



1977 Round 10 Sunday 29th May Kogarah Oval



St George 10

Michael SORRIDINI
 Tony GRAHAM
 Graham QUINN
 Robert FINCH
 John CHAPMAN
 John BAILEY
 Mark SCHULMAN
 Robert STONE
 John JANSEN
 George GRANT
 Craig YOUNG
 Steve EDGE (c)
 Bruce STARKEY

def.

Western Suburbs 2

John DORAHY
 Peter ROWLES
 Ron GITEAU
 Wayne SMITH
 Russell MULLINS
 Ken HEY
 Geoff SMITH
 Les BOYD
 Steve BLYTH
 Geoff FOSTER
 John DONNELLY
 Shane DAY (c)
 Doug LUCAS
 Neville SINCLAIR



Tries Tony GRAHAM
 Mark SCHULMAN

Goals George GRANT (2) Peter ROWLES (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, W Smith, R Mullins; five-eighth: K Hey; half: G Smith; forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day (c), D Lucas

St George: Full-back: M Sorridini; three-quarters: T Graham, G Quinn, R Finch, J Chapman; five-eighth: J Bailey; half: M Schulman; forwards: R Stone, J Jansen, G Grant, C Young, S Edge (c), B Starkey **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 4th June 1977)**

The joys and frustrations of Rugby League coaching were well demonstrated when St George beat Western Suburbs 10-2 at Kogarah Oval yesterday. St George coach Harry Bath described his team's performance as the best he had seen this season. "That was real Cup-tie football. We had to win.," Bath said. "I told them to hold the ball for six tackles, make short passes and play percentage football. They took the breaks when they came and did exactly as I asked of them." Wests' coach Keith Holman, on the other hand, was disgusted. He described his team as "heartless" and "lacking definition." "I hate to admit it, but they just don't fire without Tom Raudonikis," he said, pointing out that Wests also lost last week when their regular captain and half-back was absent because of his commitments with the NSW team in Brisbane. "We just haven't got enough depth," Holman said. "We have had a few injuries and now are struggling to find suitable replacements. And players you expect to go well just aren't firing." Bath hurriedly changed his team around yesterday morning after full-back Ted Goodwin withdrew with a torn thigh muscle. Michael Sorridini came in as a full-back, and Bath, reluctantly, dropped veteran second-rower Barry Beath for George Grant to give Saints a goal-kicker. Despite the changes, St George combined so well as a team in the rugged match that Bath would not single out any player for special praise. "Tell me anyone who didn't play well?" he challenged. Two who did lay the foundations for St George's win were little half-back Mark Schulman and the consistently hard-working second-rower John Jansen. Jansen contributed to both St George's tries. In the 24th minute Jansen burst through on to a pass from prop Bruce Starkey, split the defence and gave Schulman, backing-up, a 15-metre run to the line. Then in the 59th minute Jansen again raced on to a pass, took the ball deep into Wests' quarter and gave winger Tony Graham an easy run for the corner. Wests had few chances to threaten their opponents' line, and whenever they seemed likely to, the ubiquitous Schulman was there to stop them, making two memorable last-ditch tackles and often picking up loose balls. Wests' prop John Donnelly did not return for the second half – most of which was spent in Wests' territory – after deeply bruising his right arm. This caused a re-shuffling of their pack, with lock Les Boyd moving to prop and replacement Nev Sinclair going to lock, but they still managed to break even in the scrums. St George's performance augurs well for their Amco Cup match on Wednesday night when they play Cronulla-Sutherland. Goodwin at this stage is in doubt for that game. **(Sydney Morning Herald 30th May 1977)**

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Notes: Even though the scores were close, Wests were never in this game. Played on a mud-heap, the St George forwards gradually got on top of the Wests' pack. The absence of Raudonikis on Australian duties was sorely felt with St George half, Mark Schulman, being their best player. Wests' defence was very solid but they also felt the loss of Donnelly at half-time with a shoulder injury.