



# 1987 Round 25 Sunday 23rd August Orana Park



## Western Suburbs 14

def.

## Balmain 10

Trevor COGGER  
Phillip DUKE  
Allen GEELAN  
John ALLANSON  
Denis KINCHELA  
Doug RAWLINGS  
Brett CLARK  
Ian SCHUBERT (c)  
John ELIAS  
John BILBIJA  
Ian FREEMAN  
Alan FALLAH  
Scott TRONC  
Jason WILLIAMS  
Brett DAVIS  
Wayne LAMBKIN

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

Garry JACK  
Peter DAVIES  
Scott GALE  
Garry SCHOFIELD  
John DAVIDSON  
Ross CONLON  
Peter CAMROUX  
Wayne PEARCE (c)  
David BROOKS  
Kevin HARDWICK  
Steve ROACH  
John OWENS  
Kerry HEMSLEY  
Lee CROOKS  
Phil SIGSWORTH  
Gavin HANRAHAN

**Tries** Brett DAVIS  
Trevor COGGER

John OWENS

**Goals** Ian SCHUBERT (3)

Ross CONLON (3)

### Match Description

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

**Balmain:** Full-back: G Jack; three-quarters: P Davies, S Gale, G Schofield, J Davidson; five-eighth: R Conlon; half: P Camroux; forwards: W Pearce (c), D Brooks, K Hardwick, S Roach, J Owens, K Hemsley **Referee: G O'Donnell (Rugby League Week 26th August 1987)**

Western Suburbs' coach Steve Ghosn's turbulent career with the Magpies ended in triumph yesterday when he brilliantly plotted the downfall of semi-final heavyweight Balmain at Orana Park. Months of internal in-fighting were cast aside as the Wests' players followed a Ghosn master plan to the letter to send the Tigers crashing to a stunning 14-10 loss. .... Although it was later claimed two "no-try" decisions, including one in the final 90 seconds when referee Giles O'Donnell ruled replacement Phil Sigsworth was held up over the try-line, had cost Balmain a win, the day really belonged to Ghosn and his Magpie battlers. The Wests' dressing room had the look of a side which had just won the Grand Final, after the mighty Magpies had ravaged Balmain, leaving big-name reputations badly dented. Backslappers crowded three and four deep around Ghosn as he savoured a third win over the Tigers in four matches in two seasons as coach. And the Wests' coach was determined to make the most of it. "I'm taking all the credit," he said. "I think it's only fair - I've had to take all the credit for 17 losses this year. There's now a big rumour going around that I'm being re-instated. I started it." Ghosn certainly deserved his moment of glory after being the architect of one of the year's greatest upsets. As he revealed later, his detailed game plan had been based on upsetting Balmain's rhythm by putting rookie half-back Peter Camroux under pressure - and it worked magnificently. .... Working to Ghosn's plan, Wests hounded the new Tigers' half relentlessly and he seemed off-balance all the way. The Tigers' backline never really got rolling and eventually Scott Gale was moved to half, late in the game, when Camroux was replaced. While Camroux might have been the pre-match target, out on the field every one of the Tigers copped a hammering. The "no-frills" pack, spearheaded by prop Ian Freeman, who turns 30 in October, lock Ian Schubert and hooker Alan Fallah tore strips off their Tiger counterparts. Schubert emerged as a points winner in his clash with Balmain's Test lock Wayne Pearce, while Freeman was easily the prop of the game, silencing the authority of Kangaroo star Steve Roach and Kerry Hemsley. But it was the Magpies' skipper who really set the tone of the game when he hit Pearce with a ferocious tackle which must have rattled a few Tigers' teeth. The Wests' forwards followed his lead, tackling like demons and never dropping their guard. And, unlike so many other times this season, the final few minutes yesterday didn't produce another dramatic Wests' defeat - but it was a close call. With less than two minutes left and the Magpies clinging to a four-point lead, replacement Tiger, Phil Sigsworth, seemed certain to score when he got across the try-line. But half-back Brett Clark, with the assistance of Wayne Lambkin, managed to stop Sigsworth scoring, at least as far as referee O'Donnell was concerned. Although Sigsworth later declared he had scored, Clark was just as defiant that he'd stopped a match-winning try. "I got my hands under the ball," Clark said. "Don't ask me how I did it." ... **(Daily Telegraph 24th August 1987)**

**Notes:** Steve Ghosn went out a winner as coach and the team displayed some much-needed spirit. Ian Schubert, after renewing his contract for another two seasons, led a rugged pack, with Ian "Herbie" Freeman tearing into Steve Roach and Kerry Hemsley with ferocious power. Trevor Cogger scored a good try in his 200th game for Wests. The game plan to put new Balmain half, Peter Camroux, under pressure worked perfectly.