



1998 Round 21 Sunday 2nd August Belmore Sports Ground



Canterbury 56

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Rod SILVA	Fullback
Gavin LESTER	Wing
Matthew RYAN	Centre
Willie TALAU	Centre
Daryl HALLIGAN	Wing
Craig POLLA-MOUNTER	Five-eighth
Corey HUGHES	Half
Travis NORTON	Lock
Robert RELF	Second Row
Barry WARD	Second Row
Robert TOCCO	Front Row
Jason HETHERINGTON	Hooker
Darren BRITT (c)	Front Row
Tony GRIMALDI	Replacement
Troy STONE	Replacement
Glen HUGHES	Replacement
David THOMPSON	Replacement

Ken McGUINNESS
Darryl FISHER
Travis BAKER
Kevin McGUINNESS
Darren WILLIS
Steve GEORGALLIS
Brett HODGSON
Scott COXON
Paul LANGMACK (c)
Damian KENNEDY
Chris YATES
Trent BROWN
Harvey HOWARD
Aseri LAING
Nick EDWARDS
Brenton POMEROY
Lincoln RAUDONIKIS



Tries	Gavin LESTER (2)
	Rod SILVA (2)
	Barry WARD
	Darren BRITT
	David THOMPSON
	Corey HUGHES
	Willie TALAU

Travis BAKER (2)
Aseri LAING

Goals	Daryl HALLIGAN (10)
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Brett HODGSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: Ken McGuinness; three-quarters: D Fisher, Kevin McGuinness, T Baker, D Willis five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: B Hodgson; forwards: S Coxon, P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, C Yates, T Brown, H Howard

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: R Silva; three-quarters: G Lester, M Ryan, W Talau, D Halligan; five-eighth: C Polla-Mounter; half: C Hughes; forwards: T Norton, R Relf, B Ward, R Tocco, J Hetherington, D Britt (c) **Referee: K Jeffes (Big League 2nd August 1998)**

Western Suburbs would not have a single player selected in a merged team with Canterbury based on yesterday's abysmal performance between the clubs at Belmore. Canterbury ran in ten tries - two each to fullback Rod Silva and winger Gary Lester - to crush Wests 56-14. Should a marriage between the clubs eventuate, Canterbury players would certainly dominate selection if yesterday's match was any gauge. The Bulldogs led 20-0 after 19 minutes and 32-4 at half time. Wests have now conceded 156 points in their past three matches. "We're in a hole and it's hard getting out of the hole. But we won't throw in the towel," said Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis. "It was the same old story today. But I love my football and this club. I'm just embarrassed for the supporters. We'll just try and turn things around for next year." Raudonikis again claimed injuries and defence led to his side's surrender. "In the end I didn't have any replacements left. Tried a few things in the second half that didn't really work," he said. "After half time it didn't matter. The horse had bolted. But there were no excuses - we played poorly. I have a contract here for next season and I'll be fulfilling that contract. I can still walk around Campbelltown with my head high." Raudonikis remains optimistic he can significantly improve the Magpies in 1999. "I captained Wests to the 1977 wooden spoon and to the 1978 minor premiership," he said. "I don't give up. It's been a tough year but we'll fight to the end." Wests battled away in the second half but lacked the depth to extend any quality side. However, prop Darren Fritz will return from suspension next week. "It hasn't been a pleasant season," Raudonikis said. "but as I said, we'll fight to the end." Canterbury had plenty of fine players including Silva, Barry Ward, Jason Hetherington and Willie Talau. **(The Daily Telegraph 3rd August 1998)**

Notes: Amidst talk of a Bulldogs/Wests merger, Canterbury put on 20 points in the first 20 minutes, mainly off Wests' errors, and were down 32-4 at half-time. To make matters worse both props, Howard and Pomeroy, were injured and couldn't take the field in the second half. Raudonikis ran out of replacements and the Bulldogs ran riot in the middle of the field.