



1972 Round 11 Sunday 28th May Redfern Oval



South Sydney 21

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Eric SIMMS
Keith EDWARDS
Phil SMITH
Bob HONAN
Tom MOONEY
Dennis PITTARD
Bob GRANT
Paul SAIT
Gary STEVENS
Bob McCARTHY
Gordon FRASER
Elwyn WALTERS
John SATTTLER (c)

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

Tony FORD
Don ROGERS
Olaf PRATTL
Wayne MERRY
Allan ASHMORE
John HEYWARD
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
John BAKER
Barry BRYANT
John ELFORD
John O'BRYAN
Ken STONESTREET
John WALKER
Stephen SATTERLY
Russell MULLINS



Tries

Keith EDWARDS
Tom MOONEY
Denis PITTARD
Paul SAIT
Elwyn WALTERS

Tom RAUDONIKIS

Goals

Eric SIMMS (3)

Tony FORD (2)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: E Simms; three-quarters: T Mooney, P Smith, R Honan, K Edwards; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: R Grant; forwards: P Sait, G Stevens, R McCarthy, G Fraser, E Walters, J Sattler (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, O Prattl, W Merry, A Ashmore; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis; forwards: J Baker, B Bryant, J Elford, J O'Bryan, K Stonestreet, J walker **Referee: K Holman (Rugby League Week 3rd June 1972)**

South Sydney burst the Western Suburbs bubble in the mud and slush of Redfern Oval yesterday and became sole leaders in the Rugby League premiership. Wests, unbeaten in their previous five games, found there was no substitute for experience as they took a 21-7 hammering from the in-form South Sydney team. With three weekends of shocking weather having kept crowds down, League urgently needs some upset results early in the second round to rekindle interest in the competition. At the end of the first half of the competition, the aggregate attendance is down 71,431 on last year's figures. As the competition now stands League cannot look with confidence to an exciting finish to the race for the semi-finals to stimulate public interest. After yesterday's matches, which ended the first round, the big four – South Sydney, St George, Eastern Suburbs and Manly-Warringah, are comfortably clear of the field. ... South Sydney showed yesterday they were a class ahead of semi-final place challengers Western Suburbs in dealing out to them a five-tries-to-one hiding. Souths gave their best performance of the season, a win earned by the experience of their powerful pack, some grim tackling and remarkable handling in the slush. Heading the spirited Souths' defence was second-rower Gary Stevens, whose driving tackles frequently drove the Wests' runners five yards backwards. Wests set the match alight when they scored a shock try after five minutes. Souths' players hotly disputed the try, claiming Wests' skipper Tom Raudonikis was "shepherded" over the line by lock John Baker. Then Souths hit back in the way that mattered – and had two tries on the board at half-time to lead 12-5. When lock Paul Sait "dummied" his way through for a try after 18 minutes of the second half to make it 15-7, Souths had the game wrapped up. Wests tried hard. Half-back Raudonikis did a lot of running but most of it was across country, making himself an easy mark. Second-rower John Elford and prop John Walker did a lot of slogging work. But this fairly young pack could not cope with the clever wet-weather play of the Souths forwards, capably led by John Sattler. Souths' forwards surged into the rucks and aided by a 7-2 share of the ball from the second-half scrums, they took control. Smith advanced his claims for State selection with a particularly strong game. Full-backs Eric Simms and Tony Ford were under a lot of pressure through the match but both came through without committing a handling fault. Souths' final try, scored by winger Keith Edwards, was a "gem" engineered by half-back Bobby Grant. **(Sydney Morning Herald 29th May 1972)**

Notes: Wests came crashing back to earth when they met a red-hot Souths on a mud-heap at Redfern Oval. Tom Raudonikis scored a great individual try in the first five minutes but the Souths' pack gradually got on top, although John Elford and John Walker held their own against a powerful pack led by John Sattler. In the conditions, Souths surprisingly played open football in their best performance of the season. The loss put Wests three points behind fourth-placed Manly.