



## 1977 Round 1 Sunday 20th March Henson Park



### Newtown 17

John FLOYD  
 Brian ROBERTSON  
 Manfred MOORE  
 Les COOLEY  
 Brian PLUMMER  
 Paul HAYWARD  
 Phil YOUNG  
 Ron PILON  
 Chris DAWSON  
 Bruce GIBBS  
 Fred PAGANO  
 Geoff EDWARDS  
 Col CASEY (c)  
 Peter JOHNSON  
 Paul SHARPE

def.

### Western Suburbs 10

John DORAHY  
 Don MOSELEY  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Gavin MILLER  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Neville SINCLAIR  
 Les BOYD  
 Steve BLYTH  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Doug LUCAS  
 Pat HUNDY  
 Trevor SCARR



#### Tries

Brian PLUMMER  
 Fred PAGANO  
 Manfred MOORE  
 John FLOYD  
 Chris DAWSON

John DORAHY  
 Graeme O'GRADY

#### Goals

Paul HAYWARD (1)

Don MOSELEY (2)

#### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, G Miller, R Giteau, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, L Boyd, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, D Lucas

**Newtown:** Full-back: J Floyd; three-quarters: B Robertson, M Moore, L Cooley, B Plummer; five-eighth: P Hayward; half: P Young; forwards: R Pilon, C Dawson, B Gibbs, F Pagano, G Edwards, C Casey (c)     **Referee: B Bradstock (Rugby League Week 20th March 1977)**

The corks popped, the champagne flowed, and the Newtown Rugby League Jets soared to delirious heights by beating Western Suburbs 17-10 at Henson Park yesterday. Not since the ecstatic days of 1973 when Jack Gibson coached Newtown into the premiership preliminary final has there been such jubilation out Henson Park way. It was a day of stars yesterday, on and off the field. In a magnificently staged promotion – the brain-child of entrepreneur John Singleton – television stars and other celebrities sipped champagne and munched king prawns in the new “Jet-set Bar” overlooking the ground, while on the field the players entertained with gladiatorial courage and enthusiasm. A 14-man band brought a touch of American football to the occasion. And almost unbelievably, Newtown’s star attraction, their American football, Manfred Moore, followed through a high up-and-under by captain Col Casey, leapt above Wests’ full-back John Dorahy and winger Russell Mullins to score the opening try in the 28th minute. The roar that went up around the ground from the crowd of 8,743 – the biggest at Henson Park for three years – sounded like it came from 50,000. “It was almost like we were playing to a script when Manfred scored,” Newtown secretary Frank Farrington said, all smiles, after the game. But the match did not go all Newtown’s way, for Western Suburbs replied with tries by Dorahy and five-eighth Graham O’Grady to lead 10-3 at half-time. In the past couple of seasons that would have been the end of Newtown, last year’s wooden-spooners, but the infectious team spirit engendered by their new coach Paul Broughton and newly appointed full-time secretary Farrington, lifted the Jets. Broughton, intolerant of defeat, told his men that he wanted the scores levelled in the first 20 minutes after half-time and the game sewn up in the final 20 minutes – and how grandly they followed his orders. Playing with a rain-storm at their backs after the break, the Newtown forwards took on their bigger Western Suburbs opponents and relentlessly pounded them into submission. “They were like little terriers – they never stopped,” Casey said of his men after they had run in four second-half tries, scored by Fred Pagano, a Cronulla reject last season, winger Brian Plummer, full-back John Floyd and second-rower Chris Dawson. ... Wests’ coach Keith Holman could do little other than shake his head about his forwards’ display. “They fell to pieces in the second half. Although the scrums were 12-10 to Newtown and the penalties 7-6 their way, we still had enough ball to win but threw it away with fundamental errors,” he said with the look of a man facing a hard week’s work. .... **(Sydney Morning Herald 21st March 1977)**

**Notes:** Don Mosely (ex-Canterbury), Doug Lucas (ex-Newtown) and Gavin Miller all debuted after solid pre-season performance. Gavin Miller, an ex-Goulburn United 17 year-old, had been recommended by Jim Cody and had been one of the pre-season stars. Wests led 10-3 at half-time but folded badly in the second half, especially among the forwards, although Sinclair and Blyth tried hard. Ex-gridiron player Manfred Moore had a good debut for Newtown but Wests weren’t helped by Raudonikis carrying a shoulder injury.