



1976 Round 19 Sunday 1st August Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 17

def.

Parramatta 5

John DORAHY
 Trevor SCARR
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 Jim MURPHY
 Steve BLYTH
 Peter YOUNG
 John PURCELL
 John DONNELLY
 Neville SINCLAIR

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

Phil MANN
 Jim PORTER
 Greg MOORE
 Ed SULKOWICZ
 Neville GLOVER
 John PEARD
 John KOLC
 John QUAYLE
 Ray HIGGS (c)
 Ray PRICE
 Denis FITZGERALD
 Ron HILDITCH
 Graeme OLLING
 Geoff GERARD

Tries Russell MULLINS (3)

Neville GLOVER

Goals Ron GITEAU (4)

John PEARD (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: T Scarr, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, J Murphy, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

Parramatta: Full-back: P Mann; three-quarters: J Porter, G Moore, E Sulkowicz, N Glover; five-eighth: J Peard; half: J Kolc; forwards: J Quayle, R Higgs (c), R Price, D Fitzgerald, R Hilditch, G Olling **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 7th August 1976)**

The scoreboard corner of Lidcombe Oval should be named Mullins corner, after the string-bean Wests' winger scored three tries in seven minutes against Parramatta yesterday. Mullins brought the house down with his hat-trick which keeps the Magpies still in a now-absorbing final five race. After a crazy split round weekend Wests' shock 17-5 win over Parramatta has them equal fifth with St George on 22 points – only four away from joint leaders Manly and Parramatta and one ahead of Balmain in sixth spot. The Wests dressing room broke into a wild three cheers for Russell Mullins after yesterday's win – one for each of his tries. Skipper Tommy Raudonikis said: "The others are all struggling now – we've come good at the right end of the season," he said. Wests overcame the odds to win convincingly. They ran into a gale force wind until it changed direction about 12 minutes from half-time when they had it at their backs. "I nearly died when it switched – the thought of having to run into it again in the second half was all I could think about," Raudonikis said. Wests handled the difficult conditions much better than Parramatta, who seemed flat. They shortened their passes, made fewer mistakes and tackled with much more purpose. John Dorahy, Mullins, Jim Murphy, John Purcell and John Donnelly were outstanding. Dorahy attacked with all his old flare; his kick over the top of the defence 10 minutes from full time clinched the game. Mullins came racing through to snatch the ball away from winger Jim Porter and was over in the corner after stepping inside Phil Mann. The try gave Wests an 11-5 lead after four Ron Giteau goals had provided their only score in the remaining 70 minutes. A minute later Mullins crossed again in exactly the same spot after Dorahy had made a long burst on the opposite side of the field. Then three minutes from the end hooker John Purcell stepped through some weak defence to find Mullins on the spot again for the final pass. **(The Sun 2nd August 1976)**

A gusting wind turned traitor at Lidcombe Oval yesterday – but it didn't stop Western Suburbs scuttling Rugby League co-leaders ParramattaA tense match which was territorially Wests' way, finally swung dramatically in their favour when dashing Mullins scored three tries between the 70th and 78th minutes. Until then only Ron Giteau's very fine goal-kicking in the difficult conditions had kept Wests tenuously in front. So, Wests live on in the race for a semi-final spot – and so do Balmain..... The match hung in the balance almost right through a tough-fought second half..... Three winger's tries in the last few minutes provided a remarkable finish to a match which was fought almost most entirely in the forwards. **(Daily Telegraph 2nd August 1976)**

Notes: Don Rogers was dropped for this match, with Trevor Scarr coming in on the wing. In a very hard and bruising encounter Wests kept their semi-final hopes alive with a strong win under the conditions. Wests ran into a strong wind in the first half, which changed direction, so they were hampered for over 70 minutes. However, Dorahy came back to top form and was in two of the three Russell Mullins tries he scored in the last eleven minutes. It was the forwards, led by Donnelly, Murphy and man-of-the-match John Purcell, who laid the foundations for the win.