTNER Second Row Paul LANGMACK

**David ALEXANDER** Front Row **Brent STUART** Replacement Peter SHIELS Replacement Mark AFFLICK

Glenn GRIEF

Jim SERDARIS

Jim SERDARIS (c)

Replacement **Andrew WILLIS** 

Front Row

Hooker

Tries Chris LYONS Brandon PEARSON (2)

Matt DUNFORD

Terry HILL

David O'DONNELL

**Geoff TOOVEY Anthony ROGERS** Matthew RIDGE

Matthew RIDGE (4) Goals Andrew LEEDS (1)

## **Match Description**

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: M Ridge; three-quarters: C Hancock, D Moore, T Hill, A Rogers; five-eighth: C Lyons; half: G Toovey (c); forwards: O Cunningham, S Menzies, D Gartner, M Dunford, D O'Donnell, D Alexander

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, B Pearson, K McGuinness, D Willis; five-eighth: J White; half: J Alchin; forwards: S Georgallis, P Langmack, S Kearney, G Grief, J Serdaris (c), B Stuart Referee: S Clark (Daily Telegraph 1st August 1994)

Manly coach Bob Fulton claimed 32-year-old Cliff Lyons was playing the best football of his career after the five-eighth had a routine day at work during yesterday's 28-14 win over Western Suburbs at Campbelltown Sports Ground. Lyons scored a try and set up Manly's four others, destroying Wests' spirit after their promising early start as they tried to atone for the 66-8 defeat in round one. Lavish descriptions of Lyons' wizardry have become almost boringly predictable in recent weeks. Once again he set up one try after looking to be totally hemmed in by the defence (to Terry Hill), once again he popped up a gem of a ball after a scrum win (Matthew Ridge scored), and once again he put a forward through with a perfectly-weighted cut-out pass (Anthony Rogers scored after a Daniel Gartner break). In between, he managed to back up Craig Hancock and Terry Hill to score himself, and sent captain Geoff Toovey on a 30-metre scoot to the try line. Lyons agreed that while he's been getting a truckload of favourable publicity lately, for some reason it hasn't been coming with the "Kangaroo Tour certainty" label that most other form players are having foisted upon them. This is so, despite his Ashes-winning contribution in 1990. "I'll just have to keep playing well for them to say that, I suppose," he said. Fulton told the post-match media conference that Lyons had never played better - not in the lead up to the 1990 Kangaroo tour and not even when he spearheaded the Sea Eagles to the 1987 premiership. .... Despite the unavailability through injury of international forwards David Gillespie, Mark Carroll and Ian Roberts, Manly's top-three spot was really only under threat for the opening 22 minutes yesterday. Wests' hooker Jim Sedaris scored from a Josh White grubber kick in the 16th minute after Ridge had uncharacteristically missed an early penalty shot. Ex-Magpie centre Hill was roasted by the Campbelltown crowd when he brushed past a couple of defenders to score off Lyons soon after, but it was the softness of Ridge's first tackle touchdown in the 22nd minute which marked the competition points as being Manly's. "They busted their arses in the second half," West coach Wayne Ellis said of his charges. "As they said earlier in the season, it would have been easy for them to walk away at half time and get flogged but, you know, they did a good job in the second half." Ellis blamed himself for Lyons' performance, saying that he'd been responsible for the wrong first-half defensive tactics. ... (Sydney Morning Herald 1st August 1994)

Notes: Cliff Lyons was again the destroyer after Wests played well early and led 6-0. They were running into an 80kmh wind, however, and were down 24-6 by half-time. Wests, however, stepped up in defence and defended very well in the second half. Brandon Pearson stamped his potential with a two-try performance. An injury to Ken McGuinness blunted the attack just when Wests were firing.