



# 1972 Round 12 Sunday 4th June Lidcombe Oval



## Balmain 27

Michael ROSS  
 Paul CROSS  
 Geoff STARLING  
 Terry RYAN  
 Glen CAPELIN  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Jeff SHIELD  
 Bob BOLIN  
 Joe WALSH  
 Greg FRYER  
 Barry McTAGGART  
 Dick JEFFERY  
 Garry LEO (c)

## def.

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

## Western Suburbs 18

Tony FORD  
 Don ROGERS  
 Olaf PRATTL  
 Wayne MERRY  
 Allan ASHMORE  
 John HEYWARD  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 John BAKER  
 John ELFORD  
 Barry BRYANT  
 John O'BRYAN  
 Ken STONESTREET  
 John WALKER  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Stephen SATTERLY  
 Greg ROSE



### Tries

Glen CAPELIN (2)  
 Tim MURPHY (2)  
 Paul CROSS  
 Garry LEO  
 Geoff STARLING

Tom RAUDONIKIS  
 John ELFORD  
 John BAKER  
 Allan ASHMORE

### Goals

Michael ROSS (3)

Tony FORD (3)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, O Pratl, W Merry, A Ashmore; five-eighth: J Heyward half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, B Bryant, J Elford, J O'Bryan, K Stonestreet, J Walker

**Balmain:** Full-back: M Ross; three-quarters: P Cross, T Ryan, G Starling, G Capelin; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: J Shield; forwards: R Bolin, J Walsh, G Fryer, B McTaggart, R Jeffery, G Leo (c)     **Referee: R Humphreys (The Sun 2nd June 1972)**

Hooray! Balmain's forwards have finally woken up. At Lidcombe Oval yesterday, "The Tigers" pack discovered those blokes standing outside them are backs and they can run. And run they did, as Balmain piled on seven tries to beat Wests 27-18. As Wests' coach Don Parish said: "The scores flattered us." Balmain had two tries disallowed for forward passes and several others went begging .... And the golden days of Keith Barnes are really gone. Makeshift kicker Mike Ross was off line and could only kick three goals from 10 attempts. Out in the centre, Geoff Starling must have thought it was Christmas. He saw more of the ball than Cinderella. And Starling showed he is no pigeon with the ball. He and his flying partner Trevor Ryan gave the former Balmain man Olaf Pratl a torrid afternoon. Starling's try was the real clincher for Balmain and showed up Wests' pathetic defence. He ran 80 yards, beating three men, then walked around to delicately place the ball under the posts and give "The Tigers" a 24-18 lead. What happened to the great defence in beating St George? Parish doesn't know. "I don't know how they can go so badly. I'd gladly pay someone to find out," he said. Former Wests' player Tim Murphy was one of Balmain's stars. ... **(The Sun 5th June 1972)**

Western Suburbs, the NSW Rugby League's hope to keep the premiership competition alive, were skittled 27-18 by Balmain in a one-sided match at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. The league had hoped Wests would stay within challenging distance of the top four teams in the 10 weeks remaining before the semi-finals. But "daylight" slipped into fifth place in the competition table as Balmain ran rings around Wests on the Magpies' home ground. Wests, in fifth place, are four points behind Eastern Suburbs and only a minor miracle would give the Magpies any chance of a semi-final berth. Apart from the fact they are trailing by four points, on the form they showed yesterday they would be lucky to win many more games. Balmain were good, really good, but Wests' defence was pathetic, allowing seven tries. At least six other Tiger tries went begging through lack of finish, and stand-in kicker Michael Ross could land only three goals from 10 attempts. Wests' coach, Don Parish, was right when he said later, "They looked like the Wests of last year. Balmain should have beaten us by 50 points." In a late revival Wests put on two quick tries in the last 15 minutes to reduce Balmain's lead from 24-8 to 24-18. ... **(The Sydney Morning Herald 5th June 1972)**

**Notes:** Wests' defence let them down badly in this game. Young Geoff Starling had a field day in the centres and gave Olaf Pratl and Wayne Merry an uncomfortable afternoon. Ex-Wests' Tim Murphy also had a blinder and played over the top of John Heyward, who eventually left the field with concussion. In a disappointing display, Raudonikis, Elford and Baker held their own.