



1994 Round 5 Sunday 10th April Sydney Football Stadium



South Sydney 28

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Darrell TRINDALL
 Mark McGAW
 Shane WILSON
 Jacin SINCLAIR
 Paul MELLOR
 Jason BELL
 Craig FIELD
 Tyran SMITH
 Jeremy DONOUGHHER
 Tony MESTROV
 Terry HERMANSSON
 Dean SCHIFILLITI (c)
 Brett GOLDSPINK
 Scott TRONC
 Jamie CORCORAN
 David PENNA
 Anthony KABERRY

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Paul SMITH
 Damien McGARRY
 Jason EADE
 Ewan McGRADY
 Andrew WILLIS
 Jason ALCHIN
 Jason BENGE
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 David WONSON
 Kyle WHITE
 Jim SERDARIS
 Neil TIERNEY
 Glenn GRIEF
 Chris WILLIAMS
 Scott HARDY
 Brandon PEARSON



Tries Craig FIELD (2)
 Shane WILSON
 Tony MESTROV
 Paul MELLOR

Paul SMITH (2)

Goals Shane WILSON (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, D McGarry, J Eade, E McGrady; five-eighth: A Willis; half: J Alchin; forwards: J Benge, P Langmack (c), D Wonson, K White, J Serdaris, N Tierney

South Sydney: Full-back: D Trindall; three-quarters: M McGaw, S Wilson, J Sinclair, P Mellor; five-eighth: J bell; half: C Field; forwards: T Smith, J Donougher, T Mestrov, T Hermansson, D Schifilliti (c), B Goldspink **Referee: D Manson (Daily Telegraph 11th April 1994)**

Ten minutes of exuberance and inspiration from Craig Field redeemed the seemingly irredeemable at the Sydney Football Stadium yesterday. South Sydney half back Field brought off the tackle of the season on Wests' winger Ewan McGrady, then created a try and scored one himself to construct a 28-8 win. Forget the score. Souths led 10-8 with 12 minutes to go before the Field tackle which saved the game. What can't be forgotten is the nightmare which was the first 40 minutes. When fans who were there yesterday look back when they're old and grey, they'll say in disbelief and wonder: "Truly that was the worst half of football I ever saw." Both teams didn't so much display the whole gamut of mistakes; they expanded the repertoire, and it would need an expanded alphabet to describe them. One example: Wests dropped the ball on either the first or second tackle four times in the first five minutes. Souths followed suit. That was the good bit. It just degenerated from there. Bring back the under 7's, one spectator yelled, more in desperation than humour. "Halftime will be the highlight of the game", said another. Never was there a more inappropriate anthem as *Simply the Best* was played. Wests led 8-2 at half time after centre Jason Eade had positioned winger Paul Smith stylishly for a run to the corner. ... Both teams profited from each other's mistakes but at least Souths held possession. Souths went ahead when Field fired a face ball to winger Paul Mellor, after Wests had forfeited a converted try with an appropriately bizarre error. Hooker Jim Serdaris put replacement Glenn Grief away, but with fullback Andrew Leeds unmarked inside, Grief fumbled and in the time it took to regain control, the chance was lost. Wests regained the lead when Serdaris chipped through and Souths absurdly waited for the ball to go dead, after having the situation under control. Winger Smith pounced. Souths hit the lead again when Mellor was marked on the sideline but no one was marking centre Shane Wilson on his inside. Fortunately, there was a Field of light. McGrady set out on what seemed a certain 70 metre try with Field vainly in pursuit, but the winger got the staggers and inexplicitly slowed to try to fend off Field, 10 metres from the line. McGrady was stopped on the line and there's no doubt he would have scored had he not hesitated. Two rucks later, Wests' half Jason Alchin dropped the ball when diving over. Souths' half then took his cue and became the Field of Dreams. He directed Wilson across, then sprinted, got to his feet and dummied his way over, and second-rower Tony Mastrov scored in the last minute. After such a game, the coaches offered rationalisations but there wasn't anything to be said. It was awful. **(Sydney Morning Herald 11th April 1994)**

Notes: This was a very poor game of football with the first half being regarded as one of the worst for decades. The game was still in the balance with Souths leading 10-8 with 12 minutes to go when a brilliant Craig Field tackle stopped a certain Wests' try. Jim Serdaris was the best for Wests but often went unsupported. In the end, it was Wests' high error rate that was the real losing factor.