



# 1985 Round 19 Sunday 14th July Wollongong Showground



## Western Suburbs 32

def.

## Illawarra 20

Leo EPIFANIA  
 John McARTHUR  
 Brett GALE  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Gerald CELARC  
 Gary WARNECKE  
 Michael NEIL  
 Mark HARRIGAN  
 Geoff DILLON  
 Craig CLARKE  
 Terry LEABEATER  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Lee CROOKS (c)  
 Allen GEELAN  
 Gary McFARLANE  
 Charlie El TOUBGI

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

Paul UPFIELD  
 David MOON  
 Stan BROWNE  
 Brian HETHERINGTON (c)  
 Jason MOON  
 Mick PATTISON  
 Greg MACKEY  
 Steve WORTHINGTON  
 Michael CARBERRY  
 Geoff SELBY  
 Phil CALDER  
 Michael BOLT  
 Scott GREENLAND  
 Kevin KELLY



**Tries** Craig CLARKE (2)  
 Trevor COGGER  
 John McARTHUR  
 Alan FALLAH

Steve WORTHINGTON  
 Greg MACKEY  
 Brian HETHERINGTON

**Goals** Lee CROOKS (6)

David MOON (4)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: J McArthur, T Cogger, B Gale, G Celarc; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: M Neil; forwards: M Harrigan, G Dillon, C Clarke, L Crooks (c), A Fallah, T Leabeater

**Illawarra:** Full-back: P Upfield; three-quarters: D Moon, S Browne, B Hetherington (c), J Moon; five-eighth: M Pattison; half: G Mackey; forwards: S Worthington, M Carberry, G Selby, P Calder, M Bolt, S Greenland **Referee: G Annesley (The Daily Mirror 15th July 1985)**

Western Suburbs' match-winner, Gary Warnecke, attributed the Magpies' victory over Illawarra yesterday to the missing bus that nearly delayed the start of the game. Wests' players arrived in Wollongong less than half an hour before the kick-off, having driven down convoy-style after their bus failed to turn up at the Leagues Club in Ashfield. Warnecke drove English import Lee Crooks to the ground and although the pair were the last to arrive, they played the starring roles in Wests' 32-20 win. ".... Wests' rushed warm-up seemed to work wonders with the Magpies starting the game in slashing style to hold an unbeatable 18-2 lead after half an hour. And leading the way were late-comers Warnecke and Crooks, with the smart five-eighth setting up two early tries and the English ball-player making the third. Coach Ken Gentle praised the Magpies' win in such extraordinary circumstances. "Considering our preparation for the match was shot to pieces, the boys did a great job," Gentle said. "The rushed warm-up didn't seem to hurt a bit and maybe we'll turn up late more often!" Wests led 18-8 at the break against an Illwarra side that played like you'd expect a team running 13th in a 13-team competition. They allowed the Magpies in for some 'soft' tries early in each half to move a step closer to their first-ever wooden spoon. Wests scored five tries to three in a continuation of the form that saw them knock over the strong St George side last week. The only blemish on their performance was some loose defence, which allowed Illwarra to score 20 points, despite offering little in the way of enterprising football. The Magpies continued to play the entertaining, free-flowing style that has become their trademark in recent matches. Their backline looked exceptionally sharp, with halves Michael Neil and Warnecke and centres Trevor Cogger and Brett Gale putting together some fine plays. With Crooks leading the way, Wests were equally dominant up front, with Craig Clarke, Geoff Dillon and hooker Alan Fallah also playing strongly. The improved Clarke had a picnic, trailing Warnecke all over the paddock to post two first-half tries. His second try was scored with embarrassing ease, with Warnecke fielding an Illawarra kick, charging straight through the defence and drawing the fullback before sending Clarke on a 40-metre run to the line. Coach Ken Gentle has at last been able to get some consistency into this side, with the Magpies recording two wins, a draw and a narrow loss to premiership leaders Balmain in their last four matches. Illwarra showed some flashes of good football but were never going to overhaul Wests' big early lead. "... .. (Daily Mirror 15th July 1985)

**Notes:** Wests continued their strong form with a convincing win, even though they arrived 30 minutes before the game after a booked bus didn't arrive. Gary Warnecke and Lee Crooks were both outstanding, Crooks landing six out of seven in tricky windy conditions. Alan Neil had one of his best games, overcoming a bout of gastritis, although there was a concern with Mark Harrigan who was taken to hospital after losing vision in his right eye, although he recovered well. Wests free-flowing style of recent games was paying dividends.