



1997 Round 6 Friday 11th April Campbelltown Stadium



Newcastle 8

Robbie O'DAVIS
 Darren ALBERT
 Evan COCHRANE
 Owen CRAIGIE
 Jason MOODIE
 Matthew GIDLEY
 Leo DYNEVOR
 Marc GLANVILLE
 Adam MUIR
 Bill PEDEN
 Wayne RICHARDS
 Lee JACKSON
 Tony BUTTERFIELD (c)
 Scott CONLEY
 Jarrod O'DOHERTY
 Troy FLETCHER

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Aseri LAING
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Shane MILLARD
 James SMITH
 Bill DUNN
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 John SKANDALIS
 Adam DOYLE
 Chad HARRIS
 Des HASLER



Tries Matthew GIDLEY

Darren WILLIS

Goals Leo DYNEVOR (2)

Match Description

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

Newcastle: Full-back: R O'Davis; three-quarters: D Albert, E Cochrane, O Craigie, J Moodie; five-eighth: M Gidley; half: L Dynevor; forwards: < Glanville, A Muir, W Peden, W Richards, L Jackson, T Butterfield (c) **Referee: D Manson (Big League 12th April 1997)**

Tom Raudonikis couldn't take his mind off one missed tackle; Mal Reilly praised his defence but wondered just where the Knights went wrong with the ball. One try. Two coaches, two different stories. Newcastle won 8-4 and Reilly used the closeness of the score to illustrate just how happy he was with his team's defence this season. It was better than the other option - discussing his attack. "The big thing is we didn't take as many chances with the ball tonight," Reilly said. "but then that's always been Manly's secret, hasn't it? If teams are going to beat them, then they are going to have to score more than 20 points. We've never been short of being able to score points ..." But even if the Knights aren't scoring points, the message is that nowadays they can still win. Despite an awful first-half error count, by Reilly's figures anyway, the Knights outlasted a committed Wests' side which was always in it. "One missed tackle," Raudonikis kept repeating. "One missed tackle, and we lose the ball game." Actually, it was two. Wests were clinging to a 4-2 lead after a second half try had stunned the Knights into action, when Newcastle five-eighth Matthew Gidley took the ball across field. Gidley, in to replace the injured Matthew Johns, looking the perfect replica, jinking, stepping and stop-starting. Forty metres out, he bamboozled the defence. Bang, he was gone - missed tackle number one. He then lined up Wests' fullback Andrew Leeds and stepped around him beautifully - missed tackle number two. After Leo Dynevor converted the try, the Knights were ahead 8-4 and in control. But the Magpies never gave up. They had several chances as the clock wound down, but each time referee David Manson called them back, incurring the wrath of the spectators, who booed him from the field. Raudonikis, too,, had his own opinions. "I thought Ken McGuinness was on-side when he took that bomb," he said. "It is a matter of opinion, he (Manson) knows, It can never be replayed again, which he also knows. We've just got to start winning games now," Raudonikis said. "We'll have another hard hit out this week but we've got to start winning. But I was happy with the boys. Defence has never been our problem; it's been our mistake rate. Last week we had 23 errors, tonight it was only nine." Reilly had similar claims about mistake rates. While he gave the Magpies full credit, he attributed part of their success to the night's awful start. "it wasn't a pretty sight," Reilly said. "We made it real hard for ourselves. In the first half, we came up with so many errors we gave them momentum and confidence. They're not a bad outfit, they are full of enthusiasm, but in the first half we weren't able to get any good field position and our kicking in comparison to theirs was awful. But the second half was better for us. We had a 20% difference in completion rate and that was the difference in the game." Reilly is happy that his team is capable of winning even when it isn't firing on all cylinders. Paul Harragon, Matthew and Andrew Johns, Brett Grogan and Adam MacDougall are yet to return for the Knights. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 17th April 1997)**

Notes: Kevin McGuinness came into five-eighth to replace the injured Andrew Willis, while Des Hasler was used as a replacement. In a very close, defence-oriented match, Wests had numerous late chances to win, especially after two tries were disallowed, one of which Raudonikis felt was legitimate. In the end it was a badly missed tackle on Matthew Gidley that led to a try that turned the match.