



# 1978 Major Semi Saturday 2nd September Cricket Ground



**Cronulla-Sutherland 14 def.**

**Western Suburbs 10**

Mick MULLANE *Fullback*  
 Rick BOURKE *Wing*  
 Dave CHAMBERLIN *Centre*  
 Steve ROGERS *Centre*  
 Steve EDMONDS *Wing*  
 Barry ANDREWS *Five-eighth*  
 Steve HANSARD *Half*  
 Greg PIERCE (c) *Lock*  
 Eric ARCHER *Second Row*  
 Steve KNEEN *Second Row*  
 Gary STARES *Front Row*  
 John MCMARTIN *Hooker*  
 Paul KHAN *Front Row*  
 Peter RYAN *Replacement*

John DORAHY  
 Don MOSELEY  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Buddy CAIN  
 Peter ROWLES  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Les BOYD  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Bill CLOUGHESSEY  
 David WAITE



**Tries** Greg PIERCE  
 Steve EDMONDS

**Goals** Steve ROGERS (4) Peter ROWLES (5)

### Match Description

**Cronulla-Sutherland:** Full-back: M Mullane; three-quarters: R Bourke, D Chamberlin, S Rogers, S Edmonds; five-eighth: B Andrews; half: S Hansard; forwards: G Pierce (c), E Archer, S Kneen, G Stares, J McMartin, P Khan

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, L Boyd, J Donnelly, S Day, W Cloughessy **Referee: J Danzey (The Sun 1st September 1978)**

Cronulla unravelled part of the premiership mystery when they won through to the 1978 Grand Final with a thrill-a-minute 14-10 win against Wests in the major semi at the SCG yesterday. But while the Sharks are first into the pennant decider, they face a worrying 36 hours with their skipper Greg Pierce to face the judiciary tomorrow night. Pierce, Cronulla's international utility forward, was sent off eight minutes from full-time. He has been charged with use of a late deliberate head-high tackle on the report of both touch judges against Wests' prop John Donnelly. The send-off, with both clubs locked at 10-all, was amazing as the incident had occurred directly in front of referee Jack Danzey. Danzey allowed play to continue and there were two following rucks before play was halted when the touch judges came onto the field. Cronulla players claimed Danzey had cautioned Pierce on the run as he followed play across field. Pierce though refused to comment, saying any evidence he had to offer would be presented only to the judiciary. If suspended it won't affect the Cronulla star's chances of touring with the Kangaroos who leave for England and France in three weeks. ... A minute after Pierce was sent off, an incredible Wests' blunder caused a chance to unlock the score to go begging. Wests, playing against 12 men, worked play into Cronulla's quarter area where kicker Peter Rowles was positioned to attempt a drop goal. But the ball didn't get to Rowles and Cronulla centre Steve Rogers was able to intercept and save a desperate situation. Four minutes from full-time, Wests collapsed a scrum on their own quarter line in front of the posts and Rogers steered across an easy goal to put his side ahead. And right on full-time he booted another goal for the final score-line of 14-10. There were charges from both teams of rough-house play arising from the tough 80-minute cliff-hanger. Cronulla's Provan wasn't happy with Pierce joining his match-winning prop Dane Sorensen. Sorensen was also sent off by Danzey in the last-round clash between these clubs, and later received a four-match suspension. And there were charges from Pierce, prop Gary Stares and winger Rick Bourke that they'd been bitten by a Wests' player. All had marks to back up the claims with Stares showing a huge bite high on his arm. When he was allegedly bitten, Wests received a penalty from which Rowles goaled to make the score 5-4 after 25 minutes. The first half was all Cronulla's as they found huge gaps among Wests' usually tight forwards to race to a handy 10-4 lead at the break. Cronulla took Wests on in the heavyweight exchanges and led by second-rower Steve Kneen won the honours. But, aided by a glut of second-half penalties, Wests whittled away Cronulla's lead. ... But goals by Rowles in the 22nd, 25th and 27th minutes of the second half levelled the teams at 10-all. Wests were full of running while Cronulla appeared to be tiring, but the Sharks were sparked into a late burst after Pierce was dismissed. Play was scrappy at times, but there were a couple of memorable moments, one of these being a John Dorahy tackle on Steve Rogers, who was speeding to the corner at full gallop. **(Sunday Mirror 3rd September 1978)**

**Notes:** Wests were beaten in a highly controversial match. Greg Pierce was sent off with nine minutes to go for a head-high tackle which was disputed by the Sharks' camp, and Wests had a try by Wayne Smith disallowed which Wests also hotly disputed. An intercept try by Steve Edmonds also went against Wests but it was two late scrum penalties which led to two Rogers' goals that sealed the match. The Wests' pack struggled to contain Cronulla but Boyd and Raudonikis were both very strong in the second half as Wests came back into the match.