



# 1984 Round 11 Sunday 13th May Lidcombe Oval



## Penrith 30

Mark LEVY  
 Ben GONZALES  
 Ken WOLFE  
 Ross GIGG  
 Brett LOBB  
 Brad IZZARD  
 Greg ALEXANDER  
 Craig CONNOR  
 Peter BURGMANN  
 Warren FENTON  
 Joe VITANZA  
 Royce SIMMONS (c)  
 Lew ZIVANOVIC  
 Don PRICE  
 Michael DAVIS  
 Steve HALLIWELL

def.

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

## Western Suburbs 20

Leo EPIFANIA  
 Steve BROUGHTON (c)  
 Allen GEELAN  
 Eddie FLAHEY  
 Mick PINKERTON  
 Michael NEIL  
 John McARTHUR  
 Mark HARRIGAN  
 Craig MADSEN  
 Craig ELLIS  
 Geoff SPOTSWOOD  
 Pat ENGLISH  
 Garry WEBSTER  
 Ian FREEMAN  
 Michael DUKE  
 Bruce CLARK



**Tries** Ben GONZALES (2)  
 Greg ALEXANDER  
 Craig CONNOR  
 Brett LOBB  
 Ken WOLFE

Craig ELLIS  
 Leo EPIFANIA  
 Ian FREEMAN  
 John McARTHUR

**Goals** Mark LEVY (3)

John McARTHUR (2)

### Match Description

**Penrith:** Full-back: M Levy; three-quarters: B Gonzales, K Wolfe, R Gigg, B Lobb; five-eighth: B Izzard; half: G Alexander; forwards: C Connor, P Burgmann, W Fenton, J Vitanza, R Simmons (c), L Zivanovic

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: S Broughton (c), A Geelan, E Flahey, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: M Neil; half: J McArthur; forwards: M Harrigan, C Ellis, C Madsen, G Spotswood, P English, G Webster **Referee: G O'Donnell (The Daily Mirror 14th May 1984)**

Penrith recorded their fourth successive win in the Sydney Rugby League premiership when they beat Western Suburbs 30-20 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Penrith's youngsters, half-back Greg Alexander and winger Ben Gonzales, were in devastating form, with Gonzales scoring two tries. The pair figured in all but one of Penrith's six tries. Still, the Panthers had to overcome a half-time deficit of 12-8 to record the club's longest winning sequence since 1977. Gonzales crossed for his two tries in the opening 12 minutes and can be grateful to the creative skills of Alexander. Alexander was virtually unstoppable as he stepped and weaved through Wests' defence before linking with his supports. After grabbing an 8-0 lead Penrith seemed to relax and Wests stormed back with two good tries. Full-back Leo Epifania broke through two tackles to score after 21 minutes and second-rower Craig Ellis gathered a bomb for another try five minutes later. Both were converted by half-back John MacArthur. Tim Sheens, the Penrith coach, praised Wests for their commitment. "We relaxed, thinking Wests didn't really have the incentive to come back," Sheens said. At half-time, Sheens impressed on his players the need to score first in the second half and the players responded with a try, five minutes after the resumption of play. It was Gonzales again who provided the impetus when he linked with second-rower Peter Burgmann for centre Ken Wolfe to score in a handy position. In the space of 15 minutes Penrith raced in for three tries to hold a match-winning 24-12 lead. Burly five-eighth Brad Izzard continually made bursts through the centres and the speed of the Penrith three-quarters finished the attacking movements. After several close games in recent weeks Wests appear to have lost the ability to win and coach Ken Gentle said: "All I can do is make a few changes." One player who will not be dropped is Epifania, who had an outstanding game, displaying a safe pair of hands in taking the bombs and continually charging upfield to make good ground. The clash of half-backs Alexander (Penrith) and John McArthur (Wests) ended in a points decision to Alexander. The only serious injury occurred in the first tackle of the match when Wests' second-rower Craig Madsen hurt his hip. He was replaced by Michael Duke in the 15th minute. Apart from Alexander and Gonzales, the Penrith forwards did a tradesmanlike job. Hooker Royce Simmons gave a gutsy display and lock Craig Connor caught the eye with a strong game, which included a try. Five-eighth Michael Neil and lock Mark Harrigan tried hard for Wests. **(Sydney Morning Herald 14th May 1984)**

**Notes:** Wests led 12-8 at half-time but appeared jaded from their midweek Panasonic Cup match against NSW Country and faded in the second half. Leo Epifania had his best game so far for Wests, making many breaks and being safe under bombs. John McArthur also had a strong game, while Craig Madsen injured a hip and had to be replaced by Michael Duke.