



1989 Round 6 Sunday 23rd April Penrith Park



Penrith 30

Neil BAKER
Paul SMITH
Graeme BRADLEY
Col BENTLEY
Andrew SIMONS
Chris MORTIMER
Greg ALEXANDER
Colin Van der VOORT
John CARTWRIGHT
Mark GEYER
Geoff GERARD
Royce SIMMONS (c)
Peter KELLY
Shayne STEAD
Barry WALKER

def.

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

Western Suburbs 4

Danny PEACOCK
Graham MACKAY
Allen GEELAN
Jason STAFFORD
Wayne SIMONDS
Jason LIDDEN
Trevor COGGER
Brendon TUUTA
Dave GALLAGHER
Cameron BLAIR (c)
Dave WOODS
Shane FLANAGAN
Craig TEITZEL
Chris BLAIR
Gary BUKOWSKI
Ian FREEMAN
Darren GIRARD



Tries

Graeme BRADLEY
Mark GEYER
Paul SMITH
Greg ALEXANDER
John CARTWRIGHT
Andrew SIMONS

Jason STAFFORD

Goals

Neil BAKER (2)
Shayne STEAD (1)

Match Description

Penrith: Full-back: N Baker; three-quarters: P Smith, G Bradley, C Bentley, A Simons; five-eighth: C Mortimer; half: G Alexander; forwards: C Van det Voort, J Cartwright, M Geyer, P Kelly, R Simmons (c), G Gerard

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Peacock; three-quarters: G Mackay, A Geelan, J Stafford, W Simonds; five-eighth: J Lidden; half: T Cogger; forwards: B Tuuta, C Blair (c), D Gallagher, C Teitzel, S Flanagan, D Woods **Referee: G West (Big League 26th April 1989)**

Penrith's Mark Geyer and John Cartwright, both older and wiser after recent visits to the judiciary, are fast becoming the game's most potent second-row combination. The Panther giants, back on deck after recent suspensions, are proving the driving force behind Penrith's semi-final challenge. The pair were in awesome form as the Panthers crushed Wests 30-4 yesterday and are both well on target for representative honours. Both scored tries in the Panthers' big win and were too strong and powerful for the smaller Wests forwards to handle. Reunited a fortnight ago after Cartwright had served his suspension from the Panasonic Cup loss to Souths last month, the second-row colossuses have become key men in Penrith's premiership campaign. ... The Panthers gave a display that had "semi-finalist" written all over it as they crushed a hapless Wests side by six tries to one. Ron Willey's big forwards pounded Wests into submission up front and then the backs did the rest, letting the ball do the work despite the greasy conditions. Greg Alexander revelled on the slippery ground, wrong-footing the Magpie defence with his brilliant ball-work. The in-form halfback played a key role in the Panthers' first three tries to shoot the home side to a commanding 16-4 lead immediately after half-time. Centres Graeme Bradley and Col Bentley shone outside Alexander and fullback Neil Baker had a fine running game. The forwards were all power and class, with the second-row duo and lock Colin Van Der Voort in awesome form. Prop Peter Kelly played some of his best football of the season, while hooker Royce Simmons was a tireless worker around the rucks. "The side combined very well, and it was an impressive performance," a well-satisfied Willey said. "We have a well-balanced unit, and they are playing with plenty of confidence." Wests were a major disappointment after their fine win over grand-finalists Balmain only seven days earlier. The Magpies didn't respect the ball and their defence lacked the strength and commitment of the Balmain match. "They went right off the boil and can play a lot better than that, coach John Bailey lamented. "We have been fairly consistent in recent weeks, but this was a very flat effort." Kiwi lock Brendon Tuuta, hero of the Balmain win, gave his all and is an 80-minute player who is forever on the move. But he lacked from his teammates who had no answer to the power of the Panthers. **(Daily Mirror 24th April 1989)**

Notes: The smaller Wests pack found Mark Geyer and John Cartwright too hot to handle and once the forwards were on top the Penrith backs ran riot in the second half. There were far too many errors with the greasy ball and Wests lacked organisation. Brendon Tuuta was once again clearly the best player for Wests.