



# 1985 Round 8 Sunday 28th April Lidcombe Oval



## Parramatta 6

Graeme ATKINS  
 Tony CHALMERS  
 Mark LAURIE  
 Mick CRONIN  
 Phil CROWE  
 Steve ELLA  
 Mike EDEN  
 Ray PRICE (c)  
 Steve SHARP  
 Peter WYNN  
 Paul MARES  
 Ken STEWART  
 Stan JURD  
 Glenn MANSFIELD  
 Geoff BUGDEN  
 Michael MOSELEY

def.

## Western Suburbs 0

John McARTHUR  
 Steve EWER  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Brett GALE  
 Gerald CELARC  
 Gary WARNECKE  
 Michael NEIL  
 Allen GEELAN  
 Dave STAFFORD  
 Geoff DILLON  
 Craig ELLIS  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Bruce CLARK (c)  
 Geoff SUTTON



**Tries** Phil CROWE

**Goals** Mick CRONIN (1)

### Match Description

**Parramatta:** Full-back: G Atkins; three-quarters: T Chalmers, M Cronin, M Laurie, P Crowe; five-eighth: S Ella; half: M Eden; forwards: R Price (c), S Sharp, P Wynn, P Mares, K Stewart, S Jurd

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Ewer, T Cogger, B Gale, G Celarc; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: M Neil; forwards: A Geelan, G Dillon, D Stafford, C Ellis, A Fallah, B Clark (c) **Referee: K Roberts (The Daily Mirror 29th April 1985)**

A 22-year-old, making his first-grade debut, could certainly crow about it if he scored the winning try. That's exactly what happened at soggy Lidcombe Oval yesterday when rookie winger Phil Crowe swooped on to a loose ball to score the try that proved the difference between his Parramatta side and Wests. The Eels' 6-0 win was unquestionably hard-earned but in many quarters the feeling was that they were lucky. Nevertheless Crowe, who works as an off-sider delivering fibro planks, was cock-a-hoop about denying the Magpies a worthy draw with his 43rd minute try. "I couldn't believe it ... John McArthur fumbled the bomb from Steve Ella and the ball landed neatly in my arms," the elated try-scorer said. "I was really nervous before the game about how I'd go today, because I didn't want to make mistakes and let the side down." Crowe said he received some soothing advice from Mick Cronin. "He and Steve Ella and coach John Monie offered me tips before the game and that helped me a lot. Weren't Mick's passes magic," Crowe added enthusiastically. Indeed, Parramatta had to rely on the wealth of experience of Cronin in the backs and Ray Price up front in holding the grand finalists together and keeping the wooden-spooners in check. The match, scoreless in the first half, earned Wests many admirers, including Monie. "I'm sure Wests will win some more games," he said. "We didn't expect an easy game today and remember before this match we had won just once here since 1971. Any side Wests put up against Parramatta will always make things difficult for them." The match had little top-draw football, but Cronin produced some magic touches that ear-marked his class. His passes, putting supports on their way, were crisp and particularly effective. Steve Ella's quality play and work rate were evident, while make-shift full-back Grahame Atkins involvement as a sometime link man proved useful. Price, with 38 tackles and showing deft ball skills was a worthy winner of the team's game ball while prop Paul Mares' second half effort was noteworthy. As for Wests, three days after a humiliating shellacking in Canberra, they bobbed up with an admirable display. Bruce Clark, Alan Fallah and Craig Ellis made up a formidable front line. Pivot Gary Warnecke had a strong first half, while Brett Gale's second half effort was infinitely more constructive and less riddled with errors than in the first period. Wests must be admired for their defence in the second half as most of the play was held in their section, and since referee Kevin Roberts issued just eight penalties in the entire match, the opportunities for the Magpies to apply pressure on Parramatta were few. **(Daily Telegraph 29th April 1985)**

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**Notes:** After a poor performance against Canberra this was a remarkable effort by Wests, considering 19 players were out injured across all three grades. Played in driving wind and rain, Bruce Clark was a colossus as acting captain. The only difference was a dropped bomb by John McArthur, with Wests' desperate second half defence led again by a defiant Alan Fallah, with an astounding 49 tackles.