



1974 Round 3 Sunday 14th April Cumberland Oval



Parramatta 15

Mick BELLEW
 John MORAN
 Kevin HOGAN
 Ron GRAHAM
 Mal McMARTIN
 Denis PITTARD (c)
 John KOLC
 John BAKER
 Mal CHENEY
 John PAYNE
 Dennis FITZGERALD
 John MCMARTIN
 Bob O'REILLY

def.

Western Suburbs 11

Tony FORD
 Robbie PARKER
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Dave OLIVERI
 Russell MULLINS
 John HEYWARD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Warren SNODGRASS
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 Jim MURPHY
 Shane DAY
 John O'BRYAN
 John DORAHY



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

Tries Dennis FITZGERALD
 John MORAN
 Bob O'REILLY

Russell MULLINS

Goals Mick BELLEW (3)

John DORAHY (3)
 Tony FORD (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: R Parker, S Knight, D Oliveri, R Mullins; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, J Elford, G Foster, J Murphy, S Day, J O'Bryan

Parramatta: Full-back: M Bellew; three-quarters: J Moran, K Hogan, R Graham, M McMartin; five-eighth: D Pittard (c); half: J Kolc; forwards: J Baker, M Cheney, J Payne, D Fitzgerald, J McMartin, R O'Reilly **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 20th April 1974)**

Parramatta forwards had one of their "on" games and shamed Wests' much-boomed pack to spearhead a well-deserved 15-11 win at Cumberland Oval. Wests' forwards had no answer to Bob O'Reilly, John McMartin and Denis Fitzgerald who tore up the centre of the rucks without difficulty. O'Reilly swatted Wests' would-be tacklers off like flies and unloaded the ball well to his supports. McMartin won the scrums 11-7 and played well in the open while Fitzgerald never stopped working. Wests were lucky to be level seven-all at the break. A Bob O'Reilly try soon after half-time gave Parramatta a 10-7 lead. Two John Dorahy goals gave Wests an 11-10 lead after 68 minutes before Fitzgerald scored the winning try five minutes from full-time after good leadup work by John Payne and John Kolc. Parramatta were the better side and deserved their win. Every Wests forward was overshadowed by his opponent and coach Don Parish was bitterly disappointed with his pack. "They were disgraceful," he said. Winger John Moran had a strong game for the winners scoring a determined try and saving two others with great ball-and-all tackles which left Wests' attackers dazed over the sideline. **(The Sun 16th April 1974)**

Long-haired Rugby League prop Denis Fitzgerald yesterday inspired Parramatta's first premiership win of the season. Fitzgerald capped a great game by scoring the winning try in Parramatta's 15-11 victory over Wests at Cumberland Oval. In a tireless performance, the lanky Fitzgerald finished lengths ahead of the two international props on the field, Jim Murphy (Wests) and Bob O'Reilly (Parramatta). O'Reilly had a quiet game and was mostly contained by Wests' half Tom Raudonikis, one of the smallest men on the field. Wests wilted, especially in the forwards, as they failed to shake off Parramatta. Wests were a jaded lot yesterday compared to the side that beat Balmain 62-5 and drew 18-all with Norths in the opening rounds. "We were just too lethargic", coach Don Parish said. Parramatta, who finished with three tries to one, clinched the match when Fitzgerald crashed over for a converted try five minutes from full-time. Parramatta, with an 11-7 scrum advantage, lacked the pace to sustain their breaks. Their three tries came from moves inside the "25". Winger John Moran, one of the best backs on the field, scored after a bumping 20 metre run and O'Reilly crashed over close to the line. Three times – twice when leading 10-7 – Parramatta took tap penalties from easy goal-kicking positions when a goal would have consolidated their lead. **(Daily Telegraph 15th April 1974)**

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Notes: Wests had played an Amco Cup match on the Wednesday night against Easts and the forwards started to show fatigue as the Parramatta pack, led by Dennis Fitzgerald, took charge. Tony Ford left the field with a leg injury and was replaced by the mercurial John Dorahy, the first time he had been on the field in a First Grade match. John Heyward (shoulder) and Dave Oliveri (concussion) also joined a growing list of injuries.