



1983 Round 3 Sunday 13th March Jubilee Oval



St George 18

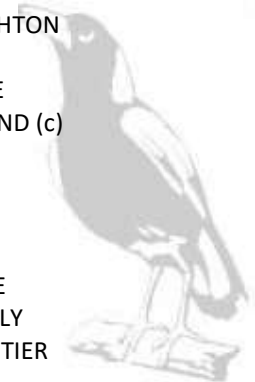
def.

Western Suburbs 0

Brian JOHNSON
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Stephen CASEY
 Steve ROGERS
 Steve GEARIN
 Tony TRUDGETT
 Steve MORRIS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Rod REDDY
 Graeme WYNN
 Pat JARVIS
 John DOWLING
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Michael O'CONNOR
 Craig MADSEN
 Chris WALSH

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

Greg COX
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Wayne SMITH
 David GREENE
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Scott GALE
 Mark BEAVEN
 Brett GALE
 Brian BATTESE
 John DONNELLY
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Bill HILLIARD
 Paul GEARIN
 Mark MASSONE



Tries Brian JOHNSTON (2)
 Graeme WYNN
 Michael O'CONNOR

Goals Steve GEARIN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Cox; three-quarters: S Broughton, D Greene, W Smith, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: S Gale; forwards: M Beaven, B Gale, B Battese, W Hilliard, A Mountier, J Donnelly

St George: Full-back: B Johnson; three-quarters: B Johnston, S Rogers, S Casey, S Gearin; five-eighth: T Trudgett; half: S Morris; forwards: G O'Grady, R Reddy, G Wynn, C Young (c), J Dowling, P Jarvis **Referee: M Weekes (The Sun 14th March 1983)**

St George won't get within cooe of the two premierships giants, Manly and Parramatta, on yesterday's form against Wests at Kogarah. After three rounds Saints are sharing the lead with Parramatta and Manly, but that's where the resemblance starts and finishes. It wouldn't have surprised to see Saints' coach Roy Masters walk back into his old Wests' dressing room at half-time when the score was 2-0. Saints had bene disjointed and seemingly disinterested. Only a 20-minute flurry in the second half saved them from a verbal lashing. There was a lack of individual flair in Saints' attack yesterday but the defence, as the 18-0 shoutout indicates, toed the line. Saints yesterday looked like Saints 1982 – flat and carefree. Wests' situation in 1983 is little short of tragic. In recent seasons they have lost players of the calibre of Tom Raudonikis, John Dorahy, Les Boyd, Ray Brown, John Ribot and this season Jim Leis, Ross Conlon, Paul Merlo and Steve Anderson. They have been left with little firepower but still battle bravely against overwhelming odds. Wests' coach Len Stacker was, as always, the realist. "In the end they just had too much class for us and we can only hope that a win will bring some confidence and maybe a bit of luck," Stacker said. Saints' best were full-back Johnson, who made some fine saves and was always dangerous, five-eighth Trudgett, Wynn and winger Johnston, who revealed brilliant speed to finish off backline raids. For Wests, second-rower Brian Battese is a fine prospect while Scott Gale, switched from centre to half-back to contain Steve Morris, played soundly. Referees' director Eric Cox was called upon when confusion reigned on the new rules during the game. The bone of contention came when St George lock Graeme O'Grady twice stood out from the scrum and was not penalised, while opposite Mark Beaven was penalised when he tried the same tactic. A new rule introduced this season states the lock-forward must pack into the scrum. But O'Grady stood in the St George backline when they were a man short after full-back Brian Johnson was sin-binned for 10 minutes. After the match Cox explained O'Grady was within his rights to stand in Saints' backline while they were a man short. Rogers was stunned when referee Martin Weekes awarded his team a shot at goal from what appeared to be a scrum penalty. But referee Weekes had penalised Beaven for not packing into the scrum. "I could not believe it but it was to our advantage so I wasn't going to argue." Rogers said. The Saints' star was prepared to kick for the line but, after speaking with Weekes, threw the ball to winger Steve Gearin who missed with his attempt. Stacker conferred with Cox over the confusion in the players in the tunnel after the match. **(The Sun 14th March 1983)**

Notes: Brian Battese was back from injury and was easily Wests' best player. Bill Hilliard (ex-Balmain) came in for Ian Freeman and also played well, as did Scott Gale at half. Wests battled hard for 60 minutes and were only down 6-0 when Saints put on three late tries. St George's 70% of possession was a telling factor in the end.