



1982 Round 24 Sunday 8th August Belmore Oval



Parramatta 24

John MUGGLETON
 Neil HUNT
 Michael CRONIN
 Steve ELLA
 Eric GROTHE
 Brett KENNY
 Paul TAYLOR
 Ray PRICE
 Peter WYNN
 Steve SHARP
 Chris PHELAN
 Steve EDGE (c)
 Geoff BUGDEN
 Graeme ATKINS
 Gary MARTINE
 David HALL
 Geoff COBURN

def.

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

Western Suburbs 7

Wayne SMITH
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Steve ANDERSON
 Ross CONLON
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Greg COX
 Michael DUKE
 George FAHD
 Paul MERLO
 Terry LEABEATER
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Bruce CLARK
 Tom ARBER
 Greg McELHONE



Tries Paul TAYLOR (2)
 John MUGGLETON
 Michael CRONIN
 Graeme ATKINS

Greg McELHONE

Goals Michael CRONIN (4)
 Paul TAYLOR (1) Field Goal

Greg COX (2)

Match Description

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

Parramatta: Full-back: J Muggleton; three-quarters: N Hunt, M Cronin, S Ella, E Grothe; five-eighth: B Kenny; half: P Taylor; forwards: R Price, P Wynn, S Sharp, C Phelan, S Edge (c), G Bugden **Referee: J Gocher (The Sun 9th August 1982)**

It was quite a day for Michael Cronin, the unassuming pub owner from Gerringong who likes to take life as it comes. Cronin was almost back to his best in Parramatta's 24-7 win over Western Suburbs at Belmore Sports Ground yesterday. He broke a club try-scoring record held by someone he knew nothing about. He kicked four goals from six attempts. Best of all, he was running just like he used to as a young lad in the bush competition all those years ago. But typically, Cronin – the gentleman of Rugby League as he is known – was not overly impressed with his display before 16,444 supporters. "Yeah, mate. I played all right, but you need more than just one game to prove that you're going well," he said. "When you have been playing as ordinary as I have, naturally you are worried." Cronin, 30, scored a try in the 28th minute of the first half to bring his tally with the club to 59 – one ahead of Mitchell Wallace, who scored 58 between 1949 and 1952. "Ooh, the Crow of old!" sighed Parramatta's secretary, Denis Fitzgerald, from the grandstand. Cronin's dramatically improved play was just one of a number of aspects that pleased coach Jack Gibson. In short, the Parramatta players aided, rather than hampered, each other. It was a far from different team from the one so comprehensively beaten by Manly-Warringah in the KB Cup last Wednesday. Slightly-built Paul Taylor, who filled in for Peter Sterling in the half-back spot, was outstanding. Taylor may lack something in attack, but his amazing work-rate makes him very much a Jack Gibson-type player. He made 45 tackles yesterday, and he also featured when Parramatta had the ball, scoring two tries. Western Suburbs, without lock Jim Leis, were not the slightest bit impressive. Unimaginative forward play and weak defence were rife. Coach Terry Fearnley's rhetorical question aptly described the game: "They were too good for us, weren't they?" The defeat was, in fact, the first time a Fearnley-coached side has lost to a Gibson-coached side in eight matches, or six years of coaching. "I'll retire before Gibson has a chance to catch up," Fearnley grinned. Wests looked good enough in the opening minutes of the match to suggest they would stretch Parramatta. They led 2-0 after 15 minutes after a Greg Cox penalty goal. But the Eels went ahead 5-2 10 minutes later through a surprising try by Taylor. Second-rower Chris Phelan, not normally noted for his ball skills, slipped a superb pass to Taylor 5m from the line. ... **(Sydney Morning Herald 9th August 1982)**

Notes: Wests were brought back to earth when they were completely outplayed by a sizzling Parramatta team. They were in it for about 15 minutes but then, worryingly, Parramatta exposed an overall lack of pace. Paul Taylor, deputising for Peter Sterling, tore Wests apart.