



1978 Round 16 Saturday 8th July Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 35

def.

Balmain 7

John DORAHY (c)
David WAITE
Ron GITEAU
Wayne SMITH
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Don MOSELEY
Graeme O'GRADY
Les BOYD
Steve BLYTH
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Bruce GIBBS
Steve BROUGHTON

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

Wayne MIRANDA
Mike FISH
Dennis BENDALL
Wayne WIGHAM
Larry COROWA
Lloyd MARTIN
Bob PATON
Neil PRINGLE
Gary SPEARS
Steve FREWIN
Geoff NAYLOR
Frank MARINO
Steve LAVERS (c)
Des BONNOR
Les MARA



Tries

Peter ROWLES (2)
John DORAHY (2)
Don MOSELEY
Buddy CAIN
David WAITE

Larry COROWA

Goals

Peter ROWLES (7)

Wayne MIRANDA (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: W Miranda; three-quarters: M Fish, D Bendall, W Wigham, L Corowa; five-eighth: L Martin; half: R Paton; forwards: N Pringle, G Spears, S Frewin, G Naylor, F Marino, S Lavers

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy (c); three-quarters: D Waite, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: D Moseley; forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, B Gibbs **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 15th July 1978)**

Western Suburbs yesterday bounded five points clear of the Rugby League premiership pack And Magpies young and old last night celebrated the occasion at the club's annual reunion. Wests gave battered Balmain a real pasting, 35-7, after Tiger centre Dennis Bendall had been sent from the field seconds before the half-time hooter at Lidcombe Oval. Bendall tomorrow night faces the NSWRL Judiciary Committee on a charge of "a deliberate elbow to the head of an opponent after the player had passed the ball." Referee Jack Danzey sent him off on the report of touch judge C Connors after Wests' Les Boyd had been felled in a passing raid which led to a try. There was confusion in the Balmain camp as Danzey waved Bendall off, with Balmain players grouped behind the tryline. Even Balmain coach Ron Willey didn't realise that Bendall had been sent from the field. The incident showed up clearly on last night's TV replay – emphasising that referees intend to get very tough on the subject of head-high tackles. The match was already Wests when Bendall was sent off (17-2) – and the Magpies completed the killing in the second half. They tallied seven tries in their biggest win of the year, throwing out a strong claim for the Wills Tries Award of either \$1,00 or \$3,000. More importantly, much-maligned Wests now have a semi-final spot almost in their grasp, and have every prospect of going on to take the minor premiership. Yesterday's win was their ninth straight win at Lidcombe Oval this year. This morning, Wests stand five points clear of the field, and will still be at least three points ahead when the dust settles after this afternoon's games. Not bad for a team rated as "care-taker" leaders of the competition. For Wests' players it was another step closer to the pot of gold which awaits them when they reach the semi-finals. The Magpies stand to win many thousands of dollars after backing themselves at the start of the season to reach the final five. Yesterday it was the formula as before – tough, unrelenting forward play, splendid backing up, and top-class goal-kicking by five-eighth Peter Rowles. Rowles helped himself to a total of 20 points – two tries and seven goals from 10 attempts – making his tally 156 for the year. ...Wests had their own share of problems before running away with the game. Half-back Don Moseley and winger Buddy Cain left sick beds to play, after being struck down with gastric complaints. With skipper Tom Raudonikis watching from the sideline, and itching to get back, Wests looked winners all the way. It was refreshing to see a team play running football of the calibre of Wests' effort yesterday. There were some top performances along the way, notably from Rowles, Boyd, Moseley, full-back Dorahy, props Gibbs and Donnelly and talented lock Graeme O'Grady. **(Sunday Telegraph 9th July 1978)**

Notes: This was Wests' best win of the season, where they completely over-ran Balmain in the second half. David Waite (ex-International) made his first appearance in First Grade for three years and played well, although going off late with a broken nose. Dennis Bendall was sent off for Balmain just before half-time but the game was also over. Donnelly and Gibbs up-front were an irresistible force, while Les Boyd's blind-side running was a feature. Peter Rowles contribution of 20 points was also a statement.