1996 Round 12 Sunday 23rd June Campbelltown Stadium

Western Suburbs 42 def. Gold Coast 10

Ken McGUINNESS	***Fullback***	Ros STONE
Darren WILLIS	***Wing***	Lee OUDENRYN
Andrew LEEDS	***Centre***	Jason NICOL
Brandon PEARSON	***Centre***	Kris CURRIE
Kevin MCGUINNESS	***Wing***	Jeff ORFORD
Andrew WILLIS	***Five-eighth***	Shane KENWARD
Craig COLEMAN	***Half***	Stuart TOPPER
Steve GEORGALLIS	***Lock***	Jeremy SCHLOSS
Paul LANGMACK (c)	***Second Row***	Des CLARK
Damian KENNEDY	***Second Row***	Tony DURHEIM
John SKANDALIS	***Front Row***	Damien DRISCOLL
Ciriaco MESCIA	***Hooker***	Jamie GODDARD
Justin DOOLEY	***Front Row***	Martin BELLA (c)
Darren BURNS	***Replacement***	Brett GILLARD
Darren CAPOVILLA	***Replacement***	Brett PLOWMAN
Andrew HICK	***Replacement***	Tim FULLER
Bill DUNN	***Replacement***	Henry SULUVALE

Tries	Brandon PEARSON (3) Andrew WILLIS (2) Darren WILLIS	Jeff ORFORD Martin BELLA
Go*als*	Andrew LEEDS (9)	Tim FULLER (1)

Match Description
Gold Coast: Full-back: R Stone; three-quarters: L Oudenryn, J Nicol, K Currie, J Orford; five-eighth: S Kenward; half: S Topper; forwards: J Schloss, D Clark, T Durheim, D Driscoll, J Goddard, M Bella (c)
Western Suburbs: Full-back: Ken McGuinness; three-quarters: D Willis, A Leeds, B Pearson, Kevin McGuinness; five-eighth: A Willis; half: C Coleman; forwards: S Georgallis, P Langmack (c), D Kennedy, J Skandalis, C Mescia, J Dooley **Referee: P McBlane (Daily Telegraph 24th June 1996)**

Western Suburbs dynamic duo Brandon Pearson and Andrew Willis celebrated their birthdays in style yesterday by scoring five tries between them in the Magpies' 42-10 thrashing of Gold Coast at Campbelltown. Centre Pearson, who caused giant problems for the Chargers with his powerful running, crossed for a hat trick and would have scored four if he hadn't spilled the ball with the tryline wide open. Five-eighth Willis, who blew out 21 candles on his cake, was rewarded for his good backing up with two tries. Pearson, who turned 24, went out owing his teammate something special yesterday after he was dropped from the side which played South Sydney last week after arriving late to his Saturday morning training session. .. The Magpies played very entertaining football yesterday, scoring some excellent tries in the process. The game was all over after 22 minutes when Andrew Willis scored his first try which took the Magpies to an 18-0 lead. It was then a matter of just how big their winning margin would be. Wests could easily have topped the half century if not for a couple of final passes going astray. And prominent throughout it all was live wire lock Steve Georgallis who bobbed up so often making breaks, the hapless Chargers could have been excused for thinking he had a twin brother on the field. "He's playing like a young colt," Raudonikis said. Fullback Ken McGuinness was another to make plenty of ground with the football while up front, props Justin Dooley and John Skandalis, set the platform. Skandalis, who had a first-grade baptism of fire in the Magpies' fiery clash with Penrith, is a tough young forward who continues to improve each week. Raudonikis said in last week's 12-all draw with South Sydney the side had not controlled the football. "To beat the top sides, you have to do that," Raudonikis said. He said the Magpies showed a vast improvement in that area yesterday. "I also spoke to the blokes individually this week," Raudonikis said. Whatever he said certainly had the desired effect on his side. Putting the icing on the cake was "Mr Consistency" Andrew Leeds, who played in the centres yesterday and booted nine goals from 10 attempts. The type of spirit in the Wests' side was demonstrated by hooker Cherry Mescia yesterday. Raudonikis revealed he took a heavy knock in the game with Souths and should not have played. But he insisted on taking the field and did his job without shirking any work. But Raudonikisr has been around long enough not to get carried away with the Magpies' performance yesterday against one of the premiership battlers. "There is still a lot of work to be done, believe me." Raudonikis said. "I was not happy with a few areas and we have to make sure we fix them up before we play Auckland next week." The win was also a fitting farewell for Magpies' chief executive Steve Noyce who finished up with the club yesterday. Noyce was at the helm during some difficult times at the club when their very survival in the premiership was in doubt**. (The Daily Telegraph 24th June 1996)**

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Notes: *Brandon Pearson and Andrew Willis were both celebrating birthdays and obliged with five tries between them. Wests led 18-0 early and the game was good as over. Steve Georgallis was the outstanding player on the field, while Ken McGuinness, John Skandalis and Justin Dooley also turned in powerhouse performances.*
Highlights of the match can be viewed here: Wests Magpies vs Gold Coast 1996