



1980 Round 16 Sunday 20th July Lidcombe Oval



Eastern Suburbs 26

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Russell FAIRFAX
 Ian SCHUBERT
 Kerry BOUSTEAD
 Noel CLEAL
 Steve MCFARLANE
 Ken WRIGHT
 Kevin HASTINGS
 Gary WARNECKE
 Des O'REILLY
 John TOBIN
 Royce AYLIFFE (c)
 John LANG
 Paul McCABE
 Kel SHERRY

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

Wayne SMITH
 John RIBOT
 Ron BRODRICK
 Ron GITEAU
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Alan NEIL
 Ken HEY
 Paul MERLO
 Bob COOPER
 John DONNELLY
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Tom ARBER
 Peter ROWLES



Tries Kevin HASTINGS (2)
 Kerry BOUSTEAD
 Russell FAIRFAX

John RIBOT
 Alan NEIL

Goals Ken WRIGHT (7)

Ron GITEAU (4)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Fairfax; three-quarters: I Schubert, K Boustead, N Cleal, S McFarlane; five-eighth: K Wright; half: K Hastings; forwards: G Warnecke, D O'Reilly, J Tobin, R Ayliffe (c), J Lang, P McCabe

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: J Ribot, R Brodrick, R Giteau, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: K Hey, P Merlo, R Cooper, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, T Arber **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 21st July 1980)**

A Bob Fulton motivation plan to beat the Lidcombe Oval jinx and a million-to-one Russell Fairfax try enabled Easts to knock Wests from the top of the competition table. Easts' players, decked out in their football gear and ready to run on, were led into Lidcombe Oval by Fulton just 15 minutes before kick-off time. Two hours later the Roosters were celebrating a remarkable 26-14 victory after becoming the first team to toss Wests at Lidcombe this season. Fulton showed he is a master coach and deserves much of the credit for the win, which has kept Easts in semi-final contention. When a bus failed to turn up at Easts' Leagues Club to take the players to the ground, Fulton decided to take the team to Kevin Hastings' home, near the Lidcombe Ground. He organised cars to take the players' wives and girlfriends to Lidcombe Oval, then headed to Hastings' home with the players and a couple of motivation films. "We watched a couple of films, had a good talk, and then got changed before we went to the ground," Fulton said after the match. The players were ready to run on when we drove to the ground in five cars just before the start." Full-back Marty Gurr withdrew from the team yesterday morning and Fairfax replaced him. Fairfax played his best game in a couple of seasons and scored a freak try which got Easts back into the game after they had trailed for most of the first half. Fairfax, just before half-time, put up a bomb which crashed into the left upright near the top of the post. He came charging through from 20 metres out to gather the ball on the full before falling over for a try. "As soon as the ball left my foot, I could see it was going to hit the post – I just went racing after it," Fairfax said in the dressing room. Fairfax was Easts' best player. He won many kicking duels with Wests' Wayne Smith and leaped high in Australia Rules style to take several bombs under extreme pressure. **(Daily Telegraph 21st July 1980)**

Russell Fairfax is off to play for the Snowy River Bears – despite his brilliant return to First Grade at Lidcombe yesterday. Fairfax, brought back from the wilderness, helped to lift Easts to a 26-14 win over premiership front-runners Western Suburbs. In a fleeting moment of triumph, Fairfax reflected after the game that he was leaving Easts and nothing had happened in the previous 80 minutes to change his mind. "Yeh, I'm still going ... as long as the terms are still right," he said. The Snowy River Bears, play in North Sydney colours and play out of Jindabyne..... **(The Sun 21st July 1980)**

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Notes: Wayne Smith was back from injury and went to full-back; Wayne Buckley was dropped. A mid-week Tooth Cup match took its toll, with Ken Hey coming in for an injured Jim Leis. In a closely contested match, an intercept try by Kerry Boustead and a piece of Russell Fairfax magic were the difference.