



1998 Round 7 Sunday 26th April Campbelltown Stadium



St George 12

Lee MURPHY
 Nathan BLACKLOCK
 Mark COYNE (c)
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Jim LENIHAN
 Jeff HARDY
 Matthew RODWELL
 Wayne BARTRIM
 Darren TREACY
 Lance THOMPSON
 Colin WARD
 Nathan BROWN
 Corey PEARSON
 Luke FELSCH
 Ben KUSTO
 Willie POCHING
 Andrew TANGATA-TOA

def.

Western Suburbs 8

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

Brett WARTON
 Darren WILLIS
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Aseri LAING
 Ben MacDOUGALL
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Ron JONES
 Scott COXON
 Damian KENNEDY
 Jason KEOUGH
 John SKANDALIS
 Ciriaco MESCIA (c)
 Nick EDWARDS
 Darren RAMEKA
 Lincoln RAUDONIKIS
 Adrian RAINEY
 Dayle BONNER



Tries Nathan BLACKLOCK (2)

Scott COXON

Goals Wayne BARTRIM (2)

Brett WARTON (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Warton; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, A Laing, B MacDougall; five-eighth: Kevin McGuinness; half: R Jones; forwards: S Coxon, J Keough, D Kennedy, J Skandalis, C Mescia (c), N Edwards

St George: Full-back: L Murphy; three-quarters: N Blacklock, M Coyne (c), J Ainscough, J Lenihan; five-eighth: J Hardy; half: M Rodwell; forwards: W Bartrim, D Treacy, L Thompson, C Ward, N Brown, C Pearson **Referee: S Hampstead (Big League 26th April 1998)**

Making his top-grade debut yesterday rookie Western Suburbs halfback Ron Jones had learned the hardest lesson of them all. The youngster should have been the hero of an epic Magpie win in front of his home fans. But instead, Jones stood dejected in the corner of the Wests' dressing room, still shaking his head a full hour after St. George's 12-8 win. In the key moment of a frantic match, Jones sprinted 30 metres for the Saints' line and looked certain to score. Just as he was about to plant the ball beside the post for what would have been the winning try, his ball security wasn't what it should have been. Saints' winger Jim Lenehan flashed up from nowhere and swatted at the ball, miraculously knocking it from his grasp. Lenihan's amazing strike gave a 12-man Saints' side inspiration to hang on for a vital win. "One second I had the ball, the next it was knocked out ... I couldn't believe it," a shattered Jones said later. "I'm very disappointed, but that's football. It was just a pity it had to happen in my debut." Lenihan admitted his match-winning move came more out of desperation than anything. "I knew if I tackled him around the legs he'd score for sure," Lenehan said. "So, I knew my only chance was to go for the ball. I didn't think I'd get it, but I got lucky." In an incident-packed game, all 20 points were scored by the team running with the aid of the howling wind. Saints elected to run with it in the first half, racing to a 12-0 lead. It looked like it would be enough but when Magpie lock Scott Coxon charged over 45 seconds after the resumption, Saints were set for a struggle. When second-rower Lance Thompson was sent off 27 minutes from time, Saints battened down the hatches. But a determined Wests' side had plenty of chances to take the victory they so desperately needed, but were denied by the scrambling Saints' defence - and their inability to finish. With six players making their top-grade debuts following a midweek shakeup by coach Tom Raudonikis, the Magpies played with plenty of enthusiasm, but marred their display with the type of error inexperience causes. Technically, Saints were down on some recent efforts but deserve plenty of praise for their stubbornness in the final 20 minutes. "it was a character-building game and there were some good things out there," coach David Waite said approvingly. "The boys came up with a gutsy win." (**The Daily Telegraph 27th April 1998**)

Notes: Injuries again affected selection with Ron Jones debuting at half-back, Brett Warton at fullback and Dayle Bonner coming on as a replacement. Down 12-0 at half-time after running into a howling gale, they came back into the game and, after Lance Thompson was sent off in the 63rd minute they had many chances to win. A 'no-try' to Ron Jones, when the ball was knocked out of his hands over the line, was critical.