



# 1980 Round 21 Saturday 23rd August Lidcombe Oval



## South Sydney 21

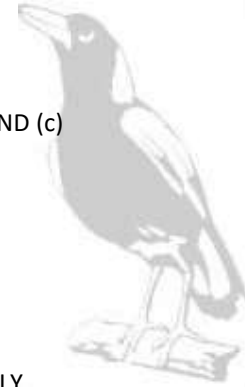
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## Western Suburbs 15

Steve WALSH  
 Ziggy NISZCZOT  
 Joe SQUADRITO  
 Gary KNIGHT  
 Eric FERGUSON  
 Robert LAURIE  
 David SINCLAIR  
 Shane ARNEIL  
 Nathan GIBBS (c)  
 John PEEK  
 Gary HAMBLY  
 Ken STEWART  
 Charlie FIRTH  
 Michael CARBERRY  
 Colin CHEESEMAN

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

Wayne SMITH  
 John RIBOT  
 Mark BEAVEN  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Warren BOLAND (c)  
 Terry LAMB  
 Alan NEIL  
 Ken HEY  
 John McLEOD  
 Bob COOPER  
 Tom ARBER  
 Alan LATHAM  
 John DONNELLY  
 Michael DUKE



### Tries

David SINCLAIR  
 Nathan GIBBS  
 Shane ARNEIL

John RIBOT  
 Mark BEAVEN  
 Wayne SMITH

### Goals

Eric FERGUSON (6)

Ron GITEAU (3)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: J Ribot, R Giteau, M Beaven, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: K Hey, R Cooper, J McLeod, J Donnelly, A Latham, T Arber

**South Sydney:** Full-back: S Walsh; three-quarters: Z Niszczo, G Wright, J Squadrito, E Ferguson; five-eighth: R Laurie; half: D Sinclair; forwards: S Arneil, N Gibbs (c), J Peek, C Firth, K Stewart, G Hambly **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 28th August 1980)**

The South Sydney fairytale became rugby league's biggest and best story of the year at Lidcombe Oval yesterday afternoon. The Rabbitohs did what they had to do – and toppled the competition leaders Western Suburbs. Aided and abetted by some undisciplined Wests' play, Souths won 25-15, taking full control after big John "Dallas" Donnelly was marched on a serious charge in the 54th minute. Suddenly, miraculously, Souths are in with a chance of making it to the semi-finals. The whisper of the Spirit of '55 has suddenly become a roar within the league's most famous club. ... Yesterday, amid considerable drama and controversy, Souths beat Wests fair and square, convincingly the better side on the day. For the Magpies it was an horrific day. Tomorrow night John Donnelly, cornerstone of the pack they hoped would take them to a premiership, faces the judiciary charged with deliberate forearm to a man's head while on the ground. Referee Greg Hartley sent him off on the report of touch judge Max Tomsett after a Donnelly tackle on John Peek almost within touching distance of the sideline. The Donnelly send-off came early in a second half in which the discipline went out of Wests' play. Souths' Eric Ferguson coolly picked off four goals from foul play penalties conceded by Wests near their own posts. Two were "gimmies", penalties for illegally interfering with the kicker after Souths' bombs. And then John McLeod virtually wrapped it up for Souths when he head-butted Michael Carberry 10 minutes from the end. To add to their problems, Wests finished with a severe worry over goal-kicking centre Ron Giteau, who suffered a serious ankle injury which finally forced him out of the game. It was the last straw in a dreadful day for Wests in which they had lost two players on match morning (Jim Leis, Jack Jeffries), lost the match and faced the possibility of losing Donnelly and Giteau for most of the rest of the season. Bitterness over a back-play incident in which a Souths' player downed Giteau in the second half – but escaped unpenalized – added to Wests' woes. The incident happened on touch judge's Tomsett's side of the field but he made no report to referee Hartley. None of that clouded the fact that the Rabbitohs were honourable and deserved winners on the day. They had their own slice of misfortune, losing prop Gary Hambly with shoulder trouble in the first half. His replacement, Michael Carberry – tipped as a future international by coach Bill Anderson – quickly became caught up in the Rabbitoh spirit and played a first-class hand. Souths were grand yesterday, losing the scrums 11-7 but playing a brand of tight disciplined football. **(Sunday Telegraph 24th August 1980)**

**Notes:** This was a difficult upset loss for Wests. John Donnelly was sent off in the 53rd minute and it changed the course of the game. By the end of the match, it meant that Ted Goodwin and Paul Merlo were suspended, Donnelly was to face the judiciary, and Bruce Gibbs, Jim Leis, Ron Giteau and Jack Jeffries were on the injured list. The Giteau injury was particularly galling, because he was felled behind play with no report but Donnelly was sent off on Touch Judge Max Tomsett's report. The Wests' camp was fuming. In the end Wests gave away too many silly penalties. For Wests, John Ribot and Tom Arber were the best.