



1978 Round 17 Sunday 16th July Belmore Oval



Canterbury 16

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Stan CUTLER
Chris ANDERSON
Peter MORTIMER
Chris MORTIMER
Steve GEARIN
Steve MORTIMER
Tim PICKUP (c)
Peter CASSILLES
Graeme HUGHES
Gary STEVENS
Phil CHARLTON
Pat ENGLISH
Bill NOONAN
Geoff ROBINSON

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

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



Tries Stan CUTLER (2)
Chris MORTIMER
Chris ANDERSON

David WAITE
Buddy CAIN

Goals Steve GEARIN (2)

Peter ROWLES (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Waite, R Giteau, P Rowles, E Cain ; five-eighth: D Moseley; half; T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, B Gibbs

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: S Cutler; three-quarters: C Anderson, P Mortimer, C Mortimer, S Gearin; five-eighth: S Mortimer; half: T Pickup (c); forwards: P Cassilles, G Stevens, G Hughes, P Charlton, P English, W Noonan **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 22nd July 1978)**

Controversy over a match-winning try, problems with the footballs and a "nice" family outing for the Mortimers brought Canterbury home in a tough clash at Belmore yesterday. The Bulldogs, aptly named after their tenacious finish, scored two tries in the last 10 minutes to beat competition leaders Western Suburbs 16-14. It was the sort of match that might have been reserved for grand finals ... except for the controversies. The three Mortimer brothers, Steve, 21, Peter, 19, Chris, 18, were the protagonists in a last-minute try. Playing together for the first time in grade – and only the second time ever – they waited until the seventy-seventh minute to put it all together – and it should have backfired. With three minutes to go, Steve sent the ball to Peter who raced over the Wests' line, but decided to slip the ball to his brother Chris who scored. The pass looked forward, but it became a match-winner. The Mortimers played together once with a Wagga junior team, the Koorngal Magpies. "It was a 5st 7lb team and we played in black and white jumpers," Steve Mortimer said. That controversy over-shadowed a ball problem that led to referee Jack Danzey refusing to play with one after Canterbury kicker Steve Gearin missed a goal attempt in the fifty-fourth minute. Wests' kicker Peter Rowles claimed all the balls were mis-shapen. "They were soft and fat," he said. Rowles and Gearin, two of Sydney's more reliable kickers, had one of their worst days, Rowles kicking four from eight attempts and Gearin two from nine. Peter Moore, secretary of Canterbury, the club who supplied the balls, said the one Danzey refused to use was a substitute. "We lost a ball earlier after it was kicked out of the ground," said Moore. Rowles blamed the ball for his missing a vital attempt at goal on full-time after Wests had earned a scrum penalty. Apart from the incidents, the match was a "blinder." Canterbury's two tries within four minutes in the first half were great team efforts. The first one after 26 minutes broke a two-all deadlock in which both teams tried to bruise their way over each other. But Wests, from 2-10 down a minute from half-time, cleared to a 14-10 lead 18 minutes into the second half. It was here that Wests' supporters were starting to put the glasses down to watch their pacesetters coast home. But nothing is safe in this premiership. Canterbury, although seemingly without a player to bust Wests, caught the Magpies unawares when Graham Hughes and Steve Morris sent Cutler over 10 minutes from the end. The Mortimer "act" came seven minutes later. Losing hooker Shane Day at half-time cut off Wests' ball supply from the scrums. Bulldog hooker Pat English made up for losing the first half scrums with some good running and strong defence. Tom Raudonikis had a contrasting match – rusty and tentative in the first half, but strong and purposeful in the second. Don Moseley handled five-eighth well, particularly in the second half. **(The Sun 17th July 1978)**

Notes: This was an exciting but controversial match. The winning Canterbury try by Chris Mortimer in the 77th minute was universally considered to be scored off a forward pass and then Peter Rowles missed a drawing penalty attempt after the bell, with a ball that he said was misshapen. Roy Master also controversially dropped the in-form Wayne Smith so that Moseley could go to five-eighth and Peter Rowles back to the centre; all to accommodate the return of Tom Raudonikis. In a game featuring ferocious tackling, Shane Day was forced off at half-time to be replaced by U23 hooker, Dave Kennedy, who had played a game as a replacement in 1977.