



1989 Round 21 Sunday 20th August Orana Park



Penrith 37

Neil BAKER
 Alan McINDOE
 Darren WILLIS
 Col BENTLEY
 Andrew SIMONS
 Brad IZZARD
 Greg ALEXANDER
 Colin Van der VOORT
 John CARTWRIGHT
 Mark GEYER
 Geoff GERARD
 Royce SIMMONS (c)
 Matt GOODWIN
 Brad FITTLER
 Mark CARROLL

def.

Western Suburbs 0

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

Brett DOCHERTY
 Graham MACKAY
 Ellery HANLEY (c)
 Jason STAFFORD
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Jason LIDDEN
 Trevor COGGER
 Brendon TUUTA
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Cameron BLAIR
 Dave WOODS
 Richard SMITH
 Pat O'DOHERTY
 Chris BLAIR
 Shane FLANAGAN
 Stan PRESDEE



Tries Greg ALEXANDER (2)
 Brad IZZARD
 Colin Van der VOORT
 Darren WILLIS

Goals Neil BAKER (9) One Field Goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Docherty; three-quarters: W Simonds, E Hanley (c), J Stafford, G Mackay; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: T Cogger; forwards: B Tuuta, C Blair, D Gallagher, D Woods, R Smith, P O'Doherty

Penrith: Full-back: N Baker; three-quarters: A McIndoe, D Willis, C Bentley, A Simons; five-eighth: B Izzard; half: G Alexander; forwards: C Van der Voort, M Geyer, J Cartwright, G Gerard, R Simmons (c), M Goodwin **Referee: T Kelly (Rugby League Week 23rd August 1989)**

Penrith's new sensation Brad Fittler – too young to have a drink himself – was hitting the books while the Magpies were drowning their sorrows after yesterday's massacre at Orana Park. Fittler, 17, made his eagerly-awaited first-grade debut 12 minutes into the second half and proceeded to hammer a few more nails in Western Suburbs' coffin as the Panthers raced to a 37-0 win. But the youngster had no time for celebrations after setting up two second-half tries with touches of genius. After a quick shower, he was out of the Penrith dressing room and on his way home to study for Trial Higher School Certificate exams which continue today. Fittler, who recently represented the Australian Schoolboys with distinction against the touring Great Britain equivalent, admitted to being petrified before yesterday's game. He had only played grade football for the first time in the previous round, starring at five-eighth in reserve grade against Manly. "There were heaps of nerves," Fittler said with relief after surviving his first-grade initiation. "I couldn't concentrate on studying for exams this morning, so I just went to visit my girlfriend and we went to the game together. But I'm not going back to the club or anything tonight – I'm heading home to study. I have a Biology exam tomorrow. After the way Fittler, who replaced five-eighth Brad Izzard, handled the dissection of Wests' defence to set up tries in the 56th and 78th minutes, Biology should be no problem at all. Fittler's first touch of the ball saw him side-step Wests' prop Pat O'Doherty and then half Trevor Cogger before racing downfield. Centre Col Bentley loomed alongside in support with only one defender ahead of the pair, but Fittler kicked ahead rather than pass and half Greg Alexander swooped on the ball for a try. Fittler and Alexander again combined for the Panthers' last try, in the 78th minute. Alexander sent Fittler into the clear and he again side-stepped a hapless defender on the way to putting centre Darren Willis over. Penrith was, of course, well in charge at 15-0 before Fittler took the field. But the point of the rookie's excellent debut is that it gives coach Ron Willey a valuable option going into the semi-finals. Willey was coy about his plans for Fittler, who appeals as an ideal fresh reserve for the big games. "I'm not going to show my hand to the other teams," Willey said with a wry grin. **(Daily Mirror 21st August 1989)**

.....

Notes: Even though the early forward clashes, led by a rampant Pat O'Doherty, were torrid, in the end Wests were outclassed and outplayed. An overall lack of discipline was a major problem. The main feature of the match was the sensational debut of the teenage Brad Fittler. He came on as replacement for Brad Izzard and carved up Wests. Stan Presdee made his debut as a replacement.