



1997 Round 22 Sunday 31st August Lang Park



South Queensland 39

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 Jason HUDSON
 Mat TOSHACK
 Michael EAGER
 Jeremy SMITH
 Dave WATSON
 Troy PEZET
 Craig WILSON
 Steele RETCHLESS
 Mark PROTHEROE
 John JONES
 Craig TEEVAN (c)
 Clinton O'BRIEN
 Aaron MOULE
 Anthony BELLA
 Mark TOOKEY
 Danny NUTLEY

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken MCGUINNESS
 Kevin MCGUINNESS
 Brett HICKMAN
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Des HASLER
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Damian KENNEDY
 James SMITH
 Harvey HOWARD
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 John SKANDALIS
 Darren CAPOVILLA
 Andrew WILLIS
 Shayne McMENEMY



Tries

Michael EAGER
 Mat TOSHACK
 Jason HUDSON
 Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 John JONES
 Mark PROTHEROE

Andrew LEEDS
 John SKANDALIS
 Brett HICKMAN

Goals

Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE (7)
 Craig WILSON (1) Field Goal

Andrew LEEDS (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, Kevin McGuinness, B Hickman; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: D Hasler; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, J Smith, J Skandalis, C Mescia, H Howard

South Queensland: Full-back: C Schifcofske; three-quarters: J Hudson, M Toshack, M Eager, J Smith; five-eighth: D Watson; half: T Pezet; forwards: C Wilson, S Retchless, M Protheroe, J Jones, C Teevan (c), C O'Brien **Referee: K Jeffes (Big League August 31st 1997)**

The South Queensland Crushers saved the best for last. They bowed out in a blaze of glory and buried the final hopes of a woeful Wests at Suncorp Stadium yesterday. The 39-18 scoreline was the best the wooden spooners had managed all season and did an instant favour for their new partners at the Gold Coast. For the 11,588 fans who took advantage of free admission to farewell the Crushers, yesterday's amazing effort posed the obvious question: why couldn't they perform like this all season? On a day of records, the Crushers won by their biggest margin and scored the most points of any match in their three-year history. Fullback Clinton Schifcofske, who overcame an early-season drug controversy, scored a first-grade record of 18 points from a try and seven goals. This might have been their last hurrah but the Crushers came out firing and after only seven minutes led 12-0. The game was only 80 seconds old when centre Matt Toshack found a yawning gap to cross untouched. But it was the try by club captain John Jones at his farewell game that brought the fans to their feet. He was chaired from the ground. The Magpies started the game disastrously and failed to improve. They trailed 19-6 at halftime but the scoreline could have been worse. Whatever coach Tom Raudonikis said to the Magpies at the break didn't make any impression. In only the second minute of the second half, second rower Mark Protheroe sliced through the Wests' defence and scored near the posts. When Schifcofske repeated the effort with the converted try a few minutes later, Wests' season was as good as over. Leeds, one of the few Magpies to produce a respectable performance, was rewarded with a try in the 65th minute but this was quickly answered when Michael Eager crossed to put the final nail in the Magpies' coffin. Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis, shattered by yesterday's result, said all he could do now was worry about next year. "It's a disappointing way to finish the season. Our intensity just wasn't there," he said. "We need to cut some players and buy a couple of new ones. But there's no way Wests are interested in merging with anyone. With a couple of extra key players, we would be a finals force next season." .. **(Sydney Morning Herald 1st September 1997)**

Notes: With Paul Langmack playing his 300th game in all grades, it was expected Wests would come out firing, but it ended up their most disappointing performance of the season. They were down 12-0 early and never recovered. Brett Hickman debuted and scored a good try but it was Andrew Leeds, yet again, who was Wests' best, capping off a tremendous year.