



1998 Round 24 Sunday 23rd August Campbelltown Stadium



Penrith 36

Peter JORGENSEN
 Chris HICKS
 David WOODS
 Shane ELFORD
 Robbie BECKETT
 Steve CARTER (c)
 Craig GOWER
 John CROSS
 Sid DOMIC
 Matt ADAMSON
 Tony PULETUA
 Brad DREW
 Jody GALL
 Carl MacNAMARA
 Bobby THOMPSON
 Lee HOPKINS
 Brett BOYD

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 20

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



Tries

Brett BOYD (2)
 Peter JORGENSEN
 John CROSS
 Shane ELFORD
 Brad DREW

Adrian RAINEY
 Kevin MCGUINNESS
 Leo DYNEVOR

Goals

Chris HICKS (5)
 Brett BOYD (1)

Brett WARTON (3)
 Damian KENNEDY (1)

Match Description

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

Penrith: Full-back: P Jorgensen; three-quarters: C Hicks, D Woods, S Elford, R Beckett; five-eighth: S Carter (c); half: C Gower; forwards: J Cross, S Domic, M Adamson, T Puletua, B Drew, J Gall **Referee: P Simpkins (Big League August 24th 1998)**

The worst football in a year of Tom Raudonikis' life ended yesterday with a 36-20 home loss to Penrith which condemned Western Suburbs to the National Rugby League wooden spoon. Penrith's six tries to three victory at Campbelltown Sports Ground was their sixth win from their past eight games, and Wests' coach Raudonikis didn't waste time talking about it afterwards. "It's been a hard year for us in any number of ways," he said in a press conference lasting less than two minutes. "It's probably the worst year of my life, but it's over now. I still believe we've got the basis of a good side. If we can fill in some of the gaps, we'll still be a side capable of making the top six next year." Raudonikis will keep his job next season. The Panthers finished in 14th place, despite the good late run, causing coach Roy Simmons to lament a tough run with injuries. "You can't have up to 11 players out of first grade and not have any problems," he said. "We had a bit to play for ourselves today in that we jumped over Auckland and North Queensland, which puts our season in better shape. Given the injuries, we finished a lot better than we probably deserved to do. It's a disappointing end because, before the start of the season, we were pretty confident of being in the top six." Penrith were first to post points, lock John Cross ripping the Magpie defence apart to score in the 10th minute. Kevin McGuinness got Wests back to level at 6-6 only four minutes later, taking advantage of a dreadful mistake from Shane Elford in front of his own posts. Under-rated hooker Brad Drew put the Panthers back in the lead in the 22nd minute, side-stepping a handful of defenders for a 12-6 lead. Chris Hicks and Brett Warton traded penalty goals to send the teams to the break at 14-8, but any thoughts Wests had of victory was snuffed in a ruthless 10-minute period in the second half. Tries to Elford in the 50th minute, Brett Boyd in the 55th and Peter Jorgensen in the 60th put Penrith in an unassailable position at 28-8. Consolation tries to Leo Dynevor and Adrian Rainey were punctuated by Boyd's second try, who added the extras himself. The misery of the Western Suburbs season is finally over after conceding 802 points. Their only highlight was the celebration of the 500th game of the best-known mascot in league, Mark the Magpie, who finished his 21st season. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 24th August 1998)**

Notes: Wests finished with the wooden spoon after this loss and the club was left to rue a season devastated by injuries, where sometimes there were 11 regular first-graders on the sidelines. They were well in the game at half-time but in a 10-minute blitz, Penrith put on three tries to Elford, Boyd and Jorgensen.