



1979 Round 20 Saturday 4th August Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Manly-Warringah 13

Wayne SMITH
Don MOSELEY
Mark BEAVEN
Ron BRODRICK
Warren BOLAND
Peter WALSH
Alan NEIL
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Les BOYD
Bob COOPER
Terry LEABEATER
Ray BROWN
Bruce GIBBS
Graeme O'GRADY

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

Graham EADIE
Steve MARTIN
Russell GARTNER
Michael BLAKE
Tom MOONEY
Alan THOMPSON (c)
John GIBBS
Paul VAUTIN
Bruce WALKER
Stephen KNIGHT
Steve CRAY
John GRAY
Ian THOMSON
Wayne SPRINGALL
Mark WILLOUGHBY

Tries

Wayne SMITH
Alan NEIL
Les BOYD

Stephen KNIGHT
Russell GARTNER

Goals

Peter WALSH (6)

Graham EADIE (3)
John GIBBS (1) Field Goal

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: T Mooney, M Blake, R Gartner, S Martin; five-eighth: A Thompson (c); half; J Gibbs; forwards: P Vautin, B Walker, S Knight, I Thomson, J Gray, S Cray

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Moseley, M Beaven, R Brodrick, W Boland; five-eighth: P Walsh; half: A Neil; forwards: T Raudonikis (c), L Boyd, R Cooper, T Leabeater, R Brown, B Gibbs

Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 9th August 1979)

Western Suburbs, inspired by the true grit of Tommy Raudonikis, are full steam ahead for the semi-finals after yesterday's dramatic win over rugby league premiers Manly. Lifted by Tom Raudonikis' display of raw courage, Wests out-stayed Manly 21-13 before a crowd of 14,518. Tom Terrific, Wests' fearless leader, will never forget his 200th first grade game for his club. Fifteen minutes before half-time, Raudonikis smashed his left thumb. Typically, he shrugged off the injury after the game; but medical opinion is that he has a badly broken thumb. At half-time, with his team down 11-9 and preparing to face the breeze, Raudonikis had the thumb examined and strapped by Wests' doctor. "At no time was the subject of him not going back into the match broached," coach Roy Masters said later. "We needed him there to put on the moves we had to put on in the second half." So, without pain-killers, and without hesitation, the tough little man with the king-sized heart went back into battle, ignored the pain, and led his side to their most important win of the year. The extent of Raudonikis' injury – and probably the fate of Western Suburbs – will be known today after X-rays are taken. Raudonikis is Wests' life-blood; for them to proceed to the premiership without him would be just about unthinkable. With or without him, the chances after yesterday are that they'll make the semi-finals – and probably premiers Manly won't. ... Yesterday's much-discussed "little grand final" was chockful of dramatic content. From the first 60 seconds, when Manly zipped over for a shock try, to the last 60, when the big Lidcombe crowd urged their team to the line, it was an intriguing affair. Thankfully missing was the blood and thunder of the past few clashes between the sides – although it was hard, terribly hard. Down 11-9, facing the wind and apparently in deep trouble, Wests' lighter pack was able to dominate the second-half scrums – and thus set up the win. With the peculiar scrum set-up, in which Wests played a five-man pack in their own half, and lock Raudonikis fed the ball – Wests' Ray Brown was able to win seven of the first eight scrums after half-time. ... But within 12 minutes of the second half, Wests – fiercely determined – had Manly done to a dinner. Little Alan Neil darted 25 metres from the scrum base after three minutes and then Les Boyd came powering up the middle to send Wayne Smith over after 12. The Boyd-to-Smith pass was one of several touchy decisions which confronted referee Kevin Roberts in the second half. Les Boyd, robust as always, was also forced out of the game in the second half – with knee trouble. The memorable feature of a fine contest – apart from the courage of Raudonikis – was a great game from Test reserve Ray Brown. **(Sunday Telegraph 5th August 1979)**

Notes: This match was all about Tom Raudonikis. In his supposed 200th game* and their backs to the wall, Raudonikis showed why he was known as Captain Courageous. He played on with a broken thumb and a badly twisted ankle, relentlessly organising his forwards, making last-ditch tackles and driving, driving his teammates onwards. Even when Les Boyd went off with an injured knee he was still there, leading, and received a justified standing ovation after the final bell. Ray Brown played a key role after moving to hooker and winning seven of the first eight scrums of the second half. With Buddy Cain and Jack Jeffries late withdrawals there were major changes. Mark Beaven and Bob Cooper came in, Wayne Smith went to full-back and Moseley went to the wing. It was a very hard match but it didn't have the incidents of the previous clashes. * Consequent research has shown this was in fact his 201st match due to a 1975 Annual Report error.