



1972 Round 20 Sunday 6th August Kogarah Oval



St George 15

Keith HEMSWORTH
 Kevin McFARLANE
 Roy FERGUSON
 Ted GOODWIN
 Max COLE
 Tony BRANSON
 Ross STRUDWICK
 Graeme SAMS
 Barry BEATH
 Peter FITZGERALD
 Brian NORTON
 Russell COX
 Apisai TOGA

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Russell MULLINS
 Don ROGERS
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Wayne MERRY
 Stephen SATTERLY
 Neville SINCLAIR
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 John BAKER
 Rod SMITH
 John ELFORD
 George SKEERS
 Peter HANDCOCK
 John SHERIDAN



Tries

Barry BEATH
 Max COLE
 Russell COX

Stephen KNIGHT
 Stephen SATTERLY

Goals

Ross STRUDWICK (3)

Stephen SATTERLY (4)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: K Hemsworth; three-quarters: K McFarlane, R Ferguson, T Goodwin, M Cole; five-eighth: T Branson; half: R Strudwick; forwards: G Sams, B Beath, P Fitzgerald, A Toga, R Cox, B Norton

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Mullins; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, W Merry, S Satterly; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, R Smith, J Elford, G Skeers, P Handcock, J Sheridan **Referee: D McDonald (The Sun 4th August 1972)**

A "gift" try just before half-time saved St George from defeat by lowly Wests at Kogarah yesterday. Wests were really firing and leading 6-5 when full-back Russell Mullins threw a pass yards behind his winger Don Rogers. It was only a matter of Saints' winger Max Cole picking up the ball and scooting round behind the posts. With a new look pack and stars John Elford and Stephen Knight adding some needed stiffening, Wests were revitalised from the no-tackle brigade of recent weeks. The game failed to reach great heights due mainly to a constant whistle accompaniment by referee D McDonald. He let nothing escape him and angered the crowd by not letting the game flow along. New Wests' hooker Peter Handcock lost the scrums only 8-6 but he showed plenty of promise in open play. Rep. player John Elford did some bone-shaking tackling and repeatedly jarred the ball loose from the opposition. Saints players all worked hard but still miss the spark the team gets from Langlands and Smith. They were well held in every department. Saints' problem now is to find a combination that can fire in the vital semi-final games. **(The Sun 7th August 1972)**

Rugby League premiership contenders Eastern Suburbs and St George were struggling yesterday. Saints got home 15-14 against Western Suburbs and Easts 9-7 against North Sydney..... At Kogarah St George hung on to second spot on the ladder by the skin of their teeth against a vigorous Western Suburbs. Saints' supporters sweated through a heart-stopping final 20 minutes after Wests had pulled up to 15-14. Tries just before and just after half-time won the game for St George in the final showdown. Winger Max Cole scored a lucky try for Saints before half-time. Second-rower Barry Beath scored another two minutes after the interval. For the rest of the game St George bogged down, making heavy weather against an improved Wests. It was certainly not premiership-winning form. Again, the game pointed out that Billy Smith and Graeme Langlands must both be there for St George to fire all cylinders. Yesterday, captain-coach Langlands 'did it tough' as he watched his side's ineffectual effort from the official box. There was no flair or purpose about the St George attack. Mainly Saints tried to drive up the middle. Only prop Brian Norton and second-rower Beath could make headway against a tight defence. A brief smile from Lady Luck would have swung the match Wests' way. They led 6-0 early after three goals from winger Steve Satterly. But they let Saints back into the game in six minutes before half-time. **(Daily Telegraph 7th August 1972)**

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Notes: Stephen Knight was rushed back into First Grade for this match and demonstrated his class with a great try. John Elford was back in the second row and there was a new front row with George Skeers and John Sheridan. Wests finally seemed to find a pack that was prepared to tackle hard and they were very unlucky to lose this match. St George was given a gift try just before half-time when they scored off a loose pass. In a last 20 minute period, where Tom Raudonikis led by example, Wests, down 15-14, battered the St George line but couldn't get the vital score.