



# 1989 Round 20 Sunday 13th August Leichhardt Oval



## Balmain 40

def.

## Western Suburbs 0

Garry JACK  
 Steve O'BRIEN  
 Tim BRASHER  
 Andy CURRIER  
 James GRANT  
 Michael NEIL  
 Gary FREEMAN  
 Wayne PEARCE (c)  
 Paul SIRONEN  
 Bruce McGUIRE  
 Steve ROACH  
 Ben ELIAS  
 Steve EDMED  
 Michael POBJIE  
 Shaun EDWARDS  
 John ELIAS  
 Tony CHALMERS

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

Danny PEACOCK  
 Graham MACKAY  
 Jason STAFFORD  
 Jason LIDDEN  
 Wayne SIMONDS  
 Brendon TUUTA  
 Richard SMITH  
 Ellery HANLEY (c)  
 Cameron BLAIR  
 Dave GALLAGHER  
 Pat O'DOHERTY  
 Shane FLANAGAN  
 Dave WOODS  
 Gary BUKOWSKI  
 Ian HOWCROFT  
 Nick STEVANOVIC



**Tries** James GRANT (3)  
 Bruce McGUIRE  
 Ben ELIAS  
 Shaun EDWARDS  
 Tim BRASHER

**Goals** Andy CURRIER (6)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: G Jack; three-quarters: S O'Brien, T Brasher, A Currier, J Grant; five-eighth: M Neil; half: G Freeman; forwards: W Pearce (c), P Sironen, B McGuire, S Roach, B Elias, S Edmed

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: W Simonds, J Lidden, J Stafford, G Mackay; five-eighth: B Tuuta; half: R Smith; forwards: E Hanley (c), C Blair, D Gallagher, D Woods, S Flanagan, P O'Doherty **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 16th August 1989)**

Balmain yesterday took only 32 minutes to demolish any lingering doubts about the team's ability to match the backline brilliance of the other premiership semi-final contenders. Fearsome forward power took a back seat to sizzling speed, attacking ingenuity and sheer class as the Tigers tore Western Suburbs apart in a 40-0 whitewash. Fortunate to lead 12-0 with the wind by half-time, Balmain poured on the points in the second half as centres Tim Brasher and Andy Currier, full-back Garry Jack and winger James Grant cut loose in devastating style. The scoring avalanche destroyed all of Wests' fine first-half work and later wrought a torrent of tributes from Tigers' coach Warren Ryan. Ryan only just stopped short of describing the Tigers' second-half performance as the best by any team he has coached. "It was a great second half," Ryan said. "Everything went right." Ryan had ... Wests battled bravely – and without luck – to trail only 12-0 at the break but were then swamped. Magpies' coach John Bailey, who was highly critical of referee Graham Annesley's interpretation of the five metres rule when Balmain had the ball, conceded that the Tigers were a super side. "Up until today I thought Penrith were the pick," Bailey said. "But Balmain were awesome for the last 30 minutes and they've changed my mind. They can go all the way." Bailey revealed he had been satisfied with Wests' position at half-time – and was having thoughts of an upset. "I thought we were right in it," he said. Balmain owed the 12-0 lead to a Wests' mistake and the amazing speed of Englishman Currier. Magpies' full-back Danny Peacock presented the Tigers with their first try after only eight minutes, losing the ball straight to the hands of winger James Grant, who did the rest. Then with less than three minutes to go before the break, Currier stood up three defenders to set up the second for Grant. Th speedy centre beat a Wests' defensive wall with a change of pace and a 50m sideline sprint and put Grant away. The second half was a lesson in attacking play for Wests. The Tigers did it this way: **8 min:** Currier and Brasher combine in a sparkling move before Brasher scores. **25 min:** Super lead-up before Brasher puts Grant in for his third try **32 min:** Shaun Edwards dances into the clear and puts second-rower Bruce McGuire over under the posts **35 min:** Jack breaks through from the kick-off. Brasher does the rest and Edwards scores under the posts **37 min:** Hooker Benny Elias takes an intercept 70m out and links with Currier before getting the ball to score again. **(Daily Telegraph 14th August 1989)**

**Notes:** Wests tore into the Balmain forwards in the first half and although down 12-0 at half-time, they had been running into a gale. Coach John Bailey couldn't understand why the "wheels fell off" in the second half but it was the most disappointing performance of the season. Although the forward pack was badly outplayed in the second half, Pat O'Doherty could hold his head high after another devastating effort.