

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Waite, R Brodrick, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, L Boyd, J Donnelly, S Day, W Cloughessy

North Sydney: Full-back: T Quirk; three-quarters: J Vandenberg, K Harris, P Schofield, J Adam; five-eighth: P Cudmore; half: P Craig; forwards: P Brady, J Long, L Cooper, G Boatswain B Foye, W Hamilton (c) Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 19th August 1978)

The invisible man's namesake – Peter Brady – is alive and well, and playing football for North Sydney. The only difference between television's Mr Brady and Norths' Mr Brady is the footballer can be seen: and all too often for Wests' liking. Brady, a 22-year-old Water Board employee playing his first season of Sydney football, almost destroyed the premiership leaders at North Sydney yesterday. If there was a North Sydney try on the make, or a Western Suburbs' charge, Brady was there; not invisible, but almost as elusive. Wests' poor performance to grab a 27-26 win with a field goal by five-eighth Peter Rowles two minutes from full-time was obviously due to their torrid encounter with Souths last weekend. The Magpies looked jaded, and coach Roy Masters was the first to admit it. Several social engagements by the team this week didn't help matters either. "The result today, at our game, and Souths' loss to Parramatta just goes to show how much a hard game takes out of a team," Masters said. "This result also proved something else – the tremendous pride this club's players have. It's a never-say-die spirit." Wests certainly held on grimly. Ahead only 16-14 at half-time, they moved into the next 40 minutes looking underdogs. Norths opened with a try and goal, two minutes after the whistle to lead 19-16, and for the remainder of the second half there was never more than four points separating the teams. With four minutes to go, and the scores at 26 each, Wests' five-eighth Peter Rowles attempted his second field goal in as many minutes and over it went. Norths should have won the match. They won the scrums 7-1, and the penalties favoured them 11-6. Their tries were more team efforts than Wests and their tackling was more punishing. "Don't ask me what we have to do," said a dejected North Sydney coach Bill Hamilton. **(The Sun 14th August 1978)**

A 35-metre field goal two minutes from full-time by five-eighth Peter Rowles enabled Western Suburbs to snatch a 27-26 Rugby League win against North Sydney at North Sydney Oval yesterday. Rowles landed seven goals from as many attempts with some wide angles and one from 49 metres out. Peter Schofield, Norths' centre, also had a good day, scoring with each of his eight attempts at goal. Running with the wind, Wests led 16-14 at half-time after tries by second-rower Les Boyd and centre Ron Brodrick and five goals by Rowles. The lead changed five times in the second half. **(Sydney Morning Herald 14th August 1978)**

Notes: Wests seemed very flat for this after the brutal game against South Sydney the previous week. Souths' loss to Parramatta seemed to confirm the theory. The match was won in the last minute with a Peter Rowles field goal. It finished an outstanding kicking performance in a tricky wind, slotting seven out of seven. Dorahy and Boyd were both outstanding for Wests, in a second half where the lead changed five times. Shane Day left the field with a recurring shoulder injury.

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