



1971 Round 3 Thursday 8th April Lidcombe Oval



Penrith 16

Mike LEARY
Reg HATTON
David APPLEBEE
Grahame MORAN (c)
Larry PINKERTON
Ian McKECHNIE
Noel SING
Phil KLIENDIENST
Peter WRIGHT
Rod ELLIOTT
Terry GEARY
Ron WORKMAN
Bruce WARD

def.

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

Western Suburbs 7

Peter FLANDERS
Don ROGERS
Roy FERGUSON (c)
Dick TIMBS
John ELFORD
Tim MURPHY
Tom RAUDONIKIS
Neville SINCLAIR
John BAKER
Barry BRYANT
Tony ANTUNAC
Ken STONESTREET
George SKEERS
Russell MULLINS
John MAXWELL



Tries

David APPLEBEE
Reg HATTON
Ian McKECHNIE
Noel SING

Dick TIMBS

Goals

Bruce WARD (2)

Peter FLANDERS (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: P Flanders; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Ferguson (c), R Timbs, J Elford; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: T Raudonikis; forwards: N Sinclair, J Baker, B Bryant, G Skeers, K Stonestreet, T Antanuc

Penrith: Full-back: M Leary; three-quarters: R Hatton, D Applebee, G Moran (c), L Pinkerton; five-eighth: I McKechnie; half: N Sing; forwards: P Kliendienst, P Wright, R Elliott, T Geary, R Workman, B Ward **Referee: L Bruyeres (Rugby League Week 17th April 1971)**

West's squandered their chance of beating Penrith in last night's Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval when they allowed full-back Peter Flanders to leave the field early in the second half. Penrith, leading 8-7 at that stage, scored two more tries to win 16-7. West's agreed to let Flanders quit in the second half so he could catch a train to Coffs Harbour, where he is holidaying at Easter. It was an incredible decision by West's officials with the club struggling to get out of the rut after finishing second-last in last year's competition. Flanders, a handy attacking full-back, is also the team's goal-kicker. In an era where clubs are fining and dropping players who turn up late for training, West's action in allowing a player to quit half-way through a match to go on holidays is incomprehensible. Flanders confirmed in the dressing room that he had not been injured and had merely left the field to catch a train to visit his family in Coffs Harbour. He said West's officials knew he could only play one half before the match started. West's Secretary Mr Bill Beaver ran on to the sidelines to call Flanders off 10 minutes after half-time. West's were on the attack deep inside Penrith's half and seemed likely to score when Flanders ran off. Seizing the initiative, Penrith scored two minutes later. Half Noel Sing twisted out of two tackles to score a converted try, which virtually clinched the match. Reserve Grade full-back Russ Mullins, a younger brother of East's winger Bill Mullins, replaced Flanders. Two minutes after Flanders was called off, West's half Tom Raudonikis left the field with an injured shoulder. Raudonikis, the power behind what little attack West's could muster, was replaced by John Maxwell. The loss of Flanders and Raudonikis took all the sting out of West's attack. Penrith scored four tries to one in recording their first win of the season. Penrith have been soundly defeated in matches this season and were given little chance of upsetting West's last night. Winning one of their few scrums in the second half, Penrith got the ball to McKechnie who dummied past full-back Mullins to score. Penrith's previously suspect defence held out a determined West's attack through the second half. **(Daily Telegraph 9th April 1971)**

... In a most amazing scene, Western Suburbs Secretary Bill Beaver beckoned Flanders from the field 10 minutes into the second half so that Flanders could catch the 9.58 train at Strathfield for Coffs Harbour. It is doubtful if he caught the train anyway, as he left the field only 18 minutes before it was due to leave. ... It was a most incredible decision in this day and age, when Rugby League is supposed to be a professional sport. **.. (Sydney Morning Herald 9th April 1971)**

Notes: This was one of the most controversial matches West's ever played, when Peter Flanders left the field to catch a train to Coffs Harbour when West's were in a winning position. Flanders was banned for life by West's, and after a very long process eventually played for Eastern Suburbs in 1972. He was replaced on debut by Russell Mullins, younger brother of East's winger, Bill Mullins. Raudonikis also went off injured (replaced by Maxwell). With Cody, Winter and Smith also out injured, West's started to flounder and became very disjointed in attack. The bright start to the season was all but forgotten. Neville Sinclair and George Skeers also debuted.