



# 1984 Round 7 Sunday 22nd April Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 13

def.

## Illawarra 10

Wayne SMITH (c) *Fullback*  
 Steve BROUGHTON *Wing*  
 Brett DAVIDSON *Centre*  
 Gerald CELARC *Centre*  
 Mick PINKERTON *Wing*  
 Trevor COGGER *Five-eighth*  
 John McARTHUR *Half*  
 Mark HARRIGAN *Lock*  
 Allen GEELAN *Second Row*  
 Greg McELHONE *Second Row*  
 John COVENEY *Front Row*  
 Pat ENGLISH *Hooker*  
 Garry WEBSTER *Front Row*  
 Michael DUKE *Replacement*  
 Gerry BYRON *Replacement*  
 George FAHD *Replacement*  
 John COGGER *Replacement*

Wayne McPHERSON  
 Owen SAUNDERS  
 Kim PATRICK  
 Brian HETHERINGTON  
 Stan BROWNE  
 Greg MACKEY  
 Kevin KELLY  
 Robert THOMPSON  
 Steve WORTHINGTON  
 Rod REDDY  
 Rex WILLIAMS  
 Michael BOLT (c)  
 Peter SMITH  
 Bruce HONEYSETT  
 Geoff SELBY  
 Paul UPFIELD

**Tries** Mick PINKERTON

Paul UPFIELD  
 Kim PATRICK

**Goals** John McARTHUR (5) One Field Goal

Wayne McPHERSON (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, B Davidson, G Celarc, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: J McArthur; forwards: M Harrigan, A Geelan, G McElhone, J Coveney, P English, G Webster

**Illawarra:** Full-back: W McPherson; three-quarters: O Saunders, K Patrick, B Hetherington, S Browne; five-eighth: G Mackey; half: K Kelly; forwards: R Thompson, S Worthington, R Reddy, R Williams, M Bolt (c), P Smith **Referee: S Nash (Daily Mirror 24th April 1984)**

Western Suburbs coach Ken Gentle was the happiest man in town after his battling Magpies broke through for their first win of the season by beating Illawarra 13-10 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Gentle and his players headed for Wests League Club last night to celebrate what could be one of the most important victories in the club's history. The plight of the financially-stricken Magpies is well known and Wests desperately needed a win to boost confidence as the club fights for survival. "That was a really good effort by our boys," an elated Gentle said. "We have been working up to a win for a while and it is all systems go from here." It was Wests' great first-half defence, when Illawarra applied tremendous pressure, which won them the match. The Steelers camped in Wests' quarter for most of the half but stonewall defence by the Magpies managed to keep them at bay. The Magpies were able to work play into Illawarra territory on only a few occasions but, when they did, they usually came up with points. Wests led 10-0 at halftime after a converted try to winger Mick Pinkerton and two penalty goals to half-back John McArthur. Illawarra got back into the game briefly in the second half with a try to centre Kim Patrick, but McArthur quickly snuffed out the Steelers' fightback with another penalty goal and a field goal. "Our defence was outstanding but I was a bit worried we might tire after that first-half effort," Gentle said. Wests' lock Mark Harrigan, the smallest forward on the field, was an inspiration to his teammates and topped the Magpies' tackle count with 40. He was well supported up front by John Coveney and Allen Geelan, while Greg McElhone probably played his best game of league since switching over from Randwick Rugby Union. McArthur also added to his growing reputation with another bright display, although inexperience probably cost him a try in the second half when he stopped and looked for support instead of going it alone after appearing to have the defence beaten. ...**(Daily Telegraph 23rd April 1984)**

"This beer tastes like champagne!" declared excited Wests' coach Ken Gentle at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. He was living life to the fullest after his Magpie team of spare parts had broken the drought with a deserving 13-10 win over Illawarra. Gentle pointed out that his players had made far too many errors for his liking but for once, he was not going to rouse on them. "You couldn't blame them for getting a bit excited, particularly in the second half," he said. "But they have worked for it. I'm thrilled for them and all who have worked to keep the club afloat." The battle-weary Steelers scored two tries to Wests' one but the Magpies scored their points when they mattered most. Little half-back John McArthur was Wests' pin-up boy, booting four goals and a field goal in a livewire display. **(Daily Mirror 23rd April 1984)**

**Notes:** The first win of the season was sweet for a battling Wests team. The strong first half defensive effort laid the foundations, leading 10-0 at half-time after repelling multiple Illawarra attacks. Greg McElhone had his best game since switching from Union, while John McArthur was again the best player on the field. Wayne Smith was also good at fullback and Mark Harrigan topped the tackle count with 40.