



1969 Round 22 Saturday 23rd August Penrith Park



Western Suburbs 12

def.

Penrith 2

Tony FORD
 Mick ALCHIN
 Jon CLARK
 Roy FERGUSON
 Dick PICKETT
 Barry GLASGOW
 John MAXWELL
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 Noel KELLY (c)
 Ken STONESTREET
 Doug WALKADEN

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

Mike LEARY
 Dave APPLEBEE
 John MORAN
 Ern GILLON
 Bob LANDERS
 Ian McKECHNIE
 Laurie FAGAN
 Maurie RAPER
 Gary HARVEY
 Paul GIBSON
 Bob BROAD
 Ron WORKMAN
 Bob BOLAND (c)



Tries John BAKER
 Rod SMITH

Goals Tony FORD (2)
 Barry GLASGOW (1)

Bob LANDERS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: M Alchin, J Clark, R Ferguson, R Pickett; five-eighth: B Glasgow; half: J Maxwell; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, N Kelly (c), K Stonestreet, D Walkaden

Penrith: Full-back: M Leary; three-quarters: D Applebee, J Moran, E Gillon, R Landers; five-eighth: I McKechnie; half: L Fagan; forwards: M Raper, G Harvey, P Gibson, R Broad, R Workman, R Boland (c) **Referee: E Cook (The Sun 22nd August 1969)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League international Noel Kelly yesterday played his last game before a crowd of 350 people at Penrith Park. Wests "playing this one for Ned" defeated Penrith 12-2 in quagmire conditions. Kelly slumped onto a dressing room bench for the last time full of praise for the Western Suburbs side. "They're a great bunch of kids," he said. Kelly said he would like to take over Wests' coaching job next season. "I am definitely available for the position but I have played my last game of football," he said. Kelly's international career lasted more than a decade. The rough and tough forward made Kangaroo tours in 1959, 1963 and 1966, as well as a World Cup tour in 1960. Kelly played 31 Tests for Australia. He yesterday admitted he had been sent from the field on 16 occasions. However, yesterday Kelly had a very quiet game. He said his proudest moment in Rugby League was when Australia won the Ashes from England in 1963. "Next to that the greatest thrill I ever had was when we retained them in 1966." Kelly played in three grand finals for Wests in 1961 to 1963 but could not overcome St George who won on all three occasions. A penalty goal from winger Bob Landers in the third minute had seen the Panthers take an early lead. Wests forged ahead when full-back Tony Ford landed penalty goals in the ninth and twelfth minutes. The first try of the match did not come until 22 minutes into the second half when Wests' second-rower, John Baker, slithered across the line. Baker had pounced on a loose ball from a scrum. Wests set the seal on the match only four minutes later when lock-forward Rod Smith dashed 40 yards to touch down in a corner. Smith had intercepted a pass Penrith front-rower Bob Broad had floated. **(Sunday Telegraph 23rd August 1969)**

Only about 350 spectators saw the end of Noel Kelly's football career when he led Wests to a 12-2 win over Penrith at Penrith Park yesterday. But those who attended the match gave the international prop a big farewell. "Kids kept coming up and giving me presents," Kelly said in the dressing room after the match. "I've got cigarette lighters, wallets and all sorts of things." Kelly, choked with emotion, said he didn't fully appreciate the fact that his playing career was over. "If I did, I would probably sit down and cry," he said. Kelly's team-mates helped send their captain-coach off the field on a winning streak. They handled the wet conditions much better than their Penrith opponents and notched their fifth successive win. "I'll be coaching them next year. They are a great bunch of young players and terrific blokes as well," Kelly said. ... The feature of the match was Wests' great handling of the ball in the muddy conditions. ...At half-time, Wests had a marrow 4-2 lead after two goals by Tony Ford. Penrith tackled well and held the determined Wests' side out until midway through the second half. Both Wests' tries came from Penrith mistakes, the first after the Panthers had won a scrum close to their own line. First Maurie Raper and then Laurie Fagan couldn't handle the greasy ball and John Baker, Wests' second-rower, swooped on it to dive over. Five minutes later, Rod Smith, Wests' lock, intercepted a pass from Bob Broad and raced 45 yards to score in the corner. Barry Bryant, Wests' strong-running second-rower, had a great first half but he was kept quiet in the second half. **(Sunday Mirror 24th August 1969)**

Notes: Noel Kelly's last game was played before a measly crowd of 350 on a sea of mud. He was slightly subdued but the whole team was fired up for Ned's last game. Barry Bryant, in particular, was a powerhouse, capping a great season. Allowing for the conditions, Wests were surprisingly bright in attack to finish a season heavily influenced by a string of injuries.