



# 1979 Round 16 Sunday 8th July Lidcombe Oval



**Cronulla-Sutherland 22**

**def.**

**Western Suburbs 12**

Mick MULLANE  
Rick BOURKE  
Steve ROGERS  
Chris GARDNER  
Steve EDMONDS  
Gary CAMERON  
Steve HANSARD  
Kurt SORENSEN  
Greg PIERCE (c)  
Dane SORENSEN  
Paul KHAN  
John McMARTIN  
Bill ANNABEL

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

Don MOSELEY  
Buddy CAIN  
John DORAHY  
Wayne SMITH  
Warren BOLAND  
Peter WALSH  
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
Graeme O'GRADY  
Les BOYD  
Ray BROWN  
John DONNELLY  
Jack JEFFRIES  
Bruce GIBBS



**Tries** Steve ROGERS (2)  
Chris GARDNER  
Rick BOURKE

Warren BOLAND  
Ray BROWN

**Goals** Steve ROGERS (5)

John DORAHY (3)

### Match Description

**Cronulla-Sutherland:** Full-back: M Mullane; three-quarters: R Bourke, S Rogers, C Gardner, S Edmonds; five-eighth: G Cameron; half: S Hansard; forwards: K Sorensen, G Pierce (c), D Sorensen, W Annabel, J McMartin, P Khan

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: E Cain, W Smith, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: P Walsh; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Brown, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, B Gibbs **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 12th July 1979)**

Cronulla's stormy passage through the rugby league premiership continued yesterday when their 22-12 win over Wests was highlighted by an all-in brawl. Players from both packs and several backs broke into three groups, swapping punches for close to a minute after the first scrum erupted in the second minute. Referee Kevin Roberts battled to restore order and later cautioned Jack Jeffries, Bruce Gibbs and John Donnelly (Wests), and John McMartin (Cronulla). Surprisingly, two of the main culprits for the brawl, which started after Cronulla half Steve Hansard had been felled, escaped censure. There was another incident later in the match which resulted in Gibbs being sent off after Cronulla lock Kurt Sorensen had been flattened in back-play. Gibbs will appear before the NSWRL Judiciary committee tonight with "punching after two previous cautions." Blame for the flare-ups and constant niggling in the game was evenly distributed as the pressure for a semi-final spot builds up. Cronulla proved three weeks ago against Parramatta – a match that resulted in Parramatta forward Peter Wynn being put out of football indefinitely – that they don't mind mixing it with the opposition. Gibbs' dismissal opened Wests up after they had looked likely to hang on for a brave draw. Cronulla, locked on 9-all for 24 minutes until Gibbs was dismissed, ran in three tries in nine minutes to wrap up the match. With little reserve grade strength to call on and their semi-final position in jeopardy, it was a grim-faced Wests' coach Roy Masters who contemplated the future in the dressing-room. "I'm worried all right," he said. "That was our third loss in succession." Wests, who went into the game full of vim and vigour, unsettled Cronulla early with their physical bustling style. The Magpies looked to be travelling comfortably after forging to a 9-4 lead at half-time after three goals from John Dorahy, who was also involved in a good try scored by winger Warren Boland. In the second half, Wests' momentum came unstuck after Cronulla's centre Steve Rogers scored the first of two tries and kicked the conversion to level the score after 45 minutes. Rogers was Cronulla's star, scoring 16 points from two tries and five goals. The match developed into a grim struggle with Cronulla looking the better side but unable to get the points on the board until Gibbs was marched. **(Daily Telegraph 9th July 1979)**

Big bulky Bruce Gibbs wanted the Western Suburbs dressing room to open up and swallow him. Sitting in the room after Cronulla had beaten Wests 22-12, Gibbs had the look of a deer shot between the eyes. It was Gibbs' dismissal 12 minutes from the end that catapulted the Magpies to their third consecutive defeat. And Gibbs knew it. He called his skipper, Tommy Raudonikis over and they sat, virtually in silence. Gibbs wanted him to know he was sorry..... **(The Sun 9th July 1979)**

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**Notes:** Wests came out breathing fire and there were multiple punches thrown after the first scrum. It was a very tight game until the 64th minute when Bruce Gibbs was sent off for punching. Cronulla rushed on three tries in nine minutes and the match was over. The lack of reserve strength was making it very difficult. Only Buddy Cain, Peter Walsh and John Dorahy showed flashes of form.