



1980 Prelim Final Sunday 20th September Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 41

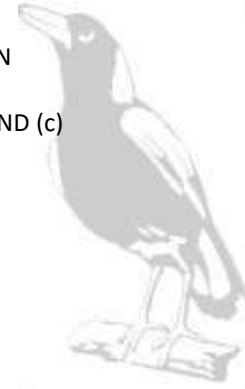
def.

Western Suburbs 5

Marty GURR
 David MICHAEL
 Kerry BOUSTEAD
 Noel CLEAL
 Steve MCFARLANE
 Ken WRIGHT
 Kevin HASTINGS
 Gary WARNECKE
 Des O'REILLY
 John TOBIN
 Royce AYLIFFE (c)
 John LANG
 John HARVEY
 Kel SHERRY
 Paul JEFFS

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

Wayne SMITH
 John RIBOT
 Ted GOODWIN
 Ron GITEAU
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Alan NEIL
 Jim LEIS
 John McLEOD
 Bob COOPER
 Bruce GIBBS
 Alan LATHAM
 Tom ARBER
 Paul MERLO



Tries

Ken WRIGHT
 Gary WARNECKE
 John TOBIN
 Des O'REILLY
 Steve MCFARLANE
 Kevin HASTINGS
 Noel CLEAL
 Kerry BOUSTEAD

Alan NEIL

Goals

Ken WRIGHT (8)
 Kevin HASTINGS (1) Field Goal

Ron GITEAU (1)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: M Gurr; three-quarters: D Michael, K Boustead, N Cleal, S McFarlane; five-eighth: K Wright; half: K Hastings; forwards: G Warnecke, D O'Reilly, J Tobin, R Ayliffe (c), J Lang, J Harvey

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: J Ribot, R Giteau, E Goodwin, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, J McLeod, R Cooper, B Gibbs, A Latham, T Arber **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 22nd September 1980)**

The sign doing the rounds in the Eastern Suburbs room said it all: "Bye Bye Blackbirds!" And that's the way it was – devastatingly – in yesterday's extraordinary rugby league final at Sydney Cricket Ground. The bookies said it was even money; the scoreboard said it was Easts 41 Wests 5 in one of the most one-sided big matches of the modern era. Wests collapsed like a pack of cards as Easts swept over them eight tries to one, and into the Grand Final. "That was the most humiliating defeat since I started coaching 15 years ago," said a shell-shocked Roy Masters. "At times we were pathetic," Easts, so good, and Wests, so bad, put on one of the real master-pupil exhibitions of big-time rugby league. The 36-point margin was one of the big ones in finals football. ... Afterwards in the bars, discussions raged whether it had been a case of Easts being so good (which they were) or Wests being so bad (which they were), or a combination of the two. Easts were certainly good. Great in fact at times, ripping in for some absolutely dazzling tries. The best of all came 12 minutes into the second half when lock Gary Warnecke ran 75 metres to touch down for one of the most spectacular individual tries of the year. The try capped a marvellous game for Warnecke. Playing his 15th first grade game of the year, Warnecke earned \$5,000 on Easts' incentive scheme – and was worth every cent of it. Coach Masters paid Easts a tribute when he tipped them to go on and win the Grand Final. But Wests certainly aided and abetted Easts' cause with their shock capitulation in which their defensive pattern collapsed almost completely. ... Brilliant running football marked the Rooster victory. All the hard-hitting positive play which was missing from the surprisingly "flat" semi-final performance against Canterbury was there yesterday. ... Brilliant running by Ken Wright, Kerry Boustead and Noel Cleal made it a day to remember for Easts' fans. Ken Wright, at five-eighth, finished with a bag of 19 points, eight goals and a try. And what a try it was. An absolutely explosive effort in which Wright accelerated from a standing start, leaving Merlo and Smith grasping at thin air. (Sunday Telegraph 21st September 1980)

Notes: This was a very disappointing end to the season, although the role of injuries must be acknowledged. On one hand, Easts were at their brilliant best, but Wests played one of their worst games of the season. They lacked a defensive pattern which was obviously hampered by early injuries to Cooper and Gibbs. Easts kept on finding the gaps and backing up well, and Wests couldn't find an answer.