

1983 Round 23 Sunday 7th August Lidcombe Oval

Cronulla-Sutherland 22 def.

Western Suburbs 18



Tries Glen MORTIMER

John GLOSSOP Chris GARDNER

CHOYO ANDERSON

Steve ANDERSON

Goals Dane SORENSEN (3)

David HARRIS Steve BROUGHTON

Scott GALE

Terry LAMB (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: S Broughton, M Beaven, D Harris, T Cogger; five-eighth: T Lamb (c); half: S Gale; forwards: M Duke, B Gale, B Battese, I Freeman, J Cogger, B Clark

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: A Ettinghausen; three-quarters: D Carney, S Anderson, J See, C Gardner; five-eighth: G Mortimer; half: R Lane; forwards: S Hardy, D Hatch, H Jansen, D Sorensen (c), D Laming, P McNamara **Referee: G McCullum (The Sun 8th August 1983)**

Western Suburbs coach Len Stacker declared Magpie five-eighth Terry Lamb would represent Australia next year if he were to sign with Parramatta at the end of this season. Stacker made the prediction after Lamb, who completes his contract with the club next month, had turned in another superb display in the Magpies' 22-18 loss to half-pay contemporaries Cronulla at Lidcombe Oval. "Terry is the most complete half-back or five-eighth in Sydney. He has got everything", claimed Stacker as he reviewed a match which Wests let slip out of their grasp after breezing to an 18-8 half-time lead. Stacker's comments then led him to an eye-opening comparison between Lamb and the Eels' Test half, Peter Sterling. "Terry's attack is superior to Sterling's and his defence is at least as good, if not better," said the experienced Wests' coach. "Another thing in Terry's favour is his magnificent kicking game and his tremendous durability." Stacker's assessment of 23-year-old Lamb's skills was hard to argue with after the gifted young pivot's showing against the Sharks. Not only was he the base of the greater percent of Wests' attack, but he also made 25 tackles, including several in which he crashed down some of Cronulla's big men. While Stacker may have given the Parramatta talent scouts a lead for next season, the race to snap up Lamb's contract will not be a walkover for the Eels. "Terry is a good club man and desperately wants to stay with Wests," said Stacker. "I'm sure he'll give the club every opportunity to hold him." With Wests having only three games to play this season, rival clubs, including Parramatta and Canterbury, are wetting their lips in anticipation. Lamb, along with half-back Scott Gale, did more than other players to assist Wests in their convincing half-time lead. But even his determined defence and spirit was not sufficient to halt a gritty Sharks 'revival in the second session. After looking shabby in the first 40 minutes, Cronulla came out more composed in the second half and scored two tries to Wests' nil. Sharks' half Robert Lane, prop Dane Sorensen, hooker David Laming and winger Dean carney led the fightback. (Daily Telegraph 8th August 1983)

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Notes: Although playing against a depleted Cronulla side, Wests should have won. They blew at least three tries with poor finishing but even so, Mark Beaven was adamant he scored a legitimate try between the posts with one minute to go, which was subsequently ruled a double movement. Kevin Bryson made his First-Grade debut, coming on as a replacement in the second half and making a try-saving tackle on Andrew Ettinghausen. Terry Lamb was absolutely outstanding again and there was general consensus that it was ridiculous he wasn't already a Kangaroo.

WESTERN SUBURBS