



## 1975 Round 15 Sunday 6th July Belmore Oval



### Western Suburbs 7

drew with

### Canterbury-Bankstown 7

John DORAHY  
 Stephen KNIGHT  
 Robbie PARKER  
 John HEYWARD  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Chris WELLMAN  
 Jim MURPHY  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Pat HUNDY  
 Shane DAY  
 John DONNELLY  
 Mick LIUBINSKAS  
 Trevor REARDON

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

Garry DOWLING  
 Chris ANDERSON  
 Mick RYAN  
 Keith HARRIS  
 John DELANEY  
 Garry HUGHES  
 Don MOSELEY  
 John PEEK (c)  
 Graeme HUGHES  
 Mick ADAMS  
 Norm THOMAS  
 George PEPONIS  
 Bill NOONAN

**Tries** Mick LIUBINSKAS

Chris ANDERSON

**Goals** John DORAHY (2)

Graeme HUGHES (2)

#### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: S Knight, J Heyward, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: C Wellman, J Murphy, G Foster, J Donnelly, S Day, P Hundy

**Canterbury-Bankstown:** Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: C Anderson, J Delaney, K Harris, M Ryan; five-eighth: G Hughes; half: D Moseley; forwards: J Peek, G Hughes, M Adams, N Thomas, G Peponis, W Noonan **Referee: K Page (Rugby League Week 12th July 1975)**

A wrangle over the eligibility of Western Suburbs second-rower Mick Liubinskas furnished a controversial climax to a hard-fought 7-all draw with Canterbury-Bankstown yesterday. Canterbury second-rower Graeme Hughes kicked a super 40-metre goal nine minutes from the end to snatch a draw before a Belmore Sports Ground record crowd of 23,103 that paid a record "gate" of \$15,000. But whether Wests will be able to keep the competition point they worked so desperately to earn will not be known until tonight, when the League decides on Canterbury's protest. Wests had planned to use Liubinskas as the first-grade replacement and this was why he was named only as a second-grade reserve. But Liubinskas had to come on earlier than expected when Jim Murphy ripped a hamstring muscle after 34 minutes. Wests' ploy proved a master-stroke when the tall second-rower ripped through the defence to score after being on the field for only 11 minutes – levelling the scores 5-all. With so much depending on the result, the match produced 80 torrid, tension-packed minutes with the result uncertain even as the final siren wailed. Canterbury went into the match looking for a repeat of last week's magnificent effort against Manly-Warringah, but their new-found confidence was soon dented by a crushing Wests' defence. Unlike last week when their tries were sheer gold, Canterbury had to be content with a Chris Anderson intercept from a one-handed lob by Jim Murphy. Possibly Canterbury's biggest chance of breaking the deadlock came when five-eighth Garry Hughes kicked over the defence, but the ball bounced a fraction too high. The players could barely raise a trot by the finish of the match, yet twice Wests courageously worked play towards Canterbury's goal-posts with a field goal attempt "on". The most dangerous attacking player on the field was Dorahy, whose burst into the backline meant trouble for the hard-pressed Canterbury defence. Donnelly must have helped his representative cause with a powerful game, storming into rucks in attack and making 35 bone-jarring tackles. Wests face a problem with their match against Eastern Suburbs scheduled for Lidcombe Oval on Saturday. The club today will make another attempt to have it switched to Sunday and, if unsuccessful, they will consider moving the game to the SCG on Saturday. (**Sydney Morning Herald 7th July 1975**)

**Notes:** This was, of course, one of Wests' most controversial matches. Mick Liubinskas came on as a reserve for Jim Murphy and scored a dashing try. Canterbury, however, decided to protest the replacement since Liubinskas had not played a full reserve grade game. The protest was upheld and the loss of the point meant that eventually Wests missed the semi-finals. It was a disappointing end to a ferociously contested match, with rugged forward clashes led by Donnelly, who kept enhancing his reputation. Dorahy and Raudonikis were again outstanding in a match played before a ground record crowd of 23,102.