



1998 Round 19 Sunday 19th July Sydney Football Stadium



Sydney City 62

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Justin BROOKER
 Matt SING
 Ivan CLEARY
 Robert MILES
 Jack ELSEGOOD
 Brad FITTLER (c)
 Adrian LAM
 Brendan HURST
 Luke RICKETSON
 Nigel GAFFEY
 Justin DOOLEY
 Simon BONETTI
 Scott GOURLEY
 Bryan FLETCHER
 Shane RIGON
 Ryan CROSS
 Scott LOGAN

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

Brett WARTON
 Darryl FISHER
 Ken MCGUINNESS
 Travis BAKER
 Adam DONOVAN
 Kevin MCGUINNESS
 Brett HODGSON
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Scott COXON
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Chris YATES
 Trent BROWN
 John SKANDALIS
 Aaron COTTER
 Nick EDWARDS
 Harvey HOWARD
 Damian KENNEDY



Tries
 Adrian LAM (3)
 Robert MILES (2)
 Justin BROOKER (2)
 Matt SING
 Ivan CLEARY
 Jack ELSEGOOD
 Scott GOURLEY

Travis BAKER

Goals
 Ivan CLEARY (9)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Warton; three-quarters: D Fisher, Ken McGuinness, T Baker, A Donovan; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: B Hodgson; forwards: Paul Langmack (c), S Coxon, L Raudonikis, C Yates, T Brown, J Skandalis

Sydney City: Full-back: J Brooker; three-quarters: M Sing, R Miles, I Cleary, J Elsegood; five-eighth: B Fittler (c); half: A Lam; forwards: B Hurst, L Ricketson, N Gaffey, J Dooley, S Bonetti, S Gourley **Referee: T Mander (Big League 19th July 1998)**

Western Suburbs players must today feel shamed after being responsible for the club's worst ever loss to Sydney City. The two foundation clubs have played 180 matches against one another since 1908 but no winning margin eclipsed yesterday's 62-4 win by the Roosters at the SFS yesterday. Until yesterday, Sydney City (then Eastern Suburbs) scored their greatest win 53-0 over Wests at the old Sydney Sports Ground on July 8, 1916. It really was a black day for the Magpies - a club desperately fighting for survival in a culled 14-team competition in 2000. Sydney City scored eleven tries - four tries in the first half, seven in the second - to embarrass and punish a Wests' side which at times looked disinterested and simply refused to tackle. Wests were without several key players and did not receive a second half penalty - but nothing can justify such a horrendous loss. "I thought for 20 minutes we were reasonable but then we put our heads down and made too many mistakes. It was then a procession," said coach Tom Raudonikis "We didn't have any penalties in the second half but we still missed 54 tackles." The Magpies lost by just one point 18-17 to ARL premiers Newcastle last week - but the credibility gained from that performance has now dissolved. "That is what disappoints me," Raudonikis said. "We played like champions last week yet today we copped a hiding." One question must be asked after yesterday? Does such a loss hurt the club's quest to remain a single entity in 2000? Raudonikis and chief executive Martin Bullock admitted mergers are now a possibility. "I think we should be broad minded about it," Raudonikis said. And Bullock added: "We can't be stubborn to the point of extinction. We have to look at what is best for the club." It is difficult to determine whether Sydney City was scintillating yesterday or Wests were just pitiful? But the fact remains that the Roosters showed themselves to be feared opponents in the lead up to the finals. Adrian Lam scored three tries. He was fabulous. Forward Bryan Fletcher was awesome while Brad Fittler was, simply, Brad Fittler. It was 24-4 at half time before more Sydney city tries came in the 43rd, 47th, 56th, 58th, 76th and 79th minutes. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th July 1998)**

Notes: After the credible effort against Newcastle the previous week, this was a very humiliating defeat. It was in fact the biggest defeat since 1908 against Easts. There was C-Grade defence, with 54 missed tackles. In another example of the huge injury toll, there was yet again another debut, Trent Brown, at hooker.