



1977 Round 12 Sunday 12th June Brookvale Oval



Manly-Warringah 15

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Graham EADIE
Tom MOONEY
Alan THOMPSON
Russell GARTNER
Ray BRANIGHAN (c)
John GIBBS
Gary STEPHENS
Ian MARTIN
Steve NORTON
Gary THOROUGHGOOD
John HARVEY
Max KRILICH
Terry RANDALL
Ian THOMSON

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

John DORAHY
Peter ROWLES
Gavin MILLER
Don MOSELEY
Russell MULLINS
Ken HEY
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Geoff FOSTER
Steve BLYTH
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Doug LUCAS
Geoff SMITH



Tries Russell GARTNER
Max KRILICH
Alan THOMPSON

Goals Graham EADIE (3) Don MOSELEY (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, G Miller, D Moseley, R Mullins; five-eighth: K Hey; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, D Lucas

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: T Mooney, A Thompson, R Gartner, R Branighan (c); five-eighth: J Gibbs; half: G Stephens; forwards: I Martin, S Norton, G Thoroughgood, J Harvey, M Krilich, T Randall **Referee: W Thompson (Rugby League Week 18th June 1977)**

Manly-Warringah finally regained their best Rugby League form in a scintillating second-half display that earned them a 15-4 win over Western Suburbs at Brookvale Oval yesterday. Held to 2-all at half-time, Wests battled for their semi-final life. ... Unfortunately, Wests' and Australia's world series half-back Tom Raudonikis had to leave the field 10 minutes from the finish at Brookvale Oval with an injured knee, later diagnosed as ligament damage. Raudonikis is confident of passing tomorrow's medical for the vital World Series match against Great Britain at Lang Park, Brisbane, next Saturday. But with knee ligament trouble, which was still causing him a lot of pain an hour after he retired yesterday, there has to be some concern over Raudonikis. Manly supporters have waited quite a while to see their team produce the attacking flair they did in the second half. It was vintage Manly, with the players moving the ball, backing-up and searching out tiny blemishes in Wests' defence. But the attacking fireworks came only after the Manly defence had met and held the most productive of the Wests' attack. Wests looked particularly dangerous early when Raudonikis, skirting wide from the rucks, sent his hard-running forwards through some gaps he created. To counter the inexperience of young John Gibbs in his new five-eighth position, Manly coach Frank Stanton ordered a switch of position with Gibbs going to the wing, Ray Branighan to centre and Alan Thompson to five-eighth. This effectively plugged the danger area, although Wests too often spoilt splendid lead-up through bad handling. The match statistics told a sorry story, with Wests holding the ball for six tackles only once in the first eight times they had possession. The second half belonged solely to Manly who produced their best attacking play of the season. In this second-half bombardment, Manly's two English imports, Gary Stephens and Steve Norton, were outstanding. They schemed and plotted to create the chances that eventually came with Alan Thompson, Russell Gartner and Max Krilich scoring. Thompson, one of Manly's really outstanding players, scored the first and set up the second, scored by his centre partner Gartner. Gartner showed his remarkable speed in a dash to touch down in the corner. There were other fine players in the Manly side. Eadie, from full-back, meant danger to Wests every time he thundered into the attack. Randall, despite the inconvenience of a bruised leg muscle, did his usual share of the heavy tackling and was still ploughing into the work in the 80th minute. Randall is not "dying" with the ball these days and he is a more accomplished forward for it. Ian Thompson, who replaced the injured John Harvey in the second half, had his best game for the club, using his weight and speed effectively. Wests' lack of variation in attack in the second half and particularly their failure to use the kick, played right into Manly's hands. Referee Billy Thompson handled the game well. He kept a consistent "five" and did not take nearly as long with his scrums as he did in Saturday's world series. **(Sydney Morning Herald 13th June 1977)**

Notes: In what was actually a very close match, Wests' tackling was a feature. They tackled themselves to a standstill, including 17 tackles by winger, Peter Rowles. Ken Hey also made many vital tackles. Steve Blyth blew a certain try in the first half which may have turned the match. 2-2 at half-time but Wests couldn't hold out a rampaging Manly in the second half, although it was only in the last minute they scored a converted try to seal the game.