1996 Round 18 Saturday 3rd August Campbelltown Stadium

Western Suburbs 24 def. Canberra 16

Andrew LEEDS	***Fullback***	Ken NAGAS
Darren WILLIS	***Wing***	Steve COLLINS
Aseri LAING	***Centre***	David BOYLE
Brandon PEARSON	***Centre***	Ruben WIKI
Paul SMITH	***Wing***	Noa NADRUKU
Steve GEORGALLIS	***Five-eighth***	Laurie DALEY (c)
Andrew WILLIS	***Half***	Steve STONE
Paul LANGMACK (c)	***Lock***	David FURNER
Damian KENNEDY	***Second Row***	Brett HETHERINGTON
Bill DUNN	***Second Row***	Bruce MAMANDO
Justin DOOLEY	***Front Row***	Luke DAVICO
Ciriaco MESCIA	***Hooker***	Steve WALTERS
Harvey HOWARD	***Front Row***	Mark CORVO
Darren CAPOVILLA	***Replacement***	Albert FULIVAI
Chad HARRIS	***Replacement***	Simon WOODFORD
Mark AFFLICK	***Replacement***	Todd PAYTEN
Kevin McGUINNESS	***Replacement***	Bert TABUI

Tries	Darren WILLIS	Ken NAGAS
	Andrew LEEDS	Noa NADRUKU
	Brandon PEARSON	
	Aseri LAING	
Go*als*	Andrew LEEDS (3)	David FURNER (4)
	Andrew WILLIS (1)	

Match Description

Canberra: Full-back: K Nagas; three-quarters: S Collins, D Boyle, R Wiki, N Nadruku; five-eighth: L Daley (c); half: S Stone; forwards: D Furner, B Hetherington, B Mamando, L Davico, S Walters, M Corvo

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Leeds; three-quarters: D Willis, A Laing, B Pearson, P Smith; five-eighth: S Georgallis; half: A Willis; forwards: P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, B Dunn, J Dooley, C Mescia, H Howard **Referee: N Almond (Daily Telegraph 4th August 1996)**

Count on Steve Georgallis being there next week. With a can in his hand after yesterday's game - a 24-16 win over Canberra – Georgallis was sitting next to coach Tom Raudonikis in the dressing room, healing as best he can. His left hand was wrapped in ice and his left eye showed a trickle of blood from two cuts. Raudonikis wiped the hair away from Georgallis' forehead, accidentally brushed the eye cuts, and declared "Don't worry about next week, mate, you'll be there. We'll cut the plaster off if we have too." Raudonikis laughed. They play Brisbane next week and the fear within the Magpie camp is that the hardy number six has broken his thumb. Georgallis was forced to leave the game at various stages for pain-killing injections but you couldn't find a better example to sum up the Magpies win - it was built on heart. The only blight was an incident between Canberra captain Laurie Daley and Wests' hooker Cherry Mescia that saw referee Kelvin Jeffes report Mescia. While it may take some of the shine from the win there was still plenty left to celebrate. After tinkering with his team strategy, Raudonikis has now knocked over Canterbury and Canberra in successive weeks to remain in the top eight against expectations. Wests moved to 21 points yesterday and, depending on other results this weekend, have left Canberra in danger of being eliminated from the eight. The Magpies trailed 10-8 at halftime and, although they enjoyed the better field position, there was suspicion that Canberra's class would eventually win through. The Magpie players were playing high on emotion, pumping each other up in defence and scrambling on both sides of the ball. But as the game wore on it was the Raiders who became more and more ragged. From the kick-off, they kicked out on the full twice and ran over the sideline early in the tackle count. A try to Brandon Pearson eight minutes after the break put Wests ahead. Another soon after when the Magpies ran the ball on the 5th put the word upset in the air. Behind 18-10 now, Canberra turned inward and tried to lift themselves. Ken Nagas was disallowed a try but scored soon after. By this stage, though, the Magpies had their measure. Georgallis, consistently catching the Canberra's defence short on the inside, worked a runaround with Paul Langmack before finding Andrew Leeds who pushed through two weak tacklers to seal the win. **(The Sun-Herald 4th August 1996)**

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Notes: *Steve Georgallis, needing multiple pain-killing injections, was the outstanding player for Wests, in an emotion-charged upset win against the odds. Harvey Howard was a very dominant forward up front, often making charges through the middle of the ruck. Stalwarts Langmack and Leeds were also very strong, particularly in the second half, when needed. The win put Wests into the top eight.*

View the match here: Canberra vs Wests Rd 18 1996