



1978 Round 10 Sunday 28th May Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 26

def.

North Sydney 16

John DORAHY
Garry CLARKE
Wayne SMITH
Ron GITEAU
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Les BOYD
Trevor REARDON
Peter YOUNG
Shane DAY
Bruce GIBBS
Steve BLYTH

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

Tony QUIRK
John ADAM
Keith HARRIS
Gordon WEST
Peter SCHOFIELD
Pat CUDMORE
Peter CRAIG
John LONG
Russell HUNTER
Pat KELLY
Don MCKINNON
Bruce FOYE
Bill HAMILTON (c)
Lee COOPER
Glen BOATSWAIN



Tries

Wayne SMITH (2)
Peter ROWLES
Bruce GIBBS
Garry CLARKE
Les BOYD

John LONG
Peter CRAIG

Goals

Peter ROWLES (4)

Peter SCHOFIELD (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: G Clarke, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, T Reardon, P Young, S Day, B Gibbs

North Sydney: Full-back: T Quirk; three-quarters: J Adam, K Harris, G West, P Schofield; five-eighth: P Cudmore; half: P Craig; forwards: J Long, R Hunter, P Kelly, D McKinnon, B Foye, W Hamilton (c) **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 28th May 1978)**

Jack Johnson, the world heavyweight boxing champion in the early part of the century, would have been proud of the way Tommy Raudonikis disposed of another great white hope at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. With the announcement of the NSW team only hours away, Norths' young representative half-back Peter Craig and his team had the misfortune to strike indestructible Tom Raudonikis in front of his home crowd. "Raudonikis is a real champion – the best game I've ever seen him play," was the reaction of representative selector Peter McLean before he filed a report of Wests' 26-16 win. There wasn't much risk of Raudonikis being one of the first picked for Brisbane, but the Magpie skipper was taking no chances. Although he played well, Craig, like Steve Mortimer and Johnny Gibbs, took a back seat when it mattered to Australia's number one scrum worker. Raudonikis all but played Norths on his own, setting up four of Wests' six tries. Improving with age, Raudonikis blends rugged individual talents with teamwork. After setting up two of Wests' earlier tries, long searching runs by Raudonikis brought touchdowns for centre Wayne Smith and five-eighth Peter Rowles to finish off Norths with the match in the balance. The lead changed four times in the first half before Norths whittled Wests' 18-9 lead shortly after the break, to 18-16 after 52 minutes. Raudonikis' sensational finale wouldn't have been needed had five-eighth Peter Rowles not missed several easy kicks at goal. "Six tries to two made them clearly the better side," admitted Norths' coach Bill Hamilton, and nobody at the ground would disagree. Lock Graeme O'Grady and controversial forward Les Boyd supported Raudonikis strongly and full-back John Dorahy had his best game since returning from injury. "They can't take away our spirit," said coach Roy Masters referring to Wests' and Boyd's recent brushes with League authority. Experienced centre Keith Harris, Craig and lock John Long were Norths' best, while Sydney Seconds prop Don McKinnon played a game he'd like to forget. **(The Sun 29th May 1978)**

Les Boyd, Rugby League player in the hot seat, yesterday played a storming role for Western Suburbs in their hard-fought 26-16 defeat of North Sydney at Lidcombe. The win lifted Wests into second place in the competition and by this time next week could be leaders. Wests' coach Roy Masters reckons the Magpies, at full strength, are sure winners over pace-setters Cronulla next round. But the Wests' camp will spend a troubled week before they know if they can field a top side. Graeme O'Grady, Wayne Smith and Trevor Reardon all suffered back and kidney bruising yesterday..... **(Daily Telegraph 29th May 1978)**

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Notes: Wests consolidated second place on the table with a strong last 20 minutes. It had been a dour match, until Tom Raudonikis let loose and sealed the game with two long runs, leading to tries. Selector Peter McLean thought it was Raudonikis' best game ever. O'Grady and Dorahy also continued their great form. Les Boyd played a great match under pressure. He had been suspended for four matches after the Manly game but the decision had been over-turned by the Equity Court. Boyd, however, had to face another inquiry on the coming Wednesday night.