



# 1985 Round 23 Sunday 11th August Redfern Oval



## South Sydney 26

def.

## Western Suburbs 18

Brett ROSS  
 Les BILES  
 Michael POBJIE  
 Darren McCARTHY  
 Henderson GILL  
 Neil BAKER  
 Craig COLEMAN  
 Michael ANDREWS  
 Wayne CHISHOLM  
 David BOYLE  
 Bill HARDY  
 Mario FENECH (c)  
 Tony RAMPLING  
 Col MURPHY  
 Terry MURPHY  
 Ross HARRINGTON  
 Michael MARKOU

**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  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Michael NEIL  
 Allen GEELAN  
 Craig MADSEN  
 Lee CROOKS (c)  
 Terry LEABEATER  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Ian SCHUBERT  
 Mark HARRIGAN



**Tries** Michael POBJIE (2)  
 Darren McCARTHY (2)  
 Craig COLEMAN

Alan FALLAH (2)  
 Brett GALE

**Goals** Neil BAKER (3)

Leo EPIFANIA (2)  
 Lee CROOKS (1)

### Match Description

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

**South Sydney:** Full-back: B Ross; three-quarters: L Biles, M Pobjie, D McCarthy, H Gill; five-eighth: N Baker; half: C Coleman; forwards: M Andrews, W Chisholm, D Boyle, W Hardy, M Fenech (c), T Rampling **Referee: G McCallum (The Daily Mirror 12th August 1985)**

South Sydney coach Ron Willey has never doubted the courage and conviction which seems to flow so readily at Western Suburbs and yesterday his admiration was graciously revealed at Redfern Oval. Willey conceded Souths may have struggled to beat Wests if Magpies' captain Lee Crooks had not been sent off early in the match. "I wouldn't like to go through it again if Wests had 13 men all the way," Willey said after watching the Rabbitohs hold off a late Magpies' resurgence to win 26-18. "They played very well and never stopped trying. You could say I'm delighted the game is over." Wests earned Willey's respect for one of the team's most determined displays of the season. Reduced to 12 players for 66 minutes, following English Test forward Crooks' dismissal on a high-tackle charge and to 11 players three times during the game, the Magpies showed the commitment which has highlighted the club's fight to stay in the premiership. "At times they were playing on guts alone – they made me proud," Wests' coach Ken Gentle said. "Although we were beaten, it was a terrific effort. It showed just how much their enthusiasm has picked up from last weekend." Gentle made no secret of the fact that he believed Wests should have won. "We were hard done by," he said. "We will make up for it next week." Although Gentle did not elaborate, obviously fearing repercussions from the NSWRL, it was clear he was unhappy with referee Greg McCallum's handling of the game. McCallum certainly set Wests a task by sending off Crooks and later sending lock Allen Geelan (twice) and winger John McArthur to the sin bin. The referee also sent second-rower Wayne Chisholm to the sin-bin for two 10-minute stints in a sometimes spiteful match. After Souths had cleared out with a 14-4 lead at half-time, it seemed Wests were doomed for another drubbing. But the Magpies spirits never waned. Down to 11 men, Wests scored two tries in three minutes late in the second half to push Souths right to the line. The Rabbitohs, who are still clinging to a remote hope of a semi-final place, lost three forwards with injury in the bruising match. .... **(Sydney Morning Herald 12th August 1985)**

Western Suburbs' English Test forward Lee Crooks was dumbfounded when referee Greg McCallum sent him off at Redfern Oval. Crooks told Wests' coach Ken Gentle he could not believe his ears when McCallum dismissed him for an alleged "dangerous high tackle" only 14 minutes into the game. "Lee said he was speechless," Gentle said..... "I'm bitter after being sent off for something as ridiculous as that," Crooks fumed. .... **(Daily Telegraph 12th August 1985)**

**Notes:** In a very fiery match Lee Crooks was sent off in the 14th minute for what most observers thought was a minor offence. It changed the nature of the game and Wests were also reduced to 11 men on three other occasions when Allen Geelan was sent to the sin bin twice and John McArthur once. Bruce Clark took up the cudgels in Crooks' absence, while Brett Gale had one of his best games in a very courageous effort overall considering the circumstances. In the end, a Pobjie intercept try was the difference.