

Cronulla-Sutherland 23 def.

Mick MULLANE Rick BOURKE Steve ROGERS David ECKERSLEY Steve EDMONDS Barry ANDREWS Fred DENNEHY Greg PIERCE Steve KNEEN Graeme SAMS Jeff GRAYSHON John McMARTIN (c) Paul KHAN Fullback Wing Centre Centre Wing Five-eighth Half Lock Second Row Second Row Front Row Hooker Front Row Replacement Replacement

Western Suburbs 12

John DORAHY Peter ROWLES Ron GITEAU Gavin MILLER Don MOSELEY Ken HEY Geoff SMITH Graeme O'GRADY Steve BLYTH Mick LIUBINSKAS Doug LUCAS Shane DAY (c) Peter YOUNG John DONNELLY Ken BOURKE

Geoff SMITH

Mick LIUBINSKAS

Don MOSELEY (3)



Tries

Paul KHAN Steve EDMONDS Fred DENNEHY

Barry ANDREWS (7)

Goals

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Match Description

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: M Mullane; three-quarters: R Bourke, S Rogers, D Eckersley, S Edmonds; five-eighth: B Andrews; half: F Dennehy; forwards: G Pierce, G Sams, S Kneen, J Grayshon, J McMartin (c), P Khan

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, G Miller, R Giteau, D Moseley; five-eighth: K Hey; half: G Smith; forwards: G O'Grady, M Liubinskas, S Blyth, P Young, S Day (c), D Lucas Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 2nd July 1977)

Cronulla, with centre Steve Rogers supplying the thrust, and five-eight Barry Andrews the points, dented Western Suburbs' hopes of a Rugby League semi-final place with a 23-12 win at Endeavour Field yesterday. Rogers, who had been out for several weeks with a broken thumb, blitzed Wests with his speed, which led to two of his team's three tries. Andrews, who is enjoying a purple patch, landed seven goals from eight attempts to put Wests on the ropes. A torrid first half saw Western Suburbs lead 8-0 after only 12 minutes but Cronulla struck back to 12-12 at half-time. In a 10-minute burst after the resumption, Andrews landed two penalty goals and converted winger Steve Edmonds' try from the sideline. Wests had their chances in the second half, winning the scrums 4-1 but, as coach Keith Holman said, the side sadly lacks a forward leader who can capitalise on possession. The Magpies were without regular captain Tom Raudonikis, and his drive was missing. Cronulla's big prop did the damage in the first half as he steamrolled the Wests' defence. He scored Cronulla's first try after 21 minutes when he burst through the tackles of Ken Hey and Stephen Blyth on the quarter-line and showed surprising dash to score near the posts. Thirteen minutes later, Rogers cut through from inside his own half in a 50-metre burst before half-back Fred Dennehy received the ball and touched down near the posts. Cronulla had many fine players but all spoilt their good work with poor handling. Coach Ted Glossop lamented: "We won't be able to do that against the good sides and get away with it." Cronulla's poor handling led to Wests' two early tries. Full-back John Dorahy had a hand in both as he swooped on dropped passes and made long runs into Cronulla's territory. Half-back Geoff Smith scored Wests' first try when he darted over from dummy half after Dorahy had been tackled inches short of the line. Second-rower Mick Liubinskas crossed five minutes later when he gathered a long pass from Dorahy to score near the posts. **(Sydney Morning**

Burly Barry Andrews, the Cronulla Shark who refuses to practise goal-kicking, yesterday at Endeavour, lifted his club closer to the finals. Andrews kicked seven goals from eight attempts in Cronulla's 23-12 win over Wests. The towering kicks of Andrews have become a common sight for Cronulla and yesterday was one of his better days. But practice Never. "I don't know that I need to," he said after the match. "I might muck around at training, but I don't believe in practice." For Wests, the match will probably be remembered as Graeme O'Grady's stand, but like Custer, it was wasted. **(The Sun 27th June 1977)**

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Notes: This match looked bright early when Wests raced to an 8-0 lead, and, although 12-all at half-time, the tackling fell away and the centres had difficulty holding Steve Rogers. Graeme O'Grady was again Wests' best, followed closely by John Dorahy, but the absence of Raudonikis with a rib injury was sorely felt. Coach Keith Holman admitted that Wests were now out of the semis race.