



1987 Round 24 Sunday 16th August Cricket Ground



St George 21

def.

Western Suburbs 2

Bronko DJURA
 Ricky WALFORD
 Michael BEATTIE
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Wilfred WILLIAMS
 Steve ROBINSON
 Mark KO'CASS
 Marc GLANVILLE
 Wally FULLERTON-SMITH
 Colin FRASER
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Billy JOHNSTONE
 Seamus O'CONNELL
 Geoff SELBY
 Shane FLANAGAN

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

Trevor COGGER
 Phillip DUKE
 Hew REES
 Allen GEELAN
 Denis KINCHELA
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Brett CLARK
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Scott TRONC
 Brett DAVIS
 Les WHITE
 John ALLANSON



Tries Ricky WALFORD (2)

Goals Bronko DJURA (6)
Mark KO'CASS (1) Field Goal

Ian SCHUBERT (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: T Cogger; three-quarters: P Duke, A Geelan, H Rees, D Kinchela; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: B Clark; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, J Bilbija, I Freeman, A Fallah, S Tronc

St George: Full-back: B Djura; three-quarters: W Williams, M Beattie, B Johnston, R Walford five-eighth: S Robinson; half: M Ko'cass; forwards: M Glanville, W Fullerton-Smith, C Fraser, C Young (c), W Johnstone, S O'Connell **Referee: D O'Keefe (Rugby League Week 19th August 1987)**

The wit of Wests' coach Steve Ghosn and the speed of St George winger Ricky Walford provided the only highlights in an otherwise uninspiring afternoon's football at the SCG yesterday. St George at least had a 21-2 victory to celebrate at the end of a difficult week which was dominated by the suspension of Steve Linnane last Tuesday. Walford, a late replacement for Bert Gordon, was largely responsible for the win as he scored the only two tries of the afternoon. St George held an 8-0 half-time lead, courtesy of four penalty goals by fullback Bronko Djura. Walford broke free of the Wests' defence after only two minutes of the second half to sprint 40m and score his first try. Twenty minutes later he again sped free of the defence to finish a good attacking movement initiated by St George captain Craig Young. Ghosn's association with Wests ends after next week's match against Balmain, and he was not a happy man after yesterday's loss, the club's eighth in the past ten weeks. As has become his custom, Ghosn vented his rage in a style that will be missed next year. "If I'd paid money to watch that game, I'd be filthy," he said. Ghosn was disgusted by the number of errors his side made, a fact which inevitably killed the game as a spectacle. His response was succinct when he was handed the video tape of the match. "If I have to watch that tape, I'll end up n Rydalmere Hospital," he said. "I said after the game that you'd swear half of them were negotiating with St George the way they played. Fair dinkum, the score should have been 60-2." While his reaction to losing remains the same, Ghosn's attitude to his sacking has at least mellowed. "I suppose Wests have given me my Christmas present early," he said. "These guys don't need a new coach. They need Jesus Christ to come down here and bless them." For St George coach Roy Masters, the win was at least an indication of the pride after another disappointing year. He said it had been a difficult task focusing the attention of his players on the match after last Tuesday night's fateful judiciary committee hearing. Masters attended that hearing and gave evidence in Linnane's behalf. "The week was disrupted, because I didn't even get to training on Tuesday," he said. Masters ordered an extra training session last Friday so he could work Linnane's replacement Mark Ko'Cass into the team. "It did take some time to get some spirit and confidence back into them because a long suspension does knock the wind out of a side," Masters said. "Blokes do feel cheated in that situation, particularly when it is a guy like Linnane, who they know is a not a vicious player. It is a distractive thing and you have to keep their minds on the game and not on what is being said on radio and in the papers." Masters also said he was very pleased with the way Ko'Cass fitted into the side. As for the match itself, Masters felt there was little to say about it, but he thought that Wests should always be treated with respect. As far as I'm concerned, Western Suburbs are one of the teams in the premiership and therefore they have to be respected," he said. (Sydney Morning Herald 17th August 1987)

Notes: This was a very poor, error-riddled match, played before a small crowd. Wests were never in the match and remarkably lost six scrums against the feed., despite the protestations of Alan Fallah and Brett Clark. John Bilbija, Hew Rees and Scott Tronc tried to provide some spark to no avail. Steve Ghosn gave Trevor Cogger a big wrap after the game.