1991 Round 8 Sunday 12th May Penrith Park

Western Suburbs 12 def. Penrith 8

Shaun DEVINE	***Fullback***	Greg BARWICK
Stephen BURNS	***Wing***	Graham MACKAY
Andrew FARRAR	***Centre***	Brad IZZARD
Russell WYER	***Centre***	Graeme BRADLEY
Tony COSATTO	***Wing***	Paul SMITH
Ivan HENJAK (c)	***Five-eighth***	Steve CARTER
Jason TAYLOR	***Half***	Ben ALEXANDER
Ron GIBBS	***Lock***	Brad FITTLER
Graeme WYNN	***Second Row***	Mark GEYER (c)
Jason LIDDEN	***Second Row***	Barry WALKER
David GILLESPIE	***Front Row***	Paul DUNN
Joe THOMAS	***Hooker***	Scott ELLEM
Tony RAMPLING	***Front Row***	Paul CLARKE
Darren BRITT	***Replacement***	Rod McNEILL
Steve JACKSON	***Replacement***	John CARTWRIGHT
Jamie AINSCOUGH	***Replacement***	Col BENTLEY

Tries	Tony COSATTO	Paul SMITH
	Graeme WYNN	Greg BARWICK
Go*als*	Jason TAYLOR (2)	

Match Description
Penrith: Full-back: G Barwick; three-quarters: G Mackay, B Izzard, G Bradley, P Smith; five-eighth: S Carter; half: B Alexander; forwards: B Fittler, M Geyer (c), B Walker, P Dunn, S Ellem, P Clarke
Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: S Burns, A Farrar, R Wyer, T Cosatto; five-eighth: I Henjak (c); half: J Taylor; forwards: R Gibbs, J Lidden, G Wynn, D Gillespie, J Thomas, T Rampling **Referee: G McCallum (Big League 15th May 1991)**

Coach Warren Ryan said "round up the usual superlatives" after Western Suburbs' 12-8 win over premiership favourites Penrith at Penrith Park yesterday. It would be nice to round up the superlatives, but this wasn't a superlative win achieved in superlative style. It wasn't bold and brilliant, dashing and dazzling and certainly not pretty. Better to round up the usual cliches: courage, character, commitment, and adhesion to the game plan, which was built on unyielding defence and the boots of Andrew Farrar and Jason Taylor, who between them kicked into Penrith's territory almost 30 times. The casualties reflected the nature of the contest. Wests' second-rower Graeme Wynn was concussed after a fearsome Mark Geyer shoulder charge, centre Russell Wyer was replaced with a shoulder injury and Penrith lost both experienced centres, Brad Izzard, and Graeme Bradley, in the second half. Izzard was taken off on a stretcher with concussion and a head gash which required several stitches, but the damage isn't thought to be serious. A dazed Wynn said: "It's a hard game but we got the two points, or so they tell me." He could remember little of his participation. Said Ryan of the contest: "It was our most severe examination as a team. Penrith are a tremendous yardage team and we just had to apply ourselves slavishly to defence." Ryan quipped to replacement forward Steve Jackson: "You get an A pass for a fat bloke", and to someone else "You get an honours pass." So, it went on. It was the senior scholars like prop David Gillespie, hooker Joe Thomas and Farrar who got the highest honours. Gillespie was relentlessly involved, and Farrar pulled out a big one, imposing all his experience and coolness on the game. Five-eighth Ivan Henjak pin-pointed: "The way we scrambled when we were in trouble" as the major factor, and they were forced to scramble plenty of times. Penrith coach Phil Gould had little cause for disappointment after the Panthers' first loss, which will be a learning experience for the number of young backs he was forced to use through absences and injury.: A few times we got away from our normal game," he said. "This was typified by the nine or ten chip-kicks which were tried through inexperience. It wasn't a good performance, but it was a good effort. Full marks to Wests. They played to their potential." A good performance was threatened when winger Paul Smith knocked on with the line beckoning after a half-break from stand-in captain Mark Geyer after just five minutes. Amends were made two minutes later when Geyer made another break and this time fullback Greg Barwick finished with four points. Wests were back on terms when Farrar pushed off Steve Carter after a scrum win on the Penrith quarter, and his lofted pass allowed Tony Cosatto to cross in the corner before Taylor's sideline conversion inched the Magpies ahead…… **(Sydney Morning Herald 13th May 1991)**

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Notes: *Penrith were undefeated before this game so it was a good win for Wests, although Penrith claimed they were faking injuries to stack the backline defence, a fact admitted by full-back Shaun Devine after the match. The combination of Andrew Farrar's and Jason Taylor's tactical kicking was the match-winning factor for the Magpies. The ferocious forward clashes (Graeme Wynn and Brad Izzard concussions, Russell Wyer and Graham Bradley both replaced) were also a feature, as was Wests' very effective scrambling defence.*
You can view a replay of the game here: Penrith vs Wests Rd 8 1991