

1969 Round 10 Sunday 1st June Lidcombe Oval

Western Suburbs 20

- Tony FORD Mick ALCHIN Barry GLASGOW Roy FERGUSON Don ROGERS Tim MURPHY Bruce BEER John BAKER Neville HORNERY Barry BRYANT Noel KELLY (c) Ken STONESTREET Doug WALKADEN
- Fullback Wing Centre Centre Wing Five-eighth Half Lock Second Row Second Row Front Row Hooker Front Row

def.

Eastern Suburbs 9

Alan McKEAN Bill MULLINS John BRASS Ron SADDLER (c) Les HAYES Bruce AYSHFORD Kevin JUNEE Harry EDEN Kevin ASHLEY Graham MAYHEW Geoff CHAMBERS Peter MOSCATT John WALKER



Tries

Goals

Barry BRYANT Barry GLASGOW

Tony FORD (5) Barry GLASGOW (2) Field goals John BRASS

Alan McKEAN (2) John BRASS (1) Field goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: M Alchin, R Ferguson, B Glasgow, D Rogers; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: B Beer; forwards: J Baker, J Cody, B Bryant, N Kelly (c), K Stonestreet, D Walkaden

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: A McKean; three-quarters: W Mullins, J Brass, R Saddler (c), L Hayes; five-eighth: B Ayshford; half: K Junee; forwards: H Eden, K Ashley, G Mayhew, G Chambers, P Moscatt, J Walker Referee: E Cook (The Sun 30th May 1969)

Sydney's oldest front-row – Noel Kelly, Ken Stonestreet and Doug Walkaden – showed they had plenty of steam left when they steered Wests to a 20-9 win over Eastern Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. At a time when speedy, wide-scouting forwards are all the rage, the veteran trio underlined the fact that the "engine room" is still the basis of most winning sides. Yesterday they gave Easts a nightmare 80 minutes in the scrums, winning 19-7 and dominating possession so much that any plans the Roosters had were soon scrapped in the scramble to get a bit of the ball. The further the match went the more frustrated Easts became and with referee Ernie Cook showing a benevolent eye for so long, it was little wonder that the match erupted in the last 20 minutes into a fiery free-for-all. Wests' second-rower Neville Hornery was sent off in the 65th minute, followed ten minutes later by Easts' full-back Alan McKean, but it was a miracle at least two other players didn't join them. Nine players in all were cautioned and while the fight finished fairly evenly, Wests won the football comfortably. For this they can thank their front row, the boot of full-back Tony Ford (five goals out of six) and some superb tackling by Baker, Bryant, Hornery and Walkaden. Easts were right up against the possession problem from the early scrums, but running with the wind in the first half, they turned on some good football when they managed to get the ball. On four occasions only desperate last-line tackles prevented them from scoring and once Junee was actually across, only to be flung on his back by Ford. It was 4-all with two minutes to half-time when Wests scored a disputed try that scuttled Easts. The ball was rolling loose after what appeared to be a double knock-on when Baker gathered and hesitated as if anticipating a whistle. When none came, he started running again before McKean caught him five yards out. A quick play-the-ball and Glasgow raced over for Wests to retire leading 7-4. Barry Bryant scored a great individual try from a bumping run straight after the resumption and when Wests led 12-4, the match was as good as over. Brass replied with Easts' lone try after good lead-up work by Eden and Ayshford but Wests, with most of the ball and a powerful wind behind them, kept play around the opposition 25 and picked them off with penalty and field goals. With Kelly calling the shots, Stonestreet winning the scrums and Walkaden cutting down any Rooster who moved, the "old firm" has never looked better than it did at this stage. And a few minutes later, with Hornery back in the dressing room and Ferguson off with an injured ankle, they continued to win the scrums with a three-man pack. For the last 15 minutes, however, the football was forgotten as one fight after another exploded. The one real flash of football in this period saw Ford and Glasgow race play 50 yards up-field – only for Ford to be laid out by McKean. Wests got the two competition points they needed badly but it may have been at a heavy cost with Ferguson out again, Ford under a cloud and Hornery facing the judiciary. ... (Sun 2nd June 1969)

Notes: Nev Hornery, replacing Jim Cody, was sent off in this match and received a record eight match suspension. It was a rough-house affair with nine cautions and the Wests "old firm" of Kelly, Stonestreet, and Walkaden dominating both play and possession. Barry Bryant also backed up all day in a powerful running display. Roy Ferguson continued to have problems with his ankle and Tony Ford was also still feeling the effects of heavy tackles. Wests had won four of their last five games and seemed to be in a strong position. It was about to all fall apart.

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