



1982 Round 17 Sunday 20th June Henson Park



Newtown 30

Phil SIGSWORTH
 John FERGUSON
 Mick RYAN
 Allan McMAHON
 Mal GRAHAM
 Dean LANCE
 Ken WILSON (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Col MURPHY
 Mick PITMAN
 Peter KELLY
 Wayne NEWLING
 Steve BOWDEN
 Mark BUGDEN
 Les MARA

def.

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

Western Suburbs 3

Wayne SMITH
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Steve ANDERSON
 Ross CONLON
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Greg COX
 Jim LEIS
 George MOROKO
 Paul MERLO
 Terry LEABEATER
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Tom ARBER
 George FAHD



Tries John FERGUSON (2)
 Ken WILSON
 Mick RYAN
 Peter KELLY
 Mick PITMAN

Jim LEIS

Goals Ken WILSON (6)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: S Broughton, S Anderson, R Conlon, W Boland (c) ; five-eighth: T Lamb; half; G Cox; forwards: J Leis, G Moroko, P Merlo, T Leabeater, A Mountier, T Arber

Newtown: Full-back: P Sigsworth; three-quarters: J Ferguson, M Ryan, A McMahon, M Graham; five-eighth: D Lance; half: K Wilson (c); forwards: G O'Grady, C Murphy, M Pitman, P Kelly, W Newling, S Bowden **Referee: D Braybrook (The Sun 21st June 1982)**

Warren Ryan and his players are not getting carried away, but there is something very ominous about the form of the Newtown Rugby League team. On paper, yesterday's match against equal fourth-placed Western Suburbs at Henson Park should have been close. But the Jets' easy 30-3-win stunned supporters of both teams. The win continued a surge to the top five by the "Newtown Paramount Jets" as the ground announcer happily calls them. They have won four of their last five matches to be just two points from fifth spot. It is form similar to their charge during the second-round last season, which resulted in a memorable Grand Final spot. Coach Ryan was typically restrained after the victory, although he made a point of individually congratulating many of his players in the dressing room. "We are running smoothly. I was particularly pleased because today's result was very meaningful. We are coming good at the right time, but there's no use getting too excited because there are plenty of games yet." Newtown, once sarcastically dubbed the "entertainers" because of their dour style, can be an entertaining side. It took most of the first round, but they have developed an excellent combination. Their forwards, led by second-rower Mick Pitman and props Peter Kelly and Steve Bowden, have deservedly won the respect of opposing packs, with damaging, supporting bursts. But their attack relies most heavily on the interplay of half-back Ken Wilson and full-back Phil Sigsworth often stands in a five-eighth position so that he can follow the clever Wilson. Alternatively, Wests, now out of the top five, are in a precarious position. After the most humiliating loss, coach Terry Fearnley's flippant retort was: "In trouble now, eh?" Newtown began quietly enough, with a penalty goal to Wilson in the sixth minute giving them an early lead. But in the 14th minute, John Ferguson grabbed a Sigsworth pass and set sail for the line. Steve Broughton tackled him, but the winger rolled over the line. In the 26th minute, Newtown went to a 12-0 lead through a Kelly try, but the supporter's biggest joy of the afternoon came nine minutes later. Wilson, probably the slowest half-back in Sydney, sprinted 40 metres in his ungainly manner to score. And the puffing skipper was even able to kick the conversion from a difficult position. By half-time it was 17-0. In the second half, the Jets continued in a similar vein, although Wests scored a "shock" try in the interim. Perhaps the best team try came with just 10 minutes left before full-time when Mick Pittman scored out wide. The movement, started by a Wilson reverse pass deep in Newtown territory, saw the ball skip through close to 20 hands. **(Sydney Morning Herald 21st June 1982)**

Notes: Wests were caught off-guard from the opening whistle and were never in the match against a Newtown side willing to throw the ball about. Tom Arber tore a muscle before half-time and was replaced by George Fahd. Newtown's John Ferguson had a blinder and the Wests' backs couldn't hold him. Wests fell out of the five as a result of this loss.