



# 1980 Round 14 Saturday 5th July Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 39

def.

## North Sydney 8

Wayne BUCKLEY  
John RIBOT  
Ron GITEAU  
Ron BRODRICK  
Warren BOLAND (c)  
Terry LAMB  
Alan NEIL  
Jim LEIS  
John McLEOD  
Bob COOPER  
Tom ARBER  
Jack JEFFRIES  
Bruce GIBBS  
Paul MERLO

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

John O'CONNOR  
Allan SHEPPARD  
Alan SMITH  
John ADAM  
Mark HARRIS  
Kevin WILSON (c)  
Paul KEOGH  
Pat CUDMORE  
Keith HARRIS  
Rod HENNIKER  
Don MCKINNON  
Tony SPRINGALL  
Steve MAYO  
Gordon WEST  
Bruce FOYE



**Tries** Ron BRODRICK (3)  
John RIBOT  
Terry LAMB  
Ron GITEAU  
Bob COOPER

**Goals** Ron GITEAU (9)

Rod HENNIKER (4)

### Match Description

**North Sydney:** Full-back: J O'Connor; three-quarters: A Sheppard, A Smith, J Adam, M Harris; five-eighth: K Wilson (c); half: P Keogh; forwards: P Cudmore, R Henniker, K Harris, D McKinnon, T Springall, S Mayoh

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Buckley; three-quarters: J Ribot, R Giteau, R Brodrick, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, J McLeod, R Cooper, B Gibbs, J Jeffries, T Arber **Referee: J Gocher (Rugby League Week 10th July 1980)**

Angry Western Suburbs rugby league officials today will study video film of yesterday's clash with North Sydney before deciding whether to report a player to the NSWRL for violent play. Wests' action follows a shocking injury to second-rower John McLeod who was rushed to hospital with a depressed fracture of the cheekbone nine minutes after the start. Wests went on to an effortless 39-8 win, but afterwards, the talk was all of the McLeod incident. Wests' coach Roy Masters was visibly upset by the situation. He refused to comment other than to say: "I am very disappointed with the North Sydney player concerned." McLeod was injured when he moved in to tackle a player carrying the ball. McLeod dropped to the ground after colliding with the Norths' player and was later helped from the field and rushed to hospital where he was admitted. He is expected to be sidelined for at least four weeks. Officials will watch the video this morning to decide if there is enough evidence to have Norths' players involved appear before the NSWRL judiciary committee. ... Several prominent Wests' officials are keen to have yesterday's affair played down for fear of repercussions from opposing clubs. But if incidents such as these escape unchallenged, irreparable damage is done to the NSWRL's clean-up campaign. Although the severity of yesterday's incident appeared obvious to all, referee John Gocher did not even think it was worth a penalty kick. Although the McLeod incident took the gloss off the afternoon Wests had every reason to be happy with their efforts. The Magpies raced on seven tries to nil in recording their biggest winning margin of the season – and inflicted Norths' worst defeat. The win also keeps Wests as sole competition leader. After beating Penrith 37-10 last week, Wests have now scored 76 points and 11 tries in two matches. For Norths' coach Ron Willey it was a realisation of his worst fears. Willey has said all week that Wests were the side that had most impressed him during the first round. "To me, it looks like Wests and St George for the premiership," Willey said yesterday. "And Wests are more consistent than Saints – they keep winning week after week. We didn't play as enthusiastically as last week but I'm not taking anything away from Wests." Despite pre-match speculation that the match could explode as the fiery packs clashed, yesterday's match was a sedate affair. ... But, like a car accelerating after the hand-brake has been released, Wests suddenly cut loose. They rattled up 19 points in 14 minutes from three converted tries and two penalty goals, leaving Norths bewildered. Centre Ron Giteau had a field day, finishing with 21 points from nine goals from 11 attempts and a try. **(Sunday Telegraph 6th July 1980)**

**Notes:** The score was only 10-8 to Wests early in the second half but then Wests cut loose. Jim Leis started to dominate, with Alan Neil being very penetrative. Ron Brodrick scored three good tries from backing up Lamb and Arber. Ron Giteau had a very strong game and scored 21 points. Bruce Gibbs was back after injury and replaced John Donnelly. The talk of the game, however, was the tackle in the 9th minute that broke John McLeod's cheekbone. The illegal tackles that were occurring regularly were being dealt with by a referee crackdown.