



# 1985 Round 21 Saturday 27th July Belmore Sports Ground



## Parramatta 42

def.

## Western Suburbs 4

Paul TAYLOR  
 David LIDDIARD  
 Neil HUNT  
 Steve ELLA  
 Eric GROTHE  
 Brett KENNY  
 Peter STERLING  
 Ray PRICE (c)  
 Steve SHARP  
 Mark LAURIE  
 Jeremy LILLIS  
 Michael MOSELEY  
 Stan JURD  
 Graham SETTREE  
 Tony CHALMERS  
 Don PRICE

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

Greg DUVAL  
 John McARTHUR  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Brett GALE  
 Gerald CELARC  
 Gary WARNECKE  
 Michael NEIL  
 Mark HARRIGAN  
 Craig CLARKE  
 Geoff DILLON  
 Lee CROOKS (c)  
 Alan FALLAH  
 Terry LEABEATER  
 Craig NEIL  
 Craig MADSEN  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Wayne WIGHAM



**Tries** Steve ELLA (2)  
 Paul TAYLOR (2)  
 Tony CHALMERS  
 Eric GROTHE  
 Brian JACKSON  
 Brett KENNY

Greg DUVAL

**Goals** Steve ELLA (5)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Duval; three-quarters: J McArthur, B Gale, T Cogger, G Celarc; five-eighth: G Warnecke; half: M Neil; forwards: M Harrigan, C Clarke, G Dillon, L Crooks (c), A Fallah, T Leabeater  
**Parramatta:** Full-back: P Taylor; three-quarters: D Liddiard, N Hunt, S Ella, E Grothe; five-eighth: B Kenny; half: P Sterling; forwards: R Price (c), M Laurie, S Sharp, S Jurd, M Moseley, J Lillis **Referee: B Barnes (The Daily Mirror 19th July 1985)**

Wests' front-rower Lee Crooks' worst nightmare was reborn yesterday when he ran into a Parramatta backline that crackled with pace and penetration at Belmore Sports Ground. With their pacy backs proving impossible to contain, Parramatta beat Wests 42-4 – the team's biggest score of the year. For Crooks, the match was a headache he thought he'd seen the last of three years ago. The last time Crooks, a Great Britain Test prop, struck a side containing Brett Kenny, Steve Ella, Eric Grothe, Ray Price and Peter Sterling, they were wearing green and gold in the Kangaroos' historic 1982 tour. .... In Wests' dressing room Crooks, who before the game was confident his side had the form to spring an upset, was chastened. "Kenny and the rest are still as good as they were in the past," he said. "They're a very good side and we gave them too much room to move. Kenny and Ella created most problems. They ran well and gave the others room to move." ... Parramatta's backs were unstoppable, creating havoc out wide with slick passing and keeping the ball alive. To confirm their superiority, all Parramatta's tries came from backs. ... From Parramatta coach John Monie's point of view it was a positive revival of Parramatta's direction after the loss to Cronulla. The tackling was stronger, the passes more accurate, the running more damaging. Balancing the ledger was the limitations of Wests' defence, acknowledged as the worst in the competition, despite the team's pronounced shift away from the bottom of the table this year. .... Ella, in particular, was damaging yesterday with his evasive running. He also kicked five goals from eight attempts. Kenny was masterful, setting up much of the play that led to tries with his slick passes. He had a hand in two tries and scored a third himself when he neatly stepped past a bemused defence that had moved up too quickly late in the game. Wests' hopes of recreating the splendid commitment of the first round, when they lost 6-0 to Parramatta, quickly evaporated. ... Grothe gave a much more involved performance. He scored the first try in freakish circumstances from a Wests' scrum feed and later a ball ricocheted from his shoulder, leading to another Parramatta try. Grothe's try came when the ball bounced out of a scrum to him and pushed through two tackles on a narrow blind-side to score. Early in the second half, second-rower Mark Laurie, who along with Ray Price also played strongly, swung a pass that ricocheted off Grothe to Ella, who scored. Wests, well and truly beaten on the day, were best served by half Michael Neil and Crooks. "But really there weren't too many pluses on the day," Gentle said. "We'll just have to put this behind us and prepare for our match with Norths at Pratten Park next week." **(Sunday Telegraph 28th July 1985)**

**Notes:** Wests ran into a red-hot Parramatta team, with all of its stars firing. Eric Grothe tore them apart, again. Wests were by no means easy beats but were outclassed. Craig Neil made a promising debut but Michael Neil and Lee Crooks were the best for Wests.