



1979 Round 13 Monday 18th June Leichhardt Oval



Western Suburbs 17

def.

Balmain 15

Wayne SMITH
 Buddy CAIN
 Mark BEAVEN
 John DORAHY
 Warren BOLAND
 Don MOSELEY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Ray BROWN
 Bob COOPER
 John DONNELLY
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Bruce GIBBS

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

Allan McMAHON (c)
 Wayne MIRANDA
 Dennis BENDALL
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Larry COROWA
 Percy KNIGHT
 Les MARA
 Neil PRINGLE
 Gary SPEARS
 David GRANT
 Geoff NAYLOR
 Neil WHITTAKER
 Bill HILLIARD



Tries John DORAHY (2)

Larry COROWA
 Dennis BENDALL
 Wayne WIGHAM

Goals Don MOSELEY (4)
 John DORAHY (2) One Field Goal

Wayne MIRANDA (3)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: A McMahon (c); three-quarters: W Miranda, D Bendall, W Wigham, L Corowa; five-eighth: P Knight; half: L Mara; forwards: N Pringle, G Spears, D Grant, G Naylor, N Whittaker, W Hilliard

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: E Cain, M Beavan, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: D Moseley; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, R Brown, R Cooper, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, B Gibbs **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 21st June 1979)**

John Dorahy scooped nearly \$1,000 in man-of-the-match awards and game payments at Leichhardt Oval yesterday but Tom Raudonikis was the real match-winner for Western Suburbs against Balmain. Raudonikis' alertness in diving on the ball at the scrum base after it had been won by Balmain gave Wests their chance to score the match-winning try in their magnificent 17-15 win. Balmain, desperately clinging to a 10-9 lead only 12 minutes from the finish, clearly won a scrum near the half-way mark. Balmain's half-back Les Mara went for the ball, dived at it, and scrambled in a despairing bid to get to it. But Raudonikis won the race to the ball and it proved to be a match-winning "steal." On the second tackle after Raudonikis had won possession, lock Graeme O'Grady brought some despairing howls from Wests' officials when he short-chipped over the top of the Balmain defence. The howls turned to roars of delight when Dorahy grabbed the ball and raced through to touch down under the posts. O'Grady, who could have been the Wests' villain, ended up the hero, but it was touch-and-go. "I heard John call and I did not know what he wanted, a pass or a kick over the top," O'Grady said later. "Out of the corner of my eye I saw him coming fast, so I thought the kick would be better. I did not catch it right, it came off the side of my boot, but the end result was tops." It was a great game of football, easily the best I have seen this season. It had everything: toughness without violence, rock-hard defence, great attacking moves, brilliant tries and some dramatic near misses. And if, after watching Dorahy produce another exhilarating game of football yesterday, the Australian selectors bypass him for at least the Australian reserve back spot, the ARL should ask why. Dorahy was all class. He scattered the defence many times with his speed and great footwork, scored both his tries, kicked a goal and, for good measure, a neat field goal. Both his tries were gems. The first exploded out of nothing when a pedestrian attacking move seemed set to break down. But Dorahy's brilliance carried him through the defence. Don Moseley was there to take the pass, and, when it seemed he was to be engulfed near the line, he threw a desperation pass infield. Dorahy took the ball near his ankles and touched down. In a match that had a highlight a minute:

- David Grant, the Balmain second-rower, started to "walk" when he believed he had been sent off by referee Kevin Roberts in the first half.
- Balmain nearly snatched the match late in the second half, but their former winger Warren Boland intercepted 20 metres from his line to save.
- Allan McMahon could not hold a difficult pass with the line open after Larry Corowa and David Grant had created the chance.

(Sydney Morning Herald 19th June 1979)

Notes: Brown, Dorahy and Raudonikis were all backing up from a Saturday Test in Brisbane but Les Boyd suffered a thigh injury and was replaced by Jack Jeffries. Although hampered with a groin injury, Dorahy was outstanding and only slightly over-shadowed by Raudonikis. In a game that had everything, Warren Boland was also very dashing against his old club. Wests' officials expressed their coming problem of having to find money to retain their stars.