

1972 Round 18 Sunday 23rd July North Sydney Oval

North Sydney 21

Peter INSKIP Kerry COLLIEN Laurie MORASCHI Owen O'DONNELL George AMBRUM Tim PICKUP John FAIRNS Graham FORLONGE John McDONELL (c) Bruce WALKER Joe HANEY Ian SHEERIN Merv HICKS (c) Keith OUTTEN

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

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Russell MULLINS Don ROGERS Geoff FOSTER John GLACHAN Stephen SATTERLY John HEYWARD Tom RAUDONIKIS (c) John BAKER Barry BRYANT John ELFORD Steve WINTER Peter HANDCOCK John O'BRYAN

Barry BRYANT John ELFORD John GLACHAN Stephen SATTERLY

Goals

Tries

Peter INSKIP (3)

George AMBRUM

Graham FORLONGE

Kerry COLLIEN

Bruce WALKER

Tim PICKUP

Stephen SATTERLY (3)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: P Inskip; three-quarters: K Collien, L Moraschi, O O'Donnell, G Ambrum; five-eighth: T Pickup; half: J Fairns; forwards: G Forlonge, J McDonell (c), B Walker, J Haney, I Sheerin, M Hicks (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Mullins; three-quarters: D Rogers, G Foster, J Glachan, S Satterly; five-eighth: J Heyward; half; T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, B Bryant, J Elford, S Winter, P Handcock J Walker Referee: L Bruyeres (The Sun 21st July 1972)

Parramatta had Ken Thornett; Balmain had Keith Barnes; now North Sydney have George Ambrum. Thornett was the "Mayor of Parramatta", Barnes was "Golden Boots" and after yesterday's game against Wests at North Sydney Oval there is no doubt Ambrum is the "Golden Bear." As with Thornett and Barnes the crowd came to life whenever the ball got anywhere near Ambrum. For 52 minutes the crowd on the hill yelled: "Give it to George." Then Norths gave it to George and, by George, you've got to give it to George – he can go. Ambrum raced 75 yards, beating three men to dive over in the corner. The try brought the house down. Ambrum received a standing 2-minute ovation. The cheer for George's try was even louder than the ovation the North Sydney crowd gave the match-winning try later. But, although the crowd obviously chose George, he wasn't the man of the match – North Sydney's second-rower Bruce Walker was. Walker's hard running continually put the pressure on Wests and, when the Bears looked set to turn in a typical North Sydney finish, it was Walker who turned the tide. Twelve minutes into the second half Norths led 18-7 then Wests ran riot and added tries by John Glachan, John Elford and Steve Satterley to level at 18-all. "Kick three field goals, George" one of "Ambrum's Army" yelled. But it wasn't Ambrum – it was Walker who charged down the blind-side of a play-the-ball 15 yards from the Wests' line to dive over wide out, leaving three defenders lying in his wake. **(The Sun 24th July 1972)**

North Sydney scored five tries to four to defeat Western Suburbs 21-18 in a fast open Rugby League match at North Sydney Oval. A try five minutes from the end by second-rower Bruce Walker saved the match for Norths. Norths led 7-2 at half-time. Norths scored four minutes into the second half when Walker set up a try for lock Graham Forlonge. Two minutes later, Wests' second-rower Barry Bryant ran 40 yards and dived over near the posts. Norths added two more tries in the next six minutes. Shortly after, Norths' half-back, John Fairns, left the field with a broken nose and Norths' defence began to fall to pieces. Wests' centre John Glachan ran 30 yards to score, with Norths' full-back Peter Inskip, hopelessly out of position and no cover defence from Norths at all. Elford crashed over under the posts and Wests looked set for a win. Two minutes later Wests' winger Steve Satterly dived over in the corner to even the score. But Walker scored the winning try wide out, after replacement half-back Keith Outten reversed play ten yards from the line. (Daily Telegraph 24th July 1972)

Notes: In a further re-shuffle, Geoff Foster debuted in the centres, Satterly came back on the wing and Peter Handcock made his second appearance at hooker. A sign of Wests' desperation was that the Committee met to discuss whether they should buy Nev Hornery back from Canterbury. In a very fast, open game, Wests came storming back to make it 18-all and looked the winners until Bruce Walker scored a blind-side try with five minutes to go. One bright spot for Wests was the return of Stephen Knight to Thirds after a serious back injury.

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