



1985 Round 2 Sunday 24th March Lidcombe Oval



Manly-Warringah 30

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Marty GURR	Fullback
Kerry BOUSTEAD	Wing
Darren RODGERS	Centre
Chris CLOSE	Centre
Dale SHEARER	Wing
Tony MELROSE	Five-eighth
Des HASLER	Half
Paul VAUTIN (c)	Lock
Noel CLEAL	Second Row
Glenn RYAN	Second Row
Richie POULSEN	Front Row
Mal COCHRANE	Hooker
Phil DALEY	Front Row
Phil BLAKE	Replacement
Ray BROWN	Replacement
Mark POCOCK	Replacement

Chris STEPHANDELLIS
Mark LAWSON
Trevor COGGER
Brett GALE
Greg DUVAL
Gary WARNECKE
John McARTHUR
John COGGER
Allen GEELAN
Ian SCHUBERT (c)
Terry LEABEATER
Alan FALLAH
Garry WEBSTER
Craig ELLIS
Steve MULLEN



Tries Chris CLOSE (3)
Kerry BOUSTEAD
Richie POULSEN

Alan FALLAH
John COGGER

Goals Tony MELROSE (5)

Chris STEPHANDELLIS (1)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: M Gurr; three-quarters: K Boustead, C Close, D Rodgers, D Shearer; five-eighth: T Melrose; half: D Hasler; forwards: P Vautin (c), N Cleal, G Ryan, R Poulsen, M Cochrane, P Daley

Western Suburbs: Full-back: C Stephandellis; three-quarters: M Lawson, T Cogger, B Gale, G Duval; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: J McArthur; forwards: J Cogger, A Geelan, I Schubert (c), G Webster, A Fallah, T Leabeater **Referee: G McCallum (The Daily Mirror 25th March 1985)**

Manly centre Chris Close scored his first hat-trick of tries in Sydney football in the Sea Eagles' 30-10 win over Wests at Lidcombe Oval yesterday before reflecting back on a little of his past. "My best is six in game and 56 in the same season," Close said. "It was back in 1978 when I was playing for Cunnamulla in the South-Wests Queensland League and the season before I moved to Brisbane." Close scored his first try when he snapped up a dropped ball – a pass between Gary Warnecke and Allen Geelan. His other two tries were scored in the second half – one from close to Wests' line and the other after running wide and from 20m out. Manly's most encouraging signs were the improved performance by the team and the display by five-eighth Tony Melrose who, with centre Darren Rodgers, was promoted after the first-round loss to Penrith. Captain Paul Vautin said the improvement in Manly's defence pleased him most. "We still made plenty of handling mistakes but our defence was the difference," Vautin said. "The attitude was there as well. Instead of putting them on the ground, we wanted to hurt them also..." Manly coach Bob Fulton said: "Wests had 30 per cent more ball than us through the game. Our defence had to be up to scratch and was. We've still got a long way to go. There's a lot of new players still settling in and there is more improvement to come." Melrose, who was called up at the expense of Phil Blake, justified his promotion with a man-of-the-match display. Wests muffed several scoring chances with full-back Chris Stephandellis the main offender. Stephandellis appeared nervous in his first competition game since switching from rugby union but twice in the first half went close to putting tries on the board. He got across Manly's line only to be disallowed a try for a forward pass thrown by hooker Alan Fallah. Warnecke, on another occasion, knocked-on in-goal a Stephandellis' grubber kick. Wests also saw a third go begging when captain Ian Schubert threw a long pass for winger Mark Lawson, who finished over the touchline. **(Daily Mirror 25th March 1985)**

Gentle, the man who will control Wests' on-field destiny, realises he has several areas in which he must work to lift Wests above premiership straggler class..... The most pleasing aspect for Gentle was the form of some of Wests' lower grade players, who came up with a 12-all draw in Under 23's and a booming 20-6 win in reserve grade. In fact, replacement forwards Craig Ellis and Steve Mullen, who had played in the reserve grade win, showed more determination than some of the selected first-graders. **(Daily Telegraph 25th March 1985)**

Notes: 1985 started with significant team changes. Brett Gale returned from Easts and Terry Leabeater from Canterbury. Other new players were Ian Schubert from Manly, Mark Lawson from Balmain, Gary Warnecke from Easts and Chris Stephandellis from Wests Rugby Union. All played well, although Stephandellis had a case of the fumbles, having two tries disallowed. A big crowd of over 11,000 had high expectations but poor handling let Wests down and they blew at least four tries with dropped passes. John Cogger and Alan Fallah were clearly the best for Wests.