



1977 Round 18 Saturday 23rd July Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 17

def.

Canterbury 10

John DORAHY
Marshall ROGERS
Gavin MILLER
Ken HEY
Trevor SCARR
Peter ROWLES
Geoff SMITH
Neville SINCLAIR
Geoff FOSTER
Gary WALSH
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY (c)
Pat HUNDY
Les BOYD

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

Stan CUTLER
Ray KEAR
Mick RYAN
Greg MULLANE
Peter O'NEILL
Garry HUGHES
Steve MORTIMER
Peter CASSILLES
Graeme HUGHES
Bob McCARTHY (c)
Steve HAGE
George PEPONIS
Norm THOMAS
Geoff ROBINSON
Gerard RAPER

Tries

Trevor SCARR
Peter ROWLES
Les BOYD

Bob McCARTHY (2)

Goals

John DORAHY (4)

Garry HUGHES (2)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: S Cutler; three-quarters: R Kear, M Ryan, G Mullane, P O'Neill; five-eighth: G Hughes; half: S Mortimer; forwards: P Cassilles, G Hughes, R McCarthy (c), S Hage, G Peponis, N Thomas

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: M Rogers, G Miller, K Hey, T Scarr; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: G Smith; forwards: N Sinclair, G Foster, G Walsh, J Donnelly, S Day (c), P Hundy **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 30th July 1977)**

There is an old saying that when a sportsman produces a high performance there is no reason why he shouldn't be able to do it all the time. Western Suburbs had a high yesterday and one wonders why they have not done it more often. Wests have been a disappointing team but if their forward pack could have worked as it did yesterday then they could have been way up in the five. Without regulars Mick Liubinkas, Doug Lucas, Graham O'Grady) not forgetting Tom Raudonikis at half-back), the forward pack tore into Canterbury with more gusto than in most of their other matches. The tackling was outstanding and the Wests' pack forced Canterbury into many errors. Replacement prop Pat Hundy and the other prop John Donnelly had top games and they were well supported by the other members of the pack. They hustled Canterbury up front and their backs took over – particularly full-back John Dorahy who was constant threat. Halves Geoff Smith and Peter Rowles were always ready to set the wheels in motion and the final score of 17-10 was not a true indication of Wests' supremacy. I can remember at least three other occasions on which Wests might have scored. A try was lost by Trevor Scarr when he knocked on right on full-time; John Dorahy was dropped close to the goal-line and in the third incident a timely intercept stopped another try. Wests not only played well but their tactics were sound. They used the breeze to great advantage in the first half and played most of the game in Canterbury's half. What a disappointing day for Canterbury! Wests were to be one of the easy home-run matches and with the likes of Parramatta, Balmain and Eastern Suburbs to come, Canterbury will rue losing yesterday's two points. They were close enough on the score-board after half-time but prop Steve Hage let his team down by being sent off after 11 minutes into the second half. The club has been hard hit with injuries and can ill afford to have any players sent off the field. Canterbury's wily half Steve Mortimer tried every trick he knew to pull the match out of the fire but it is hard with 12 men – it is an uphill battle any time. One wonders why a team such as Wests can only produce that form once in a while. **(The Sun-Herald 24th July 1977)**

Notes: A return to Pratten Park did wonders for Wests who won a match they were expected to lose. They were always on top and when Steve Hage was sent off in the 49th minute the win was sealed. The forward pack, containing Gary Walsh on debut, hit top form, while Peter Rowles had his best game so far, playing at five-eighth. Les Boyd, coming on a replacement, put in a powerhouse display, scoring a very strong try.