

1989 Round 9 Sunday 14th May Orana Park

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South Sydney 15

David CRUIKSHANK Bruce LONGBOTTOM Steve MAVIN Graham LYONS Ross HARRINGTON Phil BLAKE Craig COLEMAN Michael ANDREWS Paul ROBERTS Wayne CHISHOLM Mark LYONS Jim SERDARIS Mario FENECH (c) Mark ELLISON Darren SCHOTT

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

Western Suburbs 6

Brett DOCHERTY Wayne SIMONDS Ellery HANLEY Allen GEELAN Graham MACKAY Brendon TUUTA **Trevor COGGER** Cameron BLAIR (c) Chris BLAIR Dave GALLAGHER Craig TEITZEL Shane FLANAGAN Ian FREEMAN Kelvin SKERRETT Jason STAFFORD Stuart RAPER





Tries

Bruce LONGBOTTOM Phil BLAKE

Goals Phil BLAKE (2) Mark ELLISON (1) Craig COLEMAN (1) Field Goal

Wayne SIMONDS

Graham MACKAY (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: B Docherty; three-quarters: G Mackay, A Geelan, E Hanley, W Simonds; five-eighth: B Tuuta; half: T Cogger; forwards: C Blair (c), Chris Blair, D Gallagher, C Teitzel, S Flanagan, I Freeman

South Sydney: Full-back: D Cruikshank; three-quarters: B Longbottom, S Mavin, G Lyons, R Harrington; five-eighth: P Blake; half: C Coleman; forwards: M Andrews, W Chisholm, P Roberts, M Fenech (c), J Serdaris, M Lyons Referee: C Ward (Rugby League Week 17th May 1989)

.... Souths carved out a convincing 15-6 victory to prove once and for all they are serious premiership contenders. It was an excellent performance, considering six Rabbitoh stars were backing up after the previous day's representative games in Newcastle. A crowd of 10,018, which looked to be closer to 16,000, was on hand to see Hanley strut his stuff with the Magpies and the anticipated overflow of excitement saw many tips for Wests in the pre-match talk. ... Souths' coach George Piggins said: "He's a great player, a champion, but my boys had a job to do, and they did it so well. It would have been easy for them to lose their way with all the fuss made over Hanley, but they scored a couple of tries in the first half and kept their heads down brilliantly to protect the lead in the second session. ..." Hanley arrived in Sydney yesterday to a movie-star-type welcome and was certainly afforded a hero's welcome when he trotted out onto the field. He was wearing the No13 jumper but was playing in the centre and five-eighth positions. Wests hoodwinked the media and the public before the kick-off by omitting talented young centre Jason Stafford at training yesterday. Into the first-grade team came Chris Blair and Hanley, originally named at lock, ran in Stafford's place at centre. The NSW Rugby League takes a dim view of such practices and is likely to fine Wests this week. Hanley busied himself in defence early in the first half but went within a metre of scoring under the posts with an exciting burst in the 20th minute. Souths led 2-0 at the time and a try at that moment might have given the Magpies a winning impetus. Hanley was swamped by three Rabbitoh defenders and from the play-the-ball, hooker Shane Flanagan burrowed over the line but was held up. Wests equalised through the boot of Graham Mackay a short time later, but Souths pressed the scoring button in the 24th minute. Winger Bruce Longbottom steamed over after a great break by Paul Roberts and six minutes later Phil Blake touched down after a rousing run by young prop Mark Lyons. The tries gave Souths a 12-2 lead at half-time and it took a positional change for Hanley to give Wests great heart in the second stanza. Operating at five-eighth, he made a number of breaks through heavy traffic and set up a terrific try for winger Wayne Simonds in the 52nd minute. He's a great player but he's no superman. There are heaps of talented youngsters in John Bailey's team, but Hanley's vast experience and exceptional skills will help point them the way to the winners' circle. Fellow English centre Gary Schofield is expected to join the Magpies next week and he will give them extra class and firepower. Bailey later hinted that Hanley's beat position at Wests would be at five-eighth and overall, he was delighted with the man's contribution and influence on the team. ... (Daily Mirror 15th May 1989)

Notes: Ellery Hanley made his much-anticipated debut and showed enough to suggest he would be a great asset for the team. He brilliantly set up Wayne Simonds to score Wests' only try. Cameron Blair was strong in defence, as usual, with 36 hard-hitting tackles but Dave Gallagher was the standout forward, with Brendon Tuuta also continuing his great form. Steve Mavin was sent off for Souths, so it was a good win with twelve men. A 17-year-old Jim Serdaris made his debut for Souths.

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