



1974 Minor Semi Sunday 8th September Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 23

def.

Manly-Warringah 20

John DORAHY
 Stephen SATTERLY
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Russell WORTH
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Warren SNODGRASS
 Mick LIUBINSKAS
 Geoff FOSTER
 Pat HUNDY
 John PURCELL
 Brian ISBESTER
 John ELFORD
 Jim MYERS

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

Graham EADIE
 Rod JACKSON
 Bob FULTON (c)
 Ray BRANIGHAN
 Max BROWN
 Ian MARTIN
 Kevin JUNEE
 Malcolm REILLY
 Phil LOWE
 Terry RANDALL
 John O'NEILL
 Max KRILICH
 Peter PETERS
 Alan THOMPSON
 Daryl PIERCE

Tries Tom RAUDONIKIS (2)
 Stephen KNIGHT

Bob FULTON
 Rod JACKSON
 Kevin JUNEE
 Phil LOWE

Goals John DORAHY (7)

Graham EADIE (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: R Worth; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, G Foster, B Isbester, P Hundy, J Purcell, M Liubinskas

South Sydney: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: R Jackson, R Fulton (c), R Branighan, M Brown; five-eighth: I Martin; half: K Junee; forwards: M Reilly, P Lowe, T Randall, J O'Neill, M Krilich, P Peters **Referee: L Bruyeres (The Sun 6th September 1974)**

Defending champions Manly yesterday bowed out of the Rugby League premiership in a raging controversy over a last-minute disallowed try. Western Suburbs completed a "fairy tale" weekend for League when they toppled the premiers 23-20 in a drama-packed semi-final at Sydney Cricket Ground. The match ended in uproar when referee Laurie Bruyeres disallowed a try to Manly's Ray Branighan 50 seconds from the end with the score 23-20. Afterwards, in a seething Manly dressing-room, Branighan, long-standing international centre, swore he had scored a fair try. "It was a try for your life," he said. "I'll swear for the rest of my days that I got that ball down safely over the line." Branighan's surge for the line came in an almost-unbearably tense final few minutes when Manly were battering Wests' line. Branighan burst through off halves Kevin Junee and Ian Martin and lunged for the tryline. It looked as though Manly had saved the match – or at least salvaged a draw. But referee Bruyeres – to his credit superbly positioned – signalled "no try." "He put the ball down six inches short, then pushed it forward over the line," said Bruyeres. "It was not a try." Manly players abused referee Bruyeres in their disappointment at his decision. Television film of the match last night was not conclusive. It did show the ball rolling away with a white chalk mark on one side, indicating it came down on the tryline at some stage of the move. The no-try incident will be talked about for years – and so will the match. It was a real dazzler – marked by Wests' fight back from 15-4 down to snatch victory. Yes, 15-4 – that's how much start the Wests' youngsters gave the premiers before winning. Manly raced to that lead after a brilliant first-half showing from Bob Fulton. Fulton drove Wests "mad" and played a prominent role in three great tries. But as Canterbury had done against Easts on Saturday, Wests picked up a last-minute try when Stephen Knight swooped on a John Dorahy kick. It was 15-9 at half-time. And if the first half belonged to Manly captain Fulton, the second half was all Wests' Tom Raudonikis. "Tom Terrific" scored two superb tries which spurred Wests, almost unbelievably, to a 23-15 lead. In the last 10 minutes Manly fought back like tigers and had Wests reeling on the ropes. Phil Lowe scored and Graham Eadie kicked a mighty conversion from the touchline. In the closing minutes of desperation, Alan Thompson, Lowe and an injured Fulton were knocked to the ground yards from the line. It was all too much for Wests' coach Don Parish. Parish, shaking with nerves, retired to the dressing-room unable to watch. Dashing performances from Raudonikis, John Dorahy and Fulton highlighted a great match. **(Daily Telegraph 9th September 1974)**

Notes: Down 15-4 just before the break, Stephen Knight scored a critical try to get back into the game. With Dorahy playing another exciting game, Wests hit the front and held on in the last five minutes when the whole team slowed to a walk. The game, however, was significant for the contribution of Tom Raudonikis. Most critics agreed that this was his best ever club match for Wests. He drove his young charges to a standstill and was in a state of total exhaustion after the match. Playing the captain's role, he warned there were still two matches to go.