



# 1991 Round 3 Saturday 30th March Campbelltown Stadium



## Manly-Warringah 8

def.

## Western Suburbs 4

Matthew RIDGE  
 Frank STOKES  
 David RONSON  
 Michael O'CONNOR (c)  
 Tony IRO  
 Geoff TOOVEY  
 Des HASLER  
 Owen CUNNINGHAM  
 Ian ROBERTS  
 Chris WHITE  
 David HOSKING  
 David O'DONNELL  
 Martin BELLA  
 Grant DOOREY  
 Matt DUNFORD

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

Shaun DEVINE  
 Tony COSATTO  
 Russell WYER  
 Andrew FARRAR  
 Jamie AINSCOUGH  
 Jim DYMOCK  
 Noel GOLDTHORPE  
 Bob LINDNER (c)  
 Cameron BLAIR  
 Jason LIDDEN  
 David GILLESPIE  
 Joe THOMAS  
 Tony RAMPLING  
 Ron GIBBS  
 Jason TAYLOR  
 Steve JACKSON



**Tries** Frank STOKES

Tony COSATTO

**Goals** Matthew RIDGE (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: T Cosatto, A Farrar, R Wyer, J Ainscough; five-eighth: J Dymock; half: N Goldthorpe; forwards: R Lindner (c), J Lidden, C Blair, D Gillespie, J Thomas, T Rampling

**Manly-Warringah:** Full-back: M Ridge; three-quarters: F Stokes, D Ronson, M O'Connor (c), T Iro; five-eighth: G Toovey; half: D Hasler; forwards: O Cunningham, I Roberts, C White, D Hosking, D O'Donnell, M Bella **Referee: W Harrigan (Big League 3rd April 1991)**

The slippery ball – rather than two controversial penalty decisions – was the main talking point after Manly's grafting win over Western Suburbs yesterday. The two penalties within five minutes in the second half boosted Manly to an 8-4 win at Campbelltown Sports Stadium. These decisions and simmering discontent among players from both sides about the slippery "wet weather" ball, marked an otherwise dour contest.... Irate Wests' supporters hooted referee Bill Harrigan as he walked off the field after the match. While one penalty seemed justified, the other was touch and go. The scores were locked at 4-all when Harrigan awarded the penalties, the first on a touch judge's report and the second on his own decision. In the first incident the touch judge reported Wests' centre Russell Wyer, who had attempted to block a clearing kick by Michael O'Connor. Wyer jumped, turning his back towards the kick, and O'Connor ended on the ground. The touch judge ran in to report the incident and Harrigan awarded the penalty, but realistically it was a very fine line. "That was the turning point of the match as far as I was concerned," Wests' coach Warren Ryan said later. Five minutes after, full-back Matthew Ridge kicked that penalty to make it 6-4, Harrigan had the crowd howling again when he awarded a penalty after Wests' Ron "Rambo" Gibbs dived at Ridge's feet after he had kicked through. The ball landed near the quarter-line and Ridge had no trouble in putting it over to give Manly a four-point margin. After the match, Harrigan said he told Gibbs he had been penalised for a late tackle. .... Wests' mis-handling – they dropped the ball 20 times in the match, eight in the first half and 12 times in the second half – was as destructive as Manly's impressive defence. Ryan was quick to point out that Manly had to contend with the same footballs and their handling was not nearly as poor as Wests." ... Against the run of play, when Manly threatened to score, full-back Matthew Ridge threw out a long pass towards the right wing. Anticipating the pass, Wests' Tony Cosatto swooped in from the wing, snatched the ball before it reached Frank Stokes and then won a thrilling race to the line. ... Wests led 4-0 at half-time but eight minutes into the second half, Ian Roberts hooked a ball back in the play-the-ball. Wests weathered the initial storm to regain possession, but Jason Lidden, otherwise one of Wests' best, spilt the ball and Manly had their attack rolling again. Manly probed one way and then back towards the right where O'Connor sent out a pass to Frank Stokes who raced over wide out. Wests had their fans screaming encouragement in the final minutes when they launched a series of attacks which had the Manly defence working at double time. But once again a spilt pass by a Wests' player gave Manly a breathing space. ... The match was forgettable but, in the conditions, it did produce some block-busting defence from both sides. Wests played very strongly in the first half, maintaining pressure through their bustling defence and a strong kicking game. Second-rowers Jason Lidden and Cameron Blair were particularly effective in defence while Tony Rampling kept taking the ball up hard and often. Lock Bob Lindner continually made ground while in the backs, full-back Shaun Devine displayed a lot of courage in diving on the ball in front of a couple of charging Manly players. ... Wests' bad luck continued after the match when it was disclosed that centre Russell Wyer had a shoulder injury which could put him out for six weeks and Tony Rampling was also in trouble with shoulder damage. **(The Sun-Herald 31st March 1991)**

**Notes:** In a match dominated by defence, big hits and a slippery ball Wests felt robbed of at least a draw after two doubtful penalties were awarded which allowed Matthew Ridge to kick the match-winning goals. Wests attacked very strongly in the last five minutes and looked likely to score until dropped ball again plagued their chances. Russell Wyer and Tony Rampling added to the long injury list, both having concerning shoulder injuries.