



1991 Round 14 Saturday 29th June Belmore Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 15

def.

Canterbury-Bankstown 6

Shaun DEVINE
Wayne SIMONDS
Andrew FARRAR
Tony COSATTO
Jamie AINSCOUGH
Ivan HENJAK (c)
Jason TAYLOR
Jason LIDDEN
Graeme WYNN
Cameron BLAIR
Steve JACKSON
Joe THOMAS (c)
Darren BRITT
Ron GIBBS

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

Jonathan DAVIES
Steve MAVIN
Andrew PATMORE
Darren SMITH
Matthew RYAN
Terry LAMB (c)
Ewan McGRADY
Simon GILLIES
Scott TRONC
Bruce McGUIRE
Dean PAY
Geordi PEATS
Mark BROKENSHIRE
Troy CASSELL
Sean SKELTON

Tries Steve JACKSON
Wayne SIMONDS

Jonathan DAVIES

Goals Jason TAYLOR (4) One field goal

Jonathan DAVIES (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, T Cosatto, A Farrar, J Ainscough, G Mackay; five-eighth: I Henjak (c); half: J Taylor; forwards: J Lidden, C Blair, G Wynn, D Britt, J Thomas, S Jackson

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: J Davies; three-quarters: S Mavin, A Patmore, D Smith, M Ryan; five-eighth: T Lamb (c); half: E McGrady; forwards: S Gillies, S Tronc, B McGuire, D Pay, G Peats, M Brokenshire **Referee: W Harrigan (Big League 3rd July 1991)**

Western Suburbs stormed into third place on the jammed premiership table when their calculated gamble to run into the strong wind in the first half proved a match-winner against Canterbury at Belmore Sports Ground yesterday. Wests were confident they could hold Canterbury in the first half and then storm home. Their match plan worked out perfectly with a tradesmanlike 15-6 win that put Wests on 18 premiership points, enabling them to leapfrog Canterbury and signal the team as a very strong semi-final candidate. Wests' decision to run into the wind virtually won the match when they harassed Canterbury with strong defence, forcing errors. With the scores locked 2-all at half-time, Wests had the match at their mercy. When Canterbury committed a massive blunder from the kick-off which eventually led to Wests' winger Wayne Simonds scoring a gift try, the match was virtually over. Canterbury coach Chris Anderson summed up the match perfectly when he said his team had played their "dumbest football of the season." "We did not do what we wanted to. We got down into their territory several times in the first half but we did not come up with a try," Anderson said. "Wests play the game well. They make it very difficult to beat them." There were no arguments about that, although Canterbury did make Wests' task that little bit easier. The Canterbury kicking game was nondescript, the defence brittle and the players conceded far too many penalties in the first half, allowing Wests more latitude than they should have received. Wests deserved the win. The forwards played strongly with powerhouse young forward Darren Britt, hooker Joe Thomas and evergreen Graeme Wynn very effective. With the forwards making ground, halfback Jason Taylor was outstanding, frequently splitting the Canterbury line in attack and causing the defence problems with intelligent passing. "We had to ground it out in the first half, but then we knew we would be able to open it up a bit in the second half," Taylor said. Taylor became the pinup boy of some FooyTab punters and a villain to others when he calmly potted a 45-metre field goal five minutes from the finish for the 15-6 scoreline and a dividend of \$1,002.70. Wests' coach Warren Ryan, who guided Canterbury to two premierships, probably enjoyed the win as much as any of the season for personal reasons. It is no secret that Ryan and several members of the Canterbury club are far from friendly, although this was never raised with the players pre-match. Ryan laid out his match plan and the players stuck to it, finishing strong winners two tries to one. Wests' first try came after only two minutes of the second half and the second, when Steve Jackson barged over midway through the second half, gave the team an unbeatable 14-2 lead. Ivan Henjak played an intelligent role for Wests, taking over as dummy-half on a number of occasions instead of the reliable Joe Thomas, keeping the Canterbury defence in two minds. Thomas and Andrew Farrar, two former Canterbury players, both had very strong games while in the Canterbury team, Dean Pay was best. **(Sun-Herald 30th June 1991)**

Notes: Wests put in a very committed performance, tackling strongly in the first half, when they were running against a very strong wind, a match-winning decision when the score was 2-2 at half-time. The forwards, led by an inspiring Graeme Wynn, were completely on top, allowing the old half combination of Henjak and Taylor to dominate. Darren Britt and Bob Lindner also had very strong games. Wayne Simonds also demonstrated he was back to his best with a decisive try.