



1976 Round 14 Sunday 20th June Lidcombe Oval



Manly-Warringah 37

def.

Western Suburbs 15

Graham EADIE
Tom MOONEY
Ray BRANIGHAN
Bob FULTON (c)
Terry HILL
Ian MARTIN
Alan THOMPSON
Steve NORTON
Phil LOWE
Terry RANDALL
John HARVEY
Max KRILICH
Ian BAKER
Gary THOROUGHGOOD
John GIBBS

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

Ron GITEAU
Trevor SCARR
Graeme O'GRADY
Robbie PARKER
Ken HEY
Geoff SMITH
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Les BOYD
Geoff FOSTER
Steve BLYTH
John DONNELLY
John PURCELL
Jim MURPHY
John DORAHY
Steve RIGNEY



Tries

John GIBBS (2)
Terry RANDALL (2)
Tom MOONEY
Steve NORTON
Terry HILL
Bob FULTON
Graham EADIE

John PURCELL
Jim MURPHY
John DONNELLY

Goals

Graham EADIE (5)

Ron GITEAU (3)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: T Mooney, R Branighan, R Fulton (c), T Hill; five-eighth: I Martin; half: A Thompson; forwards: S Norton, P Lowe, T Randall, J Harvey, M Krilich, I Baker

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Giteau; three-quarters: T Scarr, G O'Grady, R Parker, K Hey; five-eighth: G Smith; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, J Murphy **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 26th June 1976)**

Merciless Manly yesterday whipped Western Suburbs, bid their premiership rivals goodbye, and shot away to a five-points lead in the Sydney Rugby League race. The Super Sea Eagles picked up a \$3000 Wills cheque with their nine try effort in the 37-15 hammering of Wests at Lidcombe Oval. The one spot of gloom on the horizon after Manly had dazzled Wests in the second half was a potentially serious injury to Ray Branighan. The tough international centre may have torn a cartilage in his right knee in the first half. That was bad news. But mostly it was good news all the way for Manly as they successfully disposed of their Lidcombe Oval 'complex'. They ran in 19 points in the last 10 minutes after a combination of injuries and Manly's brilliance finally tore Wests to pieces. Manly finally killed off Wests in the last quarter of an hour when the Magpies had only 12 men. Wests lost Geoff Foster (groin injury) and Trevor Scarr (concussion) in the first half. So, when hooker John Purcell suffered a serious facial injury in the 55th minute, Wests had run out of replacements. Purcell, who caught an elbow in a tackle, may have fractured a cheekbone. That was the last straw for Wests, the team who have been trailing along closest to Manly in the competition in recent weeks. Under the driving leadership of Bob Fulton, Manly turned in a performance which coach Frank Stanton rated as probably their best all-round this season. ... Manly became increasingly dominant as the match unfolded. They led 15-10 at half-time after Wests had picked up a 37th minute try when prop John Donnelly fielded a kick to score. But although facing the breeze in the second half, Manly ran Wests ragged. Intense rivalry between the two skippers Bob Fulton and Tom Raudonikis flared on the field. The pair were "nodding acquaintances" in one head-butting incident, and did not shake hands after the game. Manly's effort was exemplary from full-back to front row – with Terry Randall, Ian Martin, Bob Fulton, Alan Thompson and Steve Norton probably taking top honours. The game also featured an exciting premiership debut from snow-haired John Gibbs. A ray of sunlight for the Magpies was the return of John Dorahy to first grade football. **(Daily Telegraph 21st June 1976)**

Notes: Wests started very strongly in this game but the spectre of injuries which had hampered Wests in previous seasons reared its head. Geoff Foster (groin injury) and Trevor Scarr had to leave the field, replaced by Rigney and Dorahy and then John Purcell was forced off with what was thought a possible fractured cheek, and Wests were left with 12 men. They quickly faded in the face of a Manly onslaught with Raudonikis and Murphy doing their best to stem the tide. Raudonikis had a running battle all day with Bob Fulton and both refused to shake hands after the match.