



# 1971 Round 22 Sunday 22nd August Lidcombe Oval



## Parramatta 15

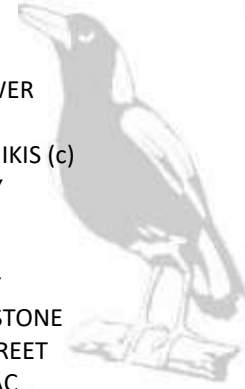
Ken THORNETT  
 Terry SCURFIELD  
 Ron GRAHAM  
 Peter LANGMACK  
 Ken McFARLANE  
 Graeme LYE  
 John WILSON  
 Keith CAMPBELL  
 Dick THORNETT  
 Ron LYNCH (c)  
 Bob O'REILLY  
 John McMARTIN  
 Denis FITZGERALD

def.

## Western Suburbs 7

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

Tony FORD  
 Don ROGERS  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Derek BROUWER  
 Mick ALCHIN  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Brian WINNEY  
 Rod SMITH  
 John BAKER  
 Barry BRYANT  
 Russell JOHNSTONE  
 Ken STONESTREET  
 Tony ANTUNAC



**Tries** Ron GRAHAM (2)  
 Dick THORNETT

Russell JOHNSTONE

**Goals** Keith CAMPBELL (3)

Tony FORD (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, T Murphy, D Brouwer, M Alchin; five-eighth: T Raudonikis (c); half: B Winney; forwards: R Smith, B Bryant, J Baker, R Johnstone, K Stonestreet, A Antunac

**Parramatta:** Full-back: K Thornett; three-quarters: T Scurfield, R Graham, P Langmack, K McFarlane; five-eighth: G Lye; half: J Wilson; forwards: K Campbell, R Thornett, R Lynch (c), D Fitzgerald, J McMartin, R O'Reilly **Referee: K Page (Rugby League Week 28th August 1971)**

No injuries and the same team for Saturday's semi-final against St George .... That's the word from Parramatta's happy coach Ian Walsh. He said this after Parramatta's huge pack of forwards poured through wooden-spooned Western Suburbs to score an easy 15-7 victory in yesterday's game at Lidcombe Oval and gain fourth spot on the ladder. Parramatta led 15-4 at half-time and then closed up the game on Walsh's instructions. "It was a big performance because the chips were really down and they'll beat Saints for sure if they play as well as they did today. Nothing could make me change this team because I'm happy with every one of them." The Parramatta forwards were irresistible with Bob O'Reilly, leading the way and Keith Campbell, Dick Thornett, Ron Lynch and Denis Fitzgerald not far behind him. O'Reilly showed an Arthur Beetson touch in getting rid of the ball to a support when apparently covered to set up two of the tries. Dick Thornett plunged across in the corner by Parramatta's opening try after O'Reilly threw a dummy and made the break before tossing him an overhead pass. O'Reilly stood up when tackled by two players near the Wests line and slipped a pass to centre Ron Graham to set up Parramatta's third try. The finger-tip handling of the big Parramatta forwards with the muddy ball was incredibly good. **(The Sun 23rd August 1971)**

... On yesterday's form, Parramatta could have more success than their 1965 effort this year. "We will beat St George if we can play that well again on Saturday," coach Ian Walsh said. "It was a real team effort, with everyone doing as they were told." As expected, Parramatta's big experienced forwards were the match winners. O'Reilly and second-rowers Ron Lynch and Dick Thornett were too much for Wests. O'Reilly made tries for centre Ron Graham and Dick Thornett in the first half with clever passes. Thornett scored in the 13th minute after an overhead pass from O'Reilly. Five minutes from half-time, Graham raced in for his second try after O'Reilly slipped a pass away yards from the Wests' line. Graham had scored earlier after a long pass from five-eighth Graham Lye. O'Reilly was a constant menace as he tore through the Wests' defence in his best display of the season. He rarely went to ground with the ball in the first half, managing to slip passes away with several defenders hanging to him. Not far behind O'Reilly was Lynch, who controlled the team well in the second half, and Dick Thornett, who was always enterprising. ... Parramatta changed tactics in the second half under instruction from Walsh. Walsh told the team to concentrate on safe football after realising from radio broadcasts that semi-final rivals Canterbury were struggling against Cronulla at Endeavour Field. "They followed my instructions to the letter," Walsh said. "We knew Canterbury were having trouble against Cronulla so there was no sense in taking risks with our big lead." Wests, with no chance of avoiding the wooden spoon, failed to produce the solid form they showed against St George and Manly in the last few weeks. Only five-eighth Tom Raudonikis and second-rower John Baker turned in full 80-minute efforts. **(Daily Telegraph 23rd August 1971)**

**Notes:** Played on a very muddy field, Raudonikis and Baker both had stellar games for Wests but the forward pack couldn't handle a rampaging Bob O'Reilly for Parramatta. They were steam-rolled early and, although playing well, couldn't recover sufficiently. Rod Smith came back from suspension, forcing Elford back to Reserves. In a bleak year, where Wests got the Wooden Spoon for the first time since 1955, at least the Reserves, under the coaching of "Chow" Hayes, made the semis where they lost 23-10 to a good St George team.