



1973 Round 19 Saturday 28th July Pratten Park



South Sydney 20

def.

Western Suburbs 13

Ross BIRRELL
Keith EDWARDS
Jeff WITHERS
Tom MOONEY
Tom MOYLAN
Denis PITTARD (c)
Bob GRANT
Rod URQUHART
Gary STEVENS
Paul SAIT
Herb TIMMS
Elwyn WALTERS
Jim HALL

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

Tony FORD
Stephen SATTERLY
Stephen KNIGHT
Robbie PARKER
Russell MULLINS
Neville SINCLAIR
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
John BAKER
Barry BRYANT
Geoff FOSTER
John O'BRYAN
Shane DAY
Jim MURPHY
John HEYWARD



Tries

Denis PITTARD (3)
Bob GRANT

Robbie PARKER (2)
John HEYWARD

Goals

Ross BIRRELL (3)
Jim HALL (1)

Tony FORD (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, B Bryant, G Foster, J O'Bryan, S Day, J Murphy

South Sydney: Full-back: R Birrell; three-quarters: T Moylan, T Mooney, J Withers, K Edwards; five-eighth: D Pittard (c); half: R Grant; forwards: R Urquhart, G Stevens, P Sait, H Timms, E Walters, J Hall **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 4th August 1973)**

South Sydney Rugby League team won another round in their grim battle for semi-final survival when they beat Western Suburbs 20-13 at Pratten Park yesterday. Inspired by an incredible performance by their rugged little skipper, Denis Pittard, Souths turned a half-time 5-10 deficit into a gripping victory. At Pratten Park, Pittard scored three fantastic tries that must go close to earning him selection in the State team, to be named tonight. In scoring his first try with a 55-yard blind-side run, Pittard ripped a hamstring muscle and limped for several minutes. He was in pain and at half-time he had four pain-killing needles. With Pittard injured and trailing 5-10, Souths faced a backs-to-the-wall fight in the second-half – a 40 minutes that would decide whether the club stayed in the fight for the semi-finals. Within 10 minutes, Pittard, his leg numb from the effects of the needle, was over for a brilliant try – a try that emphasized his strength and drive. He was grabbed first about 20 yards out but he broke clear, twirled around a couple of times like a ball-room dancer, made ground, broke clear of more would-be tacklers, turned around and then back-pedalled over the line. It was a fantastic try and it lifted the spirit of Souths' players. Three minutes later, Bobby Grant polished off a Souths' forward surge up the middle to split Wests' defence. Grant, backing up, was there to take the final pass on the sixth tackle and dived over for a spectacular try. That made the score 13-10 and then it was 15-10 when Ross Birrell kicked a penalty after 21 minutes. Souths were far from safe. But four minutes later, Pittard staged another of his freakish burst to break through, duck under and push off several tacklers before diving over again. Standing watching this remarkable effort, Souths' secretary Charlie Gibson shook his head and muttered: "The little freak shouldn't be there ... I don't know how his leg is standing up."The biggest assistance to Souths came from the Wests players themselves who turned in a stop-start performance that varied from good to bad. Time and again, Wests casually surrendered possession when they were attacking. And when they did settle down and play strong football through their big pack, too often the ball-runner was left stranded with no one backing him up. Just when Wests' supporters were prepared to tear strips off the team's inept performance, they exploded into action and scored two first-class tries in two minutes. They trailed 2-5 but then Steve Knight made one of his all-too-few bursts, shook off tacklers like a puppy shakes off water and slipped a neat pass to Robbie Parker. Two minutes after this, John Heyward, who came on as a replacement for Steve Satterly, polished off a sweeping move that came from a dropped Souths' pass. ... Wests' best was prop Jim Murphy, while centre Robbie Parker had a strong match. **(The Sun-Herald 29th July 1973)**

Notes: This game started with a very fiery forward clash, with Jim Murphy and John O'Bryan being very prominent. Stephen Satterly was injured after 20 minutes and was replaced by John Heyward, who scored a good second half try. Although leading 10-5 at half-time, Souths were too steady in the second half where Denis Pittard, struggling with pain-killing injections, put Wests to the sword. Robbie Parker had a very strong game in the centres but this was the second time Wests had returned to Pratten Park in the season for two losses.