



1986 Round 8 Sunday 27th April Cricket Ground



St George 26

Glenn BURGESS
 Denis KINCHELA
 Michael O'CONNOR
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Steve MORRIS
 Steve LINNANE
 Perry HADDOCK
 Geoff SELBY
 Chris WALSH
 Steve FUNNELL
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Chris GUIDER
 Pat JARVIS
 Ricky WALFORD
 Phil RITCHIE
 John FIFITA
 Billy NOKE

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 12

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 Noel MANCUSO
 Ian NADEN
 Brett GALE
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Trevor COGGER
 Brett CLARK
 Ian SCHUBERT
 Craig CLARKE
 John BILBIJA
 Gary McFARLANE
 Alan FALLAH
 Ian FREEMAN (c)
 Charlie KHALIFEH
 Graeme JENNINGS
 Doug RAWLINGS
 Allen GEELAN



Tries Michael O'CONNOR
 Steve MORRIS
 Denis KINCHELA
 Perry HADDOCK
 Chris GUIDER

Ian FREEMAN

Goals Michael O'CONNOR (3)

Ian SCHUBERT (4)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: G Burgess; three-quarters: D Kinchela, M O'Connor, B Johnston, S Morris; five-eighth: S Linnane; half: P Haddock; forwards: G Selby, C Walsh, S Funnell, C Young (c), C Guider, P Jarvis

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: N Mancuso, 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) **Referee: G McCallum (The Daily Mirror 28th April 1986)**

... Saints blitzed a shell-shocked Wests side from the kick-off yesterday, charging to a 12-0 lead after only nine minutes. From the first scrum of the day, Linnane sent a superb pass to centre Michael O'Connor, who stepped around his opposite Ian Naden and raced 50m to score in the corner. Wests had barely recovered from that early blow when, after a chain-passing move, Saints' half Perry Haddock crossed between the posts. Lock Ian Schubert kept Wests in the picture with three penalty goals before Linnane again created havoc with a smart grubber kick to the right wing. Steve "Slippery" Morris pounced on it to score in the corner. Saints led 18-6 at the break but met sterner resistance from the Magpies in the second half. They scored two more tries – by hooker Chris Guider and winger Denis Kinchela – but were made to work much harder than in the first half. Wests finished on a high note with skipper Ian "Herbie" Freeman diving over beside the posts to add respectability to the scoreline. The Magpies performed creditably, considering they lost two key players before the kick-off – prop Bruce Clark and speedy winger Wilfred Williams – and had centre Brett Gale carried off after less than 10 minutes. "Saints gave their best display of the year and without three of our best players, we just couldn't hold them," Wests' coach Steve Ghosn said later. "They played some good football and were too quick for us when they got the ball out wide. But with those three players back and with the addition of our English internationals, we will improve." Saints looked very sharp when Linnane, O'Connor and co were given room to move out wide but the most pleasing aspect of their string of three consecutive wins had been their defence. They have conceded only two tries in 240 minutes of football – one in the opening seconds against Cronulla from a charged-down kick and the other yesterday when Freeman barged over, after picking up a loose ball in the dying stages. Saints' coach Roy Masters praised his team's strong defence. "But we shouldn't have let them in for that late try," he said. "Still, we have put together three wins now and the team is definitely starting to play better football." Apart from Linnane, centre O'Connor and hooker Chris Guider were the pick of an improving Saints. Lock Ian Schubert gave an inspired display for Wests, running well with the ball, topping the tackle count, saving two tries and booting four goals from as many attempts. **(Daily Mirror 28th April 1986)**

Notes: St George blitzed Wests early and they never recovered. They knew they were in for a long afternoon when they lost Bruce Clark and Wilfred Williams, ruled out pre-match and Brett Gale was carried off with medial knee ligament damage after 10 minutes. Ian Schubert continued his great form, backed up by Alan Fallah and Rod Pethybridge who were both very strong in attack and defence.