



1978 Prelim Final Saturday 9th September Cricket Ground



Manly-Warringah 14

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Graham EADIE
Tom MOONEY
Russell GARTNER
Stephen KNIGHT
Simon BOOTH
Alan THOMPSON
Steve MARTIN
Ian MARTIN
Bruce WALKER
Terry RANDALL
John HARVEY
Max KRILICH (c)
Ian THOMSON
Wayne SPRINGALL
Ray BRANIGHAN

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

John DORAHY
David WAITE
Ron GITEAU
Wayne SMITH
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Trevor REARDON
Geoff FOSTER
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Les BOYD
Bruce GIBBS



Tries Alan THOMPSON (2)

Ron GITEAU

Goals Graham EADIE (4)

Peter ROWLES (2)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: S Booth, R Gartner, S Knight, T Mooney; five-eighth: A Thompson; half: S Martin; forwards: I Martin, B Walker, T Randall, J Harvey, M Krilich (c), I Thomson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Waite, 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, T Reardon **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 8th September 1978)**

Manly-Warringah defied tiredness, pain and the odds so heavily stacked against them to score a great 14-7 win against Western Suburbs in the Rugby League preliminary final at the SCG yesterday. The win, earned through sheer courage and their greater football ability, earned them a place in next Saturday's Grand Final against Cronulla-Sutherland. And on yesterday's performance, with a re-awakened team spirit, they are a great chance of winning the premiership. "That is probably one of the biggest thrills I have had as a coach," Manly's Frank Stanton said as he surveyed his battered warriors. All the facts pointed to a Wests' win. They had everything in their favour. They were fit and they were fresh. In contrast, Manly were a patched-up team. Two players, Terry Randall and Tom Mooney went into the match carrying injuries that normally would have sidelined them. But someone forgot to tell the Manly players they were supposed to be beaten. Manly scored first from a bomb that John Dorahy had safely in his arms but it slipped out, and Alan Thompson was there to dive on it. Fifteen minutes later, Wests scored through the same tactic when the ball bounced away from Graham Eadie who later said he could not get to it. Every muscle ached but still the Manly men kept going although, just before half-time, they were in desperate trouble defending their line against mounting pressure from Wests. In spite of the growing crop of injuries, Stanton sent the same 13 players back on to the field. He wanted Wests to see Randall, who had done some blockbusting tackling in the first half, back on the field. Randall lasted only five minutes and Stanton sent the fresh Springall into the game. ... Stanton's last words to his players as they went back for the second half was to score first. "If you come up with the first score you will win it," he told them. And right on cue Manly were over, thanks to the genius of Thompson who had scored his team's first try. This gifted utility player is a must for the Kangaroo tour when the team is announced next Sunday night in Brisbane. Manly were helped considerably by the flow of Wests' mistakes, particularly with their handling. Courage and ability were the two main ingredients for this epic win. ... Among the hurt yesterday were Alan Thompson, Eadie, Russell Gartner (hamstring), Simon Booth (ankle and leg), Terry Randall and Steve Martin (leg). "It looks pretty depressing but I promise you we'll turn up." Stanton said. .. Surprisingly, Wests made a change in their forward structure for the start of the game, dropping Bill Cloughessy and playing Les Boyd in the front row with Geoff Foster in the second row. The reason for this was impossible to fathom, considering Boyd, one of the most damaging second-row runners in the game, previously had never played prop in a first-grade match. ... Roy Master, Wests' coach, was disappointed at the result but tipped the Manly side to win the premiership. **(Sunday Mirror 10th September 1978)**

Notes: This was a disappointing end to a stellar year. Wests appeared jaded, even though they had had a week off and there were no excuses after Manly were backing up from a mid-week play-off game against Parramatta. For some inexplicable reason Bill Cloughessy, who had been one of Wests' best defenders, was dropped and Les Boyd, for the first time in his career went to the front-row, while Geoff Foster came into the second-row. Boyd ended up being one of Wests' best and Foster was held up over the line in a critical no-try decision when the score was 5-all. Terry Randall took on the whole Wests' pack and there were a number of violent clashes. It also didn't help that referee, Greg Hartley, penalised Wests a number of times when they were in possession.