



# 1995 Round 2 Friday 17th March QE11 Stadium



## Brisbane 28

Julian O'NEILL  
 Wendall SAILOR  
 Chris JOHNS  
 Michael HANCOCK  
 Willie CARNE  
 Kevin WALTERS  
 Allan LANGER (c)  
 Darren SMITH  
 Alan CANN  
 Brad THORN  
 Andrew GEE  
 Kerrod WALTERS  
 Glenn LAZARUS  
 Peter RYAN  
 John PLATH  
 Brett GALEA

def.

## Western Suburbs 2

Andrew LEEDS  
 Paul SMITH  
 Ken McGUINNESS  
 Brandon PEARSON  
 Darren WILLIS  
 Steve GEORGALLIS  
 Jason ALCHIN  
 Darren BURNS  
 Paul LANGMACK (c)  
 Glenn GRIEF  
 Brent STUART  
 Jim SERDARIS  
 Neil TIERNEY  
 Mark HORO  
 Damian KENNEDY  
 Damian DRISCOLL  
 Josh WHITE



**Tries** Kevin WALTERS (2)  
 Darren SMITH  
 Julian O'NEILL  
 Allan LANGER

**Goals** Julian O'NEILL (4) Andrew LEEDS (1)

### Match Description

**Brisbane:** Full-back: J O'Neill; three-quarters: W Sailor, M Hancock, C Johns, W Carne; five-eighth: K Walters; half: A Langer; forwards: D Smith, A Cann, B Thorn, A Gee, K Walters, G Lazarus

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, K McGuinness, B Pearson, D Willis; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: J Alchin; forwards: D Burns, P Langmack (c), G Grief, B Stuart, J Serdaris, N Tierney **Referee: T Mander (Big League 17th March 1995)**

The Brisbane Broncos' little men, skipper Alan Langer and five-eighth Kevin Walters, stood tall as the premiership favourites cut Western Suburbs to shreds at ANZ Stadium last night. The pair ran in three slashing tries to spearhead a 28-2 walk-over and give the Broncos their best competition start in four years. Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis was only half joking when he said before the game that the way to beat the Broncos was to booby-trap their inspirational skipper. But sure enough, seven days after wrecking the Auckland Warriors, Langer was at it again last night, dodging the booby-traps and co-opting Walters as his partner in demolition. It was a double irony for Raudonikis, who coached both as teenagers at Ipswich nearly a decade ago. Referee Tim Mander was almost as big a menace to the Magpies, penalising them six times in the first half for infringing the 10-metre rule. Two of them resulted in prop Neil Tierney and lock Darren Burns being sin-binned. "It meant we played them with twelve men for a quarter of the match," Raudonikis said. "You just can't do that with the Broncos... they're one of the great sides. We were lucky it was only 16-2 at the break. We didn't play well but I'm still proud of the way they hung in there, particularly in the second half. We scrambled but were never a chance. We'll regroup on Monday and worry about Auckland then." ... Bennett's main concern now centres on the backup strength for his team. The Broncos bowed to a warning by the Australian Rugby League and again elected not to use unregistered young hooker John Driscoll as a replacement. The club runs the risk of being stripped of competition points if it fields unregistered players and loses its salary cap challenge in May. With only 25 players at his disposal, Bennett is concerned that a run of injuries could seriously deplete his player list. "We can't afford to take a risk with anyone outside the 25 until the case is settled," he said. He is also concerned that it would affect players like Driscoll further into the season if they are playing well and cannot be considered for the top grade. "It might not hinder some of them but I think it would affect somebody like Driscoll. He's got to be disappointed if it works out that way." But Bennett said he thought the club was unlikely to seek an earlier hearing of the matter. "I think we've just got to go with that. It's not a matter of life and death for the court." The Broncos passed two milestones on their way to victory last night. The score of 28-2 took them past 2000 points in home games since entering the competition in 1988 - at an average of just over 26 points a game. And the crowd of 32,860 took their total home attendance since 1988 past the 2 million mark at a game average of almost 26,000. Centre Michael Hancock (ankle) and lock Darren Smith (hamstring) were injured but are expected to be available next week. **(Sydney Morning Herald 18th March 1995)**

**Notes:** Wests tried hard but were clearly outclassed as they were carved up by Alfie Langer and Kevin Walters. Two players were sent to the sin-bin in the first half and, as coach Tommy Raudonikis pointed out, it's pretty hard to play Brisbane for 20 minutes with only 12 men.