



1995 Round 6 Saturday 15th April Campbelltown Stadium



Newcastle 23

Robbie O'DAVIS
 Ashley GORDON
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Nathan BARNES
 Tony HERMAN
 Brad GODDEN
 Andrew JOHNS
 Darren TREACY
 Tony BUTTERFIELD
 Paul MARQUET
 Paul HARRAGON
 Robbie McCORMACK
 Mark SARGENT (c)
 Steve CROWE
 Robbie ROSS
 Adam MUIR

def.

Western Suburbs 22

Andrew LEEDS
 Paul SMITH
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Darren WILLIS
 Andrew WILLIS
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Jim SERDARIS
 Bill DUNN
 Brent STUART
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Glenn GRIEF
 Mark HORO
 Paul BELL
 Damian DRISCOLL



Tries Robbie McCORMACK
 Ashley GORDON
 Jamie AINSCOUGH

Jim SERDARIS
 Paul LANGMACK
 Steve GEORGALLIS

Goals Andrew JOHNS (5)
 Jamie AINSCOUGH (1) Field Goal

Andrew WILLIS (4)
 Andrew LEEDS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, K McGuinness, B Pearson, D Willis; five-eighth: A Willis; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), J Serdaris, B Dunn, B Stuart, C Mescia, G Grief

Newcastle: Full-back: R O'Davis; three-quarters: A Gordon, J Ainscough, N Barnes, T Herman; five-eighth: B Godden; half: A Johns; forwards: D Treacy, T Butterfield, P Marquet, P Harragon, R McCormack, M Sargent (c) **Referee: E Ward (Big League 15th April 1995)**

Andrew Leeds almost became a hero in the eyes of every Wests' supporter yesterday. A late field goal attempt barely missed. In the eyes of his teammates, though, Leeds was already a man of immeasurable courage. Leeds' father, Robert, died late on Friday afternoon. Andrew played on. "My initial thought was not to play," he said after yesterday's match, won 23-22 by Newcastle, "but after giving it a lot of thought, I thought ... he was my biggest supporter so I thought it would be nice to play." Robert Leeds, 76, had open heart surgery before Christmas, then suffered a stroke shortly afterwards. For the past four months at 7:30 each morning, Andrew made his way to the hospital where his father was resting. At 2:30 pm he would leave for training, returning at night. It is an indication of Leeds' character that throughout his father's illness he never failed to be there for his team and never let his father down either. For all his courage, Leeds nearly helped Wests to an emotional victory over Newcastle at Campbelltown Sports Ground. After tearing away to a 22-10 lead midway through the second half, the Magpies looked set to record a stunning upset. However, after cutting down their penalties, Newcastle worked their way back into the game and eventually drew level with nine minutes remaining. The vocal Campbelltown crowd threw all their voice behind the Magpies and for a while it appeared as though their better field position would set the platform. Leeds' field goal attempt sailed just wide and several times the Magpies threatened to break through. When Newcastle finally began to hang on to possession, the match began to sway. With less than a minute remaining, centre Jamie Ainscough finally received the ball and calmly put it between the posts. Adding to the drama, Ainscough, a left footer, was forced to take the shot with his right. Afterwards, a relaxed Ainscough said it was no fluke the ball found him where it did. "I tried to set myself on the left side just in case Andrew Johns wanted to use me," he said, "and it came off sweet." Clearly drained, Raudonikis didn't see it that way. With the shell of a beer can at his feet and his hair ruffled on top, Raudonikis said he was shattered that the side could get so near, yet lose. "At least I know I've got a good side on my hands," he said. Rumours still persist that when the Magpies finally gets three wins on the trot, Tommy will have to shave his head as payment in a bet. Twice now, West have faltered at the final match. But in the meantime, Tommy's ruffled hair remains where it is. **(The Sun-Herald 16th April 1995)**

Notes: A late Andrew Leeds field goal just missed, but Wests had plenty of chances in the last 10 minutes. Some silly errors let Newcastle back into the match when Wests were leading 20-12 half-way through the second half, and apparently cruising. A big bonus for Wests was that big prop, Kyle White, back from Workington, England, had a strong game in Reserves.