1978 Round 2 Sunday 2nd April Lidcombe Oval

Western Suburbs 25   def.   St George 14

Western Suburbs	Position	St George
John DORAHY	*Fullback*	Mitch BRENNAN
Trevor SCARR	*Wing*	Steve BUTLER
Wayne SMITH	*Centre*	Graham QUINN
Ron GITEAU	*Centre*	Robert FINCH
Don MOSELEY	*Wing*	John CHAPMAN
Peter ROWLES	*Five-eighth*	Rod McGREGOR
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	*Half*	Ken KEARNEY
Mick LIUBINSKAS	*Lock*	Rod REDDY
Geoff FOSTER	*Second Row*	John JANSEN
Steve BLYTH	*Second Row*	Robert STONE
John DONNELLY	*Front Row*	Craig YOUNG
John PURCELL	*Hooker*	Steve EDGE (c)
Peter YOUNG	*Front Row*	Bruce STARKEY
Graeme O'GRADY	*Replacement*	Michael SORRIDINI

Tries	Ron GITEAU	Mitch BRENNAN (3)
	Peter ROWLES	Steve BUTLER
	Mick LIUBINSKAS	
	Wayne SMITH	
Goals	Peter ROWLES (6) One Field Goal	John CHAPMAN (1)
	Don MOSELEY (1)	

Match Description

St George: Full-back: M Brennan; three-quarters: S Butler, G Quinn, R Finch, J Chapman; five-eighth: R McGregor; half: K Kearney; forwards: R Reddy, J Jansen, R Stone, C Young, S Edge (c), B Starkey

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, T Scarr; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: M Liubinskas, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young   **Referee: R Humphreys   (Rugby League Week 8th April 1978)**

St George, the Rugby League premiers, crashed to their sixth successive loss of the season in going down 25-14 to Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. It is the worst losing run by a St George team since 1945. They have now lost a trial match; three pre-season matches and two competition matches. And unless they can find a way to solve their scrummaging problems, the run is likely to continue. … Western Suburbs hooker John Purcell out-raked Saints' captain Steve Edge 13-7 in the scrums, winning them 6-2 in the decisive second half. This glut of possession enabled the fit and eager Wests' players to take charge in the final 20 minutes after the scores had been locked at 14-all. Wests' three heroes were captain Tom Raudonikis, five-eighth Peter Rowles and second-rower Geoff Foster. Raudonikis showed plenty of speed and enthusiasm as he set up his team's attacks and brought off some memorable tackles. Saints' young half-back Ken Kearney will long remember the match. Rowles, a former Rugby Union international, landed five goals from five attempts, scored a try, and landed a vital field-goal seven minutes from the end to give his team a six-point lead. Foster frequently broke up Saints' defence with bullocking charges. And, for the first time in his career with Wests, he equal top-scored in the tackle count. St George received a shock before the match when full-back Ted Goodwin withdrew with a septic blister on his heel. Coach Harry Bath was not told of Goodwin's injury until yesterday morning. Wests also got off to a bad start when full-back John Dorahy, resuming after an ankle injury, twisted the ankle again in the second minute of the match and was forced to leave the field. Nevertheless, Wests led 7-0 after 17 minutes through a try by centre Ron Giteau, engineered by Raudonikis, and two goals by Rowles. Wests, cheered on by a crowd of 13,078, had been playing superbly but suddenly went off the boil, allowing Saints to score two easy tries. The first was by winger Stephen Butler after centre Graeme Quinn, Saints best player, burst through near half-way, and the second by stand-in full-back Mitch Brennan after a tapped free-kick. Brennan, from Brisbane Souths, went on to score two more tries and will surely give the representative selectors something to think about in the months ahead. Wests, down 8-7 at half-time, regained the lead with a 50-metre penalty goal by Don Moseley four minutes after the break. Although St George took the lead on two more occasions the Magpies looked to be finishing the better. With the score 14-all Rowles decided that the best way to beat Saints was with the boot, so he put up a "bomb" which lock Mick Liubinskas regathered to score. Rowles made sure of Saints' demise by scoring a fine individual try two minutes from the end, and added the final insult by converting from the sideline after hitting an upright. **(Sydney Morning Herald 3rd April 1978)**

………………………………………………………………………………

Notes: Wests had an immediate set-back in this game when John Dorahy re-injured his ankle after two minutes, Graeme O'Grady coming on and Moseley to full-back. John Purcell, coming in for the injured Shane Day, won the scrums 15-7 and the extra ball allowed Raudonikis to take control of the game. With Geoff Foster and Mick Liubinskas leading the way, the forwards were very dominant and the backs ran riot late in the game. Peter Rowles, again playing five-eighth, also had a blinder, and capped off a good game with a great late try and conversion from the sideline.