



1980 Prelim Semi Saturday 6th September Cricket Ground



Canterbury 22

Stan CUTLER
 Peter MORTIMER
 Greg BRENTNALL
 Chris MORTIMER
 Steve GEARIN
 Garry HUGHES
 Steve MORTIMER
 Mark HUGHES
 Steve FOLKES
 Graeme HUGHES
 Geoff ROBINSON
 George PEPONIS (c)
 John COVENEY
 Allan GEELAN
 Lee POMFRET

def.

Western Suburbs 17

Wayne SMITH
 John RIBOT
 Ron GITEAU
 Ron BRODRICK
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Alan NEIL
 Jim LEIS
 Bob COOPER
 John McLEOD
 Tom ARBER
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Bruce GIBBS
 John CROW
 Alan LATHAM



Tries

Peter MORTIMER
 Mark HUGHES
 Graeme HUGHES
 Greg BRENTNALL

John RIBOT
 John McLEOD
 Bob COOPER

Goals

Steve GEARIN (5)

Ron GITEAU (4)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: S Cutler; three-quarters: C Mortimer, G Brentnall P Mortimer, S Gearin; five-eighth: G Hughes; half: S Mortimer; forwards: M Hughes, S Folkes, G Hughes, G Robinson, G Peponis (c), J Coveney

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: J Ribot, R Giteau, R Brodrick, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, J McLeod, R Cooper, B Gibbs, J Jeffries, T Arber **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 8th September 1980)**

Today it's Father's Day. Yesterday it was Brothers' Day at Sydney Cricket Ground as Canterbury's remarkable Mortimer and Hughes clans carved up Western Suburbs. On the now familiar formula of "Brother Power", Canterbury swept through Wests 22-17 and into next Saturday's rugby league major semi-final against Easts. News last night that full-back Stan Cutler broke his right ankle took some of the gloss off the Bulldogs' win. Wests – beaten and \$3,000 out of pocket after the team had taken a slice of the 5-4 about their chances – now have to survive next Sunday's knockout semi against either Saints or Souths. For the Bulldogs it was another highly encouraging day. "I've been with club for 30 years, and this is the best chance we have had of taking a premiership," declared committeeman Barry Nelson, summing up the optimism in the camp. ... Canterbury's periods of brilliance and a dogged Wests' fight-back in the second half gave a patchy semi-final some moments of excitement. Wests, carrying sore players, never looked like winning but bravely made a game of it when apparently down and out in the second half. They grafted back from 17-2 to 17-12 – but finally succumbed to their eighth straight loss in three seasons in the Moore Park area (SSG and SCG). But amidst the gloom of a largely fumbling display there was a ray of light. In a dramatic announcement after the match coach Roy Masters claimed he had found the "secret" behind Wests' problems. "There is no SCG hoodoo anymore after that second half," Masters said. (Wests won the second half 15-10). "I have finally worked out what we have to do. We're not dead yet. We're down on one knee but we are not out." Masters would say no more about the secret solution. It was clearly a clever psychological ploy aimed at getting the Magpies "up" again for next Sunday. But the injured story was largely confined to the Wests' camp. It was revealed after the match that lock Jim Leis was suffering from blood poisoning during the week – adding to the already long list of far-from-fit players. Hooker Jack Jeffries finished up the worst of the other crocks, ripping his hamstring again – an injury which puts his 1980 playing future in doubt. Bruce Gibbs, looking as big as a house in his first game in seven weeks, battled through 56 minutes. He will be all the better for the run. Coach Ted Glossop was well pleased with Canterbury's effort. He said: "I'm happy. We concentrated only on our game, and it worked well. The only thing was that we gave the ball back to them in the second half, trying to score more tries than we needed. ... The semi-final will be remembered mainly for the flashing speed of Steve Mortimer and the Beetson-style organising of Garry Hughes. (Sunday Telegraph 7th September 1980)

Notes: Ron Giteau, Ron Brodrick and an obviously overweight Bruce Gibbs were back but Wests still foundered in the first half as the Mortimer and Hughes brothers let loose. Wests, however, finally showed a return to form in the second half, winning that half 15-10 and some of the backs, especially John Ribot, showing some thrust in attack. Once again, the injury toll was telling; Jack Jeffries aggravating a hamstring injury; Ribot hurting an ankle and it being revealed Jim Leis had blood poisoning during the week. Canterbury also had a blow with full-back Stan Cutler breaking an ankle. An unfit Gibbs lasted 56 minutes before being replaced by John Crow.