

Western Suburbs: Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: S Kerr, S Broughton (c), G Celarc, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: J McArthur; forwards: M Harrigan, M Duke, A Geelan, J Coveney, S Rigney, G Webster Referee: M Stone (The Daily Mirror 28th July 1984)

Second-rowers Dean Carney and Chris Withall were the chief destroyers as Cronulla thrashed Western Suburbs 32-6 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Carney and Withall, two of the most promising young forwards in the game, slashed the Magpies' defence in the first half to lay the foundations for the Sharks' six-try romp. They either scored or set up Cronulla's three first half tries. The match was only seven minutes old when Withall paved the way for the first Cronulla try when he kicked ahead, allowing five-eighth Greg Nixon to follow through and score. Five minutes later Withall scored the first of his two tries when he combined nicely with Carney to take the Sharks to a 12-2 lead. Cronulla went further ahead midway through the first half when Carney, a Wollongong beach inspector, split the Wests' defence wide open to send centre Jim See away for the Sharks' third try. At 16-2 the match was as good as over at half-time. There was no respite for the hapless Magpies in the second half. Four minutes after the resumption, half-back Mark Wakefield served up a nice pass for Withall to put the big second-rower over for his second try. Winger Tony Armstrong's conversion stretched Cronulla's lead to 22-2 and the Sharks seemed poised to run up a cricket score. Wests struck back momentarily with a runaway try to winger Mick Pinkerton, but it was a case of too little, too late. Cronulla replacement forward David Woodbury delivered the coup-de-grace eight minutes before full-time when he strolled over for the last of his team's six tries. Sharks coach Terry Fearnley said: "It was a good win for us up here - we don't win too often at Lidcombe. We played with a lot more confidence after last week's win over Norths."Sharks prop Michael Porter and centre Jim See failed to see out the game. Porter didn't come out for the second half after being concussed while See was replaced after having his leg badly gashed. Cronulla's reserve grade forward Ray Downie must have achieved some kind of record at Lidcombe yesterday. Downie was sent to the sin bin in the closing minutes of the reserve grade game and was again "binned" for 10 minutes when he came on as a replacement in first-grade after half time. Fearnley replaced Downie after he was dispatched to the sin bin on the second occasion. (Daily Telegraph 28th May 1984)

Notes: Wests appeared to be a very unmotivated team and the number of recent close losses was obviously taking its toll. Cronulla were on top from the opening minutes and there was a very high number of Wests' missed tackles. Mick Pinkerton scored a runaway try but Michael Duke was easily Wests' best player.

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