



1991 Round 20 Sunday 11th August Bruce Stadium



Canberra 36

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Gary BELCHER
 Paul MARTIN
 Matthew WOOD
 Mal MENINGA (c)
 Jason CROKER
 Laurie DALEY
 Ricky STUART
 Bradley CLYDE
 Gary COYNE
 David BARNHILL
 Darren FRITZ
 Steve WALTERS
 Brent TODD
 Stuart STANTON
 Mark BELL
 Brett BOYD
 Steve STONE

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

Shaun DEVINE
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Tony COSATTO
 Andrew FARRAR
 Stan PRESDEE
 Jason LIDDEN
 Jason TAYLOR
 Graeme WYNN
 Joe THOMAS (c)
 David GILLESPIE
 Steve JACKSON
 Shane FLANAGAN
 Darren BRITT
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Jamie AINSCOUGH



Tries Laurie DALEY (2)
 Ricky STUART
 Mal MENINGA
 Jason CROKER
 Mark BELL

Steve JACKSON

Goals Mal MENINGA (6)

Jason TAYLOR (2)

Match Description

Canberra: Full-back: G Belcher; three-quarters: P Martin, M Wood, M Meninga (c), J Croker; five-eighth: L Daley; half: R Stuart; forwards: B Clyde, G Coyne, D Barnhill, D Fritz, S Walters, B Todd

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, A Farrar, T Cosatto, S Presdee; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: J Taylor; forwards: G Wynn, D Gillespie, J Thomas (c), S Jackson, S Flanagan, D Britt **Referee: W Harrigan (Big League 14th August 1991)**

The re-signing of Kangaroo captain Mal Meninga last week was the inspiration behind Canberra's 36-8 drubbing of Western Suburbs at Bruce Stadium yesterday. Meninga played a real captain's game, notching 16 points with a try and six goals, but he was only one of the stars that ran the Magpies ragged in the second half with brilliant backline play and strong defence that rarely allowed Wests out of their own quarter. The Raiders warned all other sides they were still in the race for a third successive premiership. Wests' coach Warren Ryan said his side might go down in history as the one that began Canberra's 1991 resurgence. "They were too good," Ryan said after the match. "We were out-classed by too much strike power." Ryan declared Canberra a great side and capable of going all the way in 1991. Canberra coach Tim Sheens told his players before the game to "hunt" Wests' exciting young halfback Jason Taylor – and hunt him they did. Taylor folded under the constant harassment of Raiders' halves Ricky Stuart and Laurie Daley and played his worst game in a long time. The young Magpie was twice caught with the ball on the sixth tackle near his own 22m line and one of these mistakes led to Meninga's try as he and lock Bradley Clyde exchanged passes before Clyde sent his skipper charging at the line, knocking over unfortunate fullback Shaun Devine as he scored. It was unfortunate for anyone to get between Meninga and the tryline in the determined mood he was in yesterday. Daley and Clyde were awesome as they treated the Magpie defence with contempt and tackled ferociously. So dominant were the Raiders in that half that even without Stuart for 10 minutes they still kept Wests pinned down. The Magpies were hustled into poor kicks, dropped balls and shoddy backline play by a side that were more determined and far more skilled. Canberra have found a rising star in Darren Fritz, who took on the battle-hardened Wests' pack and, apart from Clyde, was the best forward on the ground. A strong break by the 100kg front-rower resulted in a try as he sent a nice pass to unmarked winger Jason Croker. There was gloom in the Wests' dressing-room after the match with the news that veteran forward Graeme Wynn might have played his last game. Wynn badly injured his knee in a tackle in the first half and this unsettled Wests as he had been their best player, making several breaks as he burst through tackles. Mainly because of Wynn and front-rower Steve Jackson, Wests were still in the game at half-time, trailing only 14-8. Jackson scored Wests' only try. The Magpies, if they pick themselves up after this loss, are in line for a spot in the semi-finals, but they will be praying that Canberra don't make it. **(Sydney Morning Herald 12th August 1991)**

Notes: Wests were completely out-played and out-classed by a white-hot Canberra. Laurie Daley and Bradley Clyde were outstanding and the usually reliable Wests' defence couldn't hold them. Wests were also hampered when their best forward, Graeme Wynn, was forced to leave the field with a season-ending knee injury. Canberra's tactics were to target Jason Taylor and it worked; he was blotted out of the game.