



# 1975 Play-off Tuesday 26th August Cricket Ground



## Parramatta 18

Phillip MANN  
 Jim PORTER  
 Geoff GERARD  
 Neville GLOVER  
 Owen STEPHENS  
 Terry REYNOLDS  
 John KOLC  
 John QUAYLE  
 Ray HIGGS  
 Graham OLLING  
 Mal McMARTIN  
 Kevin WEST  
 Bob O'REILLY (c)  
 Tony CHARLTON

def.

## Western Suburbs 13

John DORAHY  
 Don ROGERS  
 Robbie PARKER  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Russell MULLINS  
 John HEYWARD  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Chris WELLMAN  
 John ELFORD  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Steve RIGNEY  
 John PURCELL  
 Jim MURPHY  
 Ron GITEAU



### Tries

Geoff GERARD  
 Jim PORTER  
 John QUAYLE  
 Owen STEPHENS

Russell MULLINS (2)  
 Don ROGERS

### Goals

Geoff GERARD (3)

John DORAHY (1)  
 Ron GITEAU (1)

### Match Description

**Parramatta:** Full-back: P Mann; three-quarters: J Porter, G Gerard, N Glover, O Stephens; five-eighth: T Reynolds; half: J Kolc; forwards: J Quayle, R Higgs, G Olling, A Charlton, K West, R O'Reilly

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, T Murphy, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: C Wellman, J Elford, G Foster, S Rigney, J Purcell, J Murphy **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 25th August 1975)**

A patched-up, under-strength Parramatta beat Western Suburbs to qualify for the second of the "sudden death" play-offs against Balmain at the SCG tomorrow. Discarded as possible semi-finalist after dismal performances, Parramatta erased those memories yesterday with a courageous 18-13 win over Wests at the SCG. .... The match produced another controversial refereeing decision – Greg Hartley disregarded an apparently clear-cut Western Suburbs' try and awarded them a penalty. Parramatta were leading 13-5 two minutes before half-time when Wests' five-eighth John Heyward kicked the ball high, there was some jostling interference, Parramatta full-back Phil Mann misjudged the ball, it bounced and Wests' centre Tim Murphy dived on it. But Hartley, far too quick with his whistle, signalled a penalty to Wests. "There was the use of an elbow in one incident and illegal interference to O'Reilly in another," Hartley said. "I had to make a split-second decision on which was the more severe and I believe I made the right decision." While the decision was wrong, there is no way Wests would have beaten Parramatta, who were clearly the better team. Wests missed full-back John Dorahy, who went off injured, and the no-nonsense defence of John Donnelly around the rucks where Parramatta held sway, with big Bob O'Reilly producing one of his season's best efforts in the first half. There may have not been many better lock forward displays this season than John Quayle's effort yesterday. Quayle, one of the players nursing injuries, shrugged off a troublesome leg muscle injury to wreck Wests' defence with fast bursts. He created two tries and scored one himself. Young Parramatta hooker Kevin Webb, 11 stone 20-year-old described by coach Norm Provan as "one of the best kids going around", helped pave the way with a commanding 13-7 scrum win. **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th August 1975)**

..... Spectators booed referee Greg Hartley off the ground after an amazing decision five minutes before half-time when Wests' centre Tim Murphy scored an apparently fair try. Hartley brought howls of abuse when he recalled play – and awarded a penalty to Wests. Murphy, who had chased a kick, grabbed it and scored, looked back in amazement when Hartley whistled play to a stop upfield. For the benefit of spectators who couldn't believe what they saw, Hartley explained later that he had penalised Parramatta forward Ray Higgs for using an elbow on John Heyward. So, Wests got a penalty instead of a try because of Hartley's too-hasty blast on the whistle. It was 13-5 Parramatta then. The punchline came when stand-in kicker Ron Giteau missed the penalty goal. Wests refused to make an issue of it, "We had our chances – we didn't deserve to win," said coach Don Parish. **(Daily Telegraph 27th August 1975)**

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**Notes:** This play-off for fifth made a mockery of the system that didn't have for and against – the winning team had to play another play-off – four matches in a week. Played in heavy rain at the SCG, Wests were never able to get in front. Dorahy went off injured, replaced by Ron Giteau, but it was the absence of John Donnelly's up-front defence that was sorely missed. Tim Murphy had a try controversially disallowed by Greg Hartley, which could have decided the result but most critics thought a patched-up Parramatta were the better team on the day.