



1976 Round 22 Sunday 22nd August Endeavour Field



Cronulla-Sutherland 20

def.

Western Suburbs 17

Warren FISHER
 Martin RAFTERY
 Steve ROGERS
 Greg MULLANE
 Tony GRAHAM
 Barry ANDREWS
 Peter COX
 Greg PIERCE (c)
 Eric ARCHER
 Graeme SAMS
 Greg ALLEN
 John McMARTIN
 Paul KHAN
 John GLOSSOP
 Peter RYAN Jnr

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

John DORAHY
 Trevor SCARR
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme 'OGRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 Steve BLYTH
 Jim MURPHY
 John DONNELLY
 Shane DAY
 Peter YOUNG
 Wayne SMITH
 Neville SINCLAIR



Tries

Eric ARCHER (2)
 Tony GRAHAM
 John McMARTIN

Jim MURPHY
 Ron GITEAU
 Wayne SMITH
 Trevor SCARR
 Robbie PARKER

Goals

Barry ANDREWS (4)

Ron GITEAU (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: T Scarr, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, J Murphy, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, P Young

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: W Fisher; three-quarters: M Raftery, S Rogers, G Mullane, T Graham; five-eighth: B Andrews; half: P Cox; forwards: G Pierce (c), E Archer, G Sams, G Allen, J McMartin, P Khan **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 28th August 1976)**

If grown men cried over football, there would have been a flood at Endeavour Field yesterday ... it was that sort of day. In a match that turned out to have no bearing on the final five, Cronulla scored a sensational 20-17 win over Western Suburbs. It was sad for Wests' coach Don Parish, who hinted he may have coached his last football game. He watched his once-hailed Magpies crumble against the Sharks in the first half. Then he saw them pull off five tries in the second half ... all for nothing. Easts, Canterbury and St George won their matches and were in the five, even if Wests had won. Despite victory, there was no sign of cheer on the face of Johnny Raper, who walked through the gates of Endeavour for the last time. "And I won't be back," he said with a touch of bitterness. Raper watched some of the greatest football imaginable in the first half when the young Sharks reeled off four exciting tries. And that was allowing Wests had the territorial advantage. Andrews, Pierce, Mullane, Fisher, Rogers, Graham, Raftery and Cox was a backline Wests had no answer for. "I couldn't have asked for a better match to finish on ... the players were just great," said Raper. Wests have only themselves to blame for missing the finals. They had 16 points at the end of the first round and that is usually enough to get a side into the last five. Yesterday was also their first loss to the Sharks since 1973. Raudonikis, Mullins, Donnelly and Parker played well in spasms. **(The Sun 23rd August 1976)**

"Too slow out of the barrier," Wests' captain Tom Raudonikis lamented after his team went down 20-17 to Cronulla at Endeavour Field. And Sharks' coach John Raper countered: "We scored four of the best tries you'd ever wish to see in the first half." The game was Raper's swansong as the Sharks' coach – and the club sent him out on a victorious note, winning all three grades. In first grade the Magpies' stirring finish to drag the score back from 18-0 at half time was doubly in vain. ... Raudonikis said: "We had the possession early, but each time we blundered with a dropped pass Cronulla took off on a try-scoring romp." Wests got going too far late, despite posting five second-half tries. Ron Giteau missed his only conversion attempt before the break, and only kicked one from four attempts (Wayne Smith also missing once) when pressure was mounting on Cronulla. Wests also made second-half replacements, replacing full-back John Dorahy (groin injury) and lock Les Boyd (knee). Prop Peter Young finished with a suspected fractured hand. Best player for Wests was Raudonikis, who shone particularly in his team's rally. **(Daily Telegraph 23rd August 1976)**

Notes: In the end, even if Wests had won this match, they still wouldn't have made the semi-finals. Cronulla blitzed them in the first half but with a better share of possession Wests stormed back, scoring their first points in the 59th minute. Dropped passes again hampered their efforts. Wests had developed the 'dropsy' in the last few games. Jim Murphy was the best for Wests, followed closely by Raudonikis in a season where injuries had again stymied their performances.