



1977 Round 15 Sunday 3rd July Lidcombe Oval



Balmain 32

Allan McMAHON
 Mike FISH
 Dennis BENDALL
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Stephen KNIGHT
 David TOPLISS
 Peter NINNESS
 Steve FREWIN
 Gary SPEARS
 Trevor RYAN (c)
 Dave EDWARDS
 Noel MAYBURY
 Keith COOK
 Greg BANDIERA

def.

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

Western Suburbs 6

Don MOSELEY
 Peter ROWLES
 Ron GITEAU
 Gavin MILLER
 Ken BOURKE
 Ken HEY
 Geoff SMITH
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Steve BLYTH
 Les BOYD
 Doug LUCAS
 Shane DAY (c)
 Peter YOUNG
 Alan NEIL



Tries Dennis BENDALL (2)
 Mike FISH (2)
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Trevor RYAN

Goals Keith COOK (6)
 Allan McMAHON (1)

Don MOSELEY (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, G Miller, K Bourke; five-eighth: K Hey; half: G Smith; forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, S Blyth, P Young, S Day (c), D Lucas

Balmain: Full-back: A McMahon; three-quarters: M Fish, D Bendall, W Wigham, S Knight; five-eighth: D Topliss; half: P Ninness; forwards: S Frewin, G Spears, T Ryan (c), D Edwards, N Maybury, K Cook **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 3rd July 1977)**

Balmain yesterday slotted three rookies into vital positions, but still racked up their biggest win of the season at Lidcombe Oval. The Tigers, seemingly weakened with the loss of stars Greg Cox, Neil Pringle and Brian Lockwood, in fact lost nothing as a combination as they crushed Western Suburbs 32-6. Three youngsters – Peter Ninness (for Cox), Steve Frewin (Pringle) and Gary Spears (Lockwood) – with only a splattering of first-grade experience between them, - each played his part in the six-try-to-nil blitz. And they later earned delighted coach Ron Willey's well-deserved praise. "You can't have anything but admiration for the three kids," was Willey's tribute. But more was to come when he added: "The side couldn't have gone any better. Their defence was good, and attack nothing short of excellent." A 12-point rampage mid-way through the first half all but finished the game for Wests – and any bolter's chance of a final five spot. It was the Magpies who opened the scoring after six minutes with a Don Moseley penalty – but the Tigers hit back with venom. Four minutes later winger Mike Fish scored one of the season's most spectacular tries to put the Tigers in the lead. Fish, following through after a neatly-placed high kick from Englishman David Topliss, dived full length to pluck the ball out of the hands of the Wests' defence, and score metres from the posts. Prop Keith Cook, goal-kicking deputy for Greg Cox, converted the try, and minutes later landed a penalty to put the Tigers in command at 10-2. Wests' defence – brittle throughout the game – was its worst as Fish notched his second try to the 20th minute. It was Topliss again who did the early damage before Fish charged through two Wests' defenders to score. Just before half-time Wests went close to breaching the Balmain line, but at the break the Magpies trailed 14-4. Tries came easily for Balmain in the second half as the Tigers got right on top and gave their backs a feast of opportunities. Keith Cook, Trevor Ryan and Noel Maybury were the Tigers' outstanding workers in the forwards. Out wide, lanky Wayne Wigham proved the man Wests couldn't contain – but he was not rewarded with a try. **(Daily Telegraph 4th July 1977)**

Balmain overwhelmed Western Suburbs 32-6 in the Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval yesterday, despite the absence of star players, Greg Cox, Neil Pringle and Brian Lockwood. Their replacements half-back Peter Ninnis, lock Steve Frewin and second-rower Gary Spear all had strong games as Balmain dominated play to score six tries to nil. Wests, without their injured captain Tom Raudonikis, were disorganised and could do nothing right. They dropped far too many passes and gave away unnecessary penalties. Only Doug Lucas among the forwards and Gavin Miller in the centre played near top form..... **(Sydney Morning Herald 4th July 1977)**

Notes: Wests' poor form continued with Balmain completely outplaying them in every position. O'Grady was again the best for Wests, while Doug Lucas topped the tackle count. Ex-Wests player, Stephen Knight, rubbed salt in the wound with an outstanding display. Wests were really missing Raudonikis and to make matters worse Secretary Beger was miffed about Penrith advances to three star players, Dorahy, Mullins and O'Grady. Alan Neil made his debut as a replacement late in the match.