

## 1977 Round 22 Saturday 20th August Pratten Park

## St George 49 def. Western Suburbs 4

Wayne SMITH Ted GOODWIN **Fullback** Steve BUTLER Steve EISENHUTH Wing Gavin MILLER **Graham QUINN** Centre Robert FINCH Centre Ken HEY John CHAPMAN Wing Trevor SCARR Rod McGREGOR Five-eighth Peter ROWLES Mark SCHULMAN Half Tom RAUDONIKIS (c) Rod REDDY Lock Peter LEMA John JANSEN Second Row Steve BLYTH Robert STONE Second Row Geoff FOSTER Craig YOUNG Front Row John DONNELLY Steve EDGE (c) Hooker Gary WALSH **Bruce STARKEY** Front Row Peter YOUNG

Ken BOURKE

Dave KENNEDY

Replacement

Replacement

Tries Robert STONE (3)

Rod REDDY (2) Steve BUTLER (2) Graham QUINN Rod McGREGOR Ted GOODWIN Robert FINCH

Col BRAMLEY

Tony GRAHAM

Goals Ted GOODWIN (8) Peter ROWLES (2)

## **Match Description**

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: T Scarr, K Hey, G Miller, S Eisenhuth; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: P Lema, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, G Walsh, P Young

St George: Full-back: E Goodwin; three-quarters: S Butler, G Quinn, R Finch, J Chapman; five-eighth: R McGregor; half: M Schulman; forwards: R Reddy, J Jansen, R Stone, C Young, S Edge (c), B Starkey Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 27th August 1977)

Magpies coach Keith Holman quit his job yesterday before his team suffered their final premiership indignation of 1977 at the hands of St George. Holman advised top club officials he was unavailable to coach next year. And Wests then went out to be thrashed 49-4 by St George who ran in 11 tries, scoring almost at will. The small Pratten Park crowd of 4450 were treated to possibly the most lop-sided game of the year as Saints used the 80 minutes for practice. From the Wests' camp there wasn't one player worthy of mention. As Wests had stacked their lower grade by qualifying players for next week's semi-final series, the first-grade team was loaded with reserves and under 23s. Those of the top team remaining for the last match of the year played as if the effect of the Amco Cup celebrations were still with them. But if champagne was Wests' Wednesday night's drink for taking out the \$60,000 first prize, it had all turned flat by yesterday. The 49 points scored against Wests took the total to 136 from the last three premiership games of the year. Wests haven't been able to score a try in three matches, including the Cup final. Holman admitted he was satisfied to win the Cup. "I haven't been able to send out the team I've wanted for a few weeks because the club has wanted to qualify players for reserve grade," Holman said. "But I had the team I wanted last Wednesday night and they did the club proud. I've thought about next year, but the pressure of coaching is too much. Before the game I told my players and Wests officials I wouldn't be here next year. I've enjoyed this season and I felt I did a good job in winning the Cup. However, I'm not interested in going through it all again for another winter," Holman added. ... The Saints' coach Harry Bath was pleased with the workout, but not entirely satisfied with the first 40 minutes from which his team took the break leading 17-4. "In the first half there was a lot of individual play, but they began backing each other up as the game progressed," Bath said. The work of Rod Reddy, easily St George's best, had Bath beaming. Reddy delighted in Wests' lack of defence to score two tries himself and take a hand in most of the others. ... The St George effort was a top class hitout on the eve of the semis and the club goes into the big games chock full of confidence. (Sunday Mirror 21st August 1977)

**Notes:** Wests put in a predictable jaded performance. They were backing up after winning the Amco Cup on the Wednesday, which was proudly on display at Pratten Park. Before the match, Coach Keith Holman announced his retirement and there was little effort to put in a last-ditch effort for "Yappy". Wests fielded a very patched-up team as the lower grades were stacked for the semi-finals. Peter Lema and Dave Kennedy debuted from the U23's. Wests finished 4th in Reserve Grade and were knocked out in the semis but the U23's were Minor Premiers and won the Grand Final 9-5 against Parramatta.

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WESTERN SUBURBS