



1984 Round 22 Sunday 29th July Brookvale Oval



Manly-Warringah 42

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Tony MELROSE
Kerry BOUSTEAD
Michael BLAKE
Chris CLOSE
Col DREIER
Alan THOMPSON (c)
Phil BLAKE
Des HASLER
Noel CLEAL
Glenn RYAN
Dave BROWN
Mal COCHRANE
Geoff GERARD
Peter CULLUM
Steve HEGARTY

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

John McARTHUR
Steve BROUGHTON (c)
Mark HARRIGAN
Trevor COGGER
Mick PINKERTON
Michael NEIL
Brett CLARK
Allen GEELAN
Michael DUKE
Ian FREEMAN
Garry WEBSTER
Alan FALLAH
Bruce CLARK
Gerald CELARC
Geoff SPOTSWOOD
Craig ELLIS



Tries

Noel CLEAL (2)
Col DREIER (2)
Tony MELROSE
Kerry BOUSTEAD
Michael BLAKE

Steve BROUGHTON
Brett CLARK

Goals

Steve HEGARTY (6)
Tony MELROSE (1)

John McARTHUR (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Broughton (c), M Harrigan, T Cogger, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: M Neil; half: B Clark; forwards: A Geelan, I Freeman, M Duke, B Clark, A Fallah, G Webster

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: T Melrose; three-quarters: K Boustead, C Close, M Blake, C Dreier; five-eighth: A Thompson (c); half: P Blake; forwards: D Hasler, N Cleal, G Ryan, D Brown, M Cochrane, G Gerard **Referee: D Spagarino (The Daily Mirror 30th July 1984)**

Blockbusting second-rower Noel Cleal was a forward in name only for much of yesterday's 42-12 Rugby League win over Western Suburbs at Brookvale Oval, earning rave reviews as he cut a swathe through the Magpies. Tank-like Cleal, in the centres for most of the match, scored two tries and had a hand in four others as Manly swept Wests away in the second half. Wests led 8-6 at the break but "Crusher" Cleal, lock Des Hasler and half-back Phil Blake ran rings around the Magpies after the break. Manly coach Bob Fulton said of Cleal: "He was devastating – a continuation of his form should put him in the Australian team. How he hasn't earned a Test place yet I don't know." Ken Gentle, Wests' coach, said: "Put him in our side and we would have won the game. Manly wore us down, but I was very pleased with the performance as we created plenty of chances. But they're too big and we're too small." Wests led 8-0 after 15 minutes through a try by winger Steve Broughton and two goals from full-back John McArthur. Cleal scored after Phil Blake made a break near halfway midway into the first half, but Wests contained the big Manly forwards until the break. Cleal dominated the second half. After full-back Steve Hegarty, a half-time replacement for centre Chris Close, landed the first of his six goals it was almost one-way traffic. Manly hooker Mal Cochrane and second-rower Glenn Ryan combined to send Cleal on a 50-metre try-scoring run before he turned on some creative play of his own. He made ground down the left wing and sent winger Col Dreier over in the corner to take the Sea Eagles to 20-8, 10 minutes into the second half. Wests' livewire half Brett Clark crossed wide out after five-eighth Michael Neil handled twice before the last 20 minutes developed into a Manly rout. Dreier scored again after a long Cleal run. Then the Sea Eagles laid on the only try that didn't involve the strapping City second-rower. Hasler broke the line near half-way, passed to winger Kerry Boustead, who drew McArthur and found centre Michael Blake. Blake sprinted 30m, touching down under the posts. Manly led 30-12 with three minutes left and turned on the power to add 12 more points. Cleal made a break from his own quarter to send Hasler on a dazzling run which set up a try for centre Tony Melrose. Cleal, forever looking for opportunities, received the ball from the kick-off, beat three players on his way to halfway and slipped a perfect pass to Boustead, who clapped on the pace to score. **(Sydney Morning Herald 30th July 1984)**

Notes: Wests started very strongly and led 8-0 early and 8-6 at half-time but 'Crusher' Cleal let loose in the second half and Wests had no answer, particularly with their defence out wide. Ken Gentle remarked that "If he was in our side, we win", and he was most probably right. When Brett Clark scored a good try in the second half Wests seemed to be back in the game but Cleal quickly set up a try and then scored himself to seal the win.