



# 1977 Round 19 Sunday 31st July Cricket Ground



## Eastern Suburbs 28

def.

## Western Suburbs 17

Russell FAIRFAX  
 Ian SCHUBERT  
 Mark HARRIS  
 Bob FULTON  
 Bill MULLINS  
 Kevin STEVENS  
 Kevin HASTINGS  
 Robert LAURIE  
 Barry REILLY  
 Arthur BEETSON (c)  
 Michael MOSMAN  
 Mal CONNOR  
 Royce AYLIFFE  
 Bruce PICKETT

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

John DORAHY  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Gavin MILLER  
 Ken HEY  
 Trevor SCARR  
 Peter ROWLES  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Neville SINCLAIR  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Steve BLYTH  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Pat HUNDY  
 Wayne SMITH  
 John PURCELL



### Tries

Ian SCHUBERT  
 Bill MULLINS  
 Mark HARRIS  
 Bob FULTON  
 Russell FAIRFAX  
 Arthur BEETSON

Ron GITEAU (2)  
 Gavin MILLER

### Goals

Kevin STEVENS (5)

John DORAHY (3)  
 Peter ROWLES (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: T Scarr, R Giteau, G Miller, K Hey; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, P Hundy

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back: R Fairfax; three-quarters: I Schubert, M Harris, R Fulton, W Mullins; five-eighth: K Stevens; half: K Hastings; forwards: R Laurie, B Reilly, A Beetson (c), M Mosman, M Connor, R Ayliffe **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 6th August 1977)**

While Easts went back to their Leagues club last night to celebrate their win over Wests, lock Ron Coote went running in salt water at Maroubra. Easts broke three points clear of fourth-placed Balmain and Manly with their 28-17 win, but Coote wasn't forgotten. Coach Artie Beetson admitted he was a worried man. "He is still one of the greatest players in League and we need him," Beetson said. "There is a place for him and if he is back next week, he will only need a couple of conditioning runs to get back to first grade. Ten weeks ago, Coote damaged an ankle and still isn't able to play. "I've had everything – acupuncture, physiotherapy, weights ... now I'm off to Maroubra to run in salt water," said Coote. For the first 25 minutes yesterday, no-one was thinking of Coote. Easts played some of the finest football seen this year and at one stage scored 23 points in 22 minutes. Their passing and backing-up was conclusive proof there is nothing wrong with the game once players are prepared to pass the ball. One of Russell Fairfax's passes to send Bill Mullins in for a try was first class. By the 15th minute, when Beetson scored Easts' third try, one Easts' official remarked they would have the Wills six-try target up by half-time. By the 22nd minute when Mullins scored the fifth try, it appeared inevitable. Yet Easts' next try wasn't scored until Bob Fulton raced over in the 68th minute. In that time Wests gave Easts plenty to think about. For 20 minutes of the second half, they were clearly on top and 12 points in that period brought them to 17-25. Scrums remain Easts' problem. They lost the first six after half-time and 7-12 overall. Fairfax, Ayliffe, Harris, Fulton (in the first half), Mullins and Hastings had good matches. Dorahy, Foster and Blyth did well for Wests. **(The Sun 1st August 1977)**

Eastern Suburbs earned the \$1,000 Wills Rugby League try-scoring award with a 28-17 win against Western Suburbs at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. Easts tore Wests' defence apart to lead 23-2 after 22 minutes. Captain-coach Arthur Beetson put Bill Mullins through a gap before the winger passed infield for Ian Schubert to score the opening try after only two minutes. Full-back Russell Fairfax crossed two minutes later after five players had handled. Fairfax had an outstanding game, fielding Wests' bombs confidently and made two good one-handed catches. .... Winning the first six scrums after the interval, Wests counter-attacked and had Easts' defence stretched across the field..... **(Sydney Morning Herald 1st August 1977)**

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**Notes:** Raudonikis and Giteau were back, but it made no difference early when Easts ran to a 23-2 lead. Wests, however, fought back very strongly with three tries by Giteau and Miller to get the score back to 25-17. A late Fulton try sealed the match for Easts. Ron Giteau was the main trigger for the fightback, while Steve Blyth was very strong in the forwards.