



1991 Round 4 Sunday 7th April Kogarah Oval



St George 20

Darren SOUTH
 Ricky WALFORD
 Michael BEATTIE (c)
 Mark COYNE
 Cameron WADE
 Michael POTTER
 David NIU
 Peter GILL
 Scott GOURLEY
 Wally FULLERTON-SMITH
 Paul OSBORNE
 Wayne COLLINS
 Peter SPRING
 Kurt LANDERS
 Tony PRIDDLE
 Matthew ELLIOTT
 Neil TIERNEY

def.

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

Western Suburbs 18

Shaun DEVINE
 Stephen BURNS
 Tony COSATTO
 Andrew FARRAR
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Jim DYMOCK
 Jason TAYLOR
 Bob LINDNER (c)
 Ron GIBBS
 Jason LIDDEN
 David GILLESPIE
 Joe THOMAS
 Darren BRITT
 Cameron BLAIR
 Jason KELLY



Tries

Ricky WALFORD
 Matthew ELLIOTT
 Mark COYNE

Tony COSATTO
 Shaun DEVINE
 Jamie AINSCOUGH

Goals

Ricky WALFORD (4)

Jason TAYLOR (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: D South; three-quarters: R Walford, M Beattie (c), M Coyne, C Wade; five-eighth: M Potter; half: D Niu; forwards: P Gill, S Gourley, W Fullerton-Smith, P Osborne, W Collins, P Spring

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: S Burns, A Farrar, T Cosatto, J Ainscough; five-eighth: J Dymock; half: J Taylor; forwards: B Lindner (c), J Lidden, R Gibbs, D Gillespie, J Thomas, D Britt **Referee: G McCallum (Big League 10th April 1991)**

Glamour winger Ricky Walford marked his account with St George "paid in full" yesterday after scoring a face-saving 90-metre try that made amends for an earlier mishap and helped inspire a dramatic fightback to beat Wests 20-18. Walford blamed himself for Wests being able to score a first-half try that put them in a seemingly impregnable position of 14-2 at half-time and with a fierce wind at their backs in the second half. Instead, Saints performed one of the great escapes of rugby league to race into the breeze for three tries in 14 minutes and an exhilarating win. In the second minute of the second half, replacement forward Matthew Elliott caught the defence napping on the final tackle and unexpectedly chipped near Wests' line. Saints' prop Paul Osborne caught the ball and passed it seemingly forward for Elliott to score. Eight minutes later came Walford's try and then in the 54th minute centre Mark Coyne scored after Saints took advantage of a big overlap for 20-14. After a long pass from Kangaroo prop David Gillespie put winger Ainscough over in the 62nd minute for 20-18, Wests lost experienced centre Andrew Farrar soon after and struggled. "Probably for 70 minutes of the match we were the better side, but in those other 10 minutes Saints scored their points," Wests' coach Warren Ryan said. "I don't really have any answers for what happened other than we were a man short when the points were scored against us. But if you lead by 12 at half-time you should win." Saints' coach Brian Smith said it had been backs to the wall for his side after the hole they had dug themselves into in the first half. But there had been a glimmer of hope. "I thought Wests would play very negatively and that if we could get a roll-on it could backfire on them," he said. "Once we got rolling, that's what happened." Smith's switch of winger Cameron Wade to five-eighth for the second half and Michael Potter to half were also significant. ... Saints deserve all the praise that comes their way for having character and courage to turn yesterday's game around in such spectacular fashion. With hooker Collins having a big impact on the play and wholehearted support from his team-mates like Osborne, Gill and Spring, it was a display that strengthens Saints' claim as to be a semi-finalist this year. "The team had to show something today," Smith said. "We were in a springboard position. If we won, we'd go to the top of the table. If we lost, we'd slip down. Wests wore the grass out at our end." Wests' full-back Shaun Devine went to the sin-bin for five minutes right on half-time. When he returned, winger Steve Burns went for 10 minutes. Playing 12 men made Saints' task easier but Wests failed to take advantage in the first half when Osborne was sin-binned for 10 minutes. And Walford pulled out of the grasp of three defenders in his 90m try. **(Daily Telegraph 8th April 1991)**

Notes: Wests led 14-2 at the break and should have won. The sin-binning of Shaun Devine just before the break and Stephen Burns after the break meant that Wests played with 12 men for quite a period. During this time, St George put on 14 points. Wests came back strongly and were well in it at 18-20 in the 62nd minute but the loss of the experienced Andrew Farrar through injury was the critical factor. Joe Thomas finished with a suspected broken thumb.