



# 1985 Round 22 Sunday 4th August Pratten Park



## North Sydney 24

def.

## Western Suburbs 8

Paul CONLON  
 Andrew SIMONS  
 Neigel TAIT  
 Simon BROCKWELL  
 Steve ROBINSON  
 Cliff LYONS  
 Mitchell COX  
 Mark GRAHAM (c)  
 Fred TEASDELL  
 Peter MARTIN  
 Peter CROSS  
 Rex WRIGHT  
 Steve HANSON  
 Geoff BLINKHORN

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

Leo EPIFANIA  
 John McARTHUR  
 Brett GALE  
 Wayne WIGHAM  
 Gerald CELARC  
 Gary WARNECKE  
 Michael NEIL  
 Mark HARRIGAN  
 Craig CLARKE  
 Geoff DILLON  
 Terry LEABEATER  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Lee CROOKS (c)  
 Craig MADSEN  
 Allen GEELAN  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Craig NEIL



### Tries

Fred TEASDELL  
 Andrew SIMONS  
 Mark GRAHAM  
 Mitchell COX

Michael NEIL

### Goals

Paul CONLON (4)

Lee CROOKS (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: J McArthur, B Gale, W Wigham, G Celarc; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: M Neil; forwards: M Harrigan, C Clarke, G Dillon, L Crooks (c), A Fallah, T Leabeater

**North Sydney:** Full-back: P Conlon; three-quarters: S Robinson, S Brockwell, N Tait, A Simons; five-eighth: C Lyons; half: M Cox; forwards: M Graham (c), P Martin, F Teasdel, P Cross, R Wright, S Hanson **Referee: D Spagarino (The Daily Mirror 5th August 1985)**

North Sydney skipper Mark Graham hasn't been able to sleep at night due to an agonising collarbone injury – but with the aid of two pain-killing injections, he helped crush Western Suburbs 24-8 at Pratten Park yesterday. Graham had an injection before the game and another at half-time and after the game, sported a lump on his collarbone the size of a golf ball. "This is the best it has felt all week," said Graham, who played his first game since dislocating the collarbone a month ago. "It has been giving me that much pain I haven't been able to sleep at night, but now with the injections, I don't feel a thing." Graham went into the game with protective padding around the injury and admitted he didn't have full mobility in his chest and arms. "I suppose I shouldn't have played, but it was such a big game for us and the boys were desperate to beat Wests," he said. Norths' coach Brian Norton praised Graham's courage in taking the field after the Bears' convincing four tries to one win. "He held the team together out there," Norton said. "It was a gutsy effort and the boys all responded to Mark's captaincy." The win was arguably the Bears' most important of the season, lifting them ahead of Wests to 12th spot on the ladder. In a scrappy game, Norths made less mistakes with the ball than the highly disappointing Wests' side. Tries by Graham and winger Andrew Simons gave the Bears a 10-0 lead at half-time and they were never going to lose from there. Wests' skipper Lee Crooks booted a penalty early in the second half, but Norths' smart half, Mitchell Cox, put the issue beyond doubt when he scampered 25 metres from the scrum-base to score in the 67th minute. The Bears stretched the lead to 22-2 when Graham and second-rower Peter Martin combined to send Fred Teasdel over, before Wests scored a consolation try through half-back Mick Neil. Norths coach Brian Norton believed a deep faith in his players was a major factor in the win. "After last week's loss to Cronulla, we could have sacked four or five players," Norton said. "But I believed in the players, they believed in themselves and made amends for that game with a much better effort." Wests' coach Ken Gentle, showing the frustration of a long season, described the game as Wests' worst effort of the year. "We dropped more ball than in three normal games." (**Daily Mirror 5th August 1985**)

**Notes:** Coach Gentle thought this was Wests' worst performance of the season and it was hard to disagree. In a very poor-quality game, Wests dropped the ball 27 times, often leading to Norths scoring points. There were just way too many defensive lapses. Ged Celarc was one player who kept his reputation intact.