



# 1972 Round 3 Saturday 8th April Lidcombe Oval



## Eastern Suburbs 23

def.

## Western Suburbs 7

Allan McKEAN  
Peter FLANDERS  
Harry CAMERON  
Mark HARRIS  
Bill MULLINS  
John BALLESTY  
John MAYES  
Ron COOTE (c)  
Laurie FREIER  
Dick THORNETT  
Jim MORGAN  
Peter MOSCATT  
John ARMSTRONG

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

Tony FORD  
Don ROGERS  
John ELFORD  
Stephen KNIGHT  
Russell MULLINS  
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
Brian WINNEY  
John BAKER  
Russell JOHNSTONE  
Barry BRYANT  
John O'BRYAN  
Ken STONESTREET  
John WALKER  
John SHERIDAN



**Tries** Laurie FREIER (3)  
Peter FLANDERS  
Bill MULLINS

Stephen KNIGHT

**Goals** Allan McKEAN (4)

Tony FORD (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, J Elford, R Mullins; five-eighth: T Raudonikis (c); half: B Winney; forwards: J Baker, B Bryant, R Johnstone, J O'Bryan, K Stonestreet, J Walker

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back: A McKean; three-quarters: P Flanders, H Cameron, M Harris, W Mullins; five-eighth: J Ballesty; half: J Mayes; forwards: R Coote (c), L Freier, R Thornett, J Armstrong, P Moscott, J Morgan **Referee: G Bennett (The Sun 8th April 1972)**

Eastern Suburbs Rugby League captain Ron Coote broke his left arm at Lidcombe Oval yesterday and will be out of action for six or seven weeks. Coote broke his arm in the first half but returned for the second half when his team trailed Western Suburbs. He stayed on the field until Easts hit the front in the second half. They went on to win 23-7. Coote's arm was injured in a tackle but he was not sure he had broken it. An x-ray at St Vincent's Hospital confirmed the fracture and the arm was immediately placed in plaster. Coote's loss is a severe blow to Easts who have pinned much of their premiership hopes on the former World Cup captain. Easts already have prop Arthur Beetson under suspension. Easts' regular forward of last year, John Quayle, took Coote's place when he came off yesterday and is expected to be chosen for the position next week. Easts did not perform as well as the scores indicated yesterday and will need all their players available in the coming weeks. The Roosters, I suspect, thought Wests would be a pushover. After all, hasn't everybody told them they were certain semi-finalists? When Easts went to 5-0 lead early, they apparently thought it would be a picnic. But Wests, a tough bunch, began to ruffle Easts and by half-time had snatched a 7-5 lead. Easts' coach Don Furner jolted his team out of their apathy and they gradually warmed to their task in the last 40 minutes. Easts had so much of the ball they were embarrassed. Peter Moscott won the scrums 16-5 and the penalties fell Easts' way 14-11. But they frittered away many chances, and a good team, functioning well, would have scored twice as many tries as Easts did. To add to their woe, full-back Allan McKean could raise the flags only four times from 11 attempts at goal. Winger Bill Mullins scored a try but he muffed more chances than any player on the field. On the day, his young brother, Russell, finished on top. Easts' second-rower Laurie Freier scored three tries, and his positional play and defence were good. The duel between Easts' John Ballesty and Tom Raudonikis was keen, and I thought Ballesty had the edge on the day. Raudonikis was Wests' best player. **(The Sun-Herald 9th April 1972)**

**Notes:** There were a number of interesting clashes in this match. Russell Mullins marked older brother Bill on the wing and by all accounts finished on top. Peter Flanders played his first match for Easts in First Grade and scored a good try against his old club. John Armstrong was also in the Easts' pack as well as Dick Thornett, playing his first match for Easts. It was this powerful pack, helped by a 16-5 scrum domination, that allowed Easts to wipe off a 7-5 half-time deficit to run away in the second half. Stephen Knight scored a dazzling 80-yard first-half try as a highlight, in a game where Easts' captain Ron Coote broke his arm. Raudonikis and Knight were the best for Wests and it was obvious wholesale team changes were needed.