



1978 Round 19 Sunday 30th July Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 32

def.

Parramatta 12

John DORAHY
Don MOSELEY
Wayne SMITH
Ron GITEAU
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Geoff FOSTER
Les BOYD
John DONNELLY
John PURCELL
Bill CLOUGHESY
Trevor REARDON
Bruce GIBBS

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

Steve WHITE
Neville GLOVER
Michael CRONIN
Glenn WEST
Graeme ATKINS
John KOLC
Graham MURRAY
Ray PRICE (c)
John BAKER
Geoff GERARD
Graeme OLLING
Ron HILDITCH
Richard QUINN
Mick PATTISON



Tries

Ron GITEAU (2)
Wayne SMITH
Peter ROWLES
Graeme O'GRADY
Buddy CAIN

John KOLC
Geoff GERARD

Goals

Peter ROWLES (7)

Michael CRONIN (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Mosley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, G Foster, J Donnelly, J Purcell, B Cloughessy

Parramatta: Full-back: S White; three-quarters: N Glover, M Cronin, G West, G Atkins; five-eighth: J Kolc; half: G Murray; forwards: R Price (c), J Baker, G Gerard, G Olling, R Hilditch, R Quinn **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 5th August 1978)**

Western Suburbs, urged on by a record Lidcombe Oval crowd, yesterday assured themselves of the richest bonus in Rugby league history. Wests, still unbeaten at home this season, tore Parramatta apart to score six tries in winning 32-12. The win lifts Wests to 27 points, one behind front-runners Cronulla, and assures them of a semi-final spot..... The win also assures Wests' players and some officials of dividends from the brave bets at the start of the season. They backed themselves at long odds to win more than \$100,000 if Wests made the semi-finals. Yesterday was pay-off day in a big way. As well as backers clinching the bets, Wests' coffers were swollen by the record gate of 23,069.20 paid by the record crowd of 21,015. The crowd spilled on to the cycle track that runs around the playing area and hundreds of other people were turned away when the gates were closed 10 minutes before the start. The Wests' supporters that did get in were amply rewarded for their efforts. The Magpies toyed with a Parramatta side that had chronic weaknesses in the middle of the rucks and out wide. It was a humbling experience for Parramatta who were hailed as heirs-apparent to the premiership crown after some dashing displays. ... It was all jubilation in the Wests' dressing room as the players scented their first grand final appearance since 1963 against St George. Coach Roy Masters admitted being slightly bemused by the lack of opposition. "Parramatta's weakness was out wide," he said. "I think they thought we were on a downhill slide and nothing could halt our slip." Wests were in control from the opening whistle as they went about their demolition job with precision and zest. They were lifted by five-eighth Peter Rowles, who scored from a try and seven goals, second-rower Les Boyd, who did a lot of damage in the first half, and tireless Tom Raudonikis. Wests took the game by the throat 10 minutes from half time when they piled on 10 points from two converted tries to lead 12-4. They raced to 22-4 sixteen minutes into the second half with two converted tries (Wayne Smith and Graham O'Grady) in two minutes. The brilliance of some of Wests' manoeuvres left Parramatta shell-shocked. Four of Wests' tries covered more than 50 metres as they made Parramatta's cover defence look foolish. And, importantly from Wests' point of view, the points pile-up came without so much as a harsh word. "We scored some pretty good physical tries out there today," Master said wryly. ..(Daily Telegraph 31st July 1978)

Notes: This was most probably Wests' best win of the season so far. Trevor Reardon and Bruce Gibbs were both dropped for the match, with Geoff Foster and Bill Cloughessy coming in. Cloughessy had a very strong game up-front in a dominant forward display. Both Reardon and Gibbs came on as replacements. The dynamic forward, however, was Les Boyd who was back to his devastating best, both with powerful bursts and bone-crushing tackles. Peter Rowles, back at five-eighth and Raudonikis at half, were also dominant but it was in the centres, where Smith and Giteau were all over Cronin and West that Wests had their most penetration. Being now assured of making the semi-finals, the Wests players cashed in on the \$100,000 bet they had made before the start of the season.