



1976 Round 17 Sunday 11th July Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 18

def.

Newtown 7

John DORAHY
Don ROGERS
Ron GITEAU
Robbie PARKER
Russell MULLINS
Graeme O'GRADY
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Neville SINCLAIR
Les BOYD
Steve BLYTH
Jim MURPHY
John PURCELL
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY

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

Brian PLUMMER
Brian ROBERTSON
Mark WRIGHT
Steve KOSTA
Col MURPHY
Paul HAYWARD
Steve HANSARD (c)
Barry COX
Paul DAWSON
Doug LUCAS
Rob SULLIVAN
Doug KEMISTER
Col CASEY
Dave OLIVERI

Tries Graeme O'GRADY (2)
Don ROGERS
Neville SINCLAIR

Steve HANSARD

Goals Ron GITEAU (3)

Brian ROBERTSON (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half; T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, L Boyd, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, J Murphy

Newtown: Full-back: B Plummer; three-quarters: B Robertson, M Wright, S Kosta, C Murphy; five-eighth: P Hayward; half: S Hansard (c); forwards: B Cox, P Dawson, D Lucas, R Sullivan, D Kemister, C Casey **Referee: D Braybrook (Rugby League Week 17th July 1976)**

Graeme O'Grady and Jim Murphy led the way as Western Suburbs jumped back into the winning list with an 18-7 victory over Newtown at Lidcombe. Prop-forward Murphy, at long last surging back into his proper form, broke the club record with a whopping 44 tackles. And five-eighth O'Grady, always eager, capped an effervescent display by scoring a try in each half. He didn't shirk the issue in defence as he brought off a remarkable tally of 22 tackles in the second half. Other Wests players to come up with strong defensive efforts were lock Neville Sinclair with 39 tackles and second-rower Steve Blyth with 37. Newtown held the ball for long periods, but they found it nigh impossible to break the black and white defensive line. Don Parish, the Wests' coach, said: "The signs are there that we're on the way back ... it was a top defensive effort." There were signs of a runaway when O'Grady scored in the ninth minute and winger Don Rogers quickly was over in the corner after a classic break by centre Ron Giteau. But Wests led by only 6-2 at half-time. But two precious competition points were quickly wrapped up when Sinclair and O'Grady dived over for converted tries soon after the break. Wests might be on the way back ... but they'll have to make a lot fewer mistakes when they play the better sides to have a hope of getting into the top five. **(The Sun 12th July 1976)**

Western Suburbs went to fifth place on the Rugby League table with a decisive 18-7 win over Newtown at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Wests, needing the win to keep them in touch with the leaders, showed renewed vigour and determination that kept them in control throughout. They were spurred on by two quick tries in the first 11 minutes and coach Don Parish regards Wests' next two matches as being vital. "If we can beat St George and Parramatta in the next fortnight, we will prove a hard side for anyone to beat," Parish said. Parish was encouraged by yesterday's win and he believes the spark Wests had in their early season triumphs is gradually returning. Backing up an energetic forward pack yesterday was diminutive five-eighth Graeme O'Grady, who scored two superb individual tries which virtually broke the back of Newtown. Heavyweight prop John Donnelly was the Magpies' only casualty. He had three stitches inserted into a leg cut. Newtown tried hard but their danger men, centre Mark Wright and full-back Brian Plummer, were well marked. **(Sydney Morning Herald 12th July 1976)**

Notes: Wests, with a close to full-strength team finally bounced back to form and into 5th place with a very strong defensive effort. Jim Murphy set a club record with 44 tackles, while Graeme O'Grady, who was the best player on the field, had 22 tackles in the second half. Very pleasingly, John Dorahy showed that he was coming back to form, while Ron Giteau made a couple of long breaks. John Donnelly, who was right in the fierce early forward clashes, cut his leg late in the match and was replaced by Shane Day.