



1997 Round 8 Sunday 27th April Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Manly-Warringah 16



Andrew LEEDS
 Darren WILLIS
 Brandon PEARSON
 Ken McGUINNESS
 Aseri LAING
 Adam DOYLE
 Steve GEORGALLIS
 Paul LANGMACK (c)
 Shane MILLARD
 Bill DUNN
 Harvey HOWARD
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 John SKANDALIS
 Des HASLER
 James SMITH
 Kevin McGUINNESS
 Adam DONOVAN

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

Craig HANCOCK
 Danny MOORE
 Craig INNES
 Terry HILL
 John HOPOATE
 Geoff TOOVEY (c)
 Craig FIELD
 Nik KOSEF
 Daniel GARTNER
 Steve MENZIES
 Mark CARROLL
 Scott FULTON
 Neil TEIRNEY
 David GILLESPIE
 Andrew HUNTER
 Cliff LYONS
 Billy WEEPU

Tries Ken McGUINNESS
 Ciriaco MESCIA
 Andrew LEEDS

Steve MENZIES
 Cliff LYONS
 Terry HILL

Goals Andrew LEEDS (4) One field goal

Craig FIELD (2)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: C Hancock; three-quarters: D Moore, C Innes, T Hill, J Hopoate; five-eighth: G Toovey (c); half: C Field; forwards: N Kosef, D Gartner, S Menzies, M Carroll, S Fulton, N Tierney

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, Ken McGuinness, B Pearson, A Laing; five-eighth: A Doyle; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), B Dunn, S Millard, J Skandalis, C Mescia, H Howard **Referee: E Ward (Big League 27th April 1997)**

There was a certain irony surrounding Des Hasler's leading role in Wests pulsating 19-16 win over Manly at Campbelltown Sports Ground yesterday. For years, Wests had endured Magpies flying the coop to become Seagulls who then wreak havoc on their old club. After 14 years' service with Manly, Hasler reversed that trend this season when he left Brookvale for a last hurrah at Wests. Had Magpies' coach Tommy Raudonikis not been able to talk him out of retirement, the 36-year-old super athlete would have gone out on a winning note after last year's Grand Final win over St. George. Yesterday, Hasler came off the bench to make plenty of hard yards through heavy traffic in both halves and set up a significant try for centre Ken McGuinness. The try, 16 minutes into the second half, shot the Magpies to a 16-4 lead and ensured the already error-ridden Manly outfit continued to play under extreme pressure. Hasler even managed to get the now familiar head-pat from Manly winger John Hopoate after the ball was ripped from his grasp. "Yes, that did happen but there was no malice. It was a good-natured gesture." Hasler insisted after the game. "Manly is still an awesome side despite today's loss and will be difficult to beat for the rest of the season." Hasler received a standing ovation from the Magpie faithful as he left the field after media interviews and admitted he didn't expect that to happen, being a former Seagull. "The fans are great at Campbelltown and they turned out in numbers to support us today. They helped us get home in a game that could easily have gone either way." Although it looked like a life and death struggle all the way, Magpies' skipper Paul Langmack insisted his players had a lot of fun even when the Eagles came home with a wet sail. "Manly is the best team in the competition and we needed to do something different in our preparation," Langmack said. "So we decided to go out and have fun. We're a side that has to produce something special to beat anybody in the competition. That's what happened today and now we have to do it again next week." Langmack was true to his words by finding something special to get Wests on the board first, 12 minutes before half-time. He followed up his own ill-directed bomb kick and somehow managed to get hold of the ball while lying on his back as several players scrummaged. Still on his back, Langmack threw the ball back to hooker Cherry Mescia who cleverly chip-kicked over the line to score. ... Raudonikis admitted to shuffling nervously in his seat as the last minutes of the game ticked slowly away. .. **(Daily Telegraph 28th April 1997)**

Notes: Des Hasler came on as reserve against his old club, the previously undefeated Sea Eagles, and was very influential, setting up a crucial Ken McGuinness try. Wests were able to hold on strongly in the last 10 minutes as Manly came at them. Paul Langmack remarked that they were having fun out there and they felt revitalised after poor early season form.