



1976 Round 16 Sunday 4th July Belmore Oval



Canterbury 18

def.

Western Suburbs 9

Garry DOWLING
 Eric HUGHES
 Keith HARRIS
 Mark HUGHES
 Don MOSELEY
 Phil YOUNG
 Steve MORTIMER
 Peter CASSILLES
 Steve HAGE
 Bob McCARTHY (c)
 Phil CHARLTON
 George PEPONIS
 John PEEK

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

Wayne SMITH
 Don ROGERS
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Geoff GARDNER
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 Steve BLYTH
 Jim MURPHY
 John DONNELLY
 John PURCELL
 Peter YOUNG
 Neville SINCLAIR
 Graeme O'GRADY



Tries

Bob McCARTHY
 Steve MORTIMER
 Keith HARRIS
 Peter CASSILLES

Russell MULLINS

Goals

Don MOSELEY (3)

Ron GITEAU (3)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: E Hughes, K Harris, M Hughes, D Moseley; five-eighth: P Young; half: S Mortimer; forwards: P Cassilles, S Hage, R McCarthy (c), P Charlton, G Peponis, J Peek

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G Gardner; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, S Blyth, J Murphy, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 10th July 1976)**

Canterbury yesterday knocked Western Suburbs into no-man's land and grabbed fourth spot on the Rugby League premiership ladder – thanks to an unbeatable scrum partnership between George Peponis and Steve Mortimer. The Berries, despite a fumbling display in strong winds, had just too much ball for Wests and beat them 18-9 at Belmore Sports Ground. State hooker Peponis dominated the scrums to set up victory for Canterbury. With half-back Mortimer feeding a large majority of the scrums in the match, he whipped Wests' John Purcell 22 to six. Wests, with a territorial advantage for most of the day, faltered in the last 20 minutes, overwhelmed by a huge share of possession going against them. From their high-flying position of a few weeks back, Wests now have barely a toehold on a semi-final berth. They are back equal fifth on 18 points – with St George, who have a match on hand. More depressing for their supporters was that yesterday's loss was their fourth on the trot. The defeat certainly wouldn't have done anything for the health of coach Don Parish, an influenza victim, who was too sick to attend the game. Canterbury supporters went home happy that their team had strung together two valuable wins after the heart-breaking inconsistency which has marked most of the season. After a week in which they beat Manly and then won an Amco Cup game mid-week, it was a good effort. The fact that their skipper and driving force Bob McCarthy was hampered by an ankle injury added lustre to the win. But the football on show to the 18,177 fans was certainly nothing to write home about. Sheer weight of possession won it for Canterbury and George Peponis can take a big bow for that. But, even with so much ball, Canterbury played most of the game in their own territory, and were in trouble when they trailed 9-6 in the second half. At that point Wests were in front through a Russell Mullins try, cleverly created by Tom Raudonikis when he flicked on one of the many balls that Canterbury dropped. Peter Cassilles and Keith Harris had scored the Canterbury tries at that point in two of the rare incursions into Wests' territory. But once Canterbury hit the lead through a McCarthy try from dummy half, they went right on with the job to win decisively. Wests' prop Peter Young may have broken his hand again in the game – another black spot for the battling Magpies. **(Daily Telegraph 5th July 1976)**

Notes: Wests were amazingly still in front in this match at the 60-minute mark, as George Peponis won the scrums 22-6 and Wests had spent most of that time tackling. John Dorahy was out with the flu and Wayne Smith went back to full-back with Geoff Gardner at five-eighth. When Bob McCarthy scored in the 62nd minute Wests couldn't hold them out. For Wests, Mullins, Raudonikis and Murphy were the best players. Tom Raudonikis had been fined \$200 before the match for the bite on Ron Gibbs' nose in the Manly match.