

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: W Williams, B Gale, I Naden, P Sheahan; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: B Clark; forwards: I Schubert, C Clarke, J Bilbija, G McFarlane, A Fallah, I Freeman (c)

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: M Gurr; three-quarters: D Ronson, C Close, D Shearer, P Blake; five-eighth: M Cox; half: D Hasler; forwards: P Vautin (c), N Cleal, R Gibbs, R Poulsen, M Cochrane, P Daley Referee: G O'Donnell (Daily Mirror 21st April 1986)

Western Suburbs, stung by criticism after last week's collapse against Parramatta, proved beyond doubt they should be taken seriously with a rousing 30-20 win against Manly-Warringah at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Wests' coach Steve Ghosn was incensed by the post-match remarks by his Parramatta rival John Monie on the previous Sunday. Monie had said he expected a 30-point margin after the Eels had beaten Wests 36-6. "I think we proved something to everyone today," Ghosn said. "I don't know how he (Monie) could have made a comment like that. We certainly didn't panic about the loss." Wests, with their "bits and pieces" side, went close to restoring their credibility they lost at Parramatta Stadium last week with a cheeky performance against the big names from the peninsula yesterday. The Magpies are an unfashionable but highly effective side. Some of their players are so unknown they would probably be laughed out of Brookvale Oval if they turned up for a trial. It was supposed has-been in Ian Schubert, a former Manly player, who gave Wests their winning edge yesterday. Lock Schubert, who turns 30 in August, is a former winger whose days at Wests are in contrast to his earlier career with the mighty Sea Eagles and also Eastern Suburbs. After spending most of last season in Ghosn's reserve-grade side, Schubert's career was apparently finished. Yet yesterday he played with all the discipline and aggression he showed at his peak and showed a hitherto unknown flair for goal-kicking with seven goals from eight attempts. Schubert was just one of the many black-and-white heroes yesterday. Acting captain and prop Ian Freeman, second-rower Craig Clarke and halves Brett Clark and John Cogger all performed above their "silvertail" opponents, keeping to Ghosn's KISS (Keep it Simple Stupid) policy. "Keep it simple," Ghosn said. "That's all we have to do." Wests went to an 8-0 lead in the eighth minute after a freakish try by centre Ian Naden and difficult conversion by Schubert. It was just the luck the Magpies needed to set up their upset win. ... Just when Wests appeared to be in trouble, they produced a devastating period of play. Centre Brett Gale powered over for a try, then under-rated hooker Alan Fallah scored, Ray Price-style, from dummy half and Wests led 18-10 at half-time. While the score fluctuated in the second half, Wests slowly started to control play as Manly continually dropped the ball. The score was 20-20 in the 59th minute after Manly second-rower Ron Gibbs, Manly's best player, scored one of his two tries after a determined run from near half way. The try of the match three minutes later left the Sea Eagles so stunned they had no hope of returning to a pattern. Schubert made a slashing break down the right flank and then cross-kicked and Calrk won the scramble for the ball. (Sydney Morning Herald 21st April 1986)

Notes: Ian Schubert turned back the clock with a stellar performance which included 7/8 goal attempts. Working off the dominant halves' combination of Trevor Cogger and Brett Clark, he set up the spectacular 60m Brett Clark try which broke the 20-all deadlock. Brett Gale was forced off with a thumb injury at half-time but replacement Noel Mancuso, on debut, had a strong second half. Ian Freeman (in a new role as captain) and Craig Clarke were both very strong up front. A big wrap came out of the U23's for new dashing winger John Allanson.

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