



1984 Round 26 Sunday 26th August Endeavour Field



Cronulla-Sutherland 48 def.

Western Suburbs 10

Johnathan DOCKING	<i>Fullback</i>
Tony ARMSTRONG	<i>Wing</i>
Dean CARNEY	<i>Centre</i>
Andrew ETTINGHAUSEN	<i>Centre</i>
Chris GARDNER	<i>Wing</i>
Greg NIXON (c)	<i>Five-eighth</i>
Mark WAKEFIELD	<i>Half</i>
Howard JANSEN	<i>Lock</i>
David HATCH	<i>Second Row</i>
Garry WALKER	<i>Second Row</i>
Paul MERLO	<i>Front Row</i>
Steve ROBINSON	<i>Hooker</i>
Michael PORTER	<i>Front Row</i>
David LAMING	<i>Replacement</i>
George MOROKO	<i>Replacement</i>
Des O'REILLY	<i>Replacement</i>
Mark McGAW	<i>Replacement</i>

John McARTHUR
Steve BROUGHTON (c)
Eddie FLAHEY
Gerald CELARC
Wayne SMITH
Michael NEIL
Trevor COGGER
Dave STAFFORD
Michael DUKE
Allen GEELAN
John DONNELLY
Scott RIGNEY
Bruce CLARK
George FAHD
Brett CLARK
Mick PINKERTON



Tries

Chris GARDNER (2)
Mark WAKEFIELD
Greg NIXON
George MOROKO
David LAMING
Andrew ETTINGHAUSEN
Dean CARNEY
Tony ARMSTRONG

John McARTHUR
Eddie FLAHEY

Goals Tony ARMSTRONG (6)

John McARTHUR (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Broughton (c), E Flahey, W Smith, G Celarc; five-eighth: M Neil; half: T Cogger; forwards: D Stafford, A Geelan, M Duke, J Donnelly, S Rigney, B Clark

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: J Docking; three-quarters: C Gardner, D Carney, A Ettinghausen, T Armstrong; five-eighth: G Nixon (c); half: M Wakefield; forwards: H Jansen, D Hatch, G Walker, P Merlo, S Robinson, M Porter **Referee: J Gocher (The Daily Mirror 27th August 1984)**

The poor standard of play between Cronulla and Wests yesterday didn't allow for rigorous testing of the experimental rule changes. Certainly, the much-maligned bomb was eliminated in Cronulla's 48-10 whitewash of the Magpies. But the reason was more a glut of dropped passes and frequently weak defence than any law introduced for testing by the NSW Rugby League. Rarely did the tackle count reach six and so the bombs were as popular at Endeavour Field as they would be at a NO Nukes convention. Either Cronulla, using its fine array of young attacking players to advantage, scored while the tackle count was low or Wests bumbled possession early. However, both coaches were pleased with the potential they saw in the new rules. Outgoing Cronulla coach, Terry Fearnley, said: "The six tackles inside the 22m line means there is an even greater incentive to get into the opposition quarter. There were virtually no bombs today but I still believe there will be a place in rugby league for what I think is an important part of the game. We seemed to handle the rules much better today than we did last week against Norths – they made a lot more sense." Wests' coach Ken Gentle said: "Six more tackles inside the 22m line can only mean more tries and more excitement in the game." With a blue-jerseyed 'tank' called Dean Carney being allowed to make continual charging runs, Cronulla were allowed to race away to a 26-4 lead at half-time. If the home side had not been guilty of repeated errors, they would have won by an even bigger margin. **(Daily Telegraph 27th August 1984)**

Cronulla-Sutherland winger Tony Armstrong finished the season as Rugby League's highest point-scorer when he notched a try and six goals in his side's easy 48-10 win over Western Suburbs at Endeavour Field yesterday. The 26-year-old former Magpies and Canterbury-Bankstown flanker ended the competition on 186 points – 10 clear of his nearest rival, Steve Gearin of St George. For his efforts, he wins a \$1,000 cash award and a trip for two to Queensland's Dunk Island resort. ... **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th August 1984)**

Notes: This was a very disappointing end to a disappointing season. New rules which virtually eliminated bombs made it a fast open game and Wests threw the ball about to score two good tries. However, Cronulla were simply too big, too fast in a bumbling, fumbling match. Gerald Celarc played after being exonerated by the judiciary. Ex-Wests player, Tony Armstrong, finished the season as the top points scorer.