



1979 Round 17 Sunday 15th July Belmore Oval



Canterbury 17

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Stan CUTLER
Chris ANDERSON
Peter MORTIMER
Greg BRENTNALL
Steve GEARIN
Garry HUGHES
Steve MORTIMER
Mark HUGHES
Graeme HUGHES
Peter SMITH
Phil CHARLTON
Greg COOK
George PEPONIS (c)
Geoff ROBINSON

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

Wayne SMITH
Don MOSELEY
Ron BRODRICK
John DORAHY
Warren BOLAND
Peter WALSH
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Bob COOPER
Les BOYD
John DONNELLY
Ray BROWN
Brian COOK
Gerard CROWE
Alan NEIL



Tries

Steve MORTIMER
Steve GEARIN

Wayne SMITH
Ray BROWN

Goals

Steve GEARIN (5)
Garry HUGHES (1) Field Goal

Peter WALSH (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Brodrick, J Dorahy, W Boland ; five-eighth: P Walsh; half; T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Cooper, J Donnelly, R Brown, B Cook

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: S Cutler; three-quarters: C Anderson, P Mortimer, G Brentnall, S Gearin; five-eighth: G Hughes; half: S Mortimer; forwards: M Hughes, P Smith, G Hughes, G Cook, G Peponis (c), G Robinson **Referee: D Braybrook (Rugby League Week 19th July 1979)**

Stand-in referee Denis Braybrook made yesterday's Belmore game a thriller by sending off Greg Cook ((Canterbury) and Wests' pair John Dorahy and John Donnelly, in a rare exhibition of refereeing firmness. A smart field goal, which two players were poised to attempt, was landed by Garry Hughes to give the Bulldogs a 17-16 win. Following the three dismissals, both teams settled down to play football and the crowd of 16,000 saw an exciting match which would have been denied them by a weaker referee. Magpies in the dressing room were in a bitter mood after the game with only club president Bill Carson claiming he had no complaints with the referee. Coach Roy Masters, angered by the turn of events, refused to allow his players to make any comments. Nor would he say anything to the Press apart from a brief statement that any comment could be "ill-judged, over-emotional and irresponsible." Skipper Tommy Raudonikis, penalised for an obvious scrum-feeding breach in the final minute, was most upset. He appeared to make some comment to referee Braybrook as they left the field, but Braybrook said later he had heard nothing. Raudonikis said he blamed the referee for Wests' defeat as they left the field, but he was bound by the club not to comment. One player who did speak up was Test forward Les Boyd who shouted to the Pressmen present: "You are responsible for this." But Wests could have had another two players sent off. A touch judge missed an elbow to the face received by Graeme Hughes alongside touch in the first few minutes. And another player was merely cautioned for punching, just after Canterbury's Greg Cook had been sent off for an alleged similar breach. ... For the second week in succession, Wests' loss resulted from a dismissal which left them short of a player on the field. Canterbury captain, George Peponis, smiling despite two stitches in a gashed lip, said the fierce start surprised him in view of declarations by Referees' Director, Eric Cox, that there would be a crackdown. "Otherwise, it was a perfectly normal type of game from Wests and once we settled down, we had to win," said Peponis. "I disputed the referee's decision to send off Greg Cook alone in his incident as Cook just went in to retaliate after a bigger man had cracked Steve Mortimer. For the field goal at the end, I had Garry Hughes and Steve Mortimer both positioned. I had intended firing the ball to Steve but made an instant decision to send it to Garry who had an easier angle," added Peponis. ... Wests' second-rower Bob Cooper had to leave the field early in the second half with an ankle injury. By leading 12-2 after playing most of the first half with 11 men against Canterbury's 12, Wests proved they have plenty of football class in the side. ...**(The Sun 16th July 1979)**

Notes: This was yet again a controversial Wests-Canterbury clash. The referee played a large part in the match, sending off Canterbury prop Greg Cook after violent early forward clashes but he was closely followed off the field by both John Donnelly and John Dorahy, leaving Wests 11 playing 12. With Raudonikis fighting a running battle with Referee Braybrook, even after full-time, it still became an open, exciting match. Wests also lost Bob Cooper late with injury and Garry Hughes kicked the first field goal of his career in the 78th minute for a heart-breaking Wests' loss. It was a fiery debut match for big prop Brian Cook to walk into!