



1959 Round 10 Sunday 24th May Henson Park



St George 47

Brian GRAHAM
Tommy RYAN
Reg GASNIER
Geoff WEEKES
Eddie LUMSDEN
Brian CLAY
Johnny STATHERS
John RAPER
Monty PORTER
Norm PROVAN
Harry BATH
Ken KEARNEY (c)
Bill WILSON

def.

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

Western Suburbs 17

Darcy RUSSELL (c)
Ian MOIR
Harry WELLS
Peter DIMOND
Bernie KELLY
Bill BROWN
Don MALONE
John TAUNTON
John CONNA
Bill CARSON
Mark PATCH
Bede GOFF
Frank CLEGG



Tries

Reg GASNIER (4)
Harry BATH (2)
Johnny STATHERS (2)
Eddie LUMSDEN
Billy WILSON
Geoff WEEKES

Harry WELLS
John CONNA
Bill BROWN

Goals

Harry BATH (7)

Darcy RUSSELL (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back; Darcy Russell (c); three-quarters: I Moir, H Wells, P Dimond, B Kelly; five-eighth: W Brown; half: D Malone; forwards: J Conna, W Carson, F Clegg, M Patch, B Goff, J Taunton

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: E Lumsden, R Gasnier, G Weekes, B Messiter; five-eighth: B Clay; half: J Stathers; forwards: J Raper, N Provan, M Porter, W Wilson, K Kearney (c), H Bath **Referee: D Lawler (as per program Rugby League News 23-24th May 1959 + changes as per Sydney Morning Herald 25th May 1959)**

..... West's big inside centre, Harry Wells, inspired some spirited rallies in the first half. But ragged phases in defence developed and loss of possession in tackles led to several St George scores. Wests played without three regular backs and three forwards. These and their replacements were: Holman (Malone), Henry (Brown), Poole (Dimond). O'Shea (Clegg), Bowman (Conna) and Charlton (Taunton). O'Shea (pulled muscle in chest) and Charlton (knee injury) had been hurt at the SCG on Saturday. St George was without half-back Bugden (replaced by Stathers) and centre Riley (Weekes). Taunton tore ligaments in his left shoulder and "carried" the arm through most of the match. ... Another vital factor was the opportunism of the alert 20-year-old Gasnier, who, at outside centre, played for the first five minutes opposite Peter Dimond and later opposite Bernie Kelly. Dimond came badly shaken out of a collision with the solid Clay, and thereafter played on the right wing. .. Soon after the interval Gasnier completed a 'hat-trick' of tries. He gathered a dropped ball and sprinted 75 yards to the goal-line. His fourth try came late in the game when he snapped up another ball dropped by Wests and raced through 45 yards. And right at the end Gasnier stole the ball from Wells' hands and sent centre partner Weekes in for the final try. ... Wells and full-back Darcy Russell were Wests' best. Wells made two thrilling bursts in the first half. The first was followed by a ruck from which came the team's first try. In the second, Wells shot through four converging defenders and almost got to the goal-line – and there Ian Moir dropped the ball in tackle. Wells, early, was poorly served by five-eighth Brown, who later improved. **(Sydney Morning Herald 25th May 1959)**

Rugby league "wonder boy" Reg Gasnier, yesterday scored four tries, including a hat-trick for St George. St George thrashed Western Suburbs 47-17 at Henson Park. This was St George's 10th successive win. A spectacular match excited a ground record crowd of 30,500 which paid £3270 at the gates. Young Gasnier, 20, proved the master in his long-awaited duel with Wests' robust Test centre Harry Wells. Predictions that big Wells would flatten Gasnier were greatly astray. Wells did burst through Gasnier's tackles a couple of times. But Gasnier did so many brilliant things that those couple of missed tackles did not stain his rapidly growing reputation. In scoring his fourth try he "rubbed salt into the wounds" of those who predicted his downfall against Wells. He pinched the ball from Wells. Gasnier is a delightful opportunist with uncanny anticipation.....Wells' football was his best of the season. He did not have much support but his hard, rugged play worried St George. He missed strong assistance from men like centre Dick Poole, half-back Keith Holman and lock Kel O'Shea..... **(Daily Telegraph 25th May 1959)**

Notes: Wests had a dramatically restructured team with Poole (Dimond), Charlton (Taunton), O'Shea (Clegg) and Bowman (Conna) out. Darcy Henry and Keith Holman were also out, with the halves being Bill Brown and Don Malone. Peter Dimond also broke his jaw which added to the woes. With the brilliant Gasnier demonstrating his potential and Harry Bath playing a blinder and kicking seven goals, Wests were never in the match. For Wests, Harry Wells was the standout in an overpowered backline.