1978 Round 20 Sunday 6th August Lidcombe Oval

Western Suburbs 10   def.   South Sydney 7

Western Suburbs		South Sydney
John DORAHY	*Fullback*	Eric FERGUSON
Don MOSELEY	*Wing*	Jim SWIFT
Wayne SMITH	*Centre*	Robert LAURIE
Ron GITEAU	*Centre*	John BERNE
Buddy CAIN	*Wing*	Steve LITTLE
Peter ROWLES	*Five-eighth*	Gary WRIGHT
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	*Half*	Bob McMILLAN
Graeme O'GRADY	*Lock*	Trevor BARNES
Les BOYD	*Second Row*	Darrel BAMPTON (c)
Geoff FOSTER	*Second Row*	Paul SAIT
John DONNELLY	*Front Row*	John PEEK
John PURCELL	*Hooker*	Arthur KITINAS
Bill CLOUGHESSY	*Front Row*	Bob McCARTHY
David WAITE	*Replacement*	Nathan GIBBS
Ron BRODRICK	*Replacement*	Peter TUNKS

Tries	Geoff FOSTER	Jim SWIFT
Goals	Peter ROWLES (3) Geoff FOSTER (1) Field Goal	Eric FERGUSON (2)

Match Description
South Sydney: Full-back: E Ferguson; three-quarters: J Swift, R Laurie, J Berne, S Little; five-eighth: G Wright; half: R McMillan; forwards: T Barnes, D Bampton (c), P Sait, J Peek, A Kitinas, R McCarthy
Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, L Boyd, J Donnelly, J Purcell, W Cloughessy   **Referee: G Cook   (Rugby League Week 12th August 1978)**

"I don't know how I did it," Geoff Foster said after kicking a match-deciding field-goal in Western Suburbs' 10-7 Rugby League win against South Sydney at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Foster, a second-rower who had never even attempted a field goal in a match before, edged Wests ahead 8-7 with seven minutes to go after the teams had been locked 7-7. Soon after, Peter Rowles landed a 35-metre penalty goal, but it was the field goal that broke South Sydney's hearts. The ball, in fact, was supposed to go to Rowles, a field-goal specialist, but in a mix-up, it went to Foster standing unmarked in front of South Sydney's posts. It was an awful kick, slithering off his left boot – or was it his shin? – before staggering barely over the crossbar. Awful, but so devastatingly effective. Yet Wests had to fight desperately in the last three minutes to hold on as Souths launched a nerve-tingling assault. For 10 straight tackles the Rabbitohs sought vainly to crash over, then in desperation they kicked over the top – and the ball fell safely into the hands of David Waite, Wests' replacement winger. "It's ironic that David Waite dropped two vital balls in reserve-grade, then held the one that mattered most in first grade," Roy Masters, Wests' coach, said later. For Masters, the schoolteacher who has resurrected Wests this season, it was "mission accomplished" yesterday. "We had three aims today: To defeat Souths, to win all our games at Lidcombe Oval this season, and to ensure that we made the semi-finals. We did all three." Indeed, Wests are the first team since the inception of the home-and-away system to win all their home matches in one season. And they not only ensured themselves of a final-five spot but are well on the way to winning the minor premiership……… Souths scored first after only six minutes from a set move that revealed once again the coaching mastermind of Gibson. Souths won a scrum, half-back Bob McMillan passed to five-eighth Gary Wright, who ran back around the scrum and sent winger Jimmy Swift sprinting 30 metres to score. "Full marks to Jack Gibson," Masters said, "I spent a lot of time before this match studying Souths' play but he had a few surprises in the first 10 minutes." But in the 11th minute Foster scored to level at 3-3 after a collision between two Souths' players had allowed Wests' winger Buddy Cain to break down the right. By halftime it was 5-5 and midway through the second half it was 7-7. These teams drew 11-11 in the first round and until Foster's field goal, another draw appeared likely. Wests lost centre Ron Giteau at halftime with a bruised knee and winger Don Moseley was carried off with a deep head gash (six stitches) in the 44th minute. It was not a happy birthday for Bob McCarthy, Souths' veteran second-rower, who was replaced in the 59th minute after losing possession at four crucial times with poor passes. Gibson's choice of Arthur Katinas as hooker was justified, for he levelled the scrums eight-all. **(Sydney Morning Herald 7th August 1978)**

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Notes: This was a very rugged match, where the Wests' forwards considered it the toughest match of the year. The deadlock was remarkably broken at 7-all by a Geoff Foster wobbly field goal, his first ever attempt, after the ball was supposed to go to Peter Rowles. Fittingly, it was Foster's 100th game for the club. The win meant that Wests had won all of its 11 home games, the first time this had been achieved since the home and away system started. The speed of the Wests' backs was a big factor in the win. The downside was that Giteau and Moseley both had to be replaced after injuries.