



1987 Round 5 Sunday 29th March Orana Park



South Sydney 14

def.

Western Suburbs 11

Brad WEBB
 Ross HARRINGTON
 Steve MAVIN
 Phil BLAKE
 Jason MOON
 Neil BAKER
 Craig COLEMAN
 Michael ANDREWS
 Joe THOMAS
 Wayne CHISHOLM
 David BOYLE
 Mario FENECH (c)
 Ian ROBERTS
 Mark ELLISON
 Paul ROBERTS

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

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 John ALLANSON
 Brett GALE
 Ian NADEN
 Allen GEELAN
 Steve MCCOY
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 Scott TRONC
 John BILBIJA
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Les WHITE
 Phillip DUKE
 Wayne LAMBKIN



Tries Craig COLEMAN
 Paul ROBERTS

Les WHITE
 John ALLANSON

Goals Neil BAKER (3)

Ian NADEN (2) One field goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: J Allanson, B Gale, I Naden, A Geelan; five-eighth: S McCoy; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), S Tronc, J Bilbija, I Freeman, A Fallah, L White

South Sydney: Full-back: B Webb; three-quarters: J Moon, S Mavin, P Blake, R Harrington; five-eighth: N Baker; half: C Coleman (c); forwards: M Andrews, J Thomas, W Chisholm, D Boyle, M Fenech (c), I Roberts **Referee: G McCallum (Rugby League Week 1st April 1987)**

Replacement forward Paul Roberts took a major step towards a permanent first-grade spot by scoring an opportunist game-breaking try as South Sydney scrambled to a 14-11 Winfield Cup victory over Western Suburbs at Orana Park yesterday. The former Moree Boomerangs second-rower collected a pass from lock Michael Andrews 30 metres out, powered past fullback Rod Pethybridge and then exploded towards the line. His strike came with just 10 minutes remaining, giving Souths a 12-11 advantage and knocking the stuffing out of a gritty Magpies' combination that fought hard but sadly lacked a backline organiser. Roberts has suffered from handling problems throughout his career, but believes he has now conquered that failing. "If you are looking for a try late in the game, Paul is your man," said Rabbitoh coach George Piggins "If he can solve his handling problems permanently, he's good enough to make any team." Souths just about deserved their win, despite bombing four glorious try-scoring opportunities. Pivot Neil Baker and half Craig Coleman gave them the control Wests lacked. Wests were left to rue early penalty misses with Ian Schubert and Ian Naden each missing a brace of simple chances in the first half. "We were playing well early in the season and getting beaten, but now we've played scrappy football two weeks running and won," said Piggins. "We made too many silly errors today. We kept pumping the ball when tries weren't on." Wests' coach Steve Ghosn was downcast after seeing his charges drop the ball 22 times. "All week we worked in training to minimise out mistakes, but we didn't do it when it counted," he said. "I can't keep making the same excuses." A penalty from Baker and a try from Coleman gave Souths an early 6-0 advantage, but Wests, who were occasionally brilliant, frequently pedestrian, came back to lead 8-6 at the break after tries from pacy winger John Allanson – his third touchdown in as many games – and powerhouse prop Les White, who charged fully 30 metres as the Souths' defence simply caved in. A Naden field goal after the break increased Wests' advantage, but a brace of Baker penalties and Roberts' decisive try denied the Magpies a win they so badly needed. The strong running of White, the enthusiasm of skipper Ian Schubert and some hard work by second-rower John Bilbija were heartening factors for Wests, but Ghosn looks to have more hard work ahead of him. **(Daily Telegraph 30th March 1987)**

Notes: Wests led 8-6 at half-time but a series of handling errors let Souths back into the match. Ian Schubert also missed two goals in front which would have won the game. In a close struggle, John Bilbija was very strong, while Les White was the best forward on the field. Allen Geelan also continued his great form.