



1972 Round 4 Sunday 16th April Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 13

def.

Canterbury-Bankstown 9

Russell MULLINS
Don ROGERS
Stephen KNIGHT
Stephen SATTERLY
Allan ASHMORE
John HEYWARD
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
John BAKER
John ELFORD
Olaf PRATTL
John O'BRYAN
Jim CROUCHER
John WALKER
George SKEERS
Russell JOHNSTONE

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

Chris ANDERSON
John RHODES
Alan BURWELL
Peter Van GULIK
Bernie CROWTHER
Ray STRUDWICK
Phil YOUNG
Ron RAPER
Neville HORNER
Mick TRYPAS
Ron COSTELLO (c)
Greg PURCELL
Henry TATANA



Tries

Don ROGERS
George SKEERS
Jim CROUCHER

Ron RAPER

Goals

Stephen SATTERLY (2)

Ron RAPER (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Mullins; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, S Satterly, A Ashmore; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, J Elford, O Pratl, J O'Bryan, J Croucher, J Walker

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: C Anderson; three-quarters: J Rhodes, A Burwell, P Van Gulik, B Crowther; five-eighth: R Strudwick; half: P Young; forwards: R Raper, N Hornery, M Trypas, R Costello (c), G Purcell, J Tatana **Referee: L Bruyeres (The Sun 17th April 1972)**

Two newcomers to Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday put the finishing touches to a 13-9 win over Canterbury at Lidcombe Oval. Hooker Jim Croucher and replacement forward George Skeers scored tries in the closing minutes, after Canterbury had struggled to hold what looked like a winning 9-7 lead. Wests, inspired by a first-class performance from half-back Tom Raudonikis, overcame a shortage of ball to inflict Canterbury's third successive defeat. The Canterbury line-up, shaken from their own mistakes and missing key players, could not hold Wests in the last 10 minutes. Croucher, having his initial first grade game at the expense of long-service hooker Ken Stonestreet, put the match in Wests' hands with his try five minutes before full-time. Two minutes later, replacement George Skeers, who had only been on the field for 60 seconds, made sure of the win when he crashed over wide out. Croucher, 21, described yesterday as "one of the greatest days of my life. I've been filling in with Wests' lower grade packs for so long I didn't think I'd ever get a first-grade chance as a hooker," he said. "I've had to play second-row and prop because Wests had so many good hookers in front of me." Yesterday was only Croucher's 15th match as hooker since he was called up from Wests' 1969 President's Cup team. "I've never earned more than \$60 in any season since I started playing with Wests," he said. "I have to see the committee this week in the hope of getting a contract." Skeers, who joined Wests from the country last year, put the skids under Canterbury with his try two minutes from full-time. Canterbury lock, Ron Raper, seemed to have pulled Canterbury out of trouble 10 minutes from the end when he landed an easy penalty goal to put them ahead 9-7. Wests, although losing the scrum 10-16, had spoiled several earlier chances to score and appeared to have finished their burst. Winning points coming from Raper would have been just, as he had tried vainly to rally Canterbury. Missing four regular first-graders, Canterbury had little support to offer Raper. Second-rower Mick Trynax tore a calf muscle in the first three minutes and joined Gary Dowling, winger John Greaves and front-rower Denis Manteit in the dressing-room. New Zealanders Henry Tatana (front-row) and Bernie Lowther (wing) came on as replacements. They showed little to justify the \$23,000 Canterbury outlayed on them. The spirit and enthusiasm in Wests' side justified the gamble selectors took with the new men. Wests got straight down to business after the opening whistle with centre Steve Knight putting winger Don Rogers over in the corner after six minutes. Canterbury overhauled Wests to be 5-all at half-time after Raper's converted try. But Wests overshadowed Canterbury in the second half. Forwards John O'Bryan and John Baker crossed Canterbury's line but lost the ball before touching down. ...**(Daily Telegraph 17th April 1972)**

Notes: Wests' selectors took the axe to the normal team, dropping for the first time Ken Stonestreet and Barry Bryant, as well as Tony Ford, Brian Winney (making way for the previously injured John Heyward) and Russ Johnstone. Allan Ashmore (who had played under the name of Aitken in the trials), ex-Canberra Rugby Union) debuted on the wing, along with Stephen Satterly (ex-Balmain) in the centres. Jim Croucher, who had played a lot as Reserve Grade hooker, replaced Ken Stonestreet, and scored the winning try in the last ten minutes, nobody cheering more loudly than Stonestreet himself from the sidelines. Russell Mullins went to full-back and had a strong match in a very rugged game of football. Wests played with a lot of spirit to record their first win of the season.