



# 1975 Round 20 Saturday 9th August Leichhardt Oval



## Western Suburbs 8

drew with

## Balmain 8

John DORAHY  
 Don ROGERS  
 Stephen KNIGHT  
 Robbie PARKER  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Chris WELLMAN  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Jim MURPHY  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Pat HUNDY  
 Ken HEY

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

Alan McMAHON  
 Mike FISH  
 Trevor RYAN  
 Graham ROBERTS  
 Merv MUGGLETON  
 Les MARA  
 Peter DUFFY  
 Neil PRINGLE  
 Steve LAVERS  
 Brian LOCKWOOD (c)  
 John SPENCER  
 Noel MAYBURY  
 Keith COOK



**Tries** Jim MURPHY  
 Tim MURPHY

**Goals** John DORAHY (1)

Graham ROBERTS (4)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: A McMahon; three-quarters: M Fish, T Ryan, G Roberts, M Muggleton; five-eighth: L Mara; half: P Duffy; forwards: N Pringle, S Lavers, B Lockwood, J Spencer, N Maybury, K Cook

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: C Wellman, J Murphy, G Foster, J Donnelly, S Day, P Hundy **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 16th August 1975)**

A lack-lustre Balmain scrambled to an 8-8 draw with Western Suburbs at Leichhardt Oval yesterday to keep their semi-final hopes alive. With his side down 8-6 and five minutes remaining, centre Graham Roberts coolly landed a penalty to draw the game. ... The loss of a valuable point has all but sunk Wests' chances for 1975. The result was yet another chapter in their dismal run of luck this season. Earlier in the year they drew with Canterbury-Bankstown, but an official blunder involving the use of an illegal player resulted in them being docked one competition point. Wests scored two tries to nil yesterday and looked every inch the better team throughout the match, yet the victory they deserved was denied them in a sensational second half. A staggering 7-2 penalty count against the Magpies saw Balmain whittle away an 8-4 deficit. Referee Greg Hartley caned Wests' Test half-back Tommy Raudonikis unmercifully for incorrect feeding of the scrums and the bitterly disappointed Magpie skipper was irate after the match. "Hartley was far too inconsistent with his rulings. He pinched me for feeding the second-row, yet he allowed the other half to get away with blue murder. We can't take a trick this year. We played our best football of the season but we couldn't crack it for a win." Balmain coach Paul Broughton countered: "Wests broke the rules and we capitalised. That's what football's all about. We didn't play well but we got the point and naturally I'm happy." The first half was tight as both packs of forwards hammered at each other in a series of torrid clashes. Rival forwards, Balmain's Brian Lockwood and John Donnelly of Wests were singled out for early cautions. Early penalties presented Roberts and Wests' full-back John Dorahy with goals from relatively easy kicking positions before Wests scored the first of their tries. After a near-miss minutes earlier, in which second-rower Jim Murphy crossed the line but lost the ball, lock-forward Chris Wellman broke the Balmain defence and scooted down the left flank before passing inside to the fast-finishing Murphy. This time, Murphy made no mistake and safely grounded the ball for his side to lead 5-2. Ken Hey, who replaced the injured Dorahy after 30 minutes, was wide with his conversion attempt but Wests resumed the second half in a flurry of sweeping backline moves. Midway through the half, Raudonikis kicked over the top of the Balmain defence and five-eighth Tim Murphy raced through to dive on the ball in the corner. Donnelly failed with the conversion attempt. Ten minutes from the end, Balmain received a further penalty and Roberts goaled to make it 8-6. Balmain then mounted their final assault on a flagging Wests' defence. McMahon found touch on Wests' quarter-line from a penalty and Balmain set about attacking for the match-winning try. On the fifth tackle, second-rower Steve Lavers kicked high but the Tigers failed to capitalise. But Balmain were given a penalty from the scrum, only 30 metres out, five minutes before full-time. **(The Sun-Herald 10th August 1975)**

**Notes:** This is a match Wests should have won. Don Parish was very unhappy with the refereeing and Greg Hartley certainly caned Wests in the penalties 17-7, particularly at critical times. He had a running battle with Tom Raudonikis and the scrum penalty with five minutes to go allowed Balmain to draw level. John Dorahy went off injured and was controversially replaced by Ken Hey. Many commentators couldn't understand why reserve-grader Lindsay Sinclair didn't come on. He was a noted goal kicker (24 goals in the previous 4 games) and it cost Wests the match. Ken Hey missed a goal from 20 yards out in front. When Dorahy was injured, Russell Mullins went to full-back and was the best player on the field.