



1997 Round 5 Sunday 6th April Leichhardt Oval



Balmain 28

Tim BRASHER
 James LANGALOA
 William KENNEDY
 Greg DONAGHEY
 Michael WITHERS
 Ellery HANLEY
 Steven JOLLY
 Glenn MORRISON
 Mark O'NEILL
 Mark STIMSON
 Paul SIRONEN (c)
 Darren SENTER
 Shane WALKER
 Adam STARR
 Jason WEBBER
 Hudson SMITH
 Michael GILLETT

def.

Western Suburbs 0

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Aseri LAING
 Andrew WILLIS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Damian KENNEDY
 Bill DUNN
 James SMITH
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 John SKANDALIS
 Shane MILLARD
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Chris YATES
 Des HASLER



Tries Michael WITHERS
 Glenn MORRISON
 Tim BRASHER
 Greg DONAGHEY
 Michael GILLETT
 James LANGALOA

Goals Michael WITHERS (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, A Laing; five-eighth: A Willis; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, J Smith, C Mescia, J Skandalis

Balmain: Full-back: T Brasher; three-quarters: J Langaloe, W Kennedy, G Donaghey, M Withers; five-eighth: E Hanley; half: S Jolly; forwards: G Morrison, M O'Neill, M Stimson, P Sironen (c), D Senter, S Walker **Referee: S Hampstead (Big League 7th April 1997)**

It was the "beer-bonding" versus the "harmony in health foods" game at Leichhardt Oval yesterday with the boiled zucchini mob winning. Balmain coach Wayne Pearce, a non-drinking advocate of complex carbohydrate diets, triumphed over Wests' coach Tom Raudonikis, a man who took his team out on the town 12 days ago in order to gain the Magpies their first win of the year. Old hands on the bottle know that a night on the turps will get a team up for a win in week one but it catches up with you in week two. His theory was thoroughly endorsed by Pearce who said: "Our energy levels are up there every week. There is no roller coaster effect with us." Pearce described yesterday's win as "The most comprehensive since I've been coaching." By contrast, Raudonikis described his team's effort as "disgraceful", declaring it "The worst performance I have seen the boys put in." Puffing on a cigarette and gulping the contents of a beer can, he was defiant in defeat. It would seem the Magpie players have a few sessions running up Chilli's Hill awaiting them. Raudonikis offered no excuses for the Magpies' virtual surrender. Yet the tries came in the mix of incompetence and bad luck. In the 5th minute, left winger Darren Willis took the lazy option on a grubber in-goal by Balmain fullback Tim Brasher. Willis attempted to tap the ball over the dead ball line but Balmain's Michael Withers forced the ball as Willis nonchalantly groped for it. Balmain's second try was simply bad luck for Wests. Brasher grubbered it again in the 21st minute and the ball rebounded neatly off the legs of a Wests' player straight into the arms of Michael Gillette. Brasher scored the third try, which moved the score to 14-0 by the 26th minute. Wests' woes continued and forward Shane Millard was placed on report for a tackle on hooker Darren Senter. Wests' best player was centre Brandon "Hollywood" Pearson, so named because he never appears concerned. But Pearson demonstrated his frustration with the crunching hit on Brasher late in the game, which forced the international fullback to leave the field. Pearce declared his best were Brasher and lock Glenn Morrison, who scored a neat try four minutes into the second half. Warming to the theme of a diet-led victory, Pearce said of his team's successive victories: "We are not serving it up hot one week and cold the next. We will savour the win tonight and build for next week." He said he would not be a candidate for the city coaching job vacated by NSW coach Phil Gould. "It is an honour and a stepping stone but my passion is here at Leichhardt," he said..... **(The Sydney Morning Herald 7th April 1997)**

Notes: Tom Raudonikis thought this was the worst performance in his time as coach and it was certainly a very poor effort, with little sign of any aggression. They simply couldn't break the strong Tigers' defence. To make things worse, Shane Millard was put on report. Bill Dunn and Andrew Leeds were clearly the best for the Magpies.