



1979 Prelim Semi Sunday 2nd September Cricket Ground



Canterbury 20

Stan CUTLER
Chris ANDERSON
Greg BRENTNALL
Peter MORTIMER
Steve GEARIN
Chris MORTIMER
Steve MORTIMER
Steve FOLKES
Peter CASSILLES
Graeme HUGHES
Peter SMITH
George PEONIS (c)
Greg COOK

def.

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

Western Suburbs 6

Wayne SMITH
Don MOSELEY
Mark BEAVEN
John DORAHY
Warren BOLAND
Peter WALSH
Alan NEIL
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Bob COOPER
Les BOYD
John DONNELLY
Ray BROWN
Bruce GIBBS
Brian COOK
Buddy CAIN



Tries

Peter MORTIMER
Steve GEARIN
Stan CUTLER
Chris ANDERSON

Goals

Steve GEARIN (4)

John DORAHY (3)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: S Cutler; three-quarters: C Anderson, G Brentnall P Mortimer, S Gearin; five-eighth: C Mortimer; half: S Mortimer; forwards: S Folkles, P Cassilles, G Hughes, P Smith, G Peponis (c), G Cook

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Moseley, M Beavan, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: P Walsh; half: A Neil; forwards: T Raudonikis (c), L Boyd, R Cooper, J Donnelly, R Brown, B Gibbs **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 3rd September 1979)**

The brothers Mortimer yesterday made it a Father's Day to remember for the men of Canterbury – inspiring the Bulldogs' smashing rugby league semi-final win over Western Suburbs. ... They scored four cracking tries to nil to send Wests home empty-handed yet again from the Sydney Cricket Ground. The Magpies haven't won a game there since 1974. ... It carried the Bulldogs into next Sunday's minor semi-final against Cronulla. It was also a remarkable turnaround after the lacing Canterbury took from Manly last week. Ian Mortimer was a proud father in the Canterbury room afterwards. And so he should have been. His sons Steve, 23, Peter, 21, and Chris, 20, played match-winning roles for their team. It was at half-time in the Reserves game that the decision was finally made that Chris would play and injured Gary Hughes wouldn't. Young Chris got changed and went out and played a whale of a game in Canterbury's most important of the year. Steve, with his relentless scheming at the scrum base and Peter, with a brilliant solo try which wrapped everything up, made it a real family affair. Canterbury's win yesterday was a victory for fast-moving team football against the more direct, heavy-handed methods of Wests.Young props Cook and Peter Smith, at a hefty weight disadvantage against Wests' big men Bruce Gibbs and John Donnelly, did a sterling job yesterday. For 20 minutes Wests' heavyweights ploughed up centre field, created three or four chances, and had Canterbury back-peddalling. John Dorahy kicked two goals for 4-nil, and things were looking cosy for the Magpies. Wests could get no further. Greg Brentnall and then Chris Mortimer intercepted passes from Wests' Bob Cooper and suddenly it was the Magpies who were going backwards. ... The half-time lead of 5-4 became 8-4 when Steve Gearin brilliantly snapped up a half-volley pass from Steve Mortimer 12 minutes after half-time. It was about that stage that Wests' coach Roy Masters came to terms with the fact that the match was getting away from his team. He injected winger Buddy Cain and then prop Brian Cook into the match as the half dragged on. But at the 75-minute mark Peter Mortimer finished it off with a flourish, stepping three times off his left foot to score on the right of the posts. Stan Cutler cut short a potentially explosive ending to the game with a 75-metre intercept try four minutes later. Before that, the game had flared dangerously after an exchange between Les Boyd and Graeme Hughes which left Boyd sitting on the turf. The next two scrums broke up angrily with punches flying. But Cutler defused the situation when he swooped onto a pass and left everyone in his wake as team-mates cheered him on. **(Daily Telegraph 3rd September 1979)**

Notes: This was a disappointing end to what had been a quite good year. Wests had battled all year against injuries and suspensions and they were heavily favoured to win this match, but never really got into the game. Wests had not won at the SCG since 1974 and they played like there was a curse, with lots of dropped passes. Both Moseley and Cain dropped easy passes when tries were imminent. Stan Cutler scored a heart-breaking 75-yard intercept try, one of four crucial intercepts during the game. Wests now faced the prospect of losing many of their stars for 1980.