



1978 Round 12 Sunday 11th June Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 12

def.

Eastern Suburbs 8

John DORAHY
Don MOSELEY
Wayne SMITH
Ron GITEAU
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Steve BLYTH
Trevor REARDON
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Bruce GIBBS
Bob COOPER
Alan NEIL

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

Ian SCHUBERT
Bill MULLINS
Mark HARRIS
Alan POWER
Joe REAICHE
Russell FAIRFAX
Kevin HASTINGS
Bob TABER
Royce AYLIFFE
Des O'REILLY
Grant HEDGER
Arthur MOUNTIER
Bob O'REILLY (c)
Paul JEFFS



Tries Wayne SMITH (2)

Goals Peter ROWLES (3)

Joe REAICHE (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, S Blyth, T Reardon, J Donnelly, S Day, B Gibbs

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: I Schubert; three-quarters: W Mullins, M Harris, A Power, J Reaiche; five-eighth: R Fairfax; half: K Hastings; forwards: D O'Reilly, R Ayliffe, R Taber, G Hedger, A Mountier, R O'Reilly (c) **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 17th June 1978)**

West's half-back Tommy Raudonikis has a suspected broken rib and may miss the Test series against New Zealand. Raudonikis will have an X-ray early this morning to determine the extent of the injury after being forced from the field in West's 12-8 win over Easts at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Coach Roy Masters said Raudonikis told him the rib was broken when he came off the field. But in the dressing room, Raudonikis lying on his back puffing a cigarette, was hopeful the damage was only a rib cartilage. If the rib is broken Raudonikis will certainly miss the first Test against New Zealand in a fortnight and would be under a cloud for the second and third Tests on July 15 and 22. Raudonikis left the field in the 32nd minute of the second half and ironically his departure paved the way for West's match-winning try. A minute later, replacement half, Alan Neil, beat Easts' half Kevin Hastings to a kick from West's five-eighth Peter Rowles and put centre Wayne Smith over for his second try. Rowles, who had missed six of his previous eight attempts at goal, converted to give West's 12-8 lead. Smith's try followed his effort 17 minutes after half-time when he touched down after Easts full-back Ian Schubert spilled a "bomb" behind his line. West's two tries from kicks was a turnabout in tactics. Earlier, Easts had effectively used five-eighth Russell Fairfax's towering kicks to unsettle West's. West's, who led 7-6 after Smith's first try, surrendered the lead soon after when Easts' winger Joe Reiaiche, who scored all of his team's points, kicked his fourth goal. But Smith's second try sealed Easts' fate although they plugged away gamely on West's quarter line in the final minutes. West's two points from yesterday's game keeps them on top of the competition table but it was not one of their better performances. Easts, missing Bobby Fulton, Kevin Stevens and Arthur Beetson, were spurred on by acting captain Bob O'Reilly. **(Daily Telegraph 12th June 1978)**

.... They clung to the lead until seven minutes from the end when West's replacement half Alan Neil regained a Rowles' kick to send centre Wayne Smith racing across for his second try. Neil had only been on the field for less than a minute, replacing injured skipper Tommy Raudonikis, who was in a state of near collapse and in pain from a suspected broken rib. West's were a tame lot yesterday..... West's dressing room looked like a battle station after the game with Raudonikis lying on the shower room bench under a blanket, Graeme O'Grady with ice-packs to both ankles and several other players sporting cuts to the face and body. **(The Sun 12th June 1978)**

Notes: A brawl broke out in the first few minutes in a game which degenerated into a strong defensive clash. It caused a lot of injuries after the match. The most significant was Tom Raudonikis, whose broken ribs would keep him out for four weeks. Steve Blyth (29 tackles) was a powerhouse in the forwards, while Wayne Smith was very elusive in the backs. Alan Neil came on for Raudonikis and set up the winning try almost immediately with a deft chip-kick regather before sending Smith in.