



1976 Round 11 Sunday 30th May Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 23

def.

Cronulla-Sutherland 10



Wayne SMITH
 Don ROGERS
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Geoff SMITH
 Les BOYD
 Steve BLYTH
 Geoff FOSTER
 Jim MURPHY
 John PURCELL (c)
 Peter YOUNG
 Steve RIGNEY

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

Warren FISHER
 Barry ANDREWS
 Greg MULLANE
 Martin RAFTERY
 Tony GRAHAM
 Roger MILLWARD (c)
 Fred DENNEHY
 John DYKES
 Eric ARCHER
 Steve KNEEN
 Greg ALLEN
 John McMARTIN
 Peter RYAN
 Rick THACKERAY
 Glenn STOLZENHEIM

Tries

Wayne SMITH
 Geoff SMITH
 Robbie PARKER
 Ron GITEAU
 Russell MULLINS

Greg MULLANE
 John DYKES

Goals

Ron GITEAU (4)

Barry ANDREWS (2)

Match Description

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: W Fisher; three-quarters: B Andrews, M Raftery, G Mullane, T Graham; five-eighth: R Millward (c); half: F Dennehy; forwards: J Dykes, S Kneen, E Archer, G Allen, J McMartin, P Ryan

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: G Smith; forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Murphy, J Purcell (c), P Young **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 5th June 1976)**

Western Suburbs yesterday powered their way to second place on the competition ladder with a 23-10 victory over a battered and bruised Cronulla at Lidcombe Oval. Proving once and for all that they can "fire" without their skipper Tom Raudonikis and big prop John Donnelly (on State team duty) Wests were simply too strong for the Sharks. The Magpie forwards thrive on the rough stuff – the harder the better – and they stormed all over the Cronulla six. Lock Les Boyd was the outstanding figure. Wests wanted a big game from him, and that's exactly what they got as he produced many long breaks, tackled soundly and was back to help full-back Wayne Smith when Cronulla kicked. Early in the game it was all Boyd, but he marred his play with a couple of loose passes. However, when he settled down, he was too much for the Cronulla defence to handle. Centre Robbie Parker, second-rower Geoff Foster and half-back Geoff Smith were not far behind him as Wests' best. The final score of 23-10 flattered Cronulla – Wests bombed three first-half tries and centre Ron Giteau landed only four goals from 10 attempts. The Sharks had no answer to Wests' defence, and the only real attacking life came from Roger Millward. But Millward can't do it all, and yesterday there was no Greg Pierce to provide variation and no Steve Rogers to make the most of a half chance. ... After 15 minutes, Parker raced on to a Boyd pass to score near the posts. By half-time, half Geoff Smith and full-back Wayne Smith had touched down to make the score 13-5 Wests. Hard-working John Dykes, the Cronulla lock, had scored a try for the Sharks. Both teams lost players, with Wests' Jim Murphy (elbow injury) being replaced by Steve Rigney. **(Daily Telegraph 31st May 1976)**

For the past three weeks Geoff Smith has spent training nights in the shoes nobody said would fit. They belonged to Tommy Raudonikis and Smith spent much of the nights preparing for when Raudonikis would be in Brisbane with the NSW side. Yesterday was Smith's day and he made such a go of it that Wests snuffed out Cronulla's fire 23-10 in another caning at Lidcombe. First, Wests haven't been beaten at Lidcombe in a premiership match this year, and second, Wests' players wanted to prove they were not a one-man team..... **(The Sun 31st May 1976)**

Notes: Wests were without Raudonikis and Donnelly, who were in Brisbane for a State match but the half replacement Geoff Smith had a blinder, scoring a great individual try. Led by one-time captain, John Purcell, the Wests' forward dominated all day to allow the backs to have a field day. Questions were raised again as to why Les Boyd was not in a representative team after another devastating display. Wests moved into second place after this win.