



1979 Round 1 Sunday 25th March Cumberland Oval



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Parramatta 10

Wayne SMITH
 Don MOSELEY
 Ron BRODRICK
 John DORAHY
 Warren BOLAND
 John HEYWARD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Les BOYD
 Ray BROWN
 Bill CLOUGHESSEY
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Bruce GIBBS
 Bob COOPER

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

Garry DOWLING
 Neville GLOVER
 Michael CRONIN
 Glenn WEST
 Graeme GROTHE
 Peter STERLING
 Graham MURRAY
 Ray PRICE (c)
 Peter WYNN
 Geoff GERARD
 Graeme OLLING
 Ron HILDITCH
 Bob JAY
 Mick PATTISON
 Steve ELLA



Tries
 Bob COOPER
 Ray BROWN
 Ron BRODRICK

Peter WYNN
 Eric GROTHE

Goals
 John DORAHY (6)

Michael CRONIN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Brodrick, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Brown, W Cloughessy, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

Parramatta: Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: E Grothe, M Cronin, G West, N Glover; five-eighth: P Sterling; half: G Murray; forwards: R Price (c), P Wynn, G Gerard, G Olling, R Hilditch, R Jay **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 29th March 1979)**

Western Suburbs, exploiting the advantage of an extra man for the last 25 minutes, opened their 1979 Rugby League premiership campaign with a 21-10 win against Parramatta at Cumberland Oval yesterday. Graham Olling, Parramatta's Kangaroo prop, was sent off by referee Don McDonald in the 65th minute after a flare-up with Wests' captain Tom Raudonikis. Olling will appear tonight before the league judiciary committee, charged on the report of a touch judge with "head-butting and kneeling." Raudonikis received a caution, his third for the match, after the incident, which ultimately involved about a dozen players. Olling and Raudonikis clashed while Wests' replacement second-rower, Bob Cooper, crossed for a try. The try was converted by centre John Dorahy to leave Wests trailing 9-10. Dorahy, the outstanding player, kicked a 32-metre angled penalty goal six minutes later to give Wests a one-point lead. And that was the end for Parramatta. The Magpies scored two more tries but Parramatta's defeat could not be blamed solely on the loss of Olling. Parramatta's many errors and Wests' superior condition and tactics determined the outcome. The scrums favoured Parramatta 7-6 and the penalties 10-9; Parramatta had no excuses. Full-back Don Moseley's tactical kicking in the second half, after Raudonikis had chosen to run into the wind in the first half, repeatedly drove Parramatta's tiring players back. Wests surprisingly found many gaps out wide, where Parramatta were expected to dominate, and several up the middle. Dorahy, given the chance to prove himself in the centres, was a class above opposing centres Mick Cronin, Glenn West (replaced through injury at Half-time) and Steve Ella. And what a classy player is Ray Brown, Wests' second rower, who was Country Firsts' hooker last year. He scored a grand try after Dorahy sent him on a 40-metre dash for the line. Wests had to re-arrange their team in the fifth minute when five-eighth John Heyward went off with a twisted knee. Graeme O'Grady moved to five-eighth, Les Boyd to lock and Cooper, who played a full game in reserve-grade, joined Brown in the second row. ... But one Eel who could not be tagged lethargic was captain Ray Price. He made 40 tackles. (Sydney Morning Herald 26th March 1979)

Wests' coach Roy Masters brought off his biggest gamble as a first-grade coach when the Magpies overran Parramatta 21-10 at Cumberland yesterday. Faced with a new-look team, Masters gave them a new game plan and they left Parramatta, one of the premiership favourites, behind them. Wests didn't lose their "tough" image – they gave out plenty and copped as much in a game of running feuds and one major brawl. But Wests opened up their game, saw the backs had a large slice of the ball and proved "bashing 'em" is not the only way of beating them..... (The Sun 26th March 1979)

Notes: This match marked the debut of Warren Boland, Jack Jeffries and Ray Brown. Ray Brown, the Country Firsts hooker, was very impressive. Teenager Peter Sterling was also impressive for Parramatta on debut. John Heyward was forced off after five minutes with an injury, with O'Grady moving to five-eighth, Les Boyd to lock and Bob Cooper coming on. Coach Roy Masters' plan to move Dorahy to the centres, and let the backs have free rein, proved to be a masterstroke.