



1997 Round 2 Saturday 15th March Sydney Football Stadium



Sydney City Roosters 18

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Ivan CLEARY	Fullback
Robert MILES	Wing
Matt SING	Centre
Jacin SINCLAIR	Centre
Jack ELSEGOOD	Wing
Dale SHEARER	Five-eighth
Brad FITTLER (c)	Half
Luke RICKETSON	Lock
Peter ELLIS	Second Row
Scott GOURLEY	Second Row
Terry HERMANSSON	Front Row
Simon BONETTI	Hooker
Jason LOWRIE	Front Row
Julian TROY	Replacement
Nathan WOOD	Replacement
Shane RIGON	Replacement
Darren JUNEE	Replacement

Andrew LEEDS
Aseri LAING
Ken McGUINNESS
Brandon PEARSON
Darren WILLIS
Steve GEORGALLIS
Willie NEWTON
Des HASLER
Damian KENNEDY
Paul LANGMACK (c)
James SMITH
Ciriaco MESCIA
Harvey HOWARD
Shane MILLARD
Kevin McGUINNESS
Chris YATES
John SKANDALIS



Tries Dale SHEARER
Jack ELSEGOOD

Ken McGUINNESS

Goals Ivan CLEARY (5)

Andrew LEEDS (1)

Match Description

Sydney City: Full-back: I Cleary; three-quarters: R Miles, M Sing, J Sinclair, J Elsegood; five-eighth: D Shearer; half: B Fittler (c); forwards: L Ricketson, P Ellis, S Gourley, T Hermansson, S Bonetti, J Lowrie

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: A Liang, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, D Willis; five-eighth: A Willis; half: Willie Newton; forwards: D Hasler, P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, J Smith, C Mescia, H Howard **Referee: E Ward (Big League 15th March 1997)**

Western Suburbs' skipper Paul Langmack admitted his players overdid the rough stuff after the Magpies took the game back to the bad old days of the 1970s against Sydney City yesterday. The Magpies had one player sent off, another certain to be cited and several more penalised for high tackles in a spiteful 18-6 loss to the Roosters at the SFS. In a blood and thunder affair, Damian Kennedy was sent off for a high shot while Englishman Harvey Howard is set to be cited for knocking out Roosters' skipper Brad Fittler. Kennedy was given his marching orders after just 10 minutes, effectively ending any hope Wests had of winning a scrappy affair. After a dreadful first round performance against Gold Coast, the Magpies vowed to get serious against the Roosters but took matters too far. Referee Eddie Ward had his hands full containing the Magpies' aggression and at one stage called the entire Wests' team in for a general caution. "We overdid it and there is no doubt some of our players got over-excited," Langmack said. "The heat of the moment got to us and we have to realise you've got to play the game within the rules. It is our own fault we lost - it was sheer stupidity and there were some ridiculous head-high tackles out there. How can you win a game when you play like that? But the fans probably loved it ... rugby league is back in town." Magpies' coach Tom Raudonikis denied claims by the Roosters' players that Wests went out to deliberately unsettle them with illegal tactics. "We just played aggressively... nothing more," Raudonikis said. "I can't comment on the high tackles until I have a good look at the video." Raudonikis was fuming at two tries disallowed by Ward that could have altered the result of the game. "We had two tries that looked OK to me pulled back," he said. "If we get them, we win the game. What is going on out there ... the referees and touch judges are hooked up but they still have trouble getting things right." Fittler remembered nothing of the incident in which he was floored after the whistle had blown for a forward pass. "I've had a few tablets and my head feels OK now," Fittler said. "I have no memory of what happened out there but I know one thing ... he didn't miss me." Fittler is likely to be stood down from next week's round after taking the heavy knock. Losing Fittler so early, the Roosters lacked a playmaker and had trouble putting away a courageous Wests' side. It wasn't until new signing Jack Elsegood, rushed in 24 hours before the game, scored five minutes from full time that the home side finally wrapped up the game. The Magpies battled away grimly and matched the Roosters stride for stride. Wests made plenty of breaks but lacked the know-how and experience to convert them into tries. **(The Sunday Telegraph 16th March 1997)**

Notes: Damian Kennedy was sent off in the 10th minute in a roughhouse match. It was also likely Harvey Howard would be cited for a head-high shot on Brad Fittler in the 4th minute. It was a very poor-quality match, where rugged football took over from skills. The entire Wests' team was cautioned in the 28th minute and captain Paul Langmack admitted that maybe they went over the top.