



1998 Round 3 Sunday 29th March Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 42

def.

South Sydney 6



Andrew LEEDS
Darren WILLIS
Kevin McGUINNESS
Ken McGUINNESS
Brett HODGSON
Steve GEORGALLIS
Leo DYNEVOR
Paul LANGMACK (c)
Adrian RAINEY
Damian KENNEDY
Darren RAMEKA
Ciriaco MESCIA
John SKANDALIS
Aseri LAING
Scott COXON
Chris YATES
Shayne McMENEMY

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

Tim BRASHER
Justin LOOMANS
Brett RODWELL
Julian O'NEILL
David HALL
Craig WING
Willie PETERS
Chris CARUANA
Darren BURNS
Jeremy SCHLOSS
James SMITH
Sean GARLICK (c)
Terry HERMANSSON
Brendan O'MEARA
Matt PARSONS
Michael OSTRINI
Troy SLATTERY

Tries Brett HODGSON (2)
Adrian RAINEY
Shayne McMENEMY
Andrew LEEDS
Damian KENNEDY
Kevin McGUINNESS

James SMITH

Goals Andrew LEEDS (7)

Julian O'NEILL (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, Kevin McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: L Dynevor; forwards: P Langmack (c), A Rainey, D Kennedy, J Skandalis, C Mescia, D Rameka

South Sydney: Full-back: T Brasher, three-quarters: J Loomans, B Rodwell, J O'Neill, D Hall; five-eighth: C Wing; half: W Peters; forwards: C Caruana, D Burns, J Schloss, J Smith, S Garlick (c), T Hermansson **Referee: M Hewitt (Big League 29th March 1998)**

His beer must have tasted like champagne yesterday. As is his manner, Wests' coach Tommy Raudonikis attended the traditional after-match press conference tightly gripping a can of VB. Over the past month, it must have tasted more like dam water. But that first sip yesterday was one to savour for Raudonikis after his side's 42-6 win over Souths at Campbelltown. The old dog Raudonikis was barking at full time. It had been a horrific start to the season for Wests - being beaten in all trial matches and the opening two NRL matches to St George and Melbourne. Then further controversy arrived for Raudonikis when critics demanded he step down as NSW coach to focus purely on the Magpies. But those troubled days well and truly vanished yesterday when Raudonikis arrived at the press interview with a can of beer. "It's been a very hard two weeks but the players turned that around for me today. I can't thank them enough," Raudonikis said. "But I won't be happy until we can play like this on a consistent basis. I didn't think we had a bad player out there. We were damned terrible last week against Melbourne but we played some brilliant football out there today. We finally got it right today. I think we've turned the corner." It was difficult to determine whether Wests were superb or Souths were dismal. It was probably a little of both. There is no doubt it was one of Wests' finest performances throughout the past five years. The Magpie forwards stood in tackles for the whole match. Prop John Skandalis was outstanding, as was the wily veteran Paul Langmack. Damian Kennedy powered through the Souths' ruck area while the McGuinness brothers caused havoc out wide. Andrew Leeds was simply Andrew Leeds - safe, unassuming yet effective. And winger Brett Hodgson provided the pace to worry Souths and scored two tries. Wests played with grit and determination from the start. There was no possible way they were going to lose yesterday. And a dishevelled South Sydney only made the victory more comfortable. Langmack and Ken McGuinness were, however, placed on report for an alleged spear tackle on Souths' centre Brett Rodwell in the 47th minute. There was little to say or write about Souths- they lacked enthusiasm and discipline. **(The Daily Telegraph 30th March 1998)**

Notes: Some team changes were very successful: Leo Dynevor (ex-Newcastle) into half, the McGuinness brothers back into the centres with Leeds to full-back and the debut of 18-year-old Adrian Rainey into the pack. A good ball-work session on Friday night preceded an enthusiastic performance where the passes stuck for a change. John Skandalis was outstanding, continually off-loading, after standing in tackles. Andrew Leeds, back to his natural position, made a number of incisive runs.