



1998 Round 4 Sunday 5th April Newcastle Sports



Newcastle 34

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Robbie O'DAVIS
 Mark HUGHES
 Matthew GIDLEY
 Owen CRAIGIE
 Jason MOODIE
 Matthew JOHNS
 Andrew JOHNS
 Bill PEDEN
 Wayne RICHARDS
 Troy FLETCHER
 Paul HARRAGON (c)
 Lee JACKSON
 Tony BUTTERFIELD
 Glenn GRIEF
 Neil PICCINELLI
 Steve CROWE
 Adam MacDOUGALL

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

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



Tries Matthew GIDLEY (2)
 Robbie O'DAVIS
 Glenn GRIEF
 Jason MOODIE
 Owen CRAIGIE

Kevin McGUINNESS
 Brett HODGSON
 Steve GEORGALLIS

Goals Andrew JOHNS (5)

Brett HODGSON (3)

Match Description

Newcastle: Full-back: R O'Davis; three-quarters: M Hughes, M Gidley, O Craigie, J Moodie; five-eighth: M Johns; half: A Johns; forwards: W Peden, T Fletcher, W Richards, P Harragon (c), L Jackson, T Butterfield
Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds (c); three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, Kevin McGuinness, B Hodgson; five-eighth: S Georgallis (c); half: L Dynevor; forwards: S Coxon, A Rainey, D Kennedy, J Skandalis, C Mescia, D Rameka **Referee: B Grant (Big League 5th April 1998)**

In a game devoid of highlights, it took a tackle every bit as spectacular as Darren Albert's try-saver on North's Matt Seers in last season's ARL final to bring the Newcastle crowd to their feet at Marathon Stadium yesterday. The Knights won a scrappy affair 34-18 over an injury-riddled Western Suburbs side to keep their unbeaten start to the season intact. But the final scoreline flattered the Knights, who rarely got out of second gear against the courageous Magpie outfit whose injury toll mounted by the minute. Wests, without captain Paul Langmack, lost fullback Andrew Leeds and prop John Skandalis in the opening minutes but still had an opportunity to steal the match as they trailed just 22-18 with six minutes left. Most would have agreed a four-point margin would have been a far more fitting result. It was hardly a memorable 80 minutes of football but they will be talking about Jason Moodie's unbelievable tackle on Wests' Ken McGuinness for some time to come. The Knights' winger gave him at least 15 metres start over 70 metres but somehow managed to cut him down a metre from the line. The crowd rose as one after the great chase, which came at a crucial time in the game right on half time with the Magpies trailing 14-6. Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis rated the tackle the turning point of the match with his side bombing a certain try from the play the ball. Knights' skipper Paul Harragon said it was as good as Albert's effort to cut down Seers in the final. Moodie, in great form in the absence of Albert, said he said gave himself no chance of running down McGuinness. "I was always going to chase him but I was only looking to try and push him out wide to make the kick harder," he admitted. "but over the last 20 metres, he just slowed up and I was able to pick him up." The Knights led 8-0 after 16 minutes when centre Matthew Gidley stormed over for the first of his two tries and with Wests down to just two interchange players, a real blow-out looked on the cards. But Newcastle never got into the groove at any stage. Coach Mal Reilly summed up his side's uninspiring effort. "You think you are travelling well and all of a sudden the wheels fall off," he said. "We will go away, reassess and iron a few things out. I guess you can't peak all the time." Replacement prop Glen Grief, playing against his former club, made a big impact off the bench, scoring a storming try and playing a big part in another while hooker Lee Jackson and half back Andrew Johns also played strongly. **(The Daily Telegraph 6th April 1998)**

Notes: Wests were hit hard with injury, Paul Langmack out before the match with a back injury and losing Andrew Leeds and John Skandalis early on in the game. Against all the odds, however, Wests hung in the game and were only down 22-18 with five minutes to go. The depleted pack found it hard to hold the Newcastle forwards through the middle of the rucks.