



1974 Round 2 Sunday 7th April Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 18

drew with

North Sydney 18



Tony FORD
 Robbie PARKER
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Dave OLIVERI
 Russell MULLINS
 John HEYWARD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Warren SNODGRASS
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 Jim MURPHY
 Shane DAY
 John O'BRYAN
 Steve RIGNEY
 Mick LIUBINSKAS

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

Derek MORITZ
 Paul HOPE
 Mal McLACHLIN
 Keith HARRIS
 George AMBRUM
 Tim PICKUP (c)
 Keith OUTTEN
 Rex MURPHY
 Bruce WALKER
 Roger LAVIS
 Brian ANDERSON
 Ross WARNER
 Eddie HEATLEY
 Bruce FOYE

Tries John O'BRYAN
 Stephen KNIGHT

Tim PICKUP
 Mal McLACHLIN

Goals Tony FORD (6)

Derek MORITZ (6)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: D Moritz; three-quarters: P Hope, M McLachlin, K Harris, G Ambrum; five-eighth: T Pickup (c); half: K Outten; forwards: R Murphy, B Walker, R Lavis, B Anderson, R Warner, E Heatley

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: R Parker, S Knight, D Oliveri, R Mullins; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, J Elford, G Foster, J Murphy, S Day, J O'Bryan **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 13th April 1974)**

Western Suburbs and North Sydney yesterday gave Rugby League the fillip it needed with a tremendous 18-all draw at Lidcombe Oval. It was a match to stir the blood after so many one-sided results in the first two rounds of the premiership. The 8100 lucky spectators saw a game which would have restored anyone's faith in Rugby League. It was tough and hard; full of strong running, fierce defence and gritty individual performances. The brave new spirit of Norths shone through as the Bears scabbled their way back from 13-2 down to snatch their draw. Full-back Derek Moritz kicked the tense, final goal only five minutes from full-time. Maybe Wests were unlucky. After building up a 9-2 half-time lead, they lost key forwards John Elford and Jim Murphy with injuries. But afterwards, there were no complaints. As North Sydney president Harry McKinnon said: "Rugby League was the winner today." The big dampener to Wests was the injury to their in-form prop Jim Murphy. Murphy tore ankle ligaments, aggravating an injury which started last week. He was carried from the field on a stretcher. He hopes to miss only one or two games; Wests' officials were not nearly so confident. Norths fought back yesterday as they haven't done in years. The match looked to have got right away from them after a John O'Bryan try and five immaculate goals from Tony Ford, had kicked Wests away to 13-4 with 20 minutes to go. But little Tim Pickup, still "fuzzy" after taking a heavy knock, triggered the Bears into action. In the 20th minute Pickup scored a great try off Keith Outten; in the 22nd he sent Mal McLachlan racing in for another. Derek Moritz goaled three times and suddenly the Bears were in front. Wests fought back. Big Stephen Knight set out on a bulldozing 45 metre run which carried him over for a try. Tony Ford (six out of six) kicked the cool conversion. But six minutes later Moritz landed the goal which saved a point for Norths. **(Daily Telegraph 8th April 1974)**

... Both sides had the game apparently won several times in those last five minutes. Tim Pickup, man of the match, tried for a field goal when he was so close, he could have thrown the ball over, only to have his kick go straight along the ground. Wests swept downfield and it was Norths turn to battle. Each side suffered injuries, had bad decisions go against it, and bombed tries. But Norths' fightback from being down 13-2 to lead 16-13 proved Noel Kelly has the former "easy beats" battling well. Norths were most unfortunate that one of the wrong-way penalties against them after Wests had been off-side meant a simple goal from right in front to Tony Ford. Wests lost Johnny Elford at half-time and Jim Murphy four minutes after resuming, while Norths fiery prop Brian Anderson retired with a hand injury at half-time. Wests also should have had Robbie Parker off with a gashed head late in the day, but after having the eight-stitch wound bandaged Parker pluckily resumed because Wests had exhausted their replacement quota. Stephen Knight had one of his best games since joining Wests and a magnificent long run gave him the vital last try. **(The Sun 8th April 1974)**

Notes: This was a very tense match, where Wests were on top early but lost Elford (arm injury) and Murphy (ankle) allowing Norths to get back into the game. Robbie Parker also went back on after receiving eight stitches for an eye gash. Stephen Knight had a big match and scored a barging try. Wests were considered unlucky to draw the game, with Moritz kicking a goal with five minutes to go and injuries weakening their defence.