



# 1978 Round 4 Sunday 16th April Henson Park



## Western Suburbs 25

def.

## Newtown 7

Buddy CAIN  
 Don MOSELEY  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Les BOYD  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Peter ROWLES  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Steve BLYTH  
 John DONNELLY  
 John PURCELL  
 Peter YOUNG  
 Bruce GIBBS

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

Phil SIGSWORTH  
 Chris DOYLE  
 Jeff HUNT  
 Brian HETHERINGTON  
 Bruce PICKETT  
 Paul HAYWARD  
 Barry WOOD (c)  
 John RIBOT  
 Ron PILON  
 Ron FOGARTY  
 Steve BOWDEN  
 Barry JENSEN  
 Col CASEY (c)  
 Col MURPHY

**Tries** Peter ROWLES (2)  
 Ron GITEAU  
 John PURCELL  
 Les BOYD

Barry WOOD

**Goals** Peter ROWLES (5)

Phil SIGSWORTH (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: E Cain; three-quarters: D Moseley, L Boyd, R Giteau, W Smith; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

**Newtown:** Full-back: P Sigsworth; three-quarters: C Doyle, J Hunt, B Hetherington, B Pickett; five-eighth: P Hayward; half: B Wood (c); forwards: J Ribot, R Pilon, R Fogarty, C Casey, B Jensen, S Bowden **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 22nd April 1978)**

A fine individual performance by five-eighth Peter Rowles was the highlight of Wests' 25-7 win over Newtown at Henson Park yesterday. Rowles scored two tries and booted five goals for a tally of 16 points. The match offered very little for spectators, with both sides falling down badly in the fundamentals of the game. Hooker John Purcell opened the scoring for Wests in the 7th minute when he finished off a forward raid close to the Newtown line. Rowles failed to convert but the Magpies were in again soon after when centre Les Boyd forced himself over from a play-the-ball. The conversion, plus another penalty goal to Rowles, pushed Wests to a half-time lead of 10-7. Newtown's points came from two goals by Phil Sigsworth and a brilliant individual try by skipper Barry Wood – the Jets' best player. Concussion forced Wood from the field late in the game. The second half of the game emphasised the troubles Newtown will have throughout the year with their lightweight team. It was then they succumbed to their much heavier opponents – allowing Wests to race over for three more tries. The Magpies' five tries enabled them to share the Craven Mild try award with St George. **(Daily Telegraph 17th April 1978)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team improved on a 10-7 half-time lead and turned it into a runaway 25-7 win against Newtown at Henson Park yesterday. Five-eighth Peter Rowles was Wests' star for the second week in a row. He scored two tries and kicked five goals. Apart from a last-second loss against Eastern Suburb's three weeks ago, Wests should be in the premiership lead, but they are in second place and looking every inch a semi-final team. For Newtown it was another sorry afternoon and they are playing without any confidence. The Jets were well beaten when they lost captain and best player, Barry Wood, with concussion midway through the second half. Although Newtown restricted the Magpies' scoring in the first half, Wests really opened up in the second half and should have improved on their tally of five tries. **(Sydney Morning Herald 17th April 1978)**

When Peter Rowles switched codes back in 1975, it was without the usual fanfare and fat wallet accompanying the transfer of bigger-name Rugby players. A car accident almost ended Rowles' career the year before and, when Manly RL Club released him as an import after a few games, Rowles even considered retirement. Then a desperate low-budget Wests signed Rowles on the very last day of registration. Now, after a season of settling in, the lightweight pivot is proving one of the premiership's bargain buys. "There is no five-eighth in the premiership playing better football than Rowles," said Test half-back Tom Raudonikis, after the Magpies' 25-7 hammering of Newtown at Henson Park. .... **(The Sun 17th April 1978)**

**Notes:** Wests were only in front 10-7 at the break but the forwards, led by Donnelly, Foster and Young, dominated in the second half and with Peter Rowles establishing himself as the leading five-eighth in Sydney and Les Boyd dynamic in the centres, Wests ran away to be easy winners. Bruce Gibbs (ex-Newtown) came on as a replacement in his debut for Wests.