



# 1993 Round 5 Sunday 11th April Campbelltown Stadium



## Illawarra 24

Brendan O'MEARA  
 Rod WISHART  
 Paul McGREGOR  
 Brett RODWELL  
 Alan McINDOE  
 Dale FRITZ  
 Michael NEIL  
 John CROSS  
 Neil PICCINELLI  
 Bob LINDNER  
 David WALSH  
 Dean SCHIFILLITI (c)  
 Steve WADDELL  
 John SIMON  
 Craig IZZARD  
 Grant IZZARD

def.

## Western Suburbs 2

Andrew LEEDS  
 Darren WILLIS  
 Steve O'DEA  
 Terry HILL  
 Mark BELL  
 Steve GEORGALLIS  
 Jason TAYLOR  
 Paul LANGMACK  
 Stephen KEARNEY  
 Andrew WILLIS  
 David GILLESPIE (c)  
 Jason ALCHIN  
 Matt RYAN  
 Joe THOMAS  
 Reece WEBB  
 Justin DOOLEY  
 Justin MOLONEY



**Tries** Rod WISHART (2)  
 Michael NEIL  
 John CROSS

**Goals** Rod WISHART (4)

Jason TAYLOR (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: M Bell, S O'Dea, T Hill, D Willis; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: J Taylor; forwards: P Langmack, S Kearney, A Willis, D Gillespie (c), J Alchin, M Ryan

**Illawarra:** Full-back: B O'Meara; three-quarters: R Wishart, B Rodwell, P McGregor, A McIndoe; five-eighth: D Fritz; half: M Neil; forwards: J Cross, N Piccinelli, B Lindner, D Walsh, D Schifiliti (c), S Waddell **Referee: G Annesley (Daily Telegraph 12th April 1993)**

The surf must be pretty flat down the South Coast these days. Certainly, the Illawarra Steelers are making no waves. If the final five is their business, it was business as usual yesterday as the Steelers frustrated Wests in the first half and demolished them in the second. The Steelers are handily placed to go one or two better than they did last season but don't tell that to mild-mannered Graham Murray. "Oh, I dunno," said the coach when asked if this team is as good as last year's No-one bothered to tell him he hadn't answered the question. There seems little doubt this Illawarra team will make the five. Early days, of course, but barring some sort of horrific injury toll they have talent to burn and the necessary back-up in the reserves. If Illawarra are handily placed after round five, Wests are not. After this Sunday, the semis for the Magpies are looking decidedly too far away. Yet at half-time, Wests should have been miles ahead. They had bombed four or five scoring opportunities although the young Illawarra fullback Brendon O'Meara was instrumental in helping them miss the target on three occasions. O'Meara had a personal battle with Wests' centre Steve O'Dea and barrelled him with a metre or so to spare on two separate occasions. And he also grassed Darren Willis just as the crowd was getting to its feet. O'Meara, substituting for the injured David Riolo, started cautiously yesterday treating the ball as if it was crystal glass. But as the game wore on and his confidence grew, he became (unfashionably this weekend, perhaps) one of the stars in the west: "I need to get more involved," he said afterwards, which might have brought a wince to Coach Wokka and the Magpies. It was, however, the more established star Paul McGregor who decided the game's fate. His first half twinkle-toed act gave him enough room to feed Rod Wishart for the first try. Wishart's second try did not eventuate until 20 minutes into the second half when fans had to be dragged from a period of inactivity which was bordering on the comatose. On this occasion, Bob Lindner and Craig Izzard did the fancy footwork and Wishart provided the speed. Given their luck, most of it wretched, there was no way Wests looked like they were going to come back from a 12-2 deficit. And neither they did. John Cross scored a soft try from the base of the scrum and McGregor capped a fine game performing a right-wing duet with Wishart before sending Neil over on the bell and under the posts. Coach Murray said after the game: "Everybody expected us to win and we did." It doesn't sound like a prize-winning quote but, then again, quotes don't win footy matches. **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 12th April 1993)**

**Notes:** Wests were well in this match for 60 minutes and bombed at least four chances in the first half, but the continuing injury toll put paid to their chances as the Steelers scored late tries. They seriously missed the power of Britt and White up front, but on a bright note Steve Georgallis, easily Wests' best, relished the switch to five-eighth. A serious medial ligament knee injury to Paul Langmack put a real dampener on the overall performance.