1971 Round 17 Sunday 18th July Lidcombe Oval



def.

Eastern Suburbs 17





Tony FORD
Don ROGERS
Tim MURPHY
Derek BROUWER
Mick ALCHIN
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Colin WITHERS
Rod SMITH
John BAKER
Barry BRYANT
Russell JOHNSTONE
Ken STONESTREET
Tony ANTUNAC

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

Allan McLEAN
Jim PORTER
Harry CAMERON
Mark HARRIS
Bill MULLINS
John BRASS (c)
John MAYES
John QUAYLE
Warren CHATFIELD
Laurie FREIER
Kevin GOLDSPINK
KEI BROWN
Jim MORGAN

Tries Tony ANTUNAC (2)
Barry BRYANT

John MAYES (3)

Goals Tony FORD (6)

Allan McKEAN (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, T Murphy, D Brouwer, M Alchin; five-eighth: T Raudonikis (c); half; C Withers; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, R Johnstone, K Stonestreet, A Antunac

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: A McKean; three-quarters: J Porter, H Cameron, M Harris, W Mullins; five-eighth: J Brass (c); half: J Mayes; forwards: J Quayle, W Chatfield, L Freier, K Goldspink, K Brown, J Morgan Referee: C Edwards (Rugby League Week 24th July 1971)

There's nothing like the sweet taste of success to whet a footballer's appetite. That's the case with Wests, one time wooden spoon contenders, who beat Easts 21-17 at Lidcombe yesterday. A dashing win over Newtown the previous week turned the Magpies from a hangdog 13 into a team with plenty of get up and go. Probably a boost to Wests yesterday was their Reserves' impressive 18-0 win over Easts in the early game. Wests, following the defeat of Souths, are now in clear fourth position on the Reserves' points table. The difference in the main game yesterday was that Wests took their chances while Easts threw away chances with bad handling. Tony Ford, too, found his goal-kicking form and landed six from eight attempts while Alan McKean could only kick four from six. Men of the match for Wests were Barry Bryant and Tony Antunac. Antunac has had a chequered career up and down through the grades but yesterday he was a giant and deserved his two tries. He had to leave the field for stitches in a large gash in his head and finished the match with his jersey soaked in blood but still full of fire. Bryant was always getting his men on the move and he scored the winning try by getting through a mass of defenders almost by sheer will-power. (The Sun 19th July 1971)

Rugby League second-rower Barry Bryant yesterday snatched a 21-17 win for Western Suburbs over Eastern Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. Easts had led 17-16 when Bryant forced his way over the line near the posts late in the match. Full-back Tony Ford converted the try. Each side scored three tries but Ford's goal-kicking carried the day for Wests. Ford landed six goals from eight attempts.... The first half highlighted by great tries by Wests' front-rower Tony Antunac in the 13th and 17th minutes. Antunac suffered a deep gash on his head early in the second half. He returned to the field after a doctor had stitched the wound and continued to be a major force in Wests' pack. ... Easts' backs were held in check by some fierce tackling from Wests centre Tim Murphy. Antunac and Rod Smith (lock) were the pick of Wests' forwards. Half-back Mayes and lock John Quayle starred for Easts. (Daily Telegraph 19th July 1971)

.. The first half was highlighted by two great tries from Wests' front-rower Tony Antunac, in the 13th and 17th minutes. Antunac suffered a deep head gash early in the second half and temporarily left the field. After two stitches were inserted, he returned wearing headgear and continued to be a major force in Wests' pack. During his absence Easts' scrum-half John Mayes went in for one of his three tries, to level the score. Easts lost centre- three-quarter Mark Harris, with a calf muscle injury, midway through the second half. Easts' back division was held in check by strong tackling by Tim Murphy, Wests' inside centre.............. (Sydney Morning Herald 19th July 1971)

Notes: Wests, obviously buoyed by the Newtown win, won their second consecutive match for the first time in the season. Barry Bryant continued his outstanding form, while Tony Antunac had his best game so far for the club. He had stitches inserted in a serious head wound but came back on to play very strongly. Barry Bryant's winning try was a powerhouse display, carrying several defenders over with him to score.