

1994 Round 21 Sunday 21st August Bruce Stadium

Canberra 40 def. Western Suburbs 22

Brett MULLINS Fullback Andrew LEEDS Paul SMITH Albert FULIVAI Wing Mal MENINGA (c) Darren WILLIS Centre Ruben WIKI Centre **Brandon PEARSON** Noa NADRUKU Wing Jason EADE Jason CROKER Five-eighth **Andrew WILLIS** Ricky STUART Half Josh WHITE **Bradley CLYDE** Lock Paul LANGMACK **David FURNER** Second Row Stephen KEARNEY **Brett HETHERINGTON** Second Row Mark AFFLICK Quentin PONGIA Front Row **Brent STUART** Steve WALTERS Hooker Jim SERDARIS (c) John LOMAX Front Row Glenn GRIEF **David WESTLEY** Replacement Justin DOOLEY Ken NAGAS Replacement **Kyle WHITE** Jason DEATH Replacement **Ewan McGRADY**

Tries Jason CROKER (2) Brandon PEARSON (2)

Bradley CLYDE (2) Paul SMITH
Noa NADRUKU (2) Josh WHITE
Ruben WIKI

Replacement

Goals David FURNER (3) Andrew LEEDS (3)

Mal MENINGA (1)

Laurie DALEY

Laurie DALEY

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, D Willis, B Pearson, D Willis, J Eade; five-eighth: A Willis; half: J White; forwards: P Langmack, S Kearney, M Afflick, G Grief, J Serdaris (c), B Stuart

Canberra: Full-back: B Mullins; three-quarters: A Fulivai, M Meninga (c), R Wiki, N Nadruku; five-eighth: J Croker; half: R Stuart; forwards: B Clyde, D Furner, B Hetherington, J Lomax, S Walters, Q Pongia Referee: S Clark (Daily Telegraph 22nd August 1994)

Mal Meninga revealed details of a new bid to keep him in Canberra after a ground record 23,253 bade him a tumultuous farewell at Bruce Stadium yesterday. The Test captain was stunned when the main grandstand at Bruce Stadium was officially named after him at a presentation following the 40-22 win against Western Suburbs. Thousands of children mobbed him as he made a slow lap of honour after his final home game - as a player - with the Raiders. Wests' led at half time, with the Raiders not really assuring themselves of victory until Laurie Daley strolled over untouched with 18 minutes left. Meninga didn't score. Referee Steve Clarke ruled he lost the ball as he was being bundled towards the corner post in the 28th minute. But no one in the Raiders' camp thought the unconvincing nature of the victory was a bad sign going into next Sunday's tilt for third spot against Manly at Brookvale Oval "They've been on the boil for six to seven weeks," coach Tim Sheens said. "You can't expect the side to maintain that situation all the time. Today was good because it reminded us we are not infallible. "... Sheens, who again cited Kiwi front-rowers John Lomax and Quentin Pongia as key performers, repeated earlier statements about the importance of the top three but added the Raiders would remain confident if they missed out. "Next week isn't a Grand Final, but it's the first of our semifinals," he said. Magpies' coach Wayne Ellis predicted the Raiders would be premiers. Asked why, he answered: "They are the best side in the comp, it's as simple as that. They've got a good pack of forwards, an exceptional set of backs. I think that fact is a testimony to how well my blokes played. They are playing with a lot of guts at the moment." Test five-eighth Daley, who returned from minor knee surgery as a replacement in the 51st minute, appears certain to be called into the starting side next week but NSW winger Ken Nagas may again be selected in reserve grade. He came back from an injury there yesterday, and was used as a first-grade replacement. ... The Magpies' bustling tactics yesterday resulted in a 12-2 penalty count against them, and they lost Dooley in the 73rd minute when he was sent off for a high tackle on lock Brad Clyde." ... (Sydney Morning Herald 22nd August 1994)

Notes: Wests played very well and were in Canberra's faces all afternoon but were outclassed eventually, after leading 18-14 at half-time. Paul Langmack, Jim Serdaris and Brent Stuart were the best for Wests in a hard-working pack. Justin Dooley was sent off late for a head-high tackle.

.....

WESTERN SUBURBS