



1989 Round 4 Sunday 9th April Orana Park



Brisbane 10

Grant GRAVING
 Steve RENOUF
 Tony CURRIE
 Chris JOHNS
 Michael HANCOCK
 Wally LEWIS (c)
 Allan LANGER
 Terry MATTERSON
 Andrew GEE
 Gene MILES
 Sam BACKO
 Kerrod WALTERS
 Greg DOWLING
 James DONNELLY
 Gary FRENCH

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Danny PEACOCK
 Graham MACKAY
 Jason STAFFORD
 Allen GEELAN
 Wayne SIMONDS
 Jason LIDDEN
 Trevor COGGER
 Brendon TUUTA
 Cameron BLAIR (c)
 Dave GALLAGHER
 Pat O'DOHERTY
 Shane FLANAGAN
 Craig TEITZEL
 Dave WOODS
 Alan FALLAH
 Richard SMITH
 Steve FUNNELL



Tries Tony CURRIE
 Chris JOHNS

Wayne SIMONDS

Goals Terry MATTERSON (1)

Graham MACKAY (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: G Mackay, A Geelan, J Stafford, W Simonds; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: T Cogger; forwards: B Tuuta, D Gallagher, C Blair (c), P O'Doherty, S Flanagan, C Teitzel

Brisbane: Full-back: G Graving; three-quarters: M Hancock, T Currie, C Johns, S Renouf; five-eighth: W Lewis (c); half: A Langer; forwards: T Matterson, G Miles, A Gee, S Backo, K Walters, G Dowling **Referee: G West (Big League 12th April 1989)**

Captain Wally Lewis didn't agree – not that the scoreline indicated he was right. But Wests' assertion after yesterday's match at Orana Park that Brisbane were sluggards in the wet didn't rest easily with him. Brisbane won 10-8 – a tough slog on a slushy surface but Lewis wasn't having any of the 'duffers in the wet' theory. "Us no good in the wet? I don't know how they come at that," said Lewis. "We've played nine matches in the wet and lost just one ... not a bad record." Wests' coach, John Bailey, had done some homework. "We checked the video of Brisbane's last game in the wet and counted how long it took (Sam) Backo and (Greg) Dowling to get back on-side after a kick downfield ... an average of three rucks," Bailey said. He saw Brisbane's big pack as vulnerable and set his game plan accordingly. Backo lasted just 24 minutes because of a damaged shoulder. Dowling had some strong moments, but not enough, and even Gene Miles appeared bogged by the slush. You don't go looking for billboard status when you look at Wests Brendan Tuuta, Dave Gallagher, Cameron Blair, Shane Flanagan, Craig Teitzel ... some pack of forwards – no names ... no frills. That Brisbane won this match might have more merit than first considered. They overcame Wests' terriers to lead 10-4 midway through the second half and did not allow the Magpies a try until the 78th minute. Wayne Simonds' try in the left corner gave Graham Mackay the chance to equalise. However, he slipped as he kicked the ball and his around-the-corner attempt slewed to the left. Lewis had a relatively quiet match and "corked" the arm he broke last year. Biting and gouging allegations flew thick and fast after the match, Wests deciding to drop an on-field allegation by hooker Flanagan that he had been bitten. Though the Broncos were reluctant to go on with a gouging charge made by one of their players in reserve grade, they were prepared to look at the matter. **(Sydney Morning Herald 10th April 1989)**

..... The Magpies played like men possessed all day. All it needed for a Wests' victory was an Ellery Hanley. Despite the loss, Wests yesterday showed they are a team capable of matching it with the best and have some promising players. Young five-eighth Jason Lidden can be pleased with his game against Lewis, while lock Brendon Tuuta, making his Winfield Cup debut, certainly looks to have a bright future. Out Campbelltown way the feeling is one of confidence and watch out come May 14 when the 'Black Pearl' makes his long-awaited debut for the Magpies. **(Daily Mirror 10th April 1989)**

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Notes: On a very wet field, Wests rattled Brisbane with their defence and had a chance to draw the match when a Graham Mackay conversion of a late Wayne Simonds try went just wide. Kiwi import Brendon Tuuta made a huge impression on debut, making 34 tackles and always being dangerous in attack. Jason Lidden also had a great game in the backs, but Dave Gallagher was a truly inspirational forward, although Captain Cameron Blair also contributed with 48 dogged tackles.