



1997 Round 3 Sunday 23rd March Sydney Football Stadium



South Sydney 17

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Brendan O'MEARA
 Marty MOORE
 Don McLEOD
 Matt MANNING
 Matthew HOGAN
 Craig SIMON
 Darrell TRINDALL (c)
 Paul SUTTON
 Paul QUINN
 Darren BURNS
 Peter DRISCOLL
 Cole SKELLY
 Ian RUBIN
 Jason TASSELL
 Michael OSTINI
 Shane WILSON

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Aseri LAING
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Darren WILLIS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Willie NEWTON
 Des HASLER
 Shane MILLARD
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 James SMITH
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 John SKANDALIS
 Chris YATES
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Adam DOYLE
 Bill DUNN



Tries Don McLEOD
 Matthew HOGAN
 Peter DRISCOLL

Adam DOYLE

Goals Matt MANNING (2)
 Darrell TRINDALL (1) Field Goal

Andrew LEEDS (1)
 Willie NEWTON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, A Laing; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: W Newton; forwards: D Hasler, P Langmack (c), S Millard, J Smith, C Mescia, J Skandalis

South Sydney: Full-back: B O'Meara, three-quarters: M Moore, D McLeod, M Manning, M Hogan; five-eighth: C Simon; half: D Trindall (c); forwards: P Sutton, P Quinn, D Burns, P Driscoll, C Skelly, I Rubin **Referee: K Jeffes (Big League 23rd March 1997)**

Never has targeting taken on such simple World War One strategy. Souths' captain Darrell "tricky" Trindall revealed his team's game plan before yesterday's match against Wests at the Sydney football stadium. Tricky didn't have any devious rabbits in a hat. He simply said Souths' two giant props would run at Wests' smallest player, Willie Newton, all day. ... Tricky simply declared South would direct Peter Driscoll and the big Russian - Ian Ruben - at the Wests' half whenever they carried the ball. In the 14th minute, Tricky took the first pass off the ruck, faded slightly in-field and slipped a delayed pass to prop Driscoll who ran over the top of the hapless Newton. In the 32nd minute, Tricky again took a pass and shaped to pass to the big Russian; Ruben was lined up in front of Newton and every Wests' defender within 10 metres of the Magpie half came racing to offer assistance. The result? Tricky cut out the Russian and passed to centre Don McLeod, who raced through unmarked for a try to take the score to 10-2. OK, there may have been some deception in the first try with Tricky's infield jink, and Ruben was used as a decoy in the second, but that is the extent of the deception. Many in the rugby league fraternity shuddered when coach Tom Raudonikis selected Newton in first grade but assumed the 18-year-old half would be a last-minute dropout, thereby distracting Souths who had spent a week running at images of wee Willie. After all, Souths' coach Ken Shine said after the game: "Their half was an obvious target." While Tom is a stubborn man, he did replace the head-gear wearing Newton at half time. Raudonikis conceded after the match: "I told Willie he made too many mistakes. He'll have to go back to the reserves." Wests began the second half with five-eighth Steve Georgallis' as half and Kevin McGuinness as pivot. Eight minutes later, Wests brought the score closer when captain Paul Langmack initiated a clever play down the blind side, found centre Brandon Pearson in top gear and passed to Willis, who found replacement Adam Doyle for Wests sole try. Tricky completed the scoring with a field goal in the 76th minute for a 17-8 result. ... Raudonikis, on whom all the suffering now descends, had charitable words for Souths. "They kept at it," he said. "They are goers." These are the words that summarise Raudonikis himself, but not the Wests' half back of 1997. Yet the enduring trait of Wests is honesty in defeat. "I showed faith in the kid and it didn't work out," Raudonikis said. To add the Wests' woes, forward Shane Millard is on report for a dangerous tackle on winger Hogan. ... **(The Sydney Morning Herald 24th March 1997)**

Notes: After being over the top in the Roosters game, Wests toned it back but their lack of aggressiveness led to a very tame display. They seemed flat all day, had a high mistake rate, and had a lot of dropped ball. The Souths' tactic of running their front-rowers at the 18-year-old half, Willie Newton, was very successful and he was replaced at half-time. Paul Langmack injured a knee but seemed certain to be fit for the important upcoming Parramatta game.