

1974 Round 20 Sunday 11th August Belmore Oval

Canterbury 22 def. Western Suburbs 8

John DORAHY Gary DOWLING **Fullback Chris ANDERSON** Stephen SATTERLY Wing Stan CUTLER Centre Ron GITEAU Mark HUGHES Centre Robbie PARKER Bernie LOWTHER Wing Russell MULLINS **Gary HUGHES** Five-eighth Russell WORTH Don MOSELEY Half Tom RAUDONIKIS (c) John PEEK Lock Warren SNODGRASS John McDONELL (c) Second Row **Geoff FOSTER** Geoff CONNELL Second Row John ELFORD **BILL NOONAN** Front Row Pat HUNDY **George PEPONIS** Hooker John PURCELL Mick LIUBINSKAS **Brian LOCKWOOD** Front Row

Tries John PEEK (2)

Bernie LOWTHER John McDONELL

Goals Don MOSELEY (5) John DORAHY (4)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: C Anderson, S Cutler, M Hughes, B Lowther; five-eighth: H Hughes; half: D Moseley; forwards: J Peek, J McDonnell (c), G Connell, W Noonan, G Peponis, B Lockwood

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: S Satterly, R Giteau, T Mullins, R Mullins; five-eighth: R Worth; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, J Elford, G Foster, P Hundy, J Purcell, M Liubinskas Referee: K Page (Rugby League Week 17th August 1974)

Canterbury-Bankstown sealed their Rugby League semi-final place with an outstanding 22-8 win over Western Suburbs in a bruising but entertaining match at Belmore yesterday. Canterbury's win, which completely vindicated the club selection panel which was under fire last week, enabled them to join Eastern Suburbs and Manly-Warringah in the five. ... Canterbury's selectors wore the broadest smiles in the crowded dressing-room after the torrid match. They had been severely criticised during the week for dropping Kiwi prop Henry Tatana in preference to Geoff Connell. Their decision was correct, as Connell was one of the best forwards in a hard-working pack. It was Canterbury's powerhouse pack, aided by some silly belligerence from Wests, that laid the foundation for the win. The first 25 minutes was loaded with menace and the fiery opening erupted into a brawl between the packs after Canterbury half-back Don Moseley was tackled late. Referee Keith Page, in one of his rare exhibitions, kept a tight control, hitting hard with penalties until the fire dimmed and the teams concentrated on their football. But the damage was done to Wests, who lost whatever initiative they had in the first half when they were constantly driven back by the penalty kicks. Four times, Moseley lined up shots at goal but he was successful only once. Prop Bill Noonan, one of the hardest working forwards in the competition, provided the turning point of the game. He figured in two Canterbury tries in three minutes to help lift the Berries to their 12-2 half-time lead. Then it was Canterbury's turn to be indiscreet, giving away four penalties within kicking distance in 10 minutes. Full-back John Dorahy landed three of them in six minutes and Wests, now trailing 8-12 were right back in the game. Wests could have taken the lead after Russell Worth, Raudonikis and Liubinskas worked to send Ron Giteau away but the centre delayed his pass a fraction and the chance – and match – was lost. Canterbury's lock John Peek finished the game on a high note with two tries, the first when he carried Dorahy over the line and the second from a grubber kick by Gary Hughes. I thought the match was top-class entertainment with its mixture of noholds-barred toughness and some fine football. Bearded hooker George Peponis did a lot of work but has to withdraw from next week's team because of medical exams. (Sydney Morning Herald 12th August 1974)

Two matches in the "big time" and Wests' youngsters have shown they are still not ready to be any real force in the 1974 premiership. Yesterday they went to Belmore to play second-placed Canterbury. They left, beaten 22-8. Two weeks ago, they tussled with Easts and again found the rise in class just a little beyond them. But the impressive thing about Wests is they still show signs of being a top-class side one day. It won't come until at least 1975. Inexcusable mistakes and a strong, sometimes ruthless, Canterbury side brought about Wests' loss. (The Sun 12th August 1974)

Notes: Wests came back to earth against the second-placed Canterbury side. After a fierce forward encounter, the Canterbury pack gradually got on top and although Wests pulled it back to 12-8 in the second-half, they couldn't go on with it. A crucial decision by Ron Giteau to not pass to an unmarked Satterly was very costly in the end.

