



1993 Round 22 Sunday 29th August Brookvale Oval



Manly-Warringah 26

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Ivan CLEARY
 Craig HANCOCK
 Chris RYAN
 Danny MOORE
 John DEVEREUX
 Cliff LYONS
 Des HASLER (c)
 Owen CUNNINGHAM
 Tony IRO
 John JONES
 Ian ROBERTS
 David O'DONNELL
 David ALEXANDER
 Peter CLARKE
 Scott FULTON
 David HOSKING
 Richard KAIROUZ

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Russell WYER
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Darren WILLIS
 David ANDERSON
 Jason LIDDEN
 Jason TAYLOR (c)
 Jason BENGE
 Justin DOOLEY
 Scott HARDY
 Stephen KEARNEY
 Chris WILLIAMS
 Mark AFFLICK
 Andrew WILLIS
 Aseri LAING
 Gerome LANE



Tries Craig HANCOCK (2)
 Tony IRO
 Ivan CLEARY

Jason BENGE
 Chris WILLIAMS

Goals Ivan CLEARY (5)

Jason TAYLOR (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Anderson, S Georgallis, D Willis, R Wyer; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: J Taylor (c); forwards: J Benge, J Dooley, S Hardy, S Kearney, C Williams, M Afflick

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: I Cleary; three-quarters: C Hancock, D Moore, C Ryan, J Devereux; five-eighth: C Lyons; half: D Hasler (c); forwards: O Cunningham, J Jones, T Iro, I Roberts, D O'Donnell, D Alexander

Referee: W Harrigan (Daily Telegraph August 30th 1993)

... Wests, with players like Scott Hardy, Darren Willis and eager rookies Jason Benge and Chris Williams, put up spirited opposition but were never a threat to Manly who won 26-12. ... With Manly bolting to a 20-0 lead early in the second half it was hard for the players to maintain their concentration in defence and Wests made the scoreline respectable through tries to lock Benge and, right on fulltime, lively hooker Williams darted over from dummy-half. Cliff Lyons again made the most of his starting chance in the absence of skipper Geoff Toovey by setting up a couple of tries and often placing Wests' defence in two minds with his tricky cross-field running. Prop Ian Roberts set the early standard in the forwards with his tireless tackling and voracious appetite for taking the ball up as first receiver. Roberts has battled for weeks to recover from a chronic back problem but somehow gets ready for every game. Yesterday, he often stood and off-loaded with three and four Magpies trying to claw him to the ground. On his current form, Roberts is the forward most likely to cause problems for Brisbane in Sunday's sudden-death semi-final at the SFS. The Sea Eagles defeated Brisbane at their only meeting during the premiership rounds but that day the Broncos were missing several key players. That fact has not been lost on Manly's Des Hasler who was at his best in his farewell appearance at Brookvale yesterday. "We know we can beat the Broncos but they'll be a different side in next Sunday's knockout semi-final," Hasler said. "When we beat them at Brookvale, they did have important players missing and apart from Steve Renouf they'll be at full strength this time. "As far as I'm concerned, the only way to beat the Broncos is to put on the bustle and that's what we'll be doing right from the kick-off. Yesterday, Hasler led the side by example after taking over the captaincy from the injured Toovey. His form throughout the season has been exemplary considering the pressure coming from Lyons to take one of the halfback positions. Another of Manly's unsung heroes has been lock Owen Cunningham, who Fulton has said he wouldn't swap for some of the game's bigger names. Yesterday, Cunningham again broke the first line of defence with powerful bursts and the Broncos would be unwise to underestimate him when formulating their game plan. Young centre Jamie Olejnik, who has spent the last couple of weeks in reserve grade after returning from injury, looks to be ready to challenge for a first-grade spot again. Wests, who played without stars Terry Hill, David Gillespie, Jason Alchin and Darren Britt for much of the season, made the Sea Eagles earn their points yesterday. But while they do have young players coming through who look to be of first-grade standard, their chances of becoming play-off contenders next year are not bright. With Hill, Gillespie, Britt, Jason Taylor and Jason Lidden leaving for other clubs, the team's first-grade strike power will be severely diminished. **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 30th August 1993)**

Notes: Wests were down 20-0 early in the second half but the young team, to its credit, kept grinding away. In the absence, yet again, of players such as Hill, Gillespie, Alchin and Britt, the youngsters showed their potential for the following season. Coach Warren Ryan said it was clearly the youngest First Grade team he had ever coached. One of the stalwarts of Manly, Des Hasler, played his last game.