



1972 Round 22 Sunday 20th August Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 39

def.

South Sydney 20

Russell MULLINS
 Don ROGERS
 John HEYWARD
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Allan ASHMORE
 Neville SINCLAIR
 Colin WITHERS
 John BAKER
 John ELFORD (c)
 Rod SMITH
 John O'BRYAN
 Peter HANDCOCK
 George SKEERS
 Terry MULLINS
 Barry BRYANT

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

Claude WILLIAMS
 Tom MOONEY
 Greg NORGARD
 Steve KOSTA
 Alan HEILER
 Kerry BURKE
 Bob GRANT
 Darrel BRAMPTON
 Gary STEVENS
 Gordon FRASER
 Bob BROAD
 George PIGGINS
 John SATTLER (c)
 Eric CAIN

Tries

Stephen KNIGHT (3)
 Allan ASHMORE (2)
 John BAKER
 Don ROGERS
 George SKEERS
 Colin WITHERS

Kerry BURKE
 Eric CAIN
 Tom MOONEY
 Greg NORGARD

Goals

Neville SINCLAIR (6)

Claude WILLIAMS (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: Russell Mullins; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, J Heyward, A Ashmore; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, J Elford, R Smith, J O'Bryan, P Handcock, G Skeers

South Sydney Full-back: C Williams; three-quarters: T Mooney, K Burke, S Kosta, A Heiler; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: R Grant; forwards: D Brampton, G Stevens, R McCarthy, R Broad, E Walters, J Sattler (c) **Referee: L Bruyeres (The Sun 18th August 1972)**

Six South Sydney Rugby League players forced out of yesterday's final premierships round against Western Suburbs all expect to be fit for next Saturday's semi-final. Two others, team captain John Sattler and second-rower Gary Stevens who left the field at half-time yesterday, say they will also be fit to play. The six who did not play yesterday are Eric Simms, Paul Sait, Ross Birrell, Denis Pittard, Bob McCarthy and Elwyn Walters. Not for many, many years have South Sydney been so humbled as by Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Not only did their patched-up first-grade side take a 39-20 drubbing but their two lower grade teams were also convincingly beaten. Because of Souths' reserve-grade loss to Wests the teams will meet at Henson Park tomorrow in a play-off for the last semi-final place. The 'third-graders' defeat toppled Souths from top to third in the competition table. Souths' Firsts took the field yesterday with only six of the players likely to be in the side next Saturday, and of these, lost Sattler and Stevens at half-time. Sattler, choked up with flu, should not have played. Stevens had his eye split in a first half tackle. With a feast of possession Wests were much too strong, scoring nine tries to Souths' four in a match that lacked any semblance of a contest. The Australian selectors who were at the ground must have been impressed by the form of Wests' centre Stephen Knight, who scored three tries – two by crashing his way over, the third with a great burst of speed. With the wing talent so paltry, Knight could be considered for the final World Cup selection trial on September 22. Souths' strength was so taxed during the afternoon that Buddy Cain, who played in an "A" grade junior game a week ago, was the first grade full-back. **(Sydney Morning Herald 21st August 1972)**

.. Wests yesterday won their first match in nine and took full advantage of Souths' depleted state. .. They have already agreed to terms with Queensland and Australian prop Jim Murphy and on Friday signed centre Stephen Knight to a three-year contract. It's the start of a re-building scheme that they believe will end their years in the doldrums. Wests scored some good tries yesterday and collecting three of them was Knight. **(The Sun 21st August 1972)**

Notes: Wests played against a very under-strength Souths team but still produced a top-class effort to run away in an open, fast game. Stephen Knight scored three bustling tries after being re-signed for two years just before the game. For the first time in the season, Wests were able to win the scrums and were able to capitalise on the extra possession. The only downside was an injury to John Elford, but he had the off-season to recover. Wests' reserve grade also won, which put them into a play-off against Souths for fourth spot, which they subsequently lost.