



1979 Round 22 Sunday 26th August North Sydney Oval



Western Suburbs 30

def.

North Sydney 18

Wayne SMITH
 Don MOSELEY
 Mark BEAVEN
 John DORAHY (c)
 Buddy CAIN
 Peter WALSH
 Alan NEIL
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Les BOYD
 Bob COOPER
 John DONNELLY
 Ray BROWN
 Bruce GIBBS

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

Peter SCHOFIELD (c)
 Allan SHEPPARD
 Mick GLASCOCK
 John ADAM
 John VANDENBERG
 Paul McCAFFERY
 Kevin WILSON
 Paul McCABE
 Keith HARRIS
 John LONG
 Don MCKINNON
 Bruce FOYE
 Steve MAYOH



Tries Wayne SMITH (2)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Peter WALSH
 Alan NEIL
 Buddy CAIN

Steve MAYOH
 Allan SHEPPARD
 John LONG
 John ADAM

Goals John DORAHY (6)

Peter SCHOFIELD (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: E Cain, M Beavan, J Dorahy (c), D Moseley; five-eighth: P Walsh; half: A Neil; forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Cooper, J Donnelly, R Brown, B Gibbs

North Sydney: Full-back: P Schofield (c); three-quarters: A Sheppard, M Glascock, J Adam, J Vandenberg; five-eighth: P McCaffery; half: K Wilson; forwards: P McCabe, K Harris, J Long, D McKinnon, B Foye, S Mayoh **Referee: D Braybrook (Rugby League Week 30th August 1979)**

Western Suburbs sealed a spot in the Rugby League semi-finals, and picked up a \$16,000 bonus, by disposing of wooden-spooners North Sydney 30-18 at North Sydney Oval yesterday. Wests, fourth on 28 points, will play fifth-placed Canterbury-Bankstown at the SCG next Sunday. The rampaging Magpies led 30-5 after 63 minutes but eased to allow Norths three tries in the last nine minutes. Coach Roy Masters was furious with the lapse, which could have cost Wests the coveted third position had Cronulla-Sutherland lost to Penrith. "I can assure you it won't happen again," Masters said. "Everyone was saying that Cronulla and Parramatta would play each other next week, but it was by no means a foregone conclusion." Had Cronulla lost and Wests maintained their 30-5 lead, Wests would have finished level with Cronulla on competition points but ahead on points for-and-against. Cronulla drew with Penrith to clinch third place. So, Wests, if they are to reach the Grand Final, will have to do it the hard way. Yet they must be rated as strong premiership contenders if they can reproduce the inspired attacking bursts that tore Norths apart. Once again, their big forward pack laid the foundation for victory. Props Bruce Gibbs and John Donnelly and second-rower Les Boyd were fearsome as they hit the line, sending would-be tacklers tumbling with a sickening jolt. And Wests should be at full strength to play Canterbury if Tom Raudonikis, who has been out with a broken thumb, is able to return. Masters' big decision is whether to play Raudonikis at lock in place of Graeme O'Grady or half-back in place of Alan Neil. Neil had another good game yesterday, standing in a tackle to send full-back Wayne Smith over for Wests' first try, then backing up a break by Gibbs to score the second. Five-eighth Peter Walsh and hooker Ray Brown also made the most of Norths' crumbly defence. Wests celebrated at North Sydney Leagues Club last night in the knowledge that they had won a bet of \$16,000 to \$4,000 by making the final five. "Being in the semi-finals is the only way to make the year worthwhile on the money I get as coach," Masters said. "It means I get a \$1,000 bonus plus a share of the \$16,000." And Masters revealed that he and Raudonikis had taken the 14-1 about Wests winning the premiership. **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th August 1979)**

Notes: Wests did what they had to do to make the semi-finals but coach Masters was not happy that, after leading 30-5, they let in three late tries. John Donnelly was back from suspension and along with Bruce Gibbs and Ray Brown were the engine that provided the thrust for the win. It was an exciting match, with a lot of long-range tries.