



1985 Round 26 Sunday 1st September Belmore Sports



Canterbury 34

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Michael POTTER
 Matthew CALLINAN
 Andrew FARRAR
 Chris MORTIMER
 Peter MORTIMER
 Michael HAGAN
 Steve MORTIMER (c)
 Terry LAMB
 David GILLESPIE
 Paul LANGMACK
 Brian BATTESE
 Billy JOHNSTONE
 Peter KELLY
 Jason ALCHIN
 Darren MEREDITH
 Steve FOLKES
 Peter TUNKS

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

Chris STEPHANDELLIS
 John McARTHUR
 Gerald CELARC
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Greg DUVAL
 Trevor COGGER
 Michael NEIL
 Mark HARRIGAN
 Allen GEELAN
 Lee CROOKS (c)
 Terry LEABEATER
 Alan FALLAH
 Gary McFARLANE
 Brett CLARK



Tries Peter MORTIMER (3)
 Steve MORTIMER
 Paul LANGMACK
 Brian BATTESE

Trevor COGGER

Goals Andrew FARRAR (5)

Lee CROOKS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: C Stephandellis; three-quarters: J McArthur, G Celarc, W Wigham, G Duval; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: M Neil; forwards: M Harrigan, A Geelan, L Crooks (c), G McFarlane, A Fallah, T Leabeater

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: M Potter; three-quarters: M Callinan, A Farrar, C Mortimer, P Mortimer; five-eighth: M Hagan; half: S Mortimer (c); forwards: T Lamb, P Langmack, D Gillespie, P Kelly, W Johnstone, B Battese **Referee: D Spagarino (The Daily Mirror 2nd September 1985)**

English forward Lee Crooks, ordered off in a spiteful Rugby League match between Western Suburbs and Canterbury at Belmore yesterday, must face the judiciary committee on the eve of his departure home. Referee Denis Spagarino charged Crooks, the Magpies' captain, with punching an opponent without the ball on a touch judge's report. The referee and touch judges all missed the illegal incident which had provoked Crooks' angry retaliation – the final straw for the Western Suburbs camp frustrated by a penalty caning of 16-5. Canterbury touched down for six tries, three in each half, to walk away with the match 34-6. The Bulldogs were clearly superior, but if they are the popular pick for the 1985 premiership, they were hiding a lot of their authority yesterday. For coach Warren Ryan the full-time siren came as big relief. He had pulled off some of his most valuable players and in a dressing-room roll-call afterwards his only real casualty was the hard-working prop, Brian Battese. Battese, who had skirmished with Crooks, had a broken nose and slight concussion. Wests played rugged football in the first half and led 6-4 before the Bulldogs broke them twice to lead 18-6 at the spell. It was one-way traffic in the second half. Peter Mortimer scored his third try, Paul Langmack forged over and Steve Mortimer posted the sixth. ... On a dust bowl better suited to a camel derby, Canterbury out-smarted Wests with superior speed and ball work. Wests' honest up-the-field endeavours were nullified as Canterbury spun the ball wide, then rushed in the supports as Wests' defence buckled. Coach Ryan thought it was a scrappy affair but the Canterbury fans in the 8,380 crowd loved every minute of it. They roared applause as Ryan hauled off his stars late in the game. Title hopes are sky-high in the domain of the bulldogs. Steve Mortimer was snappy in his play and twice he put brother Peter over in the first half. ... Michael Potter made some strong bursts from full-back, and Michael Hagan was lively and resourceful at five-eighth. Wests avoided the wooden spoon at the expense of Illawarra. On Wednesday night the Supreme Court in Adelaide will hear Wests' appeal against being kicked out of the Sydney competition. But there could be a three-month reserved judgement. The NSW Rugby League would need to act in the meantime, so Wests should be on deck next season in a 13-team competition. **(Sydney Morning Herald 2nd September 1985)**

Notes: Wests really took it up to the Bulldogs in the first half and they finished battered and bruised, but Canterbury ran away in the second half to finish a disappointing season. Wests avoided the wooden spoon, giving it to the Illawarra Steelers. Lee Crooks was again unfairly sent off again while Allen Geelan spent time in the sin bin again for the fourth time in four matches. Wests now faced a decision on an appeal in the Supreme Court against being thrown out of the Sydney competition. They won eventually.