

1994 Round 20 Sunday 14th August Campbelltown Stadium

Western Suburbs 34

Andrew LEEDS Paul SMITH Justin DOOLEY Darren WILLIS Jason EADE Andrew WILLIS Josh WHITE Paul LANGMACK Mark AFFLICK Stephen KEARNEY Glenn GRIEF Jim SERDARIS (c) Brent STUART Peter SHIELS Brandon PEARSON

def.

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

Mark McGAW David PENNA Jacin SINCLAIR Paul MELLOR Jason BELL Craig FIELD (c) Tyran SMITH Tony MESTROV Jeremy DONOUGHER Brett GOLDSPINK Duncan McRAE Terry HERMANSSON Brett LANGFORD John ELIAS Gene NGAMU

South Sydney 26

Darrell TRINDALL



Tries

Goals

Paul SMITH (2) Darren WILLIS Brandon PEARSON Jim SERDARIS Paul LANGMACK Josh WHITE

Brandon PEARSON (3)

Darrell TRINDALL (3)

David PENNA

Duncan McRAE

Mark McGAW Paul MELLOR

Jason BELL

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: D Trindall; three-quarters: M McGaw, D Penna, J Sinclair, P Mellor; five-eighth: J Bell; half: C Field (c); forwards: T Smith, T Mestrov, J Donougher, B Goldspink, D McRae, T Hermansson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, D Willis, J Dooley, J Eade; five-eighth: A Willis; half: J White; forwards: P Langmack, M Afflick, S Kearney, B Stuart, J Serdaris (c), G Grief Referee: E Ward (Daily Telegraph 15th August 1994)

Carefully planned defensive patterns, intricate set play moves, bleeding the rules for all they are worth ... these are all ploys that rugby league coaches delve into in the hope of winning premiership games. But Wests' caretaker coach Wayne Ellis came up with a different, and successful, one yesterday when discussing the improved efforts over recent weeks, culminating in an impressive 34 to 26 win over South Sydney at Campbelltown Sports Ground. "A big problem here was the blame factor- players blaming each other when things are going wrong," Ellis said. "We had to take away that blame factor. Now that is being done, we're playing with togetherness. We don't have any semi-finals to worry about so they are going out there and enjoying themselves. It is a happy club at the moment." Happiness, togetherness, no blame factor... you will get long odds about any of them appearing in a coaching manual. But the Magpies are winning proof the trio is working out west. Suggestions that Western Suburbs could reduce a 16 to 4 deficit into a comprehensive win would have seen you open to much ridicule. But that's exactly what the Magpies achieved yesterday. When Souths led 10-0 after 7 minutes, it appeared a lopsided debacle might occur. Even when Wests clawed back with a try, Souths retaliated with another for a 16-4 advantage midway through the first session. But the "lie down and cop it sweet" Wests didn't appear and, with tries to Brandon Pearson and Jim Serdaris, they trailed by only two points at the break, 16-14. Ellis' half time sermon worked wonders and, with tries to Paul Langmack and Josh White within five minutes of the resumption, Wests were ahead 26-16. Souths continued to waste golden opportunities to score before hooker Duncan McRae finally crossed to narrow the margin to 26-20. When Paul Smith pounced on a loose ball and sprinted 40 metres to score, Wests again had a buffer - 30-20 - but Souths, through a Mark McGaw try, whittled it to 30-26. Finally, the match was sealed when Smith crossed for his second try - his 17th of the year nine minutes from full time. The bad news didn't stop at full time for the Rabbitohs. Lock Tyran Smith was placed on report by referee Eddie Ward for striking a player not in possession of the ball, and Wests will also look at the video of the match today for an incident concerning second-rower Stephen Kearney. Kearney appeared to get a finger in the eye. "I'm not saying I was gouged or blaming anyone," Kearney said. "It may have been an accident, but it didn't feel that way." (Sydney Morning Herald 15th August 1994)

Notes: Down 16-4, Wests stormed back to record an impressive win. The news that Tommy Raudonikis had been appointed coach for two years seemed to lift the spirits within the club and it was a real team effort. Paul Smith scored his 17th try of the year and was voted the Players' player. Stephen Kearney led a very strong pack, while Jim Serdaris continually made ground from dummy-half.

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