



# 1998 Round 2 Sunday 22nd March Campbelltown Stadium



## Melbourne 26

def.

## Western Suburbs 16

Robbie ROSS  
 Craig SMITH  
 Paul BELL  
 John CARLAW  
 Marcus BAI  
 Scott HILL  
 Brett KIMMORLEY  
 Tawera NIKAU  
 Robbie KEARNS  
 Ben ROARTY  
 Rodney HOWE  
 Danny WILLIAMS  
 Glenn LAZARUS (c)  
 Richard SWAIN  
 Matt GEYER  
 Paul MARQUET  
 Russell BAWDEN

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

Brett HODGSON  
 Darren WILLIS  
 Ken McGUINNESS  
 Andrew LEEDS  
 Aseri LAING  
 Kevin McGUINNESS  
 Steve GEORGALLIS  
 Paul LANGMACK (c)  
 Damian KENNEDY  
 Shayne McMENEMY  
 John SKANDALIS  
 Ciriaco MESCIA  
 Darren RAMEKA  
 Chris YATES  
 Leo DYNEVOR  
 Scott COXON  
 Adrian RAINEY



**Tries** Danny WILLIAMS  
 Marcus BAI  
 Robbie KEARNS  
 Paul BELL  
 Robbie ROSS

Ken McGUINNESS  
 Ciriaco MESCIA

**Goals** Craig SMITH (3)

Andrew LEEDS (4)

### Match Description

**Melbourne:** Full-back: R Ross; three-quarters: C Smith, P Bell, J Carlaw, M Bai; five-eighth: S Hill; half: B Kimmorley; forwards: T Nikau, R Kearns, B Roarty, R Howe, D Williams, G Lazarus (c)

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: B Hodgson; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, A Leeds, A Laing; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, S McMenemy, J Skandalis, C Mescia, D Rameka **Referee: S Chiddy (Big League 22nd March 1998)**

John Ribot's politics of recent years, when he was brains behind the divisive Super League, should have tipped us off that he held little regard for history. So, it was no surprise Melbourne treated Western Suburbs 90 years' of tradition with contempt yesterday. The Storm, in the competition for all of five minutes, had more regard for the wilting heat, which played its part in the Melbourne's second successive win in the National Rugby League as much as any kick or tackle. The temperature was so hot players began to fade away in the second half. As the mercury headed into the 40s on the field, players would spit only to see it evaporate before it hit the ground. When the wind finally kicked in, it felt like somebody had opened a sauna door. Paul Langmack, probably the only player able to, had to go all the way back to 1983 to recall a game equally as hot. "I was only a kid then," Langmack made clear first, "but Darryl Brohman, Phil Gould and Tas Baitieri took the field that day with zinc on their noses. We got beat on the bell." So, it was temperature 1, history 0. Langmack, the Western Suburbs captain, touched on this after the game when he tried to dissect why his team had been beaten in a game they fully expected to win. .. His coach, Tom Raudonikis, wasn't prepared to waste energy worrying about such grand matters. He'd just seen his team play what he described as their worst game in his long association with the club. Raudonikis acknowledged the heat but rightly pointed out Melbourne played in it, too. He wasn't looking for excuses, but answers. They probably lay in how easy Melbourne, through the large bodies of Glen Lazarus, Rodney Howe, Robbie Kearns and Ben Roarty, made ground through the middle. When the Storm held back on the fancy plays and concentrated on grounding out metres with go-forward charges, the Magpies were helpless. ... As expected, both teams fell away in the second half when the heat took its toll. Few sets ever saw their way to the sixth tackle and players began to drop off tackles. "At some stages, it was dead set like a game of touch out there," Langmack said. The Storm have, rightfully, refused to get carried away with their success so far. "It's a fairly sombre dressing room at the moment," Lazarus, the captain, said. "We just put the effort in and came away with the result we wanted." Anderson, hearing Lazarus's answer, even piped up with "taking it one game at a time". But away from the press you might expect them to afford themselves a wry smile. Managing director Ribot's mantra has been that he had to give the people of Melbourne a new, successful team if they were to have followed it from the start. Two wins in a row has sent the Storm off to one of the best starts in premiership history. ... (Sydney Morning Herald 23rd March 1998)

**Notes:** Wests were expected to win this match but it was a very poor performance in 40+ degree heat. The forwards simply couldn't stop the big Melbourne forwards through the rucks. Paul Langmack seemed to play a lone hand, while coach Raudonikis threatened changes.