



# 1982 Round 25 Sunday 15th August Belmore Oval



## Western Suburbs 13

def.

## Canterbury 11

Wayne SMITH  
 Mick PINKERTON  
 Steve ANDERSON  
 Ross CONLON  
 Warren BOLAND (c)  
 Terry LAMB  
 Greg COX  
 Michael DUKE  
 George FAHD  
 Paul MERLO  
 Terry LEABEATER  
 Arthur MOUNTIER  
 Tom ARBER  
 Geoff SPOTSWOOD  
 Brett GALE

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

Greg BRETNALL  
 Steve GEARIN  
 Andrew FARRAR  
 Peter MORTIMER  
 Tony ARMSTRONG  
 Garry HUGHES (c)  
 Steve MORTIMER  
 Steve FOLKES  
 Geoff ROBINSON  
 Chris MORTIMER  
 Tas BAITIERI  
 Pat ENGLISH  
 Mark BRENNAN  
 Ray DOWNIE



### Tries

Terry LAMB  
 Ross CONLON

Steve MORTIMER  
 Greg BRETNALL  
 Tony ARMSTRONG

### Goals

Greg COX (3)  
 Terry LAMB (1) Field Goal

Steve GEARIN (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: M Pinkerton, S Anderson, R Conlon, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: G Cox; forwards: M Duke, P Merlo, G Fahd, T Leabeater, A Mountier, T Arber

**Canterbury-Bankstown:** Full-back: G Brentnall; three-quarters: T Armstrong, A Farrar, P Mortimer, S Gearin; five-eighth: G Hughes (c); half: S Mortimer; forwards: S Folkles, G Robinson, C Mortimer, T Baitieri, P English, M Brennan **Referee: J Gocher (The Sun 16th August 1982)**

Wests' Paul Merlo, whose looks resemble those of a Spanish bullfighter, threw his hat into the Kangaroo tour ring yesterday with a display that impaled Canterbury's semi-final hopes. Merlo's defensive performance in the second half at Belmore helped silence the Bulldog who had Wests in a corner at half-time – five-eighth Garry Hughes. Hughes led Wests a merry dance for 34 minutes in the first half and again left them groping four minutes in to the second half. Merlo decided to take a "contract" out on Hughes, who had confounded his club with his mobility after being sidelined for three weeks with kidney damage. With Hughes smothered into near submission, Canterbury lost their momentum and made errors which coach Ted Glossop later described as "silly." Canterbury conceded Wests deserved their 13-11 win and there wasn't a whimper of protest about two costly penalties, a try that appeared to be laced with a forward pass, or a blatant late tackle on star full-back Greg Brentnall. "These things happen," was Glossop's cordial dismissal of referee John Gocher's decisions. Last week the Canterbury camp was seething over decisions made by referee Mick Stone when they were beaten by Easts in the last seconds. Wests yesterday deserved their win although Canterbury topped the try count. They trailed 8-0 and by busting Canterbury's key players, Hughes, Greg Brentnall and Steve Mortimer, into error, they climbed off the floor to clinch a certain place in the final five and confirm coach Terry Fearnley's faith in them. Fearnley put his neck on the line last February when he declared Wests were semi-final material. Had he been a punter, he would be a wealthy man today. Then, few agreed with his optimism. Wests showed from the opening minute yesterday that they intended to blunt Canterbury's big guns, especially Brentnall. Brentnall was the victim of a late tackle but Canterbury missed a penalty. Hughes' right boot struck gold for Canterbury in the ninth minute when he chipped and Mortimer flew through to claim a try. **(The Sun 16th August 1982)**

.... Wests, buzzing like bees in a bottle, hustled Canterbury out of their rhythm. The Magpie defence frustrated Canterbury's usually free-flowing game, but there were times they looked threatening. Canterbury five-eighth Garry Hughes was a prime target for the Wests' tacklers. He was dangerous with his kicking, chipping ahead neatly for a Steve Mortimer try (eighth minute) and grubber-kicking for Greg Brentnall's try (43rd), but was mostly contained in the second half. It was a tense struggle between two evenly matched teams with strengths in different areas. **(Daily Telegraph 16th August 1982)**

**Notes:** Although outscored three tries to two, Wests were clearly the better side and deserved the win. Ross Conlon blew a certain try just before half-time when he lost the ball trying to improve his position over the line but gained redemption in the second half with a great try. Terry Lamb consolidated his Kangaroo credentials with another best on field performance, closely followed by Paul Merlo who was a tower of strength. Coming from 8-0 down early, their fightback ensured a place in the semis.