



1985 Round 4 Sunday 7th April Leichhardt Oval



Balmain 50

Garry JACK
 John DAVIDSON
 Ross CONLON
 Gavin HANRAHAN
 Russel GARTNER
 Paul BEAVEN
 Scott GALE
 Wayne PEARCE (c)
 Kevin HARDWICK
 David BROOKS
 Steve ROACH
 Ben ELIAS
 Paul CLARKE
 Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 John OWENS

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Leo EPIFANIA
 Mark LAWSON
 Greg DUVAL
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Steve WANT
 Trevor COGGER
 Brett CLARK
 John COGGER
 Garry WEBSTER
 Craig CLARKE
 Terry LEABEATER (c)
 Alan FALLAH
 Bruce CLARK
 Mark HARRIGAN
 John McARTHUR
 George FAHD



Tries

Garry JACK (2)
 Scott GALE (2)
 Paul BEAVEN (2)
 Steve ROACH
 Ross CONLON

Wayne WIGHAM
 Brett CLARK

Goals

Ross CONLON (9)

Leo EPIFANIA (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: M Lawson, G Duval, W Wigham, S Want; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: B Clark; forwards: J Cogger, G Webster, C Clarke, T Leabeater (c), A Fallah, B Clark

Balmain: Full-back: G Jack; three-quarters: J Davidson, R Conlon, G Hanrahan, R Gartner; five-eighth: P Beaven; half: S Gale; forwards: W Pearce (c), K Hardwick, D Brooks, S Roach, B Elias, P Clarke **Referee: J Gocher (The Daily Mirror 9th April 1985)**

Balmain Rugby League team found it hard to wallow in the spoils of victory yesterday despite thrashing an ailing Western Suburbs at Leichhardt Oval. The free-flowing Tigers ran in eight first-class tries in their 50-10 demolition of the Magpies, but not as easily as the lop-sided score might suggest. Balmain outclassed Western Suburbs in every aspect and were in complete control from the kick-off. But the Magpies fought to the end and saved face with a try by half-back Brett Clark in the final minute. The Balmain dressing room was hardly a scene of rousing celebration after the match. Far from it. Had it not been for the black and gold jerseys one could have easily mistaken it for the opponents' dressing room. Most of the players were exhausted. In spite of the runaway win, the match was a bruising affair and the Balmain coach, Frank Stanton, was thankful his team emerged relatively free of injuries. "... Later, Hardwick laughed at the suggestion Balmain had enjoyed a comfortable win. "Comfortable? he asked. "It wasn't too comfortable for me and I bet the other blokes will say the same. It was tough." Stanton was pleased that Balmain put Wests away with a half-century of points, adding that his team had achieved its first goal of the season. "I wanted them to win their first four games and they have done it," he said. "But the hard work is just beginning, especially this week. We play Canterbury next week, Brisbane in a National Panasonic Cup match a couple of days later, Manly the following Sunday and Easts four days after that. It is a big schedule." Balmain showed their class early in the match when hooker Benny Elias sent a rampaging Steve Roach through the defence to score under the posts in the 12th minute, taking two defenders with him. Eight minutes earlier Wests had lost lock John Cogger to the sin-bin for 10 minutes. Cogger returned, but only briefly. He was taken to hospital shortly before half-time after breaking his jaw in a tackle. Wests wanted to play it hard – no doubt attempting to break Balmain's new-found flair in attack, but the Tigers met them head-on, to the extent that second-rower David Brooks was sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes after a scuffle with Magpie captain Terry Leabeater in the 26th minute. The try of the match came five minutes into the second half when Balmain five-eighth Paul Beaven scored near the posts. The try began with Test full-back Garry Jack claiming the ball in his own in-goal, then sprinting and weaving to the 22m before sending prop Paul Clarke through a gap. Clarke drew his man, passed to winger John Davidson and Beaven did the rest from 25m out. Ross Conlon, one of Balmain's five try-scorers, also kicked nine goals, giving him 22 of the Tigers' points. **(Sydney Morning Herald 8th April 1985)**

Notes: Wests really put it to Balmain for the first 30 minutes in a much-improved performance on the previous week, but a very strong Balmain team ran all over them in the second half, with ex-Wests' players, Paul Beaven, Scott Gale, Garry Jack and Ross Conlon scoring nearly all the points. Balmain were simply too big, too fast. Unfortunately, one of Wests' best players, John Cogger, broke his jaw and was predicted to be out for eight weeks.