



1994 Round 6 Sunday 17th April Campbelltown Stadium



Canberra 40

def.

Western Suburbs 24

Brett MULLINS
 Albert FULIVAI
 Mal MENINGA (c)
 David BOYLE
 Ken NAGAS
 Jason CROKER
 Ricky STUART
 Bradley CLYDE
 David FURNER
 Brett HETHERINGTON
 Quentin PONGIA
 Steve WALTERS
 Paul OSBORNE
 David WESTLEY
 Steve STONE
 Jason DEATH
 Jimmy VEIKOSO

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

Andrew LEEDS
 Paul SMITH
 Manoa THOMPSON
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Jason EADE
 Andrew WILLIS
 Ewan McGRADY
 Jason BENGÉ
 Stephen KEARNEY
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Neil TIERNEY
 Jim SERDARIS
 Glenn GRIEF
 Scott HARDY
 Josh WHITE
 Bill DUNN
 Gerome LANE



Tries Jason CROKER (3)
 Steve WALTERS
 Ricky STUART
 Ken NAGAS
 David FURNER

Jason EADE
 Jim SERDARIS
 Ewan McGRADY
 Paul LANGMACK

Goals David FURNER (5)
 Ken NAGAS (1)

Andrew LEEDS (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: P Smith, M Thompson, S Georgallis, J Eade; five-eighth: A Willis; half: E McGrady; forwards: J Benge, P Langmack (c), S Kearney, N Tierney, J Serdaris, G Grief

Canberra: Full-back: B Mullins; three-quarters: A Fulivai, M Meninga (c), D Boyle, K Nagas; five-eighth: J Croker; half: R Stuart; forwards: B Clyde, D Furner, B Hetherington, P Osborne, S Walters, Q Pongia **Referee: E Ward (Daily Telegraph 18th April 1994)**

Jason Croker again proved to be the Raiders "Mr Fixit" in Canberra's 40 to 24 win over Western Suburbs at Campbelltown Sports Ground yesterday. The versatile utility player has been thrown into the hot seat, filling the five-eighth spot in the absence of star Laurie Daley. But he proved his worth by handling the job in fine style, crossing for three tries. In the process Croker, who has also moved to lock when Brad Clyde has been injured, showed plenty of class with speed, anticipation and a good step. "It's not a position you can settle into easily, particularly in our game plan when there is a lot to think about," said Canberra coach Tim Sheens. "He is getting better every week; he can score a try and shuffle you out of the way if you're not careful." Sheens said it would not be known until later in the week if Daley would be fit for next week's clash with Manly at Bruce Stadium. But if he is fit, Croker is ready to be switched back onto the wing, a decision he accepts. "I like to get into the action and I also like playing lock, but there is not much chance with Brad (Clyde) there," Croker said. It was significant that Canberra half back Ricky Stuart had a hand in each of Croker's three tries. Stuart was the standout performer yesterday scoring one try and also being involved in one scored by Steve Walters before being forced off the field after five minutes of the second half with a hamstring strain. "It is a bit of a worry for next week," Sheens said. Western Suburbs coach Warren Ryan described Stuart's performance as "masterful". And with Stuart off the field, it added to the responsibility on Croker and replacement half Steve Stone, who both did the job asked of them. "They held us together towards the end," Sheens said. The decision by referee Eddie Ward to send two players to the sin bin in the first half dramatically changed the game. Canberra's David Boyle was marched after 14 minutes and while he was off the field Wests raced to a 12 to nil lead. Later in the half Wests' five-eighth Andrew Willis got 10 minutes, and in his absence, Canberra piled on 22 points and went to the half time break leading 22 to 12. Sheens pointed to the telling statistic that in the first 26 minutes Wests had possession on 15 occasions, compared to Canberra who had the ball six times. **(The Daily Telegraph Mirror 18th April 1994)**

Notes: With a re-shuffled backline, Wests came out firing and led 12-0 but Ewan McGrady, who had just scored a brilliant try, was forced off with injury, causing another re-shuffle. The critical point came when Andrew Willis was sent to the sin-bin and Canberra scored 16 points while he was off the field. With Ricky Stuart putting on a masterclass, Wests were never able to recover.