



1986 Round 18 Sunday 6th July Seiffert Oval



Canberra 38

Gary BELCHER
 Terry FAHEY
 Mal MENINGA
 Phil CAREY
 John FERGUSON
 Ivan HENJAK
 Chris O'SULLIVAN
 Dean LANCE (c)
 Ashley GILBERT
 Rowan BRENNAN
 Sam BACKO
 Jay HOFFMAN
 Gary COYNE
 Les MORRISEY
 Craig BELLAMY
 Paul ELLIOTT

def.

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

Western Suburbs 6

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Trevor COGGER
 Wilfred WILLIAMS
 Des DRUMMOND
 Brett CLARK
 Deryck FOX
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Lee CROOKS
 Alan FALLAH
 Craig ELLIS
 Graeme JENNINGS
 Geoff SUTTON
 Ian FREEMAN
 Brett DAVIS



Tries

Mal MENINGA
 Jay HOFFMAN
 Ivan HENJAK
 Ashley GILBERT
 John FERGUSON
 Gary COYNE
 Gary BELCHER

Wilfred WILLIAMS

Goals

Mal MENINGA (5)

Ian SCHUBERT (1)

Match Description

Canberra: Full-back: G Belcher; three-quarters: T Fahey, M Meninga, P Carey, J Ferguson; five-eighth: I Henjak; half: C O'Sullivan; forwards: D Lance (c), A Gilbert, R Brennan, S Backo, J Hoffman, G Coyne

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: P Sheahan, T Cogger, W Williams, D Drummond; five-eighth: B Clark; half: D Fox; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, J Elias, L Crooks, A Fallah, C Ellis **Referee: M Stone (Big League 2nd July 1986)**

The return of State of Origin star Mal Meninga was enough to spur Canberra to a dashing 38-6 win over Western Suburbs at Seiffert Oval. Meninga turned in his best club game of the season, showing the form that had deserted him for much of this season, costing him a spot in the Australian side. The big centre was almost unstoppable, with his bulldozing runs in the middle of the paddock proving too much for Wests' defence. Meninga also produced his deadly fend on his bullocking runs, leaving Magpie defenders sprawled in his wake. The former Australian centre scored a try, had a hand in another and kicked five goals from eight attempts, including two beauties from the touch-line, in a performance that spelled CLASS. It was gentle reminder to the Australian selectors, who sacked him from the Test team last Tuesday night. Canberra won the day because they played the football in Wests' quarter for nearly the entire match, and with the big Raider forwards tackling like never before, continually forced Wests into error. In fact, the only time Wests crossed the advantage line was in the seventh minute of play when centre Wilfred Williams scored off a Lee Crooks' pass. The Magpies led 4-0 but that was the end of the section. From that point on it was all Canberra and when Ashley Gilbert scored the Raiders' first try after 14 minutes the writing was on the wall for the Black and Whites. ... **(Daily Mirror 7th July 1986)**

"They were too hot today," said Wests' five-eighth Brett Clark, nursing injured shoulders and a badly bruised cheekbone. Allan McMahon, the reserve-grade coach deputising for Furner, said: "I was pleased Mal Meninga got so involved but, really, everyone had a big game. We wanted to bustle them early on and not let them settle into a pattern." Wests' coach Steve Ghosn summed it up by saying the Raiders were too big and too strong. "Unless our players cut down their mistakes and show some discipline they can't be called first-graders," a disgusted Ghosn said. **(Sydney Morning Herald 7th July 1986)**

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Notes: Wests played very poorly in this game, allowing Mal Meninga to tear them apart on a heavy ground. There were lots of missed tackles and dropped ball in a very unconvincing performance. John Elias, moved from Canterbury, made his debut in the second row.