1991 Round 17 Sunday 21st July North Sydney Oval

North Sydney 22 def. Western Suburbs 18

Scott WILSON	***Fullback***	Shaun DEVINE
John McARTHUR	***Wing***	Wayne SIMONDS
David HALL	***Centre***	Tony COSATTO
Paul CONLON	***Centre***	Andrew FARRAR
Daryl HALLIGAN	***Wing***	Jamie AINSCOUGH
Greg FLORIMO	***Five-eighth***	Jason LIDDEN
Mark SODEN	***Half***	Jason TAYLOR
Gary LARSON	***Lock***	Graeme WYNN
Peter McPHAIL	***Second Row***	Joe THOMAS (c)
Mario FENECH	***Second Row***	Ron GIBBS
Adrian TOOLE	***Front Row***	Steve JACKSON
Tony REA (c)	***Hooker***	Shane FLANAGAN
Pat JARVIS	***Front Row***	Darren BRITT
Les KISS	***Replacement***	Ivan HENJAK
David ALEXANDER	***Replacement***	Cameron BLAIR
	Replacement	Angelo ALAVANJA

Tries	Les KISS (2) Scott WILSON	Jason LIDDEN (2) Wayne SIMONDS
Go*als*	Daryl HALLIGAN (5)	Jason TAYLOR (3)

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: S Devine; three-quarters: W Simonds, A Farrar, T Cosatto, J Ainscough; five-eighth: J Lidden; half; J Taylor; forwards: G Wynn, R Gibbs, J Thomas (c), S Jackson, S Flanagan, D Britt
North Sydney: Full-back: S Wilson; three-quarters: D Hall, J McArthur, P Conlon, D Halligan; five-eighth: G Florimo; half: M Soden; forwards: G Larson, P McPhail, M Fenech, A Toole, T Rea (c), P Jarvis **Referee: G McCallum (Big League 24th July 1991)**

Former Kangaroo star Les Kiss was the kiss of life for Norths and the kiss of death for Wests in a double-edged performance yesterday that highlighted a trial by fire for two leading sides chasing outright second place. Kiss produced two crucial tries as Norths outlasted Wests 22-18 in a brilliant match at North Sydney Oval to snatch second place on the premiership table with 124 points, behind leaders Penrith on 27. Kiss scored the first after racing on to a wildly misdirected pass from Wests' half Jason Taylor three minutes after taking the field and the second late in the match to wrap up the win. … Kiss was one of an army of Norths' heroes as the club underlined their potential to win this year's premiership and right to be in the top three. With Billy Moore and Peter Jackson to come back into the side, Norths can feel confident about challenging any team in the premiership. Yesterday's clash had both sides shooting from the hip in attack, showing enormous courage to overcome setbacks and displaying flair and excitement in front of a near-capacity crowd. Norths sneaked home on the boot of Kiwi goal-kicking sensation Daryl Halligan, who landed five from five, including two towering conversions from the sideline. Both sides scored three tries in a match of wildly changing fortunes with a blizzard of points in the first half for Norths to lead 16-12. Things tightened up in the second half. It was thrill-a-minute stuff with play racing around the field at break-neck pace and both teams battling for an edge. ….. Wests were unravelled by their own mistakes as much as anything Norths produced and against a less-sophisticated side may not have been punished as severely. A loose pass from Taylor in the 25th minute gave Kiss an easy run to the line for Norths to lead 14-12 after Wests had earlier conceded a penalty in possession in a play-the-ball. Wests would later concede another penalty in defence in the 34th minute – a fatal mistake against a kicker of Halligan's calibre, who landed the goal for 16-12. Wests fought back from 6-nil after only 90 seconds to lead 12-6 after 16 minutes with the first of five-eighth Jason Lidden's tries. By the 70th minute they had regained the lead 18-16. "It was a great game. Just a pity we lost," said Wests' coach Warren Ryan. "We made some mistakes and we were made to pay for them. And that last try by Kiss was definitely not in the script." Kiss sent the crowd into near-delirium when he backed up good earlier work by Mario Fenech, Tony Rea and Mark Soden that gave centre David Hall room to slip past Wests' Ivan Henjak and give the final pass. Martin said Norths had been troubled by Wests' ground-gaining manoeuvre of switching play back inside during the first half but had corrected the defensive pattern. "We spoke at halftime about scrambling in defence," he said. "They were making ground inside and that is what we had to close down." Second-rower Peter McPhail made a tireless contribution in defence to underpin Norths' win, making 42 tackles, with Gary Larson making 44, Pat Jarvis 34 and Adrian Toole 30. … **(Daily Telegraph 22nd July 1991)**

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Notes: *Jason Lidden was a late move to five-eighth and had one of his best games for the club. Shane Flanagan was moved to hooker with limited success and Joe Thomas' dummy-half play was missed. The match turned on a Jason Taylor error, when he threw a wild pass and Les Kiss scored a critical intercept try. It was Taylor's only error in an otherwise outstanding game. Wests were without Langmack, Lindner and Gillespie and it showed as the team lacked experience in the desperate last 10 minutes.*
You can view a video replay of the game here: Norths vs Wests Rd 17 1991