



1975 Round 21 Sunday 17th August Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 21

def.

St George 7

John HEYWARD
 Don ROGERS
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Tim MURPHY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Chris WELLMAN
 Jim MURPHY
 Geoff FOSTER
 John DONNELLY
 Shane DAY
 Pat HUNDY
 John PURCELL
 Steve RIGNEY

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

Ted GOODWIN
 Paul MILLS
 Roy FERGUSON
 Robert FINCH
 John CHAPMAN
 Ray GRIGG
 Mark SCHULMAN
 Peter FITZGERALD
 Robert STONE
 Bruce STARKEY
 Henry TATANA
 Col LOWRIE
 Barry BEATH (c)



Tries Geoff FOSTER (2)
 John DONNELLY
 Don ROGERS
 Russell MULLINS

Roy FERGUSON

Goals John DONNELLY (3)

Henry TATANA (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Heyward; 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, J Purcell, P Hundy

St George: Full-back: E Goodwin; three-quarters: P Mills, R Ferguson, R Finch, J Chapman; five-eighth: R Grigg; half: M Schulman; forwards: P Fitzgerald, R Stone, B Starkey, H Tatana, C Lowrie, B Beath **Referee: L Bruyeres (Rugby League Week 23rd August 1975)**

John Donnelly took three minutes away from the grinding work of a prop forward to keep Wests in the finals race when the Magpies downed St George 21-7 at Lidcombe yesterday. Donnelly, now becoming Wests' "man for all jobs" scored a classy try and kicked three goals. With Wests trailing 3-7, 14 minutes into the second half, Donnelly kicked his first goal and then followed with his converted try three minutes later. That put Wests ahead 10-7 and the match was as good as over. Wests' captain Tommy Raudonikis threw a startled Donnelly the ball for the first attempt after John Heyward declined. "I've been having a kick at training, but so does everyone else ... I put my head down and had a go," said Donnelly. And the ball went true. "a bit like the way I've been kicking at practice," said Donnelly. ... Apart from Donnelly's influence, it wasn't until Stephen Knight and Saints' forward Barry Starkey were sent off that Wests played with any fire. The Magpies seemed better equipped to play with 12 men and their speed and precision in the last 20 minutes would have won a Grand Final. Geoff Foster, a Canterbury cast-off, was outstanding in this period, scoring two tries and narrowly missing another. ... For Wests' coach Don Parish, Don Parish, there is still hope. Last week, Wests deserved better than a draw against Balmain and they had a point taken from them when they used ineligible Mick Liubinskas against Canterbury. Those two points could have put the Magpies in the finals. The best they can hope for is a play-off with Balmain. **(The Sun 18th August 1975)**

Referee Laurie Bruyeres sent off St George's Bruce Starkey and, for the first time in his career, Western Suburbs' Stephen Knight A few stern words at half-time from Parish and a blazing second-half display by scrum-half Tom Raudonikis told the story of Wests' fightback. Raudonikis, who had a share in all five tries scored by Wests, said: "The forwards really fired in the second half and to come back in the manner they did after half-time was a terrific effort." Terrific indeed, for Wests' hooker Shane Day and prop Pat Hundy (knee injuries) in the first half and right-winger Russell Mullins saw out the game with a corked thigh. **(Sydney Morning Herald 18th August 1975)**

.....

Notes: In a match of two halves, Wests were down 7-0 at half-time but put on four tries in 15 minutes in the second half. They seemed stung into action when Stephen Knight was sent off (with Starkey off St George) for the first time in his career. John Donnelly was an absolute powerhouse up front and scored a brilliant barging try. He also, surprisingly, kicked three goals out of five attempts after Raudonikis threw him the ball after John Heyward declined. Geoff Foster also had his best game of the season to keep Wests' slim semi-final hopes alive. Shane Day was off injured after 12 minutes and John Purcell replaced him and played well.