



1977 Round 11 Sunday 5th June Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Newtown 18

John DORAHY
 Peter ROWLES
 Ron GITEAU
 Don MOSELEY
 Trevor SCARR
 Ken HEY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Geoff FOSTER
 Steve BLYTH
 John DONNELLY
 Shane DAY
 Doug LUCAS
 Russell MULLINS
 Peter YOUNG

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

John FLOYD
 Brian ROBERTSON
 Phil YOUNG
 Les COOLEY
 Mark WRIGHT
 Phil SIGSWORTH
 Paul HAYWARD
 Ron PILON
 Terry ELFORD
 Fred PAGANO
 Bruce GIBBS
 Geoff EDWARDS
 Col CASEY (c)



Tries

John DONNELLY
 Ron GITEAU
 Geoff FOSTER

Mark WRIGHT
 Ron PILON
 Les COOLEY
 Col CASEY

Goals

Peter ROWLES (5)

Brian ROBERTSON (3)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: J Floyd; three-quarters: B Robertson, P Young, L Cooley, M Wright; five-eighth: P Sigsworth; half: P Hayward; forwards: R Pilon, T Elford, F Pagano, B Gibbs, G Edwards, C Casey (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, D Moseley, T Scarr; five-eighth: K Hey; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, D Lucas **Referee: J Gocher (Rugby League Week 11th June 1977)**

Possession-starved Newtown yesterday out-generalled Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval but still failed to end their 10-week premiership drought. Paul Broughton's big-hearted Jets took the try-scoring honours but went down 19-18 in a rib-tickling finish. A penalty caning from referee John Gocher and a 7-10 scrum loss most certainly cost Newtown their second win of the season. Newtown, who claimed the Magpies as their only scalp, produced a stylish brand of attacking play to notch four tries to Wests' three. Only the boot of winger Peter Rowles – five goals from eight shots – got Wests home. Referee Gocher's penalty count went against Newtown 6-1 in the first half and 13-5 overall. The Jets' first penalty came after 35 minutes play, but they still held the lead 10-5 at the break, and it could well have been more. A rare first-half defensive lapse let Wests strike back after 30 minutes, with Geoff Foster bullocking his way through four tackles to score. Wests opened the second half scoring with a penalty goal by Rowles, and drove home their possession advantage with tries to Donnelly (8 minutes) and Giteau (17 minutes). Another Rowles' goal had Wests 19-10 clear after 20 minutes, but the Jets fought back magnificently. Hooker Geoff Edwards rounded off a great day in the open by sending captain Col Casey over to bridge the gap to 19-13 with 14 minutes left. Minutes later Newtown were in again after one of their three second-half wins. Half Paul Hayward drew the defence and lock Ron Pilon did the rest. Newtown's forward work-horses again carried a huge load, with Fred Pagano (club record 55 tackles), Terry Elford, Casey, Bruce Gibbs and Edwards tackling themselves to a standstill. (**Daily Telegraph 6th June 1977**)

Even Wests rated Newtown unlucky not to win their one-point thriller at Lidcombe yesterday. Wests 19-18 win disproved the adage "the better team won." Wests skipper Tom Raudonikis said: "They made us look very bad out there; they broke us up easily." "Newtown were in our quarter only twice in the second half and they scored both times. They were a good thing beaten but, that's football." Newtown, with little possession, led 10-5 at the break; hard to believe because the Magpies had all the ball – penalty count 6-1, scrums 2-1. But in the 20 minutes after the break the Magpies had shot to a 19-10 lead. Their big forwards, Foster, Donnelly (until he ran out of steam) and Blyth forced Newtown into submission. Foster, his hard-running a feature, pushed off five would-be tacklers to score his team's first try. Newtown's best was hooker Geoff Edwards who had a fine game in the open. Sigsworth, Elford and Floyd also showed out. Keith Holman was subdued: "We got two points but, but I only wish my blokes had their heart." The Jets tackled all day – they made 276 all told. Fred Pagano made an unbelievable 53 tackles for the match. (**The Sun 6th June 1977**)

Notes: Wests were lucky to win a closely contested match. Newtown, lacking possession, tackled themselves to a standstill, with Fred Pagano making an outstanding 55 tackles. Doug Lucas was strong up front for Wests and Geoff Foster had a powerful hard-running display. Wests benefited from the return of Tom Raudonikis and Don Moseley.