



# 1994 Round 2 Sunday 20th March Newcastle Sports



## Western Suburbs 19

def.

## Newcastle 18

Andrew LEEDS  
 Manoa THOMPSON  
 Damien McGARRY  
 Steve GEORGALLIS  
 Darren WILLIS  
 Dale FRITZ  
 Jason ALCHIN  
 Darren BROWN  
 Paul LANGMACK (c)  
 Stephen KEARNEY  
 Glenn GRIEF  
 Jim SERDARIS  
 Neil TIERNEY  
 Scott HARDY  
 Kyle WHITE  
 Brad HUGHES

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

Robbie O'DAVIS  
 Jamie AINSCOUGH  
 Brad GODDEN  
 Russell WYER  
 Nathan BARNES  
 Matthew JOHNS  
 Andrew JOHNS  
 Marc GLANVILLE  
 Adam MUIR  
 Tony BUTTERFIELD  
 Paul HARRAGON  
 Robbie McCORMACK  
 Mark SARGENT (c)  
 Steve CROWE  
 Darren TREACY

**Tries** Andrew LEEDS  
 Glenn GRIEF  
 Steve GEORGALLIS

Russell WYER  
 Paul HARRAGON  
 Jamie AINSCOUGH

**Goals** Andrew LEEDS (3)  
 Jim SERDARIS (1) Field Goal

Andrew JOHNS (3)

### Match Description

**Newcastle:** Full-back: R O'Davis; three-quarters: N Barnes, B Godden, R Wyer J Ainscough; five-eighth: M Johns; half: A Johns; forwards: M Glanville, A Muir, T Butterfield, P Harragon, R McCormack, M Sargent (c)

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: M Thompson, D McGarry, S Georgallis, D Willis; five-eighth: D Fritz; half: J Alchin; forwards: D Brown, P Langmack (c), S Kearney, G Grief, J Serdaris, N Tierney **Referee: G Annesley (Daily Telegraph 21st March 1994)**

For 15 minutes at Marathon Stadium yesterday, it appeared Western Suburbs were on a self-destruct mission. Using spoiling tactics in the play-the-ball, the Magpies conceded seven penalties and four shots at goal in the opening minutes as they tested referee Graham Annesley's patience to the limit. It seemed as if they were intent on handing the match to Newcastle on a platter. But it was the Knights' failure to take advantage of their early opportunities which played a major part in their downfall as Wests maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a narrow 19-18 victory. A field goal for man of the match Jim Serdaris just nine minutes from full time proved the difference after the Knights almost came back from the dead to snatch an unlikely win. Down 10-2 at halftime and 18-6 thirteen minutes into the second half, Newcastle stormed back with three tries to level it up but it was all to no avail. Wests' captain Paul Langmack said his side had taken great heart from keeping the Knights tryless in the first half "We probably went a bit overboard early with the penalties but they had all the ball and could not score against us," Langmack said. That was a telling factor. It gave our defence a lot of confidence." ... Wests, obviously believing Annesley's penalty barrage would not continue for the full 80 minutes continued to frustrate the Knights by slowing the play the ball. They paid the price either side of the half time break when, firstly replacement forward Scott Hardy and then centre Damien McGarry, were sent to the sin bin. But by then most of the damage had been done on the scoreboard. The Magpies had their share of luck along the way. Their opening try came off a blatant forward pass by Sedaris who put prop Glen Grief over after a typical burst from dummy half. ... Wests' coach Warren Ryan refused to be drawn on his sides slowing-down tactics, claiming they had won through courageous defence. "We played without men and without the football and it was just a magnificent defensive performance," he said. "We were dying of starvation out there in the second half and the script called for a Newcastle win but we showed a lot of courage to hang on. Knights coach David Waite, who was seething with his side at half time, was disappointed the crackdown in the play-the-ball area did not last the full 80 minutes. "We knew what their tactics would be but rather than cope with them, we got frustrated, and that was disappointing," he said. "But we came back well in the second half and had we made better use of a couple of opportunities, we may have won." Waite may have made a tactical blunder in deciding to replace his captain Mark Sargent, during the second half. Sargent was the Knights' best, making a number of strong bursts to put the Magpies on the back foot, but was rested just when an inspirational run was needed from the big fellow. ... **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 21st March 1994)**

**Notes:** Manoa Thompson (ex-Souths) made his debut and played well. Wests slowed down Newcastle's play-the-ball and although it drew a large number of penalties, it was quite effective, especially when combined with some sterling defence. It was a gritty win since Wests had two players in the sin-bin either side of half-time. In the end, Jim Serdaris dropped a winning field goal, his first ever attempt in a game, capping a match where he was clearly the best player on the field.