



1984 Round 9 Sunday 29th April Lidcombe Oval



Manly-Warringah 16

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Steve HEGARTY
 Phil CAREY
 Phil BLAKE
 Chris CLOSE
 Col DREIER
 Alan THOMPSON (c)
 Des HASLER
 Paul VAUTIN
 Noel CLEAL
 Glenn RYAN
 John HARVEY
 Ray BROWN
 Dave BROWN
 Warren JOWETT
 Paul McCABE
 Mal COCHRANE

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

Leo EPIFANIA
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Darryl TURNER
 Eddie FLAHEY
 Mick PINKERTON
 Trevor COGGER
 John McARTHUR
 Mark HARRIGAN
 Craig MADSEN
 Craig ELLIS
 Geoff SPOTSWOOD
 Pat ENGLISH (c)
 Garry WEBSTER
 Matt CARTER
 Michael DUKE
 John COGGER
 Paul GEARIN



Tries Noel CLEAL (2)

Mark HARRIGAN (2)
 Steve BROUGHTON

Goals Steve HEGARTY (4)

John McARTHUR (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: L Epifania; three-quarters: S Broughton, D Turner, E Flahey, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: T Cogger; half: J McArthur; forwards: M Harrigan, C Madsen, C Ellis, G Spotswood, P English (c), G Webster

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: S Hegarty; three-quarters: P Carey, C Close, P Blake, C Dreier; five-eighth: A Thompson (c); half: D Hasler; forwards: P Vautin, G Ryan, N Cleal, J Harvey, R Brown, D Brown **Referee: K Roberts (The Daily Mirror 30th April 1984)**

Western Suburbs produced a giant-sized dose of "Magpie power" before NSW Rugby League chief Tom Bellew at Lidcombe yesterday to press their claims for survival in 1985. Beaten 16-14 in the dying stages by a lucky Manly side, the Magpies finished without the premiership points but with a huge moral victory over the competition's millionaire club. "I hope Tom had a good look at the way we played out there today," a proud Wests' coach Ken Gentle said after the match. "There's no way they could kick us out after that." The patched-up Wests' side, still licking its wounds from a mid-week 50-point hiding by Easts, had a miracle win in its sights until giant Manly second-rower Noel Cleal strode over the line 90 seconds from the finish. The Magpies scored three tries to two and showed much more spirit than their big-name opponents. They hit the front early in the match with a fine team try, ultimately finished by winger Steve Broughton, and held Manly for much of the first half, despite running into the teeth of a strong gale. The plucky Magpies cracked only once in the first session and that was when they were down to 12 men following the sin-binning of centre Darryl Turner for a professional foul. Full-back Steve Hegarty made a break inside the Wests' quarter, drew the defence and gave the ever-present Cleal an open run to the line. Hegarty's conversion put Manly ahead 8-4 before Wests hit back to level the scores just before half-time. Lock Mark Harrigan, the Magpies' best player on the day, charged onto a perfectly-timed pass from second-rower Craig Madsen to sprint 20 metres to score in the corner. Playing with the wind in the second half, Wests seized their chance when Manly centre Chris Close was sin-binned for tripping in the 56th minute. The nuggety Harrigan spotted a small hole in the Manly defence near the line and slipped in for a try near the posts, which McArthur converted to put the Magpies ahead 14-10. The four-point lead wasn't enough however. The professional Manly outfit, while never playing anywhere near their top, didn't panic and waited for their chance. It came in the second-last minute, with the barnstorming Cleal swatting defenders aside in a 10-metre charge to the line. "I just put my head down and charged," Cleal said later. "It's just like getting out of Long Bay jail." Hegarty's angled conversion was never going to miss, giving the youngster four goals from five shots in another tidy performance. Manly coach Bob Fulton heaped praise on the bits-and-pieces side that came within a whisker of beating his million-dollar outfit. "When they pull on that jersey, they're so proud they play like men inspired," Fulton said. **(Daily Mirror 30th April 1984)**

Notes: Most critics were of the opinion that Wests were clearly the better team, scoring three tries to two, but losing in the last ninety seconds with a converted Noel Cleal try. In a vastly revamped team, three players made their debut: Leo Epifania, Darryl Turner and Eddie Flahey while Geoff Spotswood came back from a 1980 debut. Spotswood topped the tackle count with 37 and Epifania was impressive at fullback.