



1976 Round 18 Sunday 18th July Kogarah Oval



St George 23

def.

Western Suburbs 15

Tony QUIRK
 Roy FERGUSON
 Ted GOODWIN
 Robert FINCH
 John CHAPMAN
 John BAILEY
 Mark SCHULMAN
 Rod REDDY
 John JANSEN
 Brian WOOD
 Henry TATANA
 Steve EDGE (c)
 Bruce STARKEY
 George GRANT
 Allan HOLMES

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

John DORAHY
 Don ROGERS
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme 'OGRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 Steve BLYTH
 Geoff FOSTER
 John DONNELLY
 John PURCELL
 Jim MURPHY
 Neville SINCLAIR
 Peter YOUNG



Tries

Ted GOODWIN (2)
 Robert FINCH
 Rod REDDY
 Brian WOOD

John PURCELL
 Ron GITEAU
 Les BOYD

Goals

Henry TATANA (4)

Ron GITEAU (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: T Quirk; three-quarters: R Ferguson, E Goodwin, R Finch, J Chapman; five-eighth: J Bailey; half: M Schulman; forwards: R Reddy, J Jansen, B Wood, H Tatana, S Edge (c), B Starkey

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, J Murphy **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 24th July 1976)**

St George's drive towards the Rugby League semi-finals accelerated with their spectacular 23-15 win over Western Suburbs at Kogarah Oval yesterday. Saints are now equal fifth with Wests on 20 points, and their postponed match against Balmain at Leichhardt Oval next Saturday has become very important. The weekend results have tightened the top positions and there will be an absorbing struggle during the four remaining premierships rounds to determine the final five. ... The superb backing up which shattered the Wests' defence and resulted in some spectacular tries was reminiscent of the great St George teams of the past. While the football purist may have been a little disappointed with the high error rate, the game was a welcome change from those grim tackling epics. Both sides were determined to move the ball around and the many spectacular passing rushes more than compensated for the handling errors. Wests' coach Don Parish undoubtedly is concerned over his team's chance of making the five. On yesterday's performance they seem very slim. Too often Wests hurled panic passes and gave away stupid penalties when attacking. Even super cool full-back John Dorahy was open to criticism for the way he short-kicked over the heads of the opposition at one stage and St George regained possession and scored two rucks later. Saints won because they minimized their mistakes, and when hooker Steven Edge gave them a good share of possession in the second half, there was no holding them. Ripping into the rucks, the forwards found some gaps and there was always someone backing up. Rod Reddy, St George's rangy lock forward, relished the free-flowing game and had one of his best matches this season. He was involved in two of Saints' tries, scored another himself and made many breaks. He was rarely caught in possession. Saints led 12-8 at half-time but scored three tries to Wests' one in the second half. The best try of the match was the last when seven St George players handled before Ted Goodwin chimed in to cross for the second time. There were many fine players in the Saints' team with Reddy heading the list, while Bruce Starkey, John Jansen, John Bailey and Goodwin played splendidly. Centre Robert Finch scored the easiest try of the match when the Wests' centres swallowed a neat dummy and let him stroll over the line. Full-back Tony Quirk made some neat breaks, although he was left stranded by Ron Giteau when the Wests' centre scored just before half-time. Five-eighth Bailey had his best match for weeks and made a number of breaks, while in the Wests' side John Purcell, John Donnelly and Tom Raudonikis were the pick. Saints finished with only one major worry, a severe ankle injury to their goal-kicking prop Henry Tatana. **(Sydney Morning Herald 19th July 1976)**

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Notes: Wests just simply couldn't hold on to the ball in this match but, even so, had their chances. John Dorahy dropped a sitter of an intercept which would have turned the match but the loss meant Wests dropped to equal fifth. While Raudonikis looked tired at the end of a long season, John Donnelly put in a herculean effort with 37 bone-crunching tackles. .