



# 1976 Round 3 Sunday 4th April Penrith Park



## Western Suburbs 18

drew with

## Penrith 18

Wayne SMITH  
 Don ROGERS  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Robbie PARKER  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Les BOYD  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 John ELFORD  
 John DONNELLY  
 John PURCELL  
 Peter YOUNG  
 Mick LIUBINSKAS  
 Peter WALSH

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

Ken WILSON  
 Garry ALLSOPP  
 Glen WEST  
 Ross GIGG  
 Terry QUINN  
 Zac OLEJARNIK  
 Terry WICKEY  
 Barry Le BROCCQ  
 John KING  
 Bill ASHURST  
 Tim SHEENS  
 Mike STEPHENSON (c)  
 Bob O'REILLY  
 Brian REEVE

### Tries

Les BOYD (2)  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Graeme O'GRADY

John KING (3)  
 Glenn WEST

### Goals

John DONNELLY (2)  
 Ron GITEAU (1)

Ken WILSON (3)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, J Elford, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

**Penrith:** Full-back: K Wilson; three-quarters: G Allsopp, R Gigg, G West, T Quinn; five-eighth: Z Olejarnik; half: T Wickey; forwards: B Le Brocq J King, W Ashurst, T Sheens, M Stephenson (c), R O'Reilly **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 10th April 1976)**

John King, Penrith Rugby League team's rookie second-rower, scored his third try of the match 30 seconds from the end to snatch a dramatic 18-all draw against Western Suburbs at Penrith yesterday. King dragged two defenders almost 10 metres to the line and touched down a split second before he was crashed over the corner flag. The 24-year-old forward, in his first season of grade football since switching from Ryde-Eastwood, showed a lot of anticipation to score his three tries. In a tough, thrilling, and at times spectacular match, the teams finished with four tries each, but Wests lost their chance with poor goal-kicking. Prop John Donnelly and five-eighth Graham O'Grady missed attempts from in front. So, for the second week in succession, Wests' hard work suffered because of their failure to find a kicker of even reasonable accuracy. Perhaps centre Ron Giteau, who landed the last attempt, could find himself saddled with this chore next Saturday against Canterbury. ... Wests, trailing 8-15 after 11 minutes of the second half, recovered magnificently to lead 18-15 with minutes left. Penrith, winning the scrums with monotonous regularity, gained possession and tall second-rower Bill Ashurst stormed into action. As the defence converged on him, he put a little kick over their heads, regathered and fired a perfect pass to Zac Olejarnik, who had another player in support. But Olejarnik dropped the ball. "You get one chance, not two, in a situation like that," Penrith coach Barry Harris said after the match. But Penrith did get another chance. It started when Ashurst sent a quick pass to winger Gary Allsopp and the ball went inside to replacement five-eighth Brian Reeves and on to King. King touched down half a metre inside the line and Ken Wilson's attempted conversion screwed off his boot and landed 20 metres from the posts. Wests looked the better side for much of the match. Thrashed 4-13 in the scrums, they worried the life out of Penrith, forcing them into errors and making them mishandle 21 times, including 12 occasions in the second half. Inspired play by captain Tom Raudonikis and burly prop John Donnelly exposed Penrith's Achilles Heel. Raudonikis had his players pouring "up the middle" and they made the Penrith defence look commonplace. Tall full-back Wayne Smith set up lock Les Boyd's second try this way, stepping around the man marking him, racing 20 metres and then passing to Boyd. Penrith led 12-8 at half-time after King had scored twice, the first when Ross Gigg had snapped up a dropped pass and the second following a magnificent break by Ashurst. Raudonikis, working the blind, sent Geoff Foster plunging over for his team's first try and then Boyd, with the aid of a shepherd, crossed. ... Mishandling, a succession of scrum penalties and the vigorous Wests' attack had Penrith back-peddling and apparently beaten when O'Grady sliced through three tacklers and then Boyd scored. Boyd's two tries and his overall play confirmed that he is a young player with tremendous potential. ..(Sydney Morning Herald 5th April 1976)

**Notes:** Wests were very unlucky to draw this game. They battled a 13-4 scrum deficit and yet were very dominant in a thrilling second-half display. Penrith scored a disputed last-minute try to get a lucky draw. Les Boyd was the star for Wests, scoring a brilliant weaving try, while Tom Raudonikis had his forwards charging up the middle. The goal-kicking had now become a serious issue, with three kickers only getting three out of seven and Donnelly and O'Grady both missing shots from in front.