



1982 Round 10 Sunday 2nd May Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Parramatta 7

Greg COX
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Wayne SMITH
 Ted GOODWIN
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Michael DUKE
 Terry LAMB
 Jim LEIS
 George FAHD
 Bob COOPER
 Paul MERLO
 Gary COLLISON
 John DONNELLY
 Brett GALE
 Terry LEABEATER
 Alan NEIL
 Mick PINKERTON

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

Neil HUNT
 Eric GROTHE
 Michael CRONIN
 Steve ELLA
 Michael LANS
 Brett KENNY
 Peter STERLING
 Ray PRICE
 John KMUGGLETON
 Chris PHELAN
 Ron HILDITCH
 Steve EDGE (c)
 Bob O'REILLY
 Graeme ATKINS
 Mark LAURIE

Tries Steve BROUGHTON (2)
 Terry LAMB
 Bob COOPER

Steve ELLA

Goals Greg COX (3)
 John DONNELLY (1) Field Goal

Michael CRONIN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Cox; three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, E Goodwin, W Boland (c); five-eighth: M Duke; half: T Lamb; forwards: J Leis, R Cooper, G Fahd, P Merlo, G Collison, J Donnelly

Parramatta: Full-back: N Hunt; three-quarters: E Grothe, M Cronin, S Ella, M Lans; five-eighth: B Kenny; half: P Sterling; forwards: R Price, J Muggleton, C Phelan, R Hilditch, S Edge (c), R O'Reilly **Referee: J Gocher (The Sun 3rd May 1982)**

Parramatta, rated the most professional of all the Rugby League premiership teams, were made to look rank amateurs during their 19-7 defeat by Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. "They deserve to be beaten," was the terse comment by Parramatta coach Jack Gibson, who watched his team commit practically every error possible. "If they had been coached to make mistakes, they could not get a better result than that," he said. Although the wheel has not actually fallen off the Parramatta machine, it looked pretty wobbly as Wests controlled every aspect of the game, forcing errors with their swarming no-nonsense defence. ... Wests earned their win. They were convincingly the better team, scoring four tries to Parramatta's one, although beaten 13-7 in the scrums. Wests' coach Terry Fearnley, who has never had one of his teams beaten by a Gibson-coached side in seven matches, sent his players out with a policy of containment. Fearnley told the players they had to control the danger men, Bob O'Reilly and Mick Cronin, and to keep the play tight, away from the speedsters Steve Ella and Eric Grothe. "Keep smothering them in defence and they will make mistakes," Fearnley forecast in the dressing room. ... The Wests' players carried out Fearnley's orders so well that it was not until 10 minutes from the end, when the match was as good as over, that Parramatta scored their only try. How those Wests players tackled, crawling all over O'Reilly and Cronin to prevent them unloading the ball as they usually do so well. Frustrated, Parramatta tried for the impossible, and the mistakes started to have an influence on the game. Parramatta dropped the ball 16 times during the match, and many times they surrendered possession on the first or second tackle. Even an injury to half-back Terry Lamb, which forced him off at half-time, did not halt Wests retaining their commanding grip. Alan Neil, drooped to reserve grade a month ago, had been waiting for this chance, and he made the most of it as Lamb's replacement. He produced a classy brand of football when he was twice in a movement, then grubber-kicked through for winger Steve Broughton. Broughton, who gained his chance in first grade when Peter Barr failed to attend training, scored two tries, was bundled over the corner post as he went for another, and showed remarkable handling ability. Big John Donnelly, back in first grade, gave it everything he had and Goodwin, who psyched himself up for his clash with Mick Cronin, had his best match of the season. Wests dominated the forward clashes, with second-rower George Fahd and prop Paul Merlo effective in the tight and lock Jim Leis a power with his immaculate defence. Lamb scored Wests' first try after five minutes from a bomb, then Bob Cooper crashed Parramatta full-back Neil Hunt out of the way for the second. **(Sydney Morning Herald 3rd May 1982)**

Notes: In what was considered a big upset, the bruising defence of Wests meant they were always in control, even after losing the scrums 13-7. John Donnelly was back to his best, taking on O'Reilly and Hilditch, and finishing well on top. Jim Leis and George Fahd were also non-stop workers while Steve Broughton demonstrated brilliant handling skills in both of his tries. Alan Neil replaced Terry Lamb (bruised hip) at half-time and had a very strong attacking second half.