



1985 Round 3 Sunday 31st March Lidcombe Oval



Eastern Suburbs 42

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Wayne PORTLOCK
 Wayne CHALLIS
 John BERNE
 Ron GIBBS
 Dean BELL
 Todd RILEY
 Laurie SPINA
 Mark HORTON
 Hugh MCGAHAN
 John TOBIN
 Paul DUNN
 Kevin HASTINGS (c)
 John MACKAY
 Terry MATTERSON
 Dave BROWN
 Jim HARVEY

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

Chris STEPHANDELLIS
 Mark LAWSON
 Greg DUVAL
 Brett GALE
 Trevor COGGER
 Gary WARNECKE
 John McARTHUR
 John COGGER
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 Allen GEELAN
 Craig ELLIS
 Alan FALLAH
 Garry WEBSTER
 Leo EPIFANIA
 Bruce CLARK
 Mark KEEHAN
 Brett CLARK



Tries
 Wayne CHALLIS (2)
 Dean BELL (2)
 Laurie SPINA
 Todd RILEY
 Wayne PORTLOCK
 Jim HARVEY

Goals
 Wayne PORTLOCK (5)

Chris STEPHANDELLIS (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: C Stephandellis; three-quarters: M Lawson, G Duval, B Gale, T Cogger; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: J McArthur; forwards: J Cogger, A Geelan, I Schubert (c), G Webster, A Fallah, C Ellis

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: W Portlock; three-quarters: W Challis, J Berne, R Gibbs, D Bell; five-eighth: T Riley; half: L Spina; forwards: M Horton, H McGahan, J Tobin, P Dunn, K Hastings (c), J Mackay **Referee: G West (The Daily Mirror 1st April 1985)**

Eastern Suburbs, runaway winners of their past two Rugby League encounters, boast a side of reluctant heroes. Coach Arthur Beetson will delay any celebrations until they meet "a real football team." Western Suburbs, crushed 42-4 at Lidcombe yesterday, never posed a threat. Easts crossed for eight tries and won in a stroll. Wests' recently-won fans walked out on the team well before full-time as the Eastern Suburbs try slide turned into an avalanche. There was even some heckling. The Wests' coach, Ken Gentle, shook his head and said he would take the blame for not making changes after the previous week's loss to Manly-Warringah. "It was their first game and I had faith in the players," he said. "But obviously I will be making changes now." Easts' moment of truth comes next weekend when they are drawn against premiers Canterbury-Bankstown in the outstanding match of the fourth round. After that, Beetson will know if it is time for the Roosters to crow. With winning score-lines of 28-8 against Cronulla and 42-4 against Wests, Easts are swinging into full rhythm. They produced a display of swift, controlled aggression to put Wests out of business yesterday. Ahead 12-2 at half-time, Easts piled on 30 points in the second half with their bigger forwards making substantial ground in mid-field changes and the backs moving the ball confidently into the open spaces. The player who earned most backslaps was Wayne Portlock, 22, last year's North Sydney full-back, who already looks one of the buys of the season. The white headband that protected 15 stitches from an ear gash the previous week made him a stand-out. Portlock scored a try and booted five goals but it was his persistent running to link up or architect rushes that won the crowd's admiration. It was some testimony to the fluency of the Easts' backline that seven of the eight tries came from the backs, wingers Dean Bell and Wayne Challis each crossing twice. The halves, ... Easts played some stylish football but it was all too easy as the lightweight Wests' team missed crucial tackles or dropped vital possession. On this display the League's worst fears are well founded: Wests may just not be good enough to hold their own in the Sydney competition. **(Sydney Morning Herald 1st April 1985)**

Notes: This was one of the worst Wests' performances for many years and considering the Reserves had a sparkling 32-0 win it was obvious that there would be many team changes. Shoddy handling was again a feature and a lot of improvement would be needed for the mid-week Panasonic Cup game against Auckland.