1966 Round 16 Sunday 31st July Kogarah Oval

Western Suburbs 12   def.   St George 9

Western Suburbs	Position	St George
Don PARISH	*Fullback*	Dennis PRESTON
John MOWBRAY	*Wing*	Eddie LUMSDEN
Gil MacDOUGALL	*Centre*	Bruce POLLARD
Peter DIMOND	*Centre*	Ken MADDISON
John ELFORD	*Wing*	Johnny KING
Denis PITTARD	*Five-eighth*	Brian CLAY
Pat THOMAS	*Half*	George EVANS
Doug PAGE	*Lock*	Trevor LEVIN
Glen BROWN	*Second Row*	Dick HUDDART
Jim CODY	*Second Row*	Elton RASMUSSEN
Denis MEANEY	*Front Row*	Kevin RYAN
Noel THORNTON	*Hooker*	Ian WALSH (c)
Noel KELLY (c)	*Front Row*	Robin GOURLEY

Tries	John MOWBRAY	Ken MADDISON
	Denis MEANEY	
Goals	Don PARISH (3)	Dennis PRESTON (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: D Preston; three-quarters: E Lumsden, B Pollard, K Maddison, J King; five-eighth: B Clay; half: G Evans; forwards: T Levin, D Huddart, E Rasmussen, K Ryan, I Walsh (c), R Gourlay

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: J Mowbray, G MacDougall, P Dimond, J Elford; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: P Thomas; forwards: D Page, G Brown, J Cody, D Meaney, N Thornton, N Kelly (c)   **Referee: J Bradley   (as per program Rugby League News 30th/31st July 1966 + newspaper validation)**

A determined Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday brought to an end St George's proud home record at Kogarah Oval. Wests defeated the premiers 12-9 in a grand match. In doing so they inflicted St George's first defeat at Kogarah since 1964. Wests, ahead 7-4 at half-time, showed rare determination through a gruelling second-half to keep their semi-final chances alive. Spurred on by skipper Noel Kelly, Wests repelled wave after wave of St George attack in the dying stages. Kelly played through much of the second half in a daze. He had received a heavy knock in the first half. His presence made a tremendous difference to Wests. … Wests closed up the game in the last few minutes to hang on to their lead. … Wests deserved their win. They scored two superb tries, with centre Gil MacDougall playing a major role in each. Big prop Denis Meaney scored the first try midway through the first half after lock Doug Page, winger John Mowbray and centre MacDougall had combined in a determined burst. The second try came seven minutes into the second half with MacDougall and Mowbray again the feature men. This time MacDougall fired a pass inside to Mowbray who raced away from the defence to score between the posts. This try gave Wests a commanding 12-4 lead, and Saints fans at this stage were resigned to a victory to Wests. Ian Walsh spurred his men into action, but the Wests' defence was rock-like. On yesterday's form, Wests are still very much a semi-final threat. Wests face a tough job with competition leaders Balmain and third-placed Newtown among their last three matches. But if they can maintain yesterday's form, the task is not beyond them... Wests finished the match with problems. Five-eighth Denis Pittard was injured in the first half and will have an ankle x-rayed today. Full-back Don Parish suffered a knee injury. **(Daily Telegraph 1st May 1966)**

… Capably led by Test prop Noel Kelly, West matched St George in the forwards and so gave its backs chances to show their paces. The backs responded by scoring two fine tries. The first of these came in the first half after Kelly, Dimond, Mowbray, Pittard and Meaney handled the ball in a grand, sweeping movement which the St George defence simply could not contain. Wests' second try, in the eighth minute of the second half, was the result of another great passing movement. Centre Gil MacDougall handled the ball three times in this fine effort, before winger John Mowbray scored. Down 12-4 with 32 minutes remaining, the Saints threw everything into a rally and were rewarded with a great team try when Ken Maddison crashed over the line. But West grimly held possession for the final five minutes and St George had to be content to tackle as West closed up the game. .. West's hooker Noel Thornton played exceptionally well and finished only one down to Ian Walsh in the scrums. Lock Doug Page damaged a shoulder early in the second half and faded out of the game, But he had been the outstanding forward in the first half. .. **(Sydney Morning Herald 1st August 1966)**

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Notes: The Round 15 match against Balmain had been postponed to a Sunday match to be played after the premiership rounds concluded. This win by Western Suburbs was a huge upset, the first time in 12 years that a St George side had been beaten at Kogarah. The return of Noel Kelly was the decisive factor. He terrorised the St George pack and, with Noel Thornton breaking even in the scrums with Test hooker Ian Walsh, the backs led by Gil MacDougall proved superior on the day. Denis Meaney and Doug Page also played very strongly. Wests finished with injury problems to Pittard and Parish.