



1987 Round 6 Sunday 5th April Endeavour Field



Cronulla-Sutherland 34

def.

Western Suburbs 22

Jonathan DOCKING *Fullback*
 Greg DAVIES *Wing*
 Andrew ETTINGHAUSEN *Centre*
 Mark McGAW *Centre*
 Glenn COLEMAN *Wing*
 Michael SPEECHLEY *Five-eighth*
 Ron QUINN *Half*
 Greg NIXON (c) *Lock*
 Craig DIMOOND *Second Row*
 Dan STAINS *Second Row*
 Dane SORENSON *Front Row*
 Gavin MILLER *Hooker*
 Michael WICKS *Front Row*
 Greg LUKINS *Replacement*
 Alan WILSON *Replacement*
 Brad PERRY *Replacement*
 Scott GUSTARD *Replacement*

Steve McCOY
 Allen GEELAN
 Brett GALE
 Ian NADEN
 John ALLANSON
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 Scott TRONC
 John BILBIJA
 Ian FREEMAN
 Alan FALLAH
 Les WHITE
 Phillip DUKE
 Brett CLARK
 Gary McFARLANE
 Grant FYVIE



Tries Glenn COLEMAN (3)
 Ron QUINN (2)
 Greg NIXON
 Jonathan DOCKING

Ian NADEN
 Allen GEELAN
 John BILBIJA
 John ALLANSON

Goals Dan STAINS (3)

Ian SCHUBERT (3)

Match Description

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: J Docking; three-quarters: G Coleman, A Ettinghaisen, M McGaw, G Davies; five-eighth: M Speechley; half: R Quinn; forwards: G Dixon (c), C Dimond, D Stains, D Sorenson, G Miller, M Wicks

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: J Allanson, B Gale, I Naden, A Geelan; five-eighth: D Rawlings; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), S Tronc, J Bilbija, I Freeman, A Fallah, L White **Referee: D Spagarino (Rugby League Week 8th April 1987)**

Cronulla coach Jack Gibson said yesterday his young Sharks would need to improve immensely on their 34-22 win over Western Suburbs to become a serious threat for the 1987 Winfield Cup. "That performance is not going to cart us down the road that far," Gibson explained after his team had raced in seven tries to Wests' four at Endeavour Field. I suppose when a side scores four tries against you they're entitled to a win." Fortunately for the Sharks, Wests' defence was worse than theirs at times. In recent weeks Cronulla has defended stoutly but Gibson cited yesterday's warm weather as the main reason for some below-standard rugby league. "On a hot day the mistakes will come when players run out of juice," he said. "We looked all right for a while but then fatigue set in." The Sharks still managed to lift their performance when it mattered and at times dazzled their rivals with slick backline play. Cronulla opened the scoring in the fourth minute when young winger Glenn Coleman raced over for the first of a three-try performance. Coleman is fast making a name for himself as one of the best finishers in the game, notching six tries from as many matches this season. The youngster is having the time of his life running off classy centres Mark McGaw and Andrew Ettinghausen and has the pace to outspurt his rivals in the run to the line. Wests looked sharp in the early stages and led 12-10 after 30 minutes but suddenly relaxed and paid the price. The Sharks turned up the heat in already sweltering conditions and crossed for three tries in the 10-minute space before the half-time break. "That was the ball game for us," Magpie coach Steve Ghosn said after Cronulla opened up a 24-12 half-time lead. "It was a case of shut the gate, the horse had bolted." Although Wests came out and played strongly in the second session, they again fell to pieces late in the match. Wests hit back to trail 24-16 in the 57th minute when winger Allen Geelan scored after team-mate Steve McCoy danced his way around a couple of defenders. The Magpies tried desperately to put points on the board but ruined any chance they had of making a late surge by consistently dropping the ball. Cronulla put the result beyond doubt in the 65th minute when former Parramatta five-eighth Ron Quinn sprinted over for his second try. The clever Sharks halfback capped a fine all-round performance when he backed up five-eighth Michael Speechley and zipped over under the posts. The Sharks stretched their lead to 34-16 before Wests made the score look a little more respectable when Ian Naden scored moments before fulltime. ... Wests finished the game with three serious injuries. Centre Brett Gale (knee), Brett Clarke (shoulder) and halfback Trevor Cogger (neck) are all in doubt for next weekend's clash against Easts. ... **(Daily Telegraph 6th April 1987)**

Notes: Eleven tries were scored but it was still considered a poor-quality game, with many defensive lapses. Wests led 12-10 after 30 minutes but the bigger Cronulla backline took control. Ian Freeman and Steve McCoy were Wests' best and Coach Ghosn was eagerly awaiting the return of John Elias from a 4-week suspension after all three grades were convincingly beaten.