



1982 Round 22 Saturday 24th July Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 14

def.

Eastern Suburbs 10

Wayne SMITH
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Steve ANDERSON
 Ross CONLON
 Mick PINKERTON
 Terry LAMB
 Greg COX (c)
 Jim LEIS
 Michael DUKE
 Paul MERLO
 Terry LEABEATER
 Gary COLLISON
 Bruce CLARK
 Greg McELHONE

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

Marty GURR
 Kerry BOUSTEAD
 Noel CLEAL
 Ron GITEAU
 Steve McFARLANE
 Robert LAURIE
 Kevin HASTINGS (c)
 Ian SCHUBERT
 Des O'REILLY
 John TOBIN
 Dave BROWN
 Jeff MASTERMAN
 John HARVEY
 Warren McDONNELL
 Gary WARNECKE

Tries Jim LEIS
 Terry LAMB

Marty GURR
 Noel CLEAL

Goals Greg COX (4)

Ron GITEAU (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: S Broughton, S Anderson, R Conlon, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: T Lamb; half: G Cox (c); forwards: J Leis, P Merlo, M Duke, T Leabeater, G Collison, B Clark

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: M Gurr; three-quarters: S McFarlane, R Giteau, N Cleal, K Boustead; five-eighth: R Laurie; half: K Hastings (c); forwards: I Schubert, D O'Reilly, J Tobin, J Harvey, J Masterman, D Brown **Referee: M Stone (The Sun 26th July 1982)**

Western Suburbs, the club that has done just about everything to raise money except stand on street corners with a begging cup, are heading for the gold mine of the semi-finals after a gripping win yesterday. Wests sneaked home 14-10 at Lidcombe Oval against an Easts' side left lamenting "what might have been" after winger Kerry Boustead had three tries disallowed. "Wests made 14 errors and we made nine and they were mostly in Wests' 22," said Easts' coach Bobby Fulton. "We just couldn't put any pressure on them." While Easts can look at their own mistake rate as a reason for the loss. Wests' courageous effort can't be argued. Wests have no money, few paying supporters and a bank account that makes a beggar's look rich by comparison – yet they keep winning. Coach Terry Fearnley has built club spirit to where it pumps as powerfully as second-rower Paul Merlo taking the ball up to the opposition. Merlo was heavily involved in taking the ball up yesterday and when that wasn't necessary, he was knocking over Easts' players. This year under Fearnley, Merlo has gone from being a respected club forward to a State representative and on yesterday's performance lock Jim Leis is on the verge of regaining his 1980 spot in the Australian team. Leis yesterday was a controlling force with the ball – despite being knocked groggy in the first half and needing a cold shower at half-time to regain his faculties. Leis was certainly in command of himself when he took a clever inside pass from Ross Conlon to score the clinching try in the 64th minute and wrap up an engrossing match. Easts and Wests both played as if their lives depended on the result – and indeed they did. By winning, Wests move to 28 points and appear to have a semi-final place wrapped up although the road ahead in the next four weeks still has hazards like Souths and Parramatta. Wests, despite the annual savaging they get from richer clubs, continue to produce talent and team-work with roly-poly Bruce Clark unloading skillfully at times and stand-in hooker Gary Collison working non-stop and sharing the scrums 10-all. ... It was tight all the way but when something extra was needed invariably it was Wests who produced it. Both sides scored two tries but Easts managed only two goals from five attempts. Wests' Greg Cox landed four from five, the one miss ending a successive run of 18 goals. Easts' two tries could have been the foundation for the win. Full-back Marty Gurr raced down the blind-side in the 35th minute to put Easts ahead 7-4 and big Noel Cleal was unstoppable in the 42nd minute to put Easts ahead 10-9. But whenever they looked down for the count Wests came back. Five-eighth Terry Lamb gave Wests a 9-7 half-time lead with a dazzling solo try from 15 metres out in the 38th minute when he three times stepped off his left foot and three times left Easts' tacklers gasping. .. **(Sunday Telegraph 25th July 1982)**

Notes: This was rated Wests' most gutsy win of the season, featuring very gritty defence. Jim Leis and Paul Merlo were both outstanding in the heavy stuff. Jim Leis' try was disputed by Easts but it was a top performance after he was concussed early with a heavy knock. Bruce Clark also had one of his best games of the season and many rated Lamb's solo try the best of the year.