



1991 Round 9 Saturday 18th May Campbelltown Stadium



Western Suburbs 13

def.

Illawarra 12

Shaun DEVINE
 Stephen BURNS
 Andrew FARRAR
 Jamie AINSCOUGH
 Tony COSATTO
 Ivan HENJAK (c)
 Jason TAYLOR
 Jason LIDDEN
 Graeme WYNN
 Ron GIBBS
 David GILLESPIE
 Joe THOMAS
 Steve JACKSON
 Darren BRITT
 Noel GOLDTHORPE
 Jim DYMOCK

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

David RIOLO
 Rod WISHART
 Brett RODWELL
 Paul McGREGOR
 Alan McINDOE
 Tony SMITH (c)
 Trevor KISSELL
 Ian RUSSELL
 Bill DUNN
 Neil PICCINELLI
 Craig TEITZEL
 Dean SCHIFILLITI
 Les MORISSEY
 David WALSH
 Doug DELANEY

Tries Tony COSATTO
 Shaun DEVINE

Brett RODWELL
 Les MORISSEY

Goals Jason TAYLOR (2)
 Shaun DEVINE (1) Field Goal

Rod WISHART (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: S Burns, A Farrar, J Ainscough, T Cosatto; five-eighth: I Henjak (c); half: J Taylor; forwards: J Lidden, R Gibbs, G Wynn, D Gillespie, J Thomas, S Jackson

Illawarra: Full-back: D Riolo; three-quarters: R Wishart, B Rodwell, P McGregor, A McIndoe; five-eighth: T Smith (c); half: T Kissell; forwards: I Russell, L Morrissey, N Piccinelli, C Teitzel, D Shifilliti, W Dunn **Referee: G Annesley (Big League 22nd May 1991)**

West's coach Warren Ryan conceded the Magpies were lucky to escape with a 13-12 win over Illawarra yesterday after a last-minute field goal by fullback Shaun Devine. The Magpies looked to have the match shot to pieces after leading 12-0 at half-time before the Steelers staged a spectacular second-half fightback. Two tries in eight minutes to Illawarra's Brett Rodwell and Les Morrissey and two magnificent conversions from winger Rod Wishart tied the scores and set the stage for a heart-stopping finish. Just as both coaches were preparing to settle for a draw, Devine planted his right-foot field goal attempt straight over the black dot to get Wests home for the two points. Afterwards, Ryan was quick to admit he thought the Magpies were lucky to get away with it. "We were very lucky but will take the two points gratefully," Ryan said. "We didn't play all that well and the effort against Penrith last week must have taken a hell of a toll on us. I suppose there's a natural drop-off in mental intensity after beating the competition leaders on their own park. It's like climbing a bit of an Everest, then hitting a slump." Yesterday's win lifts the Magpies onto 12 competition points and puts them well and truly in the firing line for a position in the final five at the end of the season. Wests are now unbeaten since the round four loss to St George and while they could be considered very fortunate to grab the two points yesterday, they still played some very smart football in patches. In the forwards, veterans Graeme Wynn and Ron Gibbs led the way in grand style with great support from lock Jason Lidden. Half-back Jason Taylor had an outstanding match and was largely instrumental in the Magpies running up the 12-0 advantage. He engineered Wests' two tries in the third minute to winger Tony Cosatto and in the 35th minute for full-back Devine. In the centres, the experience of Andrew Farrar shone out again, with the former Canterbury veteran continually driving Illawarra backwards with his astute kicking game. Illawarra was always going to struggle yesterday once it became official that half-back John Simon and skipper Chris Walsh were to miss the game. They lacked Walsh's drive and commitment up front and missed Simon's creativity and kicking game around the rucks. Still, coach Graham Murray had every reason to be proud of the way his spare-parts outfit stormed back so gamely in the second half. ... Murray was offering no excuses in the Illawarra dressing room. He preferred to blame his players for giving away unnecessary penalties in the first half which helped Wests run up the tearaway lead. "We just didn't play well enough in the opening 40 minutes and let them get the jump on us," he said. "We came back well, and I thought we were actually going to win the game." (**Daily Telegraph 19th May 1991**)

Notes: Shaun Devine kicked a long-range field goal with 90 seconds remaining to win a tense match. Wests led 12-0 but Illawarra scored two outstanding tries in eight minutes to tie the scores. Jason Taylor had controlled the game all over the field but Wests struggled when he was forced off with injury in the second half. Jason Lidden was outstanding, ably supported by Ron Gibbs and Graeme Wynn, while Andrew Farrar's astute kicking again had Illawarra on the back foot.