



1989 Round 19 Sunday 6th August Lang Park



Brisbane 20

Grant RIX
 Brett PLOWMAN
 Tony CURRIE
 Chris JOHNS
 Michael HANCOCK
 Peter JACKSON
 Gary FRENCH
 Wally LEWIS (c)
 Andrew GEE
 Brett Le MAN
 Sam BACKO
 Kerrod WALTERS
 Scott TRONC
 Bryan NEIBLING
 Rohan TEEVAN

def.

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

Western Suburbs 8

Danny PEACOCK
 Graham MACKAY
 Jason STAFFORD
 Jason LIDDEN
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Brendon TUUTA
 Richard SMITH
 Ellery HANLEY (c)
 Cameron BLAIR
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Pat O'DOHERTY
 Shane FLANAGAN
 Dave WOODS
 Gary BUKOWSKI
 Trevor COGGER
 Craig TEITZEL



Tries Brett PLOWMAN (2)
 Brett Le MAN
 Michael HANCOCK

Brendon TUUTA

Goals Gary FRENCH (2)

Pat O'DOHERTY (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: G Mackay, J Lidden, J Stafford, W Simonds; five-eighth: B Tuuta; half: R Smith; forwards: E Hanley (c), C Blair, D Gallagher, D Woods, S Flanagan, P O'Doherty

Brisbane: Full-back: G Rix; three-quarters: M Hancock, T Currie, C Johns, B Plowman; five-eighth: P Jackson; half: G French; forwards: W Lewis (c), B Le Man, A Gee, S Backo, K Walters, S Tronc **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 9th August 1989)**

Sam Backo, one of Australia's Test heroes in NZ, found himself on the receiving end of criticism from Brisbane coach Wayne Bennett last night after the Broncos' unimpressive win over Western Suburbs at Lang Park. Brisbane took the honours 20-8 to move into fifth position on the competition table, but Bennett was still discouraged by several aspects of the game. Normally reluctant to publicly criticise his own players at post-match conferences, this time Bennett made no secret of his disappointment with Backo's performance. "I'm very dirty on him," Bennett said. "I thought Sam made a lot of unnecessary errors. He did a lot of good work, but brought it undone with unforced mistakes." Although Bennett singled Backo out as the player who disappointed him most, plenty of his Bronco team-mates were also guilty of making far too many errors. Brisbane led 14-2 at half-time, but the second half finished up six points all and it was hardly a performance to give Bennett much enthusiasm for the run home to the semi-finals over the next three weeks. "Everyone's been down in confidence so I suppose we were not going to play with a lot of great flair and excitement," he said. "After a losing run like ours you've got to just gradually claw your way back. I'm just pleased to get the two points." The most pleasing signs for Brisbane out of yesterday's match were the performances from heavyweight winger Brett Plowman and full-back Grant Rix. Plowman crashed his way through Wests' defenders like a runaway express train to score two outstanding tries in the first half to set up a match-winning lead. Bennett's decision to switch him from the reserve-grade second-row to the flank – as former Wests' coach Roy Masters did with John Ribot – has certainly proved to be a master stroke. The Magpie defenders simply had no answer to his power out wide. The full-back position has been a real worry for Brisbane in recent weeks, but Rix handled it brilliantly yesterday. Wally Lewis, switched to the lock position after his disappointing game the previous week against Balmain, was again quiet. He did get more involved, although it was hardly the dominant form the fans have come so accustomed to. While Brisbane struggled to get their act together for most of the game, Western Suburbs turned in one of their most disappointing performances of the season. Going into the game with five wins from their past six matches, the Magpies were generally expected to make a real game of it. But continuous handling errors on the first or second tackles cost them dearly. In the Brisbane team, front-rower Scott Tronc, hooker Kerrod Walters and second-rower Brett Le Man were the best forwards. But it is going to take an enormous improvement for the Broncos to win their remaining three matches. **(Daily Telegraph 7th August 1989)**

Notes: After their recent good form this was a very disappointing error-ridden performance. Numerous handling errors stopped any chance of finishing off attacking movements. The huge Brisbane winger, Brett Plowman, terrorised the smaller Wayne Simonds all day. For Wests, Pat O'Doherty was the best while Danny Peacock continued his brilliant attacking form.