## 1978 Round 1

Western Suburbs 28

John DORAHY (c)

Ron GITEAU

**Buddy CAIN** 

Les BOYD

Steve BLYTH

Shane DAY

Peter YOUNG

Bruce GIBBS

Peter WALSH

John DONNELLY

Wayne SMITH

Peter ROWLES

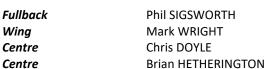
Don MOSELEY

Graeme O'GRADY

Steve BROUGHTON

## 1978 Round 15 Sunday 2nd July Lidcombe Oval

## def. Newtown 9



Wing Mick KERMODE
Five-eighth Alan PARKER
Half Barry WOOD
Lock Paul HAYWARD
Second Row Ron PILON

Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row
Front Row
Ron FOGARTY
Barry JENSEN
Col CASEY (c)
Replacement
Ron FLOYD
Col MURPHY
Replacement
John FLOYD

Tries Buddy CAIN (2) Mick KERMODE

Ron GITEAU Don MOSELEY Les BOYD Steve BLYTH

Goals Peter ROWLES (4) Mick KERMODE (3)

John DORAHY (1)

## **Match Description**

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: D Moseley; forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, S Blyth, P Young, S Day, J Donnelly

**Newtown:** Full-back: P Sigsworth; three-quarters: M Wright, C Doyle, B Hetherington, M Kermode; five-eighth: A Parker; half: B Wood; forwards: P Hayward, S Nicholson, R Pilon, R Fogarty, B Jensen, C Casey (c) **Referee: K Roberts (The Sun 3rd July 1978)** 

Western Suburbs Rugby League team flexed their muscles for 40 minutes at Lidcombe Oval yesterday and cruised away to a 28-9 win over last-placed Newtown. The win gave Wests 23 competition points – three more than their nearest rivals, Manly-Warringah and Cronulla-Sutherland on 20. Newtown held Wests for most of the first half, leading on two occasions and down only 9-12 at the interval. But in the second half Wests capitalised on their opponents'' lack of size, class and speed, with forwards John Donnelly, Les Boyd and Graeme O'Grady making ground whenever they handled. Donnelly laid the foundation for the Magpies' steamrolling second half. The in-form international front-rower had Newtown back-pedalling with bullocking charges and his defence was first class. Donnelly made 23 tackles in the match and only the Newtown attackers could explain the vigour which went into them. Wests scored six tries to one, their first, in the 14th minute, being an outstanding effort. Wests worked their way deep into Newtown's territory where fullback John Dorahy propped as though to kick ahead, then passed to Peter Rowles who made a dash for the line before lobbing the ball to hard-working second-rower Steve Blyth, who scored. Rowles converted and Wests led 5-2. Newtown took the lead nine minutes later with a penalty goal by new winger Mike Kermode – his third from virtually the same spot. The Magpies came to life six minutes before half-time with a Rowles' penalty followed by a great try by speedy winger Buddy Cain, who had drifted from the opposite side of the field. Newtown answered with a try by Kermode, who scored all his side's points. The second half was all Wests, with tries by Boyd, Giteau, Moseley and Cain. (The Sydney Morning Herald 3rd July 1978)

Western Suburbs, the "foxes" at the top of the Rugby League premiership table, yesterday shook off the pack with another grinding win at Lidcombe Oval. Wests, in typical methodical fashion, over-ran Newtown in the second half to win 28-9. The win lifted Wests to 23 competition points and a three-point lead over equal second-placed Manly and Cronulla. Only Cronulla – four-point leaders after seven straight first round wins – have led the table by a clearer margin. For Wests, the three-point lead could not have come at a better stage. Over the next five weeks Wests will face a torrid test of their minor premiership aspirations. ... But coach Roy Masters is confident his side will not wilt under the mounting pressure. "I've always known what this side could do, and now it's time for everyone else to start taking them seriously," Masters said........ (Daily Telegraph 3rd July 1978)

**Notes:** Played in slippery conditions, Wests were only in front 12-9 at half-time but ran away in the second half with the forwards, led by O'Grady, Donnelly and Boyd, completely over-powering the Newtown pack. Moseley was again outstanding in the place of Tom Raudonikis and Peter Rowles continued his great form. In Reserve Grade, John Purcell and Bill Cloughessy were both sent off.

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