



1976 Round 13 Monday 14th June Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 19

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Russell FAIRFAX
 Ian SCHUBERT
 John BRASS
 Mark HARRIS
 Bill MULLINS
 Robert LAURIE
 Kevin STEVENS
 Trevor BARNES
 Barry REILLY
 Arthur BEETSON (c)
 Ken JONES
 Greg WHITE
 Royce AYLIFFE
 John MACKAY
 Gary METCALFE

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

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



Tries

Kevin STEVENS
 Bill MULLINS
 Russell FAIRFAX
 Arthur BEETSON
 Trevor BARNES

Graeme O'GRADY
 Jim MURPHY

Goals

John BRASS (2)

Ron GITEAU (5)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Fairfax; three-quarters: I Schubert, J Brass, M Harris, W Mullins; five-eighth: R Laurie; half: K Stevens; forwards: T Jones, B Reilly, A Beetson (c), K Jones, G White, R Ayliffe

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Giteau; three-quarters: D Rogers, G O'Grady, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G Smith; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, J Murphy, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young **Referee: K Robert (Rugby League Week 19th June 1976)**

New Easts' hooker Greg White has made his father's 2am departure for the Sports Ground yesterday all worthwhile. Bill White, Greg's father drove 250km from Brewarrina to Dubbo to catch a flight to Sydney. He was at the Sports Ground among the early arrivals, dashed away after the game and expected to be home again 24 hours after departure. But Bill, a contract cleaner at Brewarrina, enjoyed the day – with his son winning a vital share of the ball which aided in Easts' bright display. The win, despite controversial refereeing decisions, puts Easts right back to favouritism for the competition. As John Brass said after the game: "If ever we start getting the breaks it is going to be nice and easy." Easts' match ball went to promoted prop Ken Jones on a vote of his team mates. He fully bore out the pre-match contention of coach Jack Gibson that Jones is one of the best front-on tacklers in Sydney. He shut State prop John Donnelly out of the game and played a major role in the heavy hammering taken by the Magpies. Four of the Westerners, Peter Young, Geoff Foster, Robbie Parker and Russell Mullins ended up at St Vincents where X-rays cleared all but Young of fractures. But the other trio all are badly bruised and most unlikely to play against Manly at Lidcombe on Sunday. Easts again showed that they play the most attractive football of any team when they have the ball. **(The Sun 15th June 1976)**

..... Easts' biggest home at Sydney Sports Ground for many years, 25,630, paid \$24,952 and saw the Roosters play the game as if it was grand final day.: "Not bad for a team of has-beens," was the dry comment from Easts' Secretary Bob Seabrook after the game. The score flattered the Magpies, who led 6-5 at half-time, but in the final picture couldn't match Easts in determination or application..... Wests, who clicked smoothly into gear in the 20 minutes before half-time, looked in a dangerous mood when they led 6-5 at the break. A bumping try by Bill Mullins, which left Raudonikis, Giteau and Rogers on the deck, sparked Easts' second half charge. A crashing defensive display from prop Ken Jones, and fine games from Kevin Stevens, Robert Laurie and the wingers Mullins and Schubert were Easts' high spots. The poor feature of Easts' display was the goal-kicking, with John Brass kicking only two from seven and Royce Ayliffe missing his only shot. **(Daily Telegraph 15th June 1976)**

Notes: Wests came back to earth in a game where they struggled to hold a rampaging Easts in the second half. Tom Raudonikis drove his forwards but Ken Jones, for Easts, held John Donnelly in check and the Wests' pack lacked power. Geoff Smith had a great first half but the main story for Wests was a huge injury toll. Peter Young, Geoff Foster, Robbie Parker, Russell Mullins all had x-rays for injuries, with Peter Young having a fractured hand. The other three were clear but were battered and bruised. In a bright note, John Dorahy (coming back from a broken leg) and John Heyward both had comeback matches in the Under 23's.