



1986 Round 19 Sunday 13th July Lidcombe Oval



Parramatta 22

Paul TAYLOR
 Mike EDEN
 Mark LAURIE
 Steve ELLA
 Mick DELROY
 Brett KENNY
 Peter STERLING (c)
 Peter FORD
 Paul MARES
 Peter WYNN
 Terry LEABEATER
 Michael MOSELEY
 Geoff BUGDEN
 Graham SETTREE
 Brian JACKSPON

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 Allen GEELAN
 Trevor COGGER
 Ian NADEN
 Des DRUMMOND
 Brett CLARK
 Craig NEIL
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John BILBIJA
 John ELIAS
 Lee CROOKS
 Alan FALLAH
 Garry WEBSTER
 Wilfred WILLIAMS
 Graeme JENNINGS



Tries

Peter STERLING
 Brett KENNY
 Peter WYNN

Des DRUMMOND
 Trevor COGGER
 Brett CLARK

Goals

Mike EDEN (5)

Ian SCHUBERT (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: A Geelan, T Cogger, I Naden, D Drummond; five-eighth: B Clark; half: C Neil; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, J Elias, L Crooks, A Fallah, G Webster

Parramatta: Full-back: P Taylor; three-quarters: M Eden, M Laurie, S Ella, M Delroy; five-eighth: B Kenny; half: P Sterling (c); forwards: P Ford, P Mares, P Wynn, T Leabeater, M Moseley, G Bugden **Referee: B Barnes (The Daily Mirror 14th July 1986)**

Champion centre Mick Cronin's courageous comeback from a tragic eye injury will reach a climax next Sunday when he is rushed back to first grade for Parramatta's clash with Penrith at Parramatta stadium. Parramatta coach John Monie revealed Cronin will have to make a dramatic early return against the Panthers after the Eels had struggled to beat Western Suburbs 22-16 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Any reluctance Monie may have felt about hurrying the 35-year-old centre into the club's top side were wiped away by the team's unimpressive display and the prospect of losing utility star Steve Ella for at least four weeks with injury. ... Ella has had trouble with the shoulder for at least two months and yesterday was forced off the field in the second half with a complete dislocation. Fitzgerald said Ella could be saved from sitting out the rest of the season by a revolutionary American technique to repair similar injuries. "With the new method, a player can be back in four to five weeks instead of three or four months", said Fitzgerald. "The gloomy outlook over Ella's fitness and the Eels' battle to dispose of Wests seemingly left Monie with no option but to call back Cronin. For the third week in succession Monie was disappointed with the form of the Eels, who last week slumped to a 28-14 loss to Cronulla. "We're not playing anywhere near our potential," said Monie. "Just to get away with a win today was a bonus. Disruptions to the team through representative commitments have left us with no continuity." Monie made it clear he believes Cronin may be the answer to the Eels' worries. "At least we've got a bright star on the horizon," he said, reflecting on Cronin's solid reserve grade performance which was capped by seven goals from as many attempts. "Mick played all right and I'm certainly happy enough with him. It would be a waste for him to play football at Parramatta; it might as well be in first grade. I suppose we tipped our hand last week when we ran him out in jumper No. 3" For his part, Cronin seemed a little reluctant to be on the verge of first grade after only playing two matches since damaging his eye in a trial in February. "It will be his (Monday) decision and I'll have to find out for sure on Tuesday," said Cronin. "I suppose I'll play where they pick me. I was a bit more confident today but there were still a few problems. If I was 21 again it might be different." Cronin's comeback to first grade will coincide with blockbusting winger Eric Grothe's return from injury. It was confirmed last night that Grothe has fully recovered from a leg injury sustained in the final State of Origin game. Originally the injury was expected to keep Grothe sidelined for a month, but he has worked overtime to beat the problem. The news of Cronin's imminent return was the main talking point at Lidcombe yesterday - at least in the Parramatta dressing room. The Wests camp were incensed with the display of referee Barry Barnes. **(Daily Telegraph 14th July 1986)**

Notes: Coach Ghosn risked the \$1000 fine in criticising the dismal performance of referee, Barry Barnes. Parramatta were awarded the penalties 8-1 in the first half and ran up a sizeable lead. Wests stormed back in the second half to take the lead after two spectacular tries, the one by Trevor Cogger being rated the try of the season. A late scrum feed win against the head allowed Peter Sterling to score an easy try which eventually sealed the game. Lee Crooks was the star for Wests, with Des Drummond having his best game so far for the Magpies.