



1978 Round 22 Sunday 20th August Endeavour Field



Western Suburbs 18

def.

Cronulla-Sutherland 17

John DORAHY
Don MOSELEY
Wayne SMITH
Ron GITEAU
Buddy CAIN
Peter ROWLES
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Graeme O'GRADY
Les BOYD
Geoff FOSTER
John DONNELLY
John PURCELL
Bill CLOUGHESY

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

Mick MULLANE
Rick BOURKE
Steve ROGERS
Dave CHAMBERLIN
Steve EDMONDS
Martin RAFTERY
Steve HANSARD
Greg PIERCE (c)
Eric ARCHER
Steve KNEEN
Dane SORENSEN
John McMARTIN
Paul KHAN



Tries

Don MOSELEY
Graeme O'GRADY
Les BOYD

Mick MULLANE

Goals

Peter ROWLES (5) One Field Goal

Steve ROGERS (7)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, G Foster, J Donnelly, J Purcell, W Cloughessy

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: M Mullane; three-quarters: R Bourke, S Rogers, D Chamberlin, S Edmonds; five-eighth: M Raftery; half: S Hansard; forwards: G Pierce (c), E Archer, S Kneen, D Sorensen, J McMartin, P Khan **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 26th August 1978)**

Western Suburbs won the Rugby League minor premiership by beating Cronulla-Sutherland 18-17 at Endeavour Field yesterday after Dane Sorensen, Cronulla's prop, was sent off in the eighth minute. Norm Provan, the Cronulla coach, launched a bitter attack on referee Jack Danzey's decision to send off Sorensen after a high tackle on Les Boyd, Wests' second-rower. Sorensen will appear before the League's judiciary committee tonight charged with an "elbow to the head." ... Cronulla desperately need Sorensen, a former New Zealand Test prop, for the semi-finals. He has already served one suspension this year. The danger for Cronulla in using a film of the incident is that it shows at the same moment another Cronulla forward clearly hitting Geoff Foster, Wests' second-rower, in the face with an elbow. The judiciary can cite players on film evidence. Foster, who was unconscious for more than a minute, needed five stitches in a cut lower lip and could not remember most of the match. Danzey had his hands full from the second minute when a scrum erupted into a flurry of flying fists, knees and boots. Wests were determined to achieve three objectives; to win their first minor premiership since 1961, to win the \$5,000 Craven Mild minor premiers' award, and to gain a needed break from football next weekend while the other four top teams battle out the preliminary semi-finals. ... Roy Masters, Wests' coach, said that he had to "relax" his players at half-time because they were becoming flustered with so little ball. ... The turning point of the match came in the 60th minute when Danzey ruled a deliberate pass from Paul Khan, Cronulla's prop, to captain Greg Pierce. From that penalty Wests drove downfield and within a couple of tackles Boyd crashed over from dummy-half, Peter Rowles converted to make the scores 15-14. Only two minutes later, Boyd, probably the best player on the field, broke clear inside his own half and sprinted 50 metres before passing to Don Moseley, who scored after breaking through Mullane's pathetic tackle. Rogers levelled the scores at 17-all with a penalty goal, and it was left to Rowles to land one of his trademark field goals seven minutes from the end to give Wests the win. Rowles, with 215 points, is only one point behind Western Suburbs' point-scoring record for a season, set by Darcy Russell in 1959. As Wests had a champagne celebration, Bill Carson, the club president, announced that the players and Masters would each receive \$100 from the \$5,000 Craven Mild award, and a bonus \$100 each from Victa, their sponsors. At the start of the season Wests, once known as the paupers of Rugby League, could not guarantee their players any match payments. Master will take his players into a camp at Blacktown next weekend to prepare for the major semi-final the next weekend. "The break from football will be lovely," Masters said. "I need a rest myself." **(Sydney Morning Herald 21st August 1978)**

Notes: Wests were surprised and unsettled by Cronulla's initial blitz. There were lots of illegal hits and Dane Sorensen was sent off in the 8th minute for an elbow to Les Boyd's head. In the same incident, Steve Kneen flattened Geoff Foster, who was unconscious for a minute and needed four stitches to the mouth. Playing only 12 men, Wests were starved of possession and couldn't get into the match until Les Boyd and Graeme O'Grady led the comeback, culminating in Peter Rowles kicking another late match-winning field goal. The win meant Wests were the minor premiers and could get a much needed week's rest.