



1977 Round 2 Sunday 27th March Lidcombe Oval



Manly-Warringah 14

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Graham EADIE	Fullback
Tom MOONEY	Wing
Robbie PARKER	Centre
Russell GARTNER	Centre
Rod JACKSON	Wing
Alan THOMPSON	Five-eighth
John GIBBS	Half
Wayne SPRINGALL	Lock
Gary THOROUGHGOOD	Second Row
Terry RANDALL (c)	Second Row
Col PARKES	Front Row
Max KRILICH	Hooker
John HARVEY	Front Row
Russell HUNTER	Replacement
Elwyn WALTERS	Replacement

Wayne SMITH
Trevor SCARR
Ron GITEAU
Gavin MILLER
Russell MULLINS
Graeme O'GRADY
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Neville SINCLAIR
Mick LIUBINSKAS
Steve BLYTH
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Peter YOUNG
Les BOYD



Tries Alan THOMPSON
Russell GARTNER

Russell MULLINS

Goals Graham EADIE (4)

Ron GITEAU (2)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: T Mooney, R Parker, R Gartner, R Jackson; five-eighth: A Thompson; half: J Gibbs; forwards: W Springall, T Randall (c), G Thoroughgood, J Harvey, M Krilich, C Parkes

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: T Scarr, R Giteau, G Miller, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, M Liubinskas, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, P Young **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 2nd April 1977)**

An opportunist try by Manly-Warringah five-eighth Alan Thompson five minutes from full-time gave the Rugby League premiers a hard-fought 14-7 win over Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Manly were clinging to a 9-7 advantage when Wests' prop John Donnelly, spilled a pass 35 metres from his line. Thompson swooped on to the ball and ran in-touch in his dash to the corner. Full-back Graham Eadie landed his fourth penalty goal right on full-time to put the icing on a well-deserved Manly win. Both teams generally confined play to the forwards, particularly in the first half and rugged defence kept attacking play to a minimum. The first half scoring was limited to penalty goals by Eadie in the 24th and 36th minutes and Wests' Ron Giteau in the 3rd and 21st minutes. Play was opened up in the second half and with Manly's elusive backline functioning smoothly, only some sustained defence by Wests kept the Sea Eagles at bay. In the 53rd minute, Manly half-back John Gibbs was dragged down only inches from the line by Wests' centre Gavin Miller. Manly's Russell Gartner finally broke the ice when he backed up a good run by winger Rod Jackson to score wide out after 62 minutes. Wests struck back almost immediately when tall winger Russell Mullins ran onto a lofted pass from Ron Giteau to touch down in the corner. Wests had their chances to take the competition points but the vital last pass inevitably went to ground. Wests' coach, Keith Holman, said the team showed a big improvement on last week and carried out his instructions. Manly coach, Frank Stanton, said, "A win is a win, but there is plenty of improvement to be made before I am happy." Penalties favoured Manly 10-5. Young Manly lock Wayne Springall, who was playing in his initial first-grade game as a replacement for the injured Ian Martin, had four stitches in a cut under his chin before he returned to the field for the second half. Unfortunately, a kick broke his nose and he had to be replaced shortly after Gartner had scored the opening try. **(Sydney Morning Herald 28th March 1977)**

A strong half-time tongue-lashing from coach Frank Stanton yesterday spurred Manly home to a 14-7 win over Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. They fielded one of their youngest line-ups in a long time and they took the entire first half to put their game together. There were countless handling, kicking and tactical errors in a first half which didn't reach any great heights. Winger Russell Mullins scored Wests' only try in the 69th minute after quick passes from Graham O'Grady, Wayne Smith and centre Ron Giteau. Full-back Smith, who took John Dorahy's place, was easily Wests' best player. **(Daily Telegraph 28th March 1977)**

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Notes: Les Boyd was dropped for this match and Peter Young came in for a battered Doug Lucas. Wayne Smith also replaced John Dorahy and was the best player for Wests. Robbie Parker was in the centres for Manly after Wests couldn't come to terms at the end of the 1976 season. This was a greatly improved performance from the previous week but Wests gave away too many penalties and dropped balls were costly. Both of Manly's tries were scored from dropped balls, including the last converted one right on the bell.