



# 1978 Round 1 Sunday 26th March Sports Ground



## Eastern Suburbs 19

def.

## Western Suburbs 14

Alan POWER  
 Ian SCHUBERT  
 Mark HARRIS  
 Terry MURPHY  
 Bill MULLINS  
 Bob FULTON (c)  
 Kevin HASTINGS  
 Ron COOTE  
 Barry REILLY  
 Kevin STEVENS  
 Gary METCALFE  
 Arthur MOUNTIER  
 Bob O'REILLY  
 Gavin MILLER  
 Des O'REILLY

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

Don MOSELEY  
 Peter ROWLES  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Trevor SCARR  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Mick LIUBINSKAS  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Steve BLYTH  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Peter YOUNG  
 Steve EISENHUTH



### Tries

Ian SCHUBERT  
 Ron COOTE  
 Kevin STEVENS

Wayne SMITH  
 Geoff FOSTER

### Goals

Kevin STEVENS (5)

Don MOSELEY (2)  
 Peter ROWLES (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, W Smith, T Scarr; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: M Liubinskas, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, P Young

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back: A Power; three-quarters: I Schubert, M Harris, T Murphy, W Mullins; five-eighth: R Fulton (c); half: K Hastings; forwards: R Coote, B Reilly, K Stevens, G Metcalfe, A Mountier, R O'Reilly **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 1st April 1978)**

A heart-breaking error by Western Suburbs winger Trevor Scarr allowed Eastern Suburbs to snatch a thrilling 19-14 Rugby League win at the Sports Ground yesterday. After a titanic struggle, Wests had fought back to level at 14-all with seven minutes to go and a draw seemed appropriate and inevitable. But 40 seconds from full-time Easts' second-rower Kevin Stevens kicked a dropped pass from winger Ian Schubert towards Wests' line. Scarr ran back to cover the bouncing ball. He might have kicked it over the dead-ball line. Instead, he dived on it. The other Wests' players, their supporters, and most of all Scarr himself, could hardly believe their eyes as the ball bounced from under Scarr's body for Stevens to dive on and score. "I thought Wests had found every possible way to lose a match over the years, but that just about takes the prize," Wests' secretary, Mr Gary Russell, said later. Indeed, it was a shattering let-down after such a gallant fightback. The unfortunate Scarr could only shake his head sadly. "If the ball had been nearer the dead-ball line I would have kicked it," he said. "But as I reached it, it bounced awkwardly. I still felt that I had pressed it down...." Nevertheless, most people thought Stevens had scored a fair try. ... But the man most responsible for Easts' win was probably captain Bob Fulton. He led his team well, not so much by setting a robust example but by overseeing the other players and tidying up many of their mistakes. And there were plenty of mistakes, for Easts' handling was reminiscent of their display against St George a fortnight ago. Coach Arthur Beetson blamed smoothness of the balls; certainly, Western Suburbs spilled just as many passes. Easts held a precarious 9-7 lead at half-time after each team had scored a try. Lock Ron Coote scored the first to cap his 100th first-grade match for Easts. Easts surged to a 14-7 lead in the 51st minute when prop Bob O'Reilly slipped a neat pass for Schubert to score. Wests were a better team after coach Roy Masters switched winger Peter Rowles to five-eighth. Rowles put second-rower Geoff Foster over in the 68th minute. Taking over from full-back Don Moseley, who missed two important penalty attempts, he converted, then landed a penalty goal by hitting an upright to level the scores in the 73rd minute. With their supporters shouting "Wests! Wests!" the Magpies pressed towards Easts' line, but captain Tom Raudonikis inexplicably tried to kick through instead of giving to Rowles, a former Rugby Union international, an attempt at field-goal, and the chance was lost. And so, ultimately, was the match. Wests are hoping desperately that full-back John Dorahy returns from injury by next weekend, because his reliable goal-kicking, apart from the attacking flair, were sorely missed. **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th March 1978)**

**Notes:** This was a controversial match to start the season. Locked at 14-all, with no time left, Kevin Stevens toed the ball through and Trevor Scarr was adamant that he had forced the ball in the in-goal but Jack Danzey ruled he hadn't and that Stevens had scored. It was a disappointing end to a close, but scrappy, contest. John Dorahy was a late withdrawal, forcing a re-shuffle. Moseley moved to full-back, O'Grady came in at five-eighth, later to be replaced by Steve Eisenhuth. Roy Masters, the new coach, moved Peter Rowles into five-eighth and Eisenhuth to the wing. This provided extra thrust, but in the end not the win.