



1987 Round 18 Monday 6th July Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 4

drew with

South Sydney 4

Ian NADEN
Phillip DUKE
Allen GEELAN
John ALLANSON
Jason WILLIAMS
Brett CLARK
Trevor COGGER
Ian SCHUBERT (c)
John ELIAS
John BILBIJA
Ian FREEMAN
Alan FALLAH
Scott TRONC
Terry DONNELLAN
Wayne LAMBKIN
Brett DAVIS

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

David CRUIKSHANK
Ross HARRINGTON
Steve MAVIN
Michael BLAKE
Jason MOON
Mark ELLISON
Craig COLEMAN
Michael ANDREWS
Les DAVIDSON
Paul ROBERTS
David BOYLE
Mario FENECH (c)
Ian ROBERTS
Lindsay JOHNSTON
David MOON
Darren MAROON
Joe THOMAS

Tries John ALLANSON

Mark ELLISON

Goals

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: D Cruickshank; three-quarters: R Harrington, S Mavin, M Blake, J Moon; five-eighth: M Ellison; half: C Coleman; forwards: M Andrews, L Davidson, P Roberts, D Boyle, M Fenech (c), I Roberts

Western Suburbs: Full-back: I Naden; three-quarters: P Duke, A Geelan, J Allanson, J Williams; five-eighth: B Clark; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, J Bilbija, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc **Referee: G McCallum (Big League 8th July 1987)**

South Sydney scrambled to a 4-all draw against the gutsy Western Suburbs team in the slop at the Sydney Cricket Ground last night but they should have won the match. Two critical on-the-spot decisions by referee Greg McCallum in the second half went against Souths and on both occasions, it appeared they had scored. "I'll stand on my head if Michael Pobjie did not score," Souths' coach George Piggins said after the match. And it seemed almost as clear-cut that fullback David Cruickshank had touched down from a scramble after he hoisted a bomb. For the brave 8,234 people at the ground, the draw was probably a fitting result for a match that tested the endurance of both teams. The game was played in appalling conditions with a sea of mud covering the area between the 22-metre lines. After five minutes it was almost impossible to distinguish one mud-caked player from the other. At one stage yesterday, the League considered switching the match to either Parramatta Stadium or Belmore Sports Ground. It could be the last match played at the SCG on a Monday night and it certainly gave the players something to remember. The League has decided to focus their main program on the new football stadium in the old Sports Ground area. All the major matches next season, including the State of Origin games, will be played there. The Cricket Ground will be left to the Sydney Swans and cricket – and some of the Sheffield Shield matches could be played at North Sydney Oval. The playing conditions last night were the worst I have seen in recent years and it was a tribute to both teams that there were flashes of attacking football. Both teams scored a try. Souths' came after only eight minutes when five-eighth Mark Ellison dummied and sloshed past two Wests' defenders to score. Sixteen minutes into the second half, Wests' strong young winger John Allanson ran on to a neat pass from Ian Schubert to score. Despite gaining only one point, Souths are still in the five. "I thought we did enough in the first half but we let it slip from us," Piggins said. "The rain and the slush levelled the match but you can't take away from Wests, they played well." Souths lost their most effective player, second-rower Les Davidson at half-time. Davidson suffered a badly gashed eyelid from a wayward elbow and he needed nine stitches. Wests' coach Steve Ghosn was rightly proud of his team's effort, a top-class performance considering he had to make three late changes to the team because of injuries. The players who came into the side, fullback Ian Naden, winger Jason Williams and five-eighth Brett Clark, all played well. "The difference between last and first is a bit of luck," Ghosn said. At this stage he said it was difficult to select a team as a standout for the premiership, although Manly deserved to be favourites. "If they can't win it this year, they'll never win it," he said. Wests' second-rower John Elias and halfback Trevor Cogger had strong games, while David Cruickshank, Michael Andrews and Steve Mavin played strongly for Souths. **(Sydney Morning Herald 7th July 1987)**

Notes: This match was played on an absolute SCG mud-heap but surprisingly Wests still threw the ball around and it was an entertaining game despite the appalling conditions. Brett Clark, switched to fullback for most of the game, came back to his 1986 form while Jason Williams, a 21-year-old Kiwi, had a slashing debut on the wing for the injured Paul Sheahan. In a great last-ditch defensive effort both John Elias and Trevor Cogger were particularly strong.