



1987 Round 1 Sunday 1st March Penrith Park



Penrith 18

David GREENE
 Ken GITTENS
 Brad IZZARD
 Ben GONZALES
 David LIDDIARD
 Greg CLEMENTS
 Greg ALEXANDER
 Craig CONNOR
 John CARTWRIGHT
 Chris HOUGHTON
 Darryl BROHMAN
 Royce SIMMONS (c)
 Matt GOODWIN
 Craig IZZARD
 Geoff GERARD
 Mark BUTTERFIELD
 Glen NISSAN

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 Allen GEELAN
 Brett GALE
 Steve McCOY
 Phillip DUKE
 Ian NADEN
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Les WHITE
 Alan FALLAH
 Garry WEBSTER
 Craig ELLIS
 Brett DAVIS
 Wayne LAMBKIN



Tries
 Brad IZZARD
 David GREENE
 Matt GOODWIN

Steve McCOY

Goals
 Greg ALEXANDER (3)

Ian NADEN (2)

Match Description

Penrith: Full-back: D Greene; three-quarters: K Gittens, B Gonzales, B Izzard, D Liddiard; five-eighth: G Clements; half: G Alexander; forwards: C Connor, J Cartwright, C Houghton, M Goodwin, D Brohman, R Simmons (c), M Goodwin

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: A Geelan, B Gale, S McCoy, P Duke; five-eighth: I Naden; half: T Cogger; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, J Elias, L White, A Fallah, G Webster **Referee: G Annesley (Rugby League Week 4th March 1987)**

Tank-like centre Brad Izzard says he was playing for his footballing credibility in the soggy encounter at Penrith Park. One of the stars of the Panthers' professional 18-8 win over Wests yesterday, Izzard missed all the trials and has found himself in the hot seat from the club's fans. "For some reason, I've been the brunt of a lot of criticism and I knew I had to perform today," Izzard said. "It has got back to me that plenty of people think I'm a spent force and not worth a spot in first grade. Okay, I missed the trials through injury and didn't have the best of seasons last year. But the criticism hurt and I was playing for my credibility out there today." Izzard made the most of limited opportunities in dreadful conditions, making several fine bursts and scored the try that put the Panthers on the road to victory with an electrifying 20m charge. Superior discipline and defence proved the vital ingredients in the Panthers' three tries to one win. With Kangaroo hooker Royce Simmons controlling play around the rucks, the Panthers kept mistakes to a minimum – the key ingredient to success in wet weather football. Sadly, the Magpies didn't follow suit and dug their own grave with a sloppy performance. Penrith led 14-2 at the break, following an early try by prop Matt Goodwin from a Wests dropped ball and Izzard's memorable charge. But Wests came back into contention immediately after the resumption, with debut centre Steve McCoy scoring from a bomb that was fumbled by Penrith fullback David Greene. That was the only mistake Greene made all day and he made amends with a late try from another bomb, spilled by his opposite Rod Pethybridge. Izzard, Goodwin, Greene and Simmons were the pick of the Panthers, while busy second-rower John Elias was easily Wests' best. **(Daily Mirror 2nd March 1987)**

Giant young front-rower Les White epitomised the plight of the Western Suburbs club in yesterday's loss to Penrith. Making his first-grade debut for the Magpies, White looked most impressive with the ball but marred his performance by giving away several penalties through inexperience. "How do you put experienced heads on young shoulders?" Magpie coach Steve Ghosn pondered after the match. "We have as much talent as just about anyone but mistakes and lack of concentration are our worst enemies..... White's fellow new boy Steve McCoy also played strongly for the Magpies **(Daily Mirror 2nd March 1987)**

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Notes: Two players debuting for Wests, Steve McCoy and Les White (ex-Panthers Junior) both had strong games while John Elias was easily Wests' best. However, the game was played in muddy conditions which caused a lot of silly handling errors for the Magpies and they couldn't match the kick and chase of Penrith. When Steve McCoy scored in the second half, they got back into the game but an Alexander kick-through off a mistake by Pethybridge sealed the match. Phillip Duke and Wayne Lambkin also debuted.