



# 1986 Round 17 Monday 30th June Cricket Ground



## South Sydney 23

def.

## Western Suburbs 16

David CRUIKSHANK  
 Brett ROSS  
 Neil BAKER  
 David MOON  
 Jason MOON  
 Bronko DJURA  
 Craig COLEMAN  
 Wayne CHISHOLM  
 Les DAVIDSON  
 Phil GOULD  
 Ian ROBERTS  
 Mario FENECH (c)  
 Tony RAMPLING  
 Michael ANDREWS

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

Rod PETHYBRIDGE  
 Paul SHEAHAN  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Greg DUVAL  
 Des DRUMMOND  
 Brett CLARK  
 Deryck FOX  
 Craig NEIL  
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)  
 John BILBIJA  
 Lee CROOKS  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Craig ELLIS  
 Garry WEBSTER



### Tries

Brett ROSS  
 Mario FENECH  
 David CRUIKSHANK

Rod PETHYBRIDGE  
 Brett CLARK

### Goals

Neil BAKER (6) One Field Goal

Ian SCHUBERT (4)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: P Sheahan, T Cogger, G Duval, D Drummond; five-eighth: B Clark; half; D Fox; forwards: C Neil, I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, L Crooks, A Fallah, C Ellis

**South Sydney:** Full-back: D Cruikshank; three-quarters: B Ross, N Baker, D Moon, J Moon; five-eighth: B Djura; half: C Coleman; forwards: W Chisholm, L Davidson, P Gould, T Rampling, M Fenech (c), I Roberts **Referee: B Harrigan (Big League 1st July 1986)**

The bold South Sydney side, considered by many as the weakest team in the semi-final race, have now set their sights on the minor premiership. Rabbitoh skipper Mario Fenech revealed his side's secret goal after Souths' bruising 23-16 win over Wests in an entertaining but controversial match at the SCG last night. The win lifted the cheeky young Souths team to 25 points – just one behind the premiership's big guns, Parramatta and Manly. "We know people are saying we don't deserve to be up with the leaders, but we are hanging in there," Fenech said. "We are taking every game as it comes, but the minor premiership is not beyond our grasp." Refereeing controversies were once again the order of the day, with an irate Wests' camp complaining Bill Harrigan had disallowed two fair Wests' tries and awarded one to Souths after the ball was incorrectly grounded. Video replays backed up the Magpies on all three occasions, prompting an emotional coach Steve Ghosn to consider quitting. "I feel like giving it away after that," Ghosn said. "You motivate your team to play their best all week, they go out and give you 100 per cent, and then this happens ... it's so cruel." After their woeful performance against Canterbury on the same ground a week earlier, the real Wests stood up last night, to give the high-flying Rabbitohs a torrid 80 minutes. The Magpies led 12-10 at half-time, before a dubious try immediately after the break swung the game Souths' way. Winger Brett Ross crossed in the corner after a fine backline move, but appeared to lose the ball when tackled by Wests' fullback Rod Pethybridge. To make matters worse, crucial decisions by Harrigan cost winger Paul Sheahan (off-side) and five-eighth Brett Clark (double movement) tries in the last 20 minutes. ....

Western Suburbs burly prop Bruce Clark has signed a contract with English club Oldham that could see him part company with the Magpies next season. Clark is a free agent next season and says he may stay in England if the game over there agrees with him. "At the moment I'm playing it all by ear," Clark said. "But if I like it over there, there is certainly nothing to stop me from staying in England., "A lot will depend on how I am going and how well Oldham is performing around the end of March when it would be time to come home." Clark is looking forward to one particular match in England – Oldham's clash with the Kangaroos on November 4. "I'm dying to play the 'Roos. I'm already counting the days," he said. **(Daily Mirror 1st July 1986)**

**Notes:** Wests' coach, Steve Ghosn, was visibly upset after this loss and with good reason. Wests had two tries disallowed, both valid tries on video replays, and Souths also scored a very doubtful try. Rod Pethybridge was ruled off-side after retrieving a Deryck Fox kick when the score was 16-18 but he was clearly behind the kicker. Wests redeemed themselves after a pathetic display against Canterbury the week before.