



# 1986 Round 23 Sunday 10th August Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 26

def.

## Illawarra 12

Rod PETHYBRIDGE  
 Ian NADEN  
 Wilfred WILLIAMS  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Paul SHEAHAN  
 Michael NEIL  
 Brett CLARK  
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)  
 John ELIAS  
 John BILBIJA  
 Lee CROOKS  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Garry WEBSTER  
 Terry DONNELLAN

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

Chris MACKLIN-SHAW  
 Alan McINDOE  
 Jeff HARDY  
 Brian HETHERINGTON (c)  
 Stan BROWNE  
 Trevor KISSELL  
 Greg MACKEY  
 Mick PATTISON  
 Michael CARBERRY  
 Steve WORTHINGTON  
 Seamus O'CONNELL  
 Michael BOLT  
 Peter SPRING  
 Graeme BRADLEY

### Tries

Trevor COGGER  
 Lee CROOKS  
 Brett CLARK  
 Paul SHEAHAN

Chris MACKLIN-SHAW  
 Brian HETHERINGTON

### Goals

Ian SCHUBERT (5)

Chris MACKLIN-SHAW (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: I Naden, T Cogger, W Williams, P Sheahan; five-eighth: M Neil; half: B Clark; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Elias, J Bilbija, L Crooks, A Fallah, G Webster

**Illawarra:** Full-back: C Macklin-Shaw; three-quarters: A McIndoe, J Hardy, B Hetherington (c), S Browne; five-eighth: T Kissell; half: G Mackey; forwards: M Pattison, M Carberry, S Worthington, S O'Connell, M Bolt, P Spring **Referee: G Annesley (The Daily Mirror 11th August 1986)**

English prop Lee Crooks sounded the end of a happy partnership with Western Suburbs after leading the Magpies to a convincing 26-12 win over Illawarra in the Winfield Cup at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Crooks, who scored a try and had a hand in two others, revealed after the match he may not rejoin the Magpies when he returns to the Sydney premiership in 1989. The clever ball-playing forward will consider offers from rival Sydney clubs when he returns if Wests don't look a chance of making the semi-finals. "One of my ambitions is to win a Sydney premiership and unless Wests look like making the semis when I return then I'll consider signing with another club," Crooks said. "I've promised the Magpies I'll rejoin them provided they are a semi-final chance." Crooks returns to England after Wests tackle Cronulla next week and has already told club secretary Rick Wayde he won't be back next year. The giant prop plans to spend next season at home with his family before hopefully linking up with the Great Britain side to tour Australia in 1988.

After a fairly even first half Wests took control during the second session. Wests led 8-4 at the break and stretched the lead to 12-4 in the 49th minute when Crooks sent fullback Rod Pethybridge charging through a gap. Pethybridge, who is fast making a name for himself as one of the most damaging runners in the game, did well to unload to Trevor Cogger who sent winger Paul Sheahan over in the corner. Illawarra fought back to make the score 14-8 midway through the second half when classy centre Brian Hetherington charged past several defenders in a 25m sprint to the line. But five minutes later, Crooks put the result beyond doubt when he brushed off some feeble defence to stroll over and give Wests a 20-8 lead. Again, the Steelers fought back when promising fullback Chris-Macklin Shaw scored after winger Ian Naden made a mess of a Trevor Kissell chip-kick but at that stage the Magpies had the match well and truly wrapped up. A try by Cogger in the dying stages gave the Magpies a well-deserved 26-12 win – a fitting result for their last appearance at Lidcombe Oval. "I knew if we matched Illawarra in defence we could beat them in attack," a delighted Magpie coach Steve Ghosn said after the match. Illawarra's Brian Smith, undoubtedly the most frustrated coach in the premiership, praised the Magpies for the exceptional attack. "It was a case of a team (Illawarra) with one of the worst attacking records in the comp taking on a team with one of the worst defensive records – Wests' attack today was at times exceptional," Smith said. **(Daily Telegraph 11th August 1986)**

**Notes:** Lee Crooks was absolutely brilliant in his second last game for Wests, having a hand in all four tries in a superb off-loading display. The halves, Neil and Clark, fed off the ball-playing Crooks all day. Rod Pethybridge made a number of damaging runs in a continuation of his great form.