



1980 Round 1 Sunday 30th March Endeavour Field



Western Suburbs 16

def.

Cronulla-Sutherland 10



Wayne SMITH
 Jeff CASE
 Ted GOODWIN
 Ron GITEAU
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Peter ROWLES
 Alan NEIL
 Jim LEIS
 Bob COOPER
 Paul MERLO
 John DONNELLY
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Bruce GIBBS

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

Rick BOURKE
 Mick MULLANE
 Steve ROGERS (c)
 Chris GARDNER
 Greg MULLANE
 Steve HANSARD
 Gary CAMERON
 John GLOSSOP
 Kurt SORENSEN
 Steve KNEEN
 Dane SORENSEN
 Barry PEARSON
 Paul KHAN
 Greg COX

Tries

Alan NEIL
 Ron GITEAU

Steve ROGERS
 Greg COX

Goals

Peter ROWLES (5)

Steve ROGERS (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: J Case, E Goodwin, R Giteau, W Boland (c); five-eighth: P Rowles; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, P Merlo, R Cooper, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

Cronulla-Sutherland Full-back: R Bourke; three-quarters: M Mullane, S Rogers (c), C Gardner, G Mullane; five-eighth: S Hansard; half: G Cameron; forwards: J Glossop, K Sorensen, S Kneen, D Sorensen, B Pearson, P Khan **Referee: D Braybrook (The Sun 31st March 1980)**

At Endeavour Field Cronulla-Sutherland front-rower Paul Khan was sent off after an incident involving Western Suburbs' second-rower Paul Merlo in the second half. Wests shrugged off an early 5-0 deficit to beat Cronulla 16-10. Magpies' hero was brilliant young half-back Alan Neil, who scored their first try and proved a constant threat to the shaky Cronulla defence. Neil is obviously relishing the fact that Tom Raudonikis has left Western Suburbs for Newtown. "I was toying with the idea of leaving Wests this year, but Tom's decision to go to Newtown is the best news I've heard in years," he said. Both sides scored two tries with the goal-kicking of Peter Rowles the deciding factor. He landed five goals from seven attempts while Cronulla's Steve Rogers and Greg Cox managed only two goals between them from seven attempts. ..Wests were in danger of losing their grip when Cronulla's best player, Rick Bourke, engineered a superb try for Cox to narrow the gap to 11-10 in favour of Wests with 13 minutes to go. But a little Ted Goodwin magic nine minutes later led to a try by Ron Giteau, his centre partner, and the Magpies were home. **(Sydney Morning Herald 31st March 1980)**

Cronulla prop Paul Khan had the dubious distinction at Endeavour Field yesterday of being sent off – while still in possession of the ball. The end came for Khan 62 minutes into Cronulla's 16-10 loss to Wests. He took the ball up to Wests' forwards and, after a Wests' forward fell on his back, referee Denis Braybrook ordered Khan off. He was charged with "using an elbow to the head of an opposing player." Braybrook had been severe early in the game when it looked as though it could have got out of hand. In all, he issued nine cautions, three against Cronulla and six against Wests. One Cronulla official claimed two Cronulla forwards had been subjected to unnecessary illegal play early in the match and no action was taken. In the end it was "Lord" Ted Goodwin's day, who in a fleeting moment made victory certain for his new club. Wests "gambled" with Goodwin and he repaid them with less than 10 seconds of football Long enough to set up the clinching try. It came five minutes from the end when Goodwin found a gap on the outside and then slipped an inside pass to Ron Giteau. Until the try, Goodwin had been quiet. When Giteau went over, Goodwin raised his hands in salute, relieved that he had played his part in the match. **(The Sun 31st March 1980)**

Notes: Wests had been written off for the season after losing Les Boyd, Ray Brown and John Dorahy to Manly; Graeme O'Grady and Tom Raudonikis to Newtown and Gerard Crowe to Balmain. The newcomers, however, were very impressive. Jim Leis, from Tamworth, showed what a great player he was going to be, while Paul Merlo (ex-Penrith) and Jeff Case (ex-Australian Schoolboys winger) also had good games. The mercurial Ted Goodwin (ex-Newtown) also showed how he could change matches with a slick break to set up Ron Giteau's late match-winning try. Ron Giteau himself was coming back after a horror run of injuries in 1979. Peter Rowles was also back from Newtown and his goal-kicking was the difference in a ferociously contested game.