



1979 Round 11 Sunday 3rd June Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 23

def.

North Sydney 12

Wayne SMITH
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Mark BEAVEN
 John DORAHY
 Warren BOLAND
 Don MOSELEY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Les BOYD
 Bob COOPER
 Ray BROWN
 Jack JEFFRIES
 John CROW
 Peter WALSH

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

Peter SCHOFIELD
 Mick HEALEY
 Aub Le BROCCQ
 John ADAM
 John VANDENBERG
 Keith RUGG
 Geoff SMITH (c)
 Paul McCABE
 Keith HARRIS
 Rod HENNIKER
 Glen BOATSWAIN
 Bruce FOYE
 Russell HUNTER
 Pat CUDMORE
 Allan SHEPPARD

Tries

Warren BOLAND (2)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Wayne SMITH
 Jack JEFFRIES

Geoff SMITH
 Allan SHEPPARD

Goals

John DORAHY (4)

Rod HENNIKER (3)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: P Schofield; three-quarters: M Healey, A Le Brocq, J Adam, J Vandenberg; five-eighth: K Rugg; half: G Smith (c); forwards: P McCabe, K Harris, R Henniker, G Boatswain, B Foye, R Hunter

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: S Broughton, M Beavan, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: D Moseley; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Cooper, R Brown, J Jeffries, J Crow **Referee: B Bradstock (Rugby League Week 7th June 1979)**

A two-to-one scrum deficit held back a frustrated Wests as they fumbled and scrambled to a 23-12 win over Norths in front of a poor 4,802 crowd at Lidcombe Oval. In a poor game, both sides barely went through the motions; in fact no less than seven balls were dropped in the first two minutes. This proved to be the order of the day as both sides threw chance after chance away with atrocious handling. When Wests raced away to a 13-0 lead midway through the half – with winger Boland, Wayne Smith and Graham O'Grady strolling through weak tackling to score – it looked like the flood gates would open. But a bad mistake from O'Grady, who failed to take the kick-off after his try, let Norths back into the game. From the resulting scrum, Norths' skipper Smith brushed aside feeble attempts from Raudonikis and Wayne Smith to score down the blind side. .. Wests' coach Roy Masters spent the half-time break sorting out the scrum problem realising a share of possession would see the Magpies home. Three straight scrum wins plus a string of penalties enabled Wests to pull away with a try from hooker Jeffries, and a second try to winger Boland settled the issue. Coach Roy Masters was far from happy with the team's display but was happy to get the points. "We turned the corner on 17 points last season so we're quite happy to settle for 16 this season," he said. "Remember, we have six games at home in the second round compared to five last year so we're sitting OK." Needless to say, Wests will have to improve on this performance to shake the premiership stakes and it was evident the absence of the big men, Donnelly and Gibbs, throws a spanner in the Magpies' tactics. They cannot rely solely on the individual play from Dorahy, O'Grady and Raudonikis as was the case yesterday. **(The Sun 4th June 1979)**

Premiership co-leaders Western Suburbs overcame a 2-1 scrum deficit to beat North Sydney 23-12 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Hooker Bruce Foye gave the Bears a mountain of possession in the first half, leading the scrum count 9-2 at the break. But Norths failed to press home their advantage, constantly ruining their chances with handling errors. Wests ran in three early tries, and coasted along for most of the game never really troubled by Norths' lack-lustre attack..... Full-back Wayne Smith, one of Wests' best players, was also a casualty. He limped off with a corked thigh ten minutes before the finish. O'Grady also ran strongly, with Bob Cooper (13 tackles), Ray Brown (18) and Raudonikis (18) the best defenders. **(Daily Telegraph 4th June 1979)**

Notes: Wests were always in control in this match although there was a lot of scrappy play. Warren Boland enhanced his reputation and was now in representative calculations. Ray Brown had by now clearly established himself as the form forward in Sydney with another dominant display. Roy Masters had some rare criticism for Tom Raudonikis, who he felt butchered two tries in the second half by not passing. Wayne Smith was one of Wests' best until he went off late with a corked thigh.