



1982 Round 13 Sunday 23rd May Jubilee Oval



St George 18

Brian JOHNSON
 Michael SORRIDIMI
 Graham QUINN
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Denis KINCHELA
 Tony TRUDGETT
 Kevin KELLY
 Graeme WYNN
 Pat JARVIS
 Chris WALSH
 Robert STONE
 John DOWLING
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Mark CANNON

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Greg COX (c)
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Wayne SMITH
 Ted GOODWIN
 Jeff CASE
 Terry LAMB
 Trevor COGGER
 Michael DUKE
 George FAHD
 Bob COOPER
 John DONNELLY
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Paul MERLO
 Terry LEABEATER
 Ross CONLON



Tries

Graeme WYNN
 John DOWLING
 Graham QUINN
 Kevin KELLY

Paul MERLO

Goals

Graeme WYNN (3)

Greg COX (2)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: B Johnson; three-quarters: M Sorridimi, G Quinn, B Johnston, D Kinchela; five-eighth: T Trudgett; half: K Kelly; forwards: G Wynn, P Jarvis, C Walsh, C Young (c), J Dowling, R Stone

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Cox (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, E Goodwin, J Case; five-eighth: T Lamb; half: T Cogger; forwards: M Duke, G Fahd, R Cooper, P Merlo, A Mountier, J Donnelly **Referee: C Ward (The Sun 24th May 1982)**

Few wins apart from a Grand Final could have given coach Roy Masters as much satisfaction as St George's 18-7 defeat of Wests yesterday. Masters succeeded in not looking smug but his jubilation was obvious at Kogarah Oval after Saints produced an enthusiastic second half against his old side. For Masters and Saints, it was an important day. Saints now have 15 competition points after the first round and a fighting chance at a semi-final spot. It was also Masters' first tussle with Wests, the club he coached for four seasons until this year, and extended his winning run over Wests' new coach Terry Fearnley to five-all. Yesterday's match also climaxed some verbal skirmishes between the two coaches but, to their credit, whatever feelings may exist did not spill over in the match – apart from the odd niggle. "In some ways some things haven't changed at Wests," Masters said, somewhat less than cryptically. It took a forceful explanation of their shortcomings from Masters at half-time to get the Saints "marching in." With the scores tied at 2-all after a tight first half, Saints took Masters' instructions to "run hard and straight and back up each other," to heart. Nine minutes later, Saints were leading 10-2 after tries by half-back Kevin Kelly (44th minute) and Graeme Wynn (49th minute). Wests stayed in the game with a try by hard-working Paul Merlo to reduce the leeway to 10-7 (54th minute), but Saints proved too strong. Aided by hooker John Dowling's 8-4 domination of the second half scrums, St George added tries by Dowling (68th minute) and Graham Quinn (79th). Centre Brian Johnston (torn hamstring) now joins the growing list, leaving Saints with only one experienced centre, Graham Quinn. After four years as Wests' coach, and facing basically the same line-up, Masters proved an ideal tactical counter-puncher yesterday. Knowing Wests players' strengths so intimately, he took care to checkmate the danger men. Wests, also hampered by injuries to Warren Boland, Alan Neil and Jim Leis, battled bravely for the first 40 minutes. The loss of Leis' flair in attack and experience in defence proved costly – particularly when Saints won a couple of vital scrums near Wests' line, one of which led to a try by Kelly. Fearnley has moulded the Magpies into a handy unit. Their 16 competition points prove that, but injuries have robbed the side of the penetration to perform consistently. The team's recent record now reads loss, win, loss, win, loss ,,,, (Daily Telegraph 24th May 1982)

Notes: A very hard and, at times, spiteful match was only 2-2 at half-time but a Roy Masters' blast seemed to spur St George who scored two quick tries after the interval. Wests' best player, Paul Merlo, scored a burrowing dummy-half try to get the scores back to 10-7 but a Ted Goodwin fumble under the posts ended Wests' chances and they were easily held after that. Playing without Boland, Leis and Neil and losing the second half scrums convincingly, it was still a good effort by Wests to stay in the match.