



1976 Round 21 Sunday 15th August Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 24

def.

North Sydney 15

John DORAHY
Trevor SCARR
Ron GITEAU
Robbie PARKER
Russell MULLINS
Graeme O'GRADY
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Les BOYD
John HEYWARD
Jim MURPHY
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY
Peter YOUNG

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

Mal McLACHLAN (c)
Paul HOPE
Peter Van GULIK
Terry ADAMS
Mark TONKS
John RAWLINS
Graeme SMITH
Rex MURPHY
Roger LAVIS
John LONG
Neville MAKIN
Bryan LONG
Mick HEALEY
Graham HAYWARD

Tries

Robbie PARKER
Jim MURPHY
Russell MULLINS
Shane DAY

Mick HEALEY
Paul HOPE
Graeme SMITH

Goals

Ron GITEAU (6)

Mark TONKS (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: T Scarr, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, J Murphy, J Heyward, J Donnelly, S Day, P Young

North Sydney: Full-back: M McLachlan; three-quarters: P Hope, P Van Gulik, T Adams, M Tonks; five-eighth: J Rawlins; half: G Smith; forwards: R Murphy, R Lavis, J Long, N Makin, B Long, M Healey **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 15th August 1976)**

Wests did more "bombing" than a B-52 bomber against Norths' "reserves" at Lidcombe yesterday, and have struck disastrous last-minute cohesion problems. Still fighting for their final five lives, the Magpies played disjointed sloppy football to beat a spirited Norths 24-15. Shane Day fixed up Wests' scrum worries 14-9 but they just could not hold the ball. Norths fielded only Mal McLachlan, Paul Hope and Terry Adams from their Amco Cup line-up. But the stand-ins plugged on. "I'm just pleased they didn't have their top side out there today, or they'd have beaten us," said a relieved Wests' coach Don Parish. "Some of them took it a little bit easy because they didn't think Norths would put up much of a fight – a very lack-lustre performance." But Parish thinks they can polish things up against Cronulla next weekend. It seems, though, Wests are faltering at the last minute. There was too much on-field arguing and misunderstanding yesterday to suggest they can bounce back. When they were coasting along 19-7 in front 25 minutes from time, skipper Tommy Raudonikis yelled to his players: "Come on you blokes! We're letting this mob get back in the game." How right he was. Mick Healey, a great worker in Norths' brand-new pack, crossed for a try five minutes later. Then substitute half-back Graeme Smith crossed and Norths were within striking distance – 15-19. Raudonikis, who cajoled his players like a schoolteacher scolding absent-minded schoolkids, held them together over the last 20 minutes. The only other Magpies to really keep their minds on the game were Ron Giteau, again thrustful in the centres, and Shane Day, Jim Murphy, John Donnelly, three toilers in the forwards. **(The Sun 16th August 1976)**

.. They should really have run rough-shod over Norths, who rested 10 of their team for the Amco Cup final against Balmain on Wednesday night. But with 15 minutes to go they were battling, leading 19-15 against the North Sydney lesser lights, who played with the same enthusiasm that has highlighted their displays in the later stages of the season. Wests simply could not hold on to the ball – they dropped it in tackles, threw bad passes and spilled the easy ones. When they did hold it, they looked classy and scored four extremely good tries. Shane Day, Jim Murphy, Robbie Parker and Russell Mullins scored the tries. Centre Ron Giteau kicked six goals from as many attempts..... To their credit Wests fought back and produced their best football in the last 10 minutes, culminating in a try by Mullins who burst on to a pass in the backline after coming from the blind-side wing. **(Daily Telegraph 16th August 1976)**

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Notes: This was a very lacklustre display for a team trying to make the semi-finals. They dropped the ball all day and when they led 19-2 in the second half, dropped their intensity and let Norths in for three quick tries. Raudonikis relentlessly drove the pack to get their minds on the job and they scored a good late try by Mullins. Graeme O'Grady was rated the best player on the field and in one bright spot, newly reinstated hooker Shane Day won the scrums 14-9.