



1987 Round 19 Sunday 12th July Orana Park



Western Suburbs 28

drew with

Cronulla-Sutherland 28



Brett CLARK
 Phillip DUKE
 Allen GEELAN
 John ALLANSON
 Jason WILLIAMS
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Les WHITE
 Ian NADEN

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

Jonathan DOCKING
 Glenn COLEMAN
 Alan WILSON
 Michael SPEECHLEY
 Sean WATSON
 Mark WAKEFIELD
 Ron QUINN
 David HATCH (c)
 Dan STAINS
 Mike GREGORY
 Dan SORENSEN
 Gavin MILLER
 Craig DIMOND
 Mark LEE

Tries

Doug RAWLINGS
 Alan FALLAH
 Phillip DUKE
 Brett CLARK

Sean WATSON (2)
 Alan WILSON
 Mike GREGORY
 Glenn COLEMAN

Goals

Ian SCHUBERT (6)

Sean WATSON (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Clark; three-quarters: P Duke, A Geelan, J Allanson, J Williams; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, J Elias, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc

Cronulla-Sutherland Full-back: J Docking; three-quarters: G Coleman, A Wilson, M Speechley, S Watson; five-eighth: M Wakefield; half: R Quinn; forwards: D Hatch (c), D Stains, M Gregory, D Sorensen, G Miller, C Dimond **Referee: P Filmer (Rugby League Week 15th July 1987)**

A fuming Cronulla coach Jack Gibson declared he owed Western Suburbs an apology after the Sharks had escaped with a miracle 28-all draw with the Magpies at Orana Park yesterday. In one of his most bitter attacks on the Cronulla players since he joined the club three years ago, Gibson said his tackle-shy team had not deserved to get within 20 points of last-placed Wests. "I should go and apologise to them (Wests) for us getting a draw," said Gibson. "We should get pinched after that. We were lucky to get a competition point – they should have bolted in. They bombed enough tries to score 100 points and we were lucky to even score 28. It was tragedy they (Wests) only got one point out of that game." A coach who bases so much of his coaching philosophy on defence, Gibson was appalled by the Sharks' tackling in a match in which Wests posted four tries but blew at least six others. ...Gibson's scathing criticism of the Sharks was certainly warranted. On yesterday's form, equal-fifth placed Cronulla will be quickly bundled out of the semi-finals, if, in fact, they do qualify. Wests were far and away the better side in a game which was played at breathtaking pace. Although the Sharks finished with five tries to Wests' four, the Magpies rightly claimed a moral victory. "The difference between winning and finishing with a draw was the bounce of the ball," Wests' coach Steve Ghosn said. "The luck went all Cronulla's way. They scored three tries from kicks when the ball could have gone anywhere. We played good football." Ghosn must also have been severely disappointed with referee Peter Pilmer's decision to award the try which gave Cronulla a share of the competition points. With only minutes to go, Sharks' centre Speechley appeared to have clearly passed the ball off the ground before winger Glenn Coleman scored in the corner. Ghosn's reaction to Filmer's ruling would have been unprintable had Sharks' kicker Sean Watson landed the angled conversion to give his team a 30-28 win. The Magpies certainly didn't get the start they wanted yesterday. In fact, the Sharks stormed to a 10-0 lead after only nine minutes, scoring one try after a Magpies' handling error and another after the ball seemed to ricochet off the foot of one of their players. To their credit, Wests didn't lose their composure – and by half-time had scored two tries and grabbed a 14-12 lead. Sadly, for the Magpies, missed chances had robbed them of a more substantial lead. At least five prime scoring chances went begging, the most glaring six minutes from half-time when winger Phil Duke spilt a simple pass with the try-line wide open. Wests produced some of the best and most sustained attacking football of the season in the second half but Cronulla's incredible luck was the difference. The Magpies had plenty of heroes yesterday. From fullback Brett Clark, to props Scott Tronc and Ian Freeman, every player did his part. **(Daily Telegraph 13th July 1987)**

Notes: After being the better side for the whole match, Wests again failed to win. They bombed four certain tries and the last try by Cronulla was considered to be a no-try. Ian Schubert, backed up by Alan Fallah, had his best game of the season, while Trevor Cogger was inspirational as Wests began their comeback. John Bilbija left the field late with suspected knee cartilage damage.