

WESTERN SUBURBS

Canberra 22 def.

Ron SIGSWORTH **Bill WALKER** Ron GITEAU (c) Dean LANCE Ray BLACKLOCK Percy KNIGHT Chris O'SULLIVAN Ashley GILBERT Gary SPEARS Paul ELLIOTT David GRANT Jay HOFFMAN John McLEOD Sam BACKO Ivan HENJAK Craig BELLAMY Mark BRENNAN

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

John McARTHUR Steve BROUGHTON Wayne SMITH (c) Gerald CELARC Mick PINKERTON Michael NEIL Trevor COGGER Mark HARRIGAN Allen GEELAN Craig MADSEN John COVENEY Pat ENGLISH Bruce CLARK Craig ELLIS Matt CARTER George FAHD Garry WEBSTER

Western Suburbs 12



Tries

Goals

Paul ELLIOTT Ron GITEAU (5)

Chris O'SULLIVAN (2)

John McARTHUR (2)

Steve BROUGHTON

Bruce CLARK

Match Description

Canberra: Full-back: R Sigsworth; three-quarters: W Walker, R Giteau (c), D Lance, R Blacklock; five-eighth: P Knight; half: C O'Sullivan; forwards: A Gilbert, P Elliott, G Spears, J McLeod, J Hoffman, D Grant

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith (c), G Celarc, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: M Neil; half: T Cogger; forwards: M Harrigan, A Geelan, C Madsen, J Coveney, P English, B Clark Referee: M Weekes (The Daily Mirror 29th March 1984)

Former St George half-back Ivan Henjak will have to bide his time in reserve grade following Chris O'Sullivan's match-winning form in Canberra's 22-12 win over Western Suburbs at Seiffert Oval last night. In a dazzling display, O'Sullivan maintained his 1983 form to seal the Raiders' second win of the season with a solo try six minutes from full-time. Until then Canberra had to battle hard to gain the upper hand against an inferior but pugnacious Wests. Even with storming displays by forwards David Grant and Paul Elliott that led to a series of first-half breaks, Canberra still trailed 12-10 at half-time. Wests' winger Steve Broughton finished off a brilliantly executed blind-side move in the fifth minute with a try and then Wests' best player, Bruce Clark, ambled over for another try in the 31st minute. Wests had few chances early and they took them, whereas Canberra couldn't finish off the outstanding work Grant, Elliott and Ray Blacklock created. Magpies' coach Ken Gentle emphasised to his forwards they must stop the Raiders' rampaging up front, and they held Canberra at 12-all after an hour's play before O'Sullivan cut loose. Grant produced a powerhouse effort, off-loading brilliantly while wingers Blacklock and Bill Walker created plenty of problems out wide. Clark, until replaced with an injured shoulder late in the game, gave a fine display, while his partner John Coveney tightened up the middle with 38 tackles. Gentle was satisfied with his team's all-round effort. "We kept tabs on Percy Knight, but O'Sullivan slipped through too often," he said. "During the second half I thought we might hold them out as our defence improved, but they finally finished too strong." **(Daily Telegraph 29th March 1984)**

The Canberra Raiders surged to the front of the premiership for the first time in their short history with crushing wins in all three grades against Wests at Seiffert Oval last night. They proved too big and fast for Wests and scored three tries to two. Wests battled hard but couldn't match the ball skills of the Raiders, particularly second-rower Paul Elliott and five-eighth Percy Knight. Gary Spear, with his hard running and tigerish defence, had a great game at second row for the Raiders. Best players for Wests were second-rower Craig Madsen, prop Bruce Clark and five-eighth Michael Neil. The first half produced some scrappy football, especially by the Raiders. Prop John McLeod was guilty of dropping the ball three times from simple passes. The Raiders' defence also left a lot to be desired because Wests won only two scrums and scored each time. Steve Broughton scored Wests' first try wide out after catching Billy Walker, his opposite number, and Ron Sigsworth, full-back, out of position. (Daily Mirror 29th March 1984)

Notes: This was a close game where Ron Giteau's goal-kicking made the difference. Wests led 12-10 at half-time but couldn't contain Chris O'Sullivan in the second half. Steve Broughton's try was the result of a brilliant backline movement. Best for Wests were Craig Madsen, Bruce Clark and Michael Neil.

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