



1986 Round 3 Sunday 23rd March Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 8

drew with

Canterbury-Bankstown 8

Leo EPIFANIA
Rod PETHYBRIDGE

Fullback
Wing

Michael POTTER
Sandy

Brett GALE
Wilfred WILLIAMS
Paul SHEAHAN
Michael NEIL
Brett CLARK
Allan BURNS
Ian SCHUBERT (c)
Craig CLARKE
Ian FREEMAN
Alan FALLAH
Bruce CLARK
Gary McFARLANE
John BILBIJA
John COGGER
Ian NADEN

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

Peter MORTIMER
Chris MORTIMER
Matthew CALLINAN
Terry LAMB
Michael HAGAN
Paul LANGMACK
Steve FOLKES
David GILLESPIE
Paul DUNN
Billy JOHNSTONE
Peter TUNKS (c)
John ELIAS



Tries Brett CLARK
Goals Leo EPIFANIA (2)

Michael HAGAN
Terry LAMB (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: R Pethybridge, B Gale, W Williams, P Sheahan; five-eighth: M Neil; half: B Clark; forwards: A Burns, C Clarke, I Schubert (c), B Clark, A Fallah, I Freeman

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: M Potter; three-quarters: S Campbell, P Mortimer, C Mortimer, M Callinan; five-eighth: T Lamb; half: P Langmack, S Folkes, D Gillespie, P Dunn, W Johnstone, P Tunks (c) **Referee: G West (The Daily Mirror 24th March 1986)**

Western Suburbs coach Steve Ghosn told his players before yesterday's game that Canterbury weren't supermen and the Magpies had a good chance of springing the upset at Lidcombe Oval. Although Wests didn't get away with the two competition points, they managed to hold the might of last year's premier to an 8-all draw and prove Ghosn's theory correct. Ghosn said he reminded his team before it ran on that both sides had 13 players and the Magpies had an equal chance of winning. "I told them Canterbury players didn't get changed in telephone boxes and come out supermen," Ghosn said. "It's a shame we didn't come away with the two points but we certainly had our chances." The Magpies had two great opportunities to clinch the match in the dying stages. The 6039 crowd went silent as fullback Leo Epifania lined up a penalty goal attempt 22 metres out and straight in front with only five minutes to go. But to the disappointment of the loyal Magpie fans the kick was off target – and the premier off the hook. In a desperate last-ditch attempt for the two points, Wests' half Brett Clark saw his field goal attempt go straight but just under the crossbar two minutes from fulltime. Wests put the Bulldogs under pressure from the opening whistle and led 6-2 at half-time. The Magpies scored in the 25th minute when winger Rod Pethybridge kicked infield for Clark to gather and score next to the posts. Epifania's missed the simple conversion attempt, which was critical to the final result. Canterbury grabbed an 8-6 lead midway through the second half when Billy Johnstone won a scrum against the head on Wests' 22-metre line before Terry Lamb sent Michael Hagan in to score. Epifania levelled at 8-all in the 69th minute when he kicked an angled penalty goal to set the stage for a thrilling finish. The Bulldogs' defence stayed solid as the Magpies threw everything at them to grab an upset victory. "Simple fundamental mistakes cost us an outright victory," Ghosn said. But Ghosn was obviously proud of the Magpies and happy to grab his first competition point as a coach. Canterbury coach Warren Ryan wasn't so talkative in the visitors' dressing room after the match. "I don't want to bag any players in public, they can wait until training on Tuesday night," he said. Canterbury clearly missed the organisation and attacking skills of suspended skipper Steve Mortimer but Ryan refused to use that as an excuse. Wests' Ian Freeman, Bruce Clark and Alan Fallah overshadowed Bulldogs Paul Dunn, Johnstone and Peter Tunks in the engine room, while halves Brett Clark and Michael Neil always looked dangerous. **(Daily Telegraph 24th March 1986)**

Notes: In a huge upset, Wests were able to have a draw with the reigning Premiers, but Coach Ghosn echoed the general feeling that Wests should have won. They were clearly the better team for most of the match and Leo Epifania missed a goal in front with five minutes to go and a Brett Clark field goal attempt went just under the bar with a minute to go. Bruce Clark and Ian Freeman dominated up front and the halves, Neil and Clark, both had outstanding games, in a match which featured bruising defence.