



1997 Round 9 Friday 2nd May North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 20

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Matt SEERS
 Brett DALLAS
 Ben IKIN
 Michael BUETTNER
 Nigel ROY
 Greg FLORIMO
 Jason TAYLOR (c)
 Billy MOORE
 David FAIRLEIGH
 Gary LARSON
 Steve TRINDALL
 Mark SODEN
 Josh STUART
 David HALL
 Chris CARUANA
 William LEYSHON
 Danny WILLIAMS

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

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



Tries Jason TAYLOR
 Matt SEERS
 Brett DALLAS

Darren WILLIS

Goals Jason TAYLOR (4)

Andrew LEEDS (1)

Match Description

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), S Millard, B Dunn, J Skandalis, C Mescia, H Howard

North Sydney: Full-back: M Seers; three-quarters: B Dallas, B Ikin, M Buettner, N Roy; five-eighth: G Florimo; half: J Taylor (c); forwards: B Moore, D Fairleigh, G Larson, S Trindall, M Soden, J Stuart **Referee: K Jeffes (Big League 1st May 1997)**

Western Suburbs' coach Tom Raudonikis last night warned the ARL it would regret changing spear tackle rules after North Sydney second-rower Gary Larson was reported during the Bears' win over the Magpies. Norths' captain Jason Taylor became the first player in either competition to surpass 100 points for the season and fullback Matt Seers strengthened his NSW State of Origin claims in the 20-6 victory at North Sydney Oval. But the success was marred for Larson when he was placed on report for lifting Western Suburbs' winger Aseri Laing seconds from full time. "I don't want to comment on that tackle until I watch it on video," Raudonikis, the newly appointed NSW coach said. "But the league is going to regret the day they ever changed that rule. They're going to have blokes in there (the judiciary) every week." ARL officials recently amended the rules pertaining to dangerous throws so the onus is on the tackler not to put an opponent in a dangerous position, regardless of whether he intended to do so. Previously, a degree of intention had to be established before a spear tackle could be proven. "The rule was good as it was," Raudonikis said last night. Coming off an epic victory over Manly last Sunday, the Magpies were determined but predictably flat. And despite the general perception of Wests as a team going places and Norths as under-achievers, the Bears are now lying in third spot on the table and the Magpies at 9th. "We realised before the game that if we lost, we could finish the weekend in 7th," Norths' coach Peter Louis said. The sides swapped tries in the first half hour through Wests' Darren Willis and Norths' winger Brett Dallas, who was returning from injury. Then Taylor edged his side ahead with a penalty goal to make it 8-6 at half time. Three minutes into the second period Seers showed why he's pushing Tim Brasher all the way for the NSW No.1 jersey. Receiving the ball at a standing start from another outstanding performer, second-rower David Fairleigh, Seers rocketed over 35 metres to completely floor the Magpies' defence. "He's a bugger of a thing," said Raudonikis who will play a role in deciding the outcome of Seers' selection battle with Brasher. ... The Magpies reported injuries to hooker Cherry Mescia (groin), centre Brandon Pearson (hamstring) and prop John Skandalis (knee). "My blokes have got to learn that we've got to be hungry every week, not beat teams like St. George and Manly and then it's expected to happen the following week," said Raudonikis. The ARL video review committee is expected to make a decision over the weekend on whether to cite Larson. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 3rd May 1997)**

Notes: Wests played well in the first half but the intensity seemed to drop badly in the second half. Andrew Leeds, on the other hand, continued his stellar form and was easily Wests' best player. There were concerning injuries to Cherry Mescia (groin), Brandon Pearson (hamstring) and John Skandalis (knee).