



1989 Round 5 Sunday 16th April Orana Park



Western Suburbs 6

def.

Balmain 4



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

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

Michael MOSS
 Russell GARTNER
 Michael POBJIE
 Steve BENKIC
 James GRANT
 Matt PARISH
 Michael NEIL
 Wayne PEARCE (c)
 David BROOKS
 Paul SIRONEN
 Bruce McGUIRE
 Ben ELIAS
 Steve ROACH
 Tim BRASHER

Tries Graham MACKAY

Bruce McGUIRE

Goals Graham MACKAY (1)

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, C Blair (c), D Gallagher, C Teitzel, S Flanagan, D Woods

Balmain: Full-back: M Moss; three-quarters: R Gartner, M Pobjie, S Benkic, J Grant; five-eighth: M Parish; half: M Neil; forwards: W Pearce (c), B Elias, D Brooks, P Sironen, B McGuire, B Elias, S Roach **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 19th April 1989)**

A record crowd at Orana Park gave its 13 muddled Western Suburbs heroes a standing ovation after the Magpies won their first Winfield Cup match of the season yesterday. More than 12,000 fans – overcome with joy – saluted the brave Magpie outfit after it had repelled countless Balmain attacks in the last half-hour of the match to hold out for a 6-4 win. Time and again in that period the Tigers made breaks and created overlaps as they probed for a try to put them in front. But on each occasion the Wests’ defence, which often looked in disarray, was able to re-group. Balmain narrowly missed salvaging a draw when Wests were penalised in the play-the-ball in the last minute. Wests’ coach John Bailey breathed a sigh of relief when Tigers’ second-rower David Brooks’ attempt from 43m out and directly in front passed narrowly, but harmlessly, under the cross-bar. “I knew a win was not too far around the corner after our loss to Brisbane last week,” said Bailey after a day when Wests, which had not won a match in any grade all season, completed a treble of victories. “It was badly needed by the whole club. We were ordinary in the first half with no runners – I wasn’t happy at half-time, and I told them. I’m not getting carried away because we still made a lot of mistakes, but we won and that’s terrific.” Balmain controlled the first half and the 4-0 scoreline at the break, through a 25th-minute try by Tigers’ prop flattered the home side. Balmain’s goal-kicker David Brooks not only failed to convert the try from 10m to the right of the posts, but he also hit the upright with a simple penalty and was wide with another. Balmain ran with a light breeze in the first half and some astute tactical kicking by Benny Elias kept Wests pinned in a mud-heap in between their 22m and half-way. Wests learned well from that experience and through the boot of five-eighth Jason Lidden, were able to similarly stretch Balmain after the break. Winger Wayne Simonds extended the Balmain defence down the left flank in the eighth minute of the second half. A quick play-the-ball and long passes from Lidden and centre Jason Stafford sent right winger Graham Mackay scurrying over in the corner. Mackay’s conversion hit the upright, but he made no mistake two minutes later when Michael Neil was penalised for deliberately delaying the play-the-ball and sin-binned for five minutes. With Wests clinging to a two-point lead, Balmain still looked capable of winning, but coach Warren Ryan was continually frustrated. “We had enough breaks to win 10 matches – we butchered so many overlaps,” Ryan said. **(Daily Telegraph 17th April 1989)**

Notes: Played on a bog before a ground record crowd of 12,339, Wests carried on the enthusiasm in defence from the previous game against the Broncos to hold out a rampaging Balmain in the last ten minutes. Brendon Tuuta was again super impressive, making 39 tackles and living up to his nickname “Rev” in attack. Jason Lidden’s tactical second half kicking was a major factor in the win.