



1975 Round 22 Saturday 23rd August Endeavour Field



Western Suburbs 31

def.

Cronulla-Sutherland 17



John DORAHY
 Don ROGERS
 Tim MURPHY
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 John HEYWARD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Chris WELLMAN
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 John DONNELLY
 John PURCELL
 Jim MURPHY
 Steve RIGNEY
 Ron GITEAU

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

Warren FISHER
 Stephen EDMONDS
 Steve ROGERS
 Martin RAFTERY
 Dave CHAMBERLAIN
 Tony ANDREWS
 John PURCELL
 Greg PIERCE (c)
 Eric ARCHER
 Ken MADDISON
 Fred PAGANO
 Greg TURNER
 John MAGUIRE

Tries

John DORAHY (2)
 Ron GITEAU (2)
 John PURCELL
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS

Steve ROGERS (2)
 John PURCELL

Goals

John DORAHY (4)
 John DONNELLY (1)

Steve ROGERS (3)
 Warren FISHER (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: C Wellman, J Elford, G Foster, J Donnelly, J Purcell, J Murphy

Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: W Fisher; three-quarters: S Edmonds, S Rogers, M Raftery, D Chamberlain; five-eighth: T Fletcher; half: J Purcell; forwards: G Pierce (c), E Archer, K Maddison, F Pagano, G Purcell, J Maguire **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 30th August 1975)**

Cronulla provided only token resistance before bowing out of the 1975 premiership following a 31-17 loss to Wests at Endeavour Field yesterday. Wests are in line for a semi-final play-off if Balmain are beaten by Canterbury at Belmore today. ... The Sharks lost the ball and a scrum went down 10 metres from Wests' line. Winning the ball, Wests' half Tom Raudonikis slipped around the blind-side and gave the ball to Dorahy on the burst. Dorahy made the break, then passed to Mullins who galloped 75 metres to score in the corner. Dorahy missed a difficult kick to make it 3-0. ... In the 10th minute Dorahy took Wests to a 5-0 lead with a penalty against the wind from 35 metres out. The Magpies were starting to get well on top with Cronulla's defence suspect around the rucks. Foster and Elford made damaging bursts. After short-kicking, Raudonikis was flattened by Cronulla five-eighth Tony Fletcher on his own quarter but Dorahy's kick went wide. But moments later Wests scored their second try. Winning a scrum on the Cronulla quarter, Wests swung the ball along the line where centre Parker pushed off a tackle before sending a pass on to Dorahy who touched down. The full-back landed a great conversion for a 10-0 lead. Then Cronulla's Rogers, who had troubled Wests several times earlier sparked his team. Surging into a raid he easily skirted the defence to score. Rogers converted to make it 10-5. Cronulla, who had conceded a number of foolish penalties, infringed again within easy kicking range. Dorahy made it 12-5 and then Wests scored a try almost from the kick-off. Five-eighth John Heyward bumped off two tackles in a 40-metre burst, taking play close to the Sharks' line. With the defence crowded, Wests quickly spun the ball across the backline where Dorahy chimed in and scored his second try to make it 15-5. As the half-time hooter sounded Rogers booted a penalty but Cronulla trailed 15-7. Wests continued to play like winners before making a crucial blunder 10 minutes into the second half. Prop Jim Murphy dropped the ball, lock Wellman also fumbled and Rogers in a flash swooped on the ball and raced 40 metres to score between the posts. The conversion had Cronulla trailing 15-12 and Rogers had scored all his team's points. But Wests burst back with two tries within minutes to put the issue beyond doubt. Wellman burst 40 metres upfield and sent hooker Purcell over between the posts then Parker was in for the try seconds later. **(Sunday Mirror 24th August 1975)**

Notes: Wests forced a play-off for fifth spot with this powerful win. Jim Murphy returned to his Test form and was the best forward on the field. Dorahy and Russell Mullins also continued their outstanding recent form, even with Dorahy only 60% fit. John Purcell, in place of Shane Day, played his part very well. The return of John Elford, rushed back into First Grade after a long absence, provided the backbone in the forwards which had been lacking. The win meant eventually that Wests would have to play Parramatta in the play-off game on Tuesday.