

1995 Round 9 Sunday 7th May Penrith Park

Penrith 33 def. Western Suburbs 20

Matt ADAMSON **Fullback** Andrew LEEDS Robbie BECKETT Ken McGUINNESS Wing Matt SING Centre Paul BELL Ryan GIRDLER Centre **Brandon PEARSON**

Scott PETHYBRIDGE Wing Darren WILLIS Steve CARTER Five-eighth **Andrew WILLIS** Gary FREEMAN Half Steve GEORGALLIS Brad FITTLER Lock Paul LANGMACK (c) John CARTWRIGHT (c) Second Row Justin DOOLEY Carl MacNAMARA Second Row Bill DUNN

Fa'ausu AFOA Front Row **Brent STUART Brett BOYD** Hooker Ciriaco MESCIA Steve WADDELL Front Row Glenn GRIEF **Barry WALKER** Replacement Mark HORO

Kevin McGUINNESS

Paul BELL

Replacement David ALEXANDER Replacement Kyle WHITE Replacement Jody GALL Josh WHITE

Tries Steve CARTER (2) Andrew LEEDS (2)

> Matt SING **Gary FREEMAN Robbie BECKETT** Matt ADAMSON

Goals Ryan GIRDLER (4) Andrew LEEDS (4)

Brad FITTLER (1) Field Goal

Phil ADAMSON

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: K McGuinness, B Pearson, P Bell, D Willis; five-eighth; A Willis; half: S Georgallis; forwards: P Langmack (c), J Dooley, B Dunn, B Stuart, C Mescia, G Grief

Penrith: Full-back: M Adamson; three-quarters: S Pethybridge, R Girdler, M Sing, R Beckett; five-eighth: S Carter; half: G Freeman; forwards: B Fittler, J Cartwright (c), C MacNamara, F Afoa, B Boyd, S Waddell Referee: P McBlane (Daily Telegraph 8th May 1995)

Penrith took rugby league back to the Wild West days of the 1970s in a stunning opening to yesterday's clash with Western Suburbs. And the man amazed by most of it all was Western Suburbs' coach Tom Raudonikis, central figure of many of league's fiercest battles of that era. Raudonikis was helpless to act as the Panthers battered the Magpies out of the match, throwing caution to the wind in a brutal opening. "I didn't think that sort of thing was allowed anymore," a perplexed Raudonikis said, shaking his head. "They caught us on the hop with their strong-arm tactics, but it won't happen again. Next time if a team tries that on us, we'll be ready." ... The Panthers came out breathing fire, conceded the first eight points and four penalties, but taking a heavy toll on the Magpies in the process. Dubious tackles rendered Wests' enthusiastic front-rowers Glenn Grief and Brent Stuart as virtual passengers, before a wild brawl proved the turning point of the game. After half a dozen players traded blows in the 12th minute, referee Paul McBlane singled out Magpie forward Mark Horo for the sin-bin. The Panthers sensed their chance and pounced, turning an 8-0 deficit into a 12-8 lead by the time Horo returned. The confidence renewed, Penrith produced a magical 20-minute spell to have the premiership points signed, sealed and delivered at 26-8 shortly before half-time. ... The Panthers were awesome with the ball, with attacking spearheads John Cartwright, Gary Freeman and Steve Carter leading the way. ... The Magpies started well and apart from losing the plot when hit by Penrith's torrid opening, handled themselves well. With star forward Jim Serdaris missing and Grief and Stuart virtually out of business, the Magpies had trouble containing Penrith's experienced playmakers. But the Magpies finished the game positively, matching the Panthers in the second half after losing their way so badly in the first period "We didn't allow them to rack up a cricket score and anything was possible after they scored all those tries in the first half," Raudonikis said. "We regrouped well and will learn from this. There will be no savage postmortems; we'll look at the video tomorrow and then put it under the carpet." The Magpies are still well on track for the finals with five wins from nine rounds. ... (The Daily Telegraph Mirror 8th May 1995)

Notes: Played after a period of heavy rain, Wests badly missed the in-form Jim Serdaris. Penrith came out firing and there was an all-in brawl after 12 minutes which resulted in Mark Horo going to the sin-bin. Tommy Raudonikis felt it was a turning point. Paul Langmack also had a critical try disallowed from a supposed forward pass. Wests were battered in a number of dubious tackles. Younger brother of Ken, Kevin McGuinness, made his debut as a replacement.

