



1969 Round 17 Saturday 19th July Lidcombe Oval



St George 22

def.

Western Suburbs 11

Graeme LANGLANDS
 Tony BRENTON
 Ken MADDISON
 Tony BRANSON
 Johnny KING
 Phil HAWTHORNE
 Billy SMITH
 Johnny RAPER (c)
 Apisai TOGA
 Barry BEATH
 Graham BOWEN
 Norm HENDERSON
 Keith MADDISON
 Col RASMUSSEN

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

Tony FORD
 Peter FLANDERS
 Barry GLASGOW
 Roy FERGUSON
 Dick PICKETT
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 John MAXWELL
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 Doug WALKADEN
 Ken STONESTREET (c)
 Steve WINTER



Tries

Tony BRENTON (2)
 Barry BEATH
 Johnny RAPER

Roy FERGUSON

Goals

Graeme LANGLANDS (4)
 Phil HAWTHORNE (1) Field goal

Tony FORD (3)
 Barry GLASGOW (1) Field goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: P Flanders, B Glasgow, R Ferguson, R Pickett; five-eighth: T Raudonikis; half; J Maxwell; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, S Winter, K Stonestreet (c), D Walkaden

St George: Full-back: G Langlands; three-quarters: T Brenton, K Maddison, T Branson, J King; five-eighth: P Hawthorne; half: W Smith; forwards: J Raper (c), A Toga, B Beath, G Bowen, N Henderson, K Maddison **Referee: E Cook (The Sun 18th July 1969)**

St George Rugby League players yesterday stirred themselves after a half-time blast by Captain Johnny Raper and secretary Mr Frank Facer at Lidcombe Oval. St George, down 9-4 at half-time, went on to score a much-needed 22-11 win over Western Suburbs. St George had a miserable first-half. Commenting on it later, Mr Facer said: "It was a shocking display and we told them so at half-time." The strong words paid dividends. Under Raper's inspiring leadership St George bounced back and scored four tries in the second half. But the final score flattered St George. Two of their tries came in the last four minutes – and one of them was hotly disputed by Wests. St George took 66 minutes to head off Wests spirited bunch of youngsters. Until that point – 14 minutes to head-off Wests gave every indication of making it five wins in a row against St George. Wests' 9-4 half-time lead came after a try by centre Roy Ferguson, a left-foot field goal by Barry Glasgow and two goals by Tony Ford. Ferguson exposed an alarming casualness in the St George defence when he ripped through five tackles to score his try. St George players had a more business-like approach in the second half. Only six minutes into the second half, second-rower Barry Beath skirted the sideline for 40 yards and scored in the corner. But St George followers had to sit nervously through another 20 minutes before their side gained the lead. The clinching try came after a break by lock Raper from the fringe of a ruck. Raper timed his pass perfectly to second-rower Toga, who swung the ball out to winger Tony Brenton. Brenton brushed off a feeble attempted tackle by Wests' Peter Flanders to score in the corner. St George would have been lost without Raper yesterday. He was the architect and instigator of their second-half rally. Wests' supporters had a few uncomplimentary remarks to make about the try Raper set up near full-time. Raper appeared to be well off-side from a scrum when he hustled Wests' John Maxwell off the ball and broke away. Half-back Billy Smith linked up and before Wests knew what had happened Brenton was over for his second try. Right on full-time Raper added another try when he backed up inside five-eighth Phil Hawthorne and winger Johnny King to score. Wests contributed to St George's troubles with their best display in weeks. Wests recaptured some of the spirit which gave them such an impressive start this season. Second-rower Barry Bryant, centre Roy Ferguson and lock Rod Smith were particularly impressive. Wests also had a newcomer of great promise, five-eighth Tom Raudonikis. Raudonikis, 19, showed a temperament and ability above the ordinary. Raper was head and shoulders above his team-mates yesterday. Half-back Smith, second-rower Beath and prop Bowen did best of the remainder. Wests' reliable hooker Ken Stonestreet won the scrums 17-11 against two St George rivals – Norm Henderson and Col Rasmussen. Henderson did not return for the second half. **(Sunday Telegraph 20th July 1969)**

Notes: This was a very significant game with the debut of Tom Raudonikis after playing two sterling Reserve Grade games. He faced the formidable Billy Smith but showed his class. Wests led 9-4 at half-time after a great Roy Ferguson side-stepping try. Barry Bryant was also having his usual stand-out game. In the second half Johnny Raper demonstrated his great class and turned the game around for St George, who scored 10 points in the last four minutes to win a tight game.