



1985 Round 9 Sunday 5th May North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 22

John O'TOOLE
 Andrew SIMONS
 Neigel TAIT
 Cliff LYONS
 Allan SHEPPARD
 Mitchell COX
 Paul McCAFFERY
 Matthew WURTH
 Fred TEASDELL
 Mark GRAHAM
 Peter CROSS
 Wayne HONEYWOOD (c)
 Steve HANSON
 Don McKINNON
 Geoff WHITE
 Peter MAYOH

def.

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

Western Suburbs 20

John McARTHUR
 Steve EWER
 Brett GALE
 Tom ROBBINS
 Gerald CELARC
 Trevor COGGER
 Michael NEIL
 Mark HARRIGAN
 Allen GEELAN
 Steve MULLEN
 Terry LEABEATER (c)
 Alan FALLAH
 Bruce CLARK
 Craig MADSEN
 Geoff DILLON
 Dave STAFFORD
 Chris STEPHANDELLIS



Tries

Steve HANSON (2)
 Andrew SIMONS
 John O'TOOLE

Chris STEPHANDELLIS
 Alan FALLAH
 Steve EWER
 Trevor COGGER

Goals

Cliff LYONS (3)

John McARTHUR (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Ewer, B Gale, T Robbins, G Celarc; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: M Neil; forwards: M Harrigan, S Mullen, A Geelan, T Leabeater (c), A Fallah, B Clark

North Sydney: Full-back: J O'Toole; three-quarters: A Sheppard, N Tait, C Lyons, A Simons; five-eighth: M Cox; half: P McCaffery; forwards: M Wurth, F Teasdell, M Graham, P Cross, W Honeywood (c), S Hanson **Referee: J Gocher (The Daily Mirror 6th May 1985)**

For a late arrival on the Sydney first-grade Rugby League scene, Steve Hanson, the strapping 23-year-old North Sydney front-rower, is making up spectacularly for lost time. Two bumping runs for tries in the space of four minutes at North Sydney yesterday guaranteed North Sydney a safe margin to keep the battling Western Suburbs at bay. Norths won 22-20 but Wests almost broke free of the bear hug in the closing moments when they set up a storming attack on the North Sydney goal-line. For Norths it was a win that gives them just a little more respectability on the competition table; for Wests it was a loss that makes the 1985 wooden spoon more of a reality. On a sponge-topped ground, Steve Hanson stood out among two sets of willing forwards. A total of 17 tackles topped the North Sydney count and some of them were bone-crushers, too. Yet this was just his sixth first-grade appearance. Indeed, this time last year he was running around in the colours of McMahon's Point in the Norths' Juniors. Hawick said he was just happy to get the two competition points and Norths, he thought, had played well enough. And they had been inconvenienced by the loss of centre Neigel Tait with a rib cartilage injury midway through the first half. Norths are nothing if not unpredictable. In dry conditions they can play dull and defensively but yesterday in challenging conditions they spun a wet ball about in cup-final style. Mitchell Cox's return to the backline has given Norths new impetus and, as the pivot between Paul McCaffery and Lyons, he was responsible for some clever attacking play and was solid in defence, too, with 16 tackles. The rugged Lyons pulled off 19 tackles. Wests set out to test fullback John O'Toole, but he handled pressure kicks coolly and had the last word when he scored Norths' winning try. Lightweight halves Trevor Cogger and Michael Neil performed the best for Wests and fullback John McArthur got through some tigerish tackling. Skipper Terry Leabeater, hooker Alan Fallah and bulky prop Bruce Clark teamed up in a front row that won the scrums 15-10 and made their presence felt in general play. But enthusiasm cannot hide Wests' painful deficiencies in class. Thanks to a High Court life-boat, Wests survived to stay in this year's competition. It is a tribute to the club that there is so much enthusiasm and true grit displayed by the players. **(Sydney Morning Herald 6th May 1985)**

Notes: Down 18-4 on a boggy field, Wests stormed back to nearly win on the bell. They were pounding the North Sydney line as the final siren sounded. Chris Stephanellis made a comeback after a broken jaw, scored a good try, and went close to a match-winning try near the end. Early defensive lapses let them down badly but losing Alan Geelan early to injury didn't help. Alan Fallah was again impressive.