



1998 Round 23 Sunday 16th August Parramatta Stadium



Parramatta 50

Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 Paul CARGIE
 Nathan BARNES
 Stuart KELLY
 Andrew FREW
 Jason SMITH
 John SIMON
 Jim DYMOCK
 Nathan HINDMARSH
 Jarrod McCRACKEN (c)
 Mark TOOKEY
 Aaron RAPER
 Dean PAY (c)
 Casey McGUIRE
 Nathan CAYLESS
 Michael VELLA
 Jason BELL

def.

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

Western Suburbs 4

Brett WARTON
 Jared MILLS
 Travis BAKER
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Brett HODGSON
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Leo DYNEVOR
 Scott COXON
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Damian KENNEDY
 Chris YATES
 Steve GEORGALLIS (c)
 Darren FRITZ
 Aseri LAING
 Nick EDWARDS
 Adrian RAINEY
 Harvey HOWARD



Tries
 Nathan CAYLESS (2)
 Jason SMITH (2)
 Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE
 Stuart KELLY
 Jim DYMOCK
 Nathan HINDMARSH

Jared MILLS

Goals
 Clinton SCHIFCOFSKE (9)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Warton; three-quarters: B Hodgson, Kevin McGuinness, T Baker, J Mills; five-eighth: Ken McGuinness; half: L Dynevor; forwards: S Coxon, D Kennedy, L Raudonikis, C Yates, S Georgallis (c), D Fritz

Parramatta: Full-back: C Schifcofske; three-quarters: P Carige, N Barnes, S Kelly, A Frew; five-eighth: J Smith; half: J Simon; forwards: J Dymock, N Hindmarsh, J McCracken (c), M Tookey, A Raper, D Pay (c) **Referee: M Hewitt (Big League August 16th 1998)**

The second worst defence in rugby league history played Parramatta right back into form for the final series yesterday. Western Suburbs, bringing a dismal season to a close, allowed the out of form Eels to regain their elusive attacking spark just in time for the big games. "It's just what the doctor ordered," a delighted Eels' coach Brian Smith said after his team's eight-try romp. Lacking confidence in cohesion in recent weeks, the Eels put it all together against the tackle-shy Magpies despite the miserable conditions. But Smith quickly put the big win in perspective, pointing to the Wests' defence that has conceded nearly 800 points this season. Only Canberra conceded more in their debut season in 1982 ... and the Raiders played 26 games to Wests' 24. "Without being rude, we have to look at the quality of the opposition," Smith said. "Even so, we've been struggling in attack and that win will give us plenty of confidence." With hooker Aaron Raper back after a 10-week absence with a broken collarbone, the Eels gave their best display for many matches. In driving rain on a heavy field, they scored as many points as they have in their last four games and showed flair and class. Halfback John Simon, given another chance in top company, also revelled as the Wests' defenders quickly lost their enthusiasm. Simon produced one of his best games of a hot-cold season to put himself back on track for the finals. On the eve of the finals, it was a great hit out by the Eels with strong performances from a host of players. On a dry track, the Magpies well may have been beaten by 80 points. Wests now looks certain to be landed with the dreaded wooden spoon but can still avoid it with a last round win over Penrith at home next week. It's been a woeful season for the Magpies, with yesterday's game completing a full sheet of losses in all 12 away matches. The club has lost nine games on the trot and conceded an average 42 points per match in that time. "It was disgraceful," a downcast West coach Tom Raudonikis conceded. "We cracked too easily under pressure and were very undisciplined." (**The Daily Telegraph 17th August 1998**)

Notes: The greasy conditions were no excuse for another poor tackling performance where one-on-one defence was virtually non-existent. They were competitive in the first half but gave away 36 points in a second-half capitulation.