



1985 Round 6 Sunday 21st April Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 16

def.

Illawarra 6



John McARTHUR
 Gary PEARCE
 Brett GALE
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Mark LAWSON
 Gary WARNECKE
 Trevor COGGER
 Mark HARRIGAN
 Allen GEELAN
 Craig CLARKE
 Terry LEABEATER (c)
 Alan FALLAH
 Bruce CLARK
 Steve MULLEN
 Gerald CELARC

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

John DORAHY
 David MOON
 Jason MOON
 Brian HETHERINGTON (c)
 Alan McINDOE
 Mick PATTISON
 Greg MACKEY
 Geoff SELBY
 Michael CARBERRY
 Rod REDDY
 Rex WILLIAMS
 Sean O'CONNOR
 Seamus O'CONNELL
 Steve WORTHINGTON
 Michael WICKS
 Wayne McPHERSON
 Kevin KELLY

Tries Brett GALE
 Trevor COGGER

Jason MOON

Goals Gary PEARCE (4)

John DORAHY (1)

Match Description

Illawarra: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moon, J Moon, B Hetherington (c), A McIndoe; five-eighth: M Pattison; half: G Mackey; forwards: G Selby, M Carberry, R Reddy, R Williams, S O'Connor, S O'Connell

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: G Pearce, B Gale, W Wigham, M Lawson; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: T Cogger; forwards: M Harrigan, A Geelan, C Clarke, T Leabeater (c), A Fallah, B Clark **Referee: M Weekes (Daily Mirror 22nd April 1985)**

Joyous Western Suburbs fans invaded Lidcombe Oval yesterday after the battling Magpies scored their first premiership win in almost a year. In scenes reminiscent of the club's National Panasonic Cup win on Wednesday night, dozens of ecstatic supporters braved driving rain to cheer their heroes from the field following Wests' 16-6 victory over Illawarra. Ironically, the Magpies' plucky effort came nearly 12 months to the day after they had beaten the Steelers 13-10 at Lidcombe Oval. That win, on April 22, 1984, was Wests' last competition success. In an emotional dressing room later, Magpie skipper Terry Leabeater described the victory as one of the sweetest of his career. "Winning on Wednesday night was a big thrill but it was competition points we were playing for today," he said. "The crowd was fantastic and when they started chanting 'Wests, Wests' in those final minutes it almost brough tears to my eyes. I haven't experienced anything like that since we made the semi-finals in 1979 in my first year of first grade." Leabeater was an inspiration to the Magpies, always willing to take the ball up in attack and finishing second in the tackle count with 27. "I love being a captain and with the extra responsibility try to lead by example," he said. "If the guys know you are going flat out, they'll follow you up." Leabeater certainly had plenty of support yesterday, with utility back Trevor Cogger, second-rower Allen Geelan and five-eighth Gary Warnecke outstanding. It was a courageous performance from Wests, who outscored the Steelers 12-2 in the second half despite running into a howling wind and sweeping rain. Obviously flattened by their midweek cup clash with Penrith, the Magpies struggled to hold Illwarra to 4-all at the break. Wests failed to use the wind at their backs and were pinned inside their own half for much of the opening 40 minutes. But the Steelers were unable to capitalise on several scoring chances, with poor handling and a lack of support for the ball runner letting the visitors down badly. Centre Jason Moon charged on to a looping Mick Pattison pass in the 12th minute to open scoring, but it was one of the few well-executed plays the Steelers produced all day. Moon went close to notching his second try late in the half when he was on the end of a promising passing rush. Soon after, Wests' winger Gary Pearce, landed his second penalty goal to level the scores and the Magpies were back in the running. Alan Fallah darted across field and lobbed a pass to Trevor Cogger to put Wests ahead for the first time, eight minutes into the second half. **(Daily Telegraph 22nd April 1985)**

Notes: Backing up after a rugged mid-week Panasonic Cup quarter-final win over Penrith, Wests scored an emotional win after a year of losses. Alan Fallah and Trevor Cogger were both inspirational in a match played in freezing conditions. Brett Gale showed courage in playing with a severe ear infection but it was John McArthur's try-saving tackle in the 62nd minute that saved the match. The chant of Wests! Wests! In the final minute was the fire the forwards needed to hold out Illawarra.