1984 Round 4 Wednesday 4th April Lidcombe Oval

North Sydney 16   def.   Western Suburbs 8

North Sydney	Position	Western Suburbs
Wayne PORTLOCK	*Fullback*	John McARTHUR
Allan SHEPPARD	*Wing*	Steve BROUGHTON
Wayne WIGHAM	*Centre*	Wayne SMITH (c)
Simon BROCKWELL	*Centre*	Gerald CELARC
Chris LUCKMAN	*Wing*	Mick PINKERTON
Mitchell COX	*Five-eighth*	Brett DAVIDSON
Paul McCAFFERY	*Half*	Trevor COGGER
Alan BURNS	*Lock*	Mark HARRIGAN
Mark GRAHAM (c)	*Second Row*	Michael DUKE
Fred TEADSELL	*Second Row*	Craig MADSEN
Don McKINNON	*Front Row*	John COVENEY
Phil RITCHIE	*Hooker*	Pat ENGLISH
Lindsay JOHNSTON	*Front Row*	Bruce CLARK
Graeme JENNINGS	*Replacement*	Matt CARTER
Wayne LONERGAN	*Replacement*	George FAHD

| *Tries* | Fred TEASDELL | |
| | Allan SHEPPARD | |

| *Goals* | Wayne PORTLOCK (3) | John McARTHUR (4) |
| | Wayne LONERGAN (1) | |

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: J McArthur; three-quarters: S Broughton, G Celarc, W Smith (c), M Pinkerton; five-eighth: B Davidson; half: T Cogger; forwards: M Harrigan, M Duke, C Madsen, J Coveney, P English, B Clark
North Sydney: Full-back: W Portlock; three-quarters: A Sheppard, W Wigham, S Brockwell, C Luckman; five-eighth: M Cox; half: P McCaffery; forwards: A Burns, M Graham (c), F Teasdell, L Johnson, P Ritchie, D McKinnon   **Referee: B Barnes   (The Daily Mirror 5th April 1984)**

North Sydney is likely to be without lock Allan Burns and full-back Wayne Portlock for Saturday's game against St George. Coach John Hayes replaced Burns while Portlock retired injured after being kneed on the hip in the last 10 minutes of the Bears' fumbling 16-8 win over Wests at Lidcombe Oval last night. Burns, who played the off-season with English club Wakefield Trinity, is sadly out of form and is likely to be dropped for Saturday's match. His substitute, former Penrith utility player Graeme Jennings, is almost certain to be retained but could not be needed to take over Portlock's spot. Hayes was reluctant to talk about possible sackings as the aftermath to the game, simply saying: "There could well be changes." He was also angered by some players not arriving at the ground for the team meeting 90 minutes before the kick-off. "A couple of them were late and I haven't forgotten who they were," Hayes said. Wests deserve praise for their enthusiastic play in a game where Norths went through 78 minutes of horrors before sealing the victory. "You couldn't get a more horrific game than that," Hayes said. Norths held a slender 10-8 advantage and had replacement forward Col Murphy and captain Mark Graham held up over the line – unable to ground the ball – before luck came their way with a converted try. Norths won a scrum against the feed and five-eighth Mitchell Cox cut out centre Simon Brockwell with a long pass for winger Alan Sheppard to score his team's second try, converted by replacement full-back Wayne Lonergan.
(Daily Mirror 5th April 1984)

The lights stayed on at Lidcombe Oval last night, but the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club might have wished otherwise. Apart from their first home crowd of 3,682 being well below expectations, Wests had to face the indignity of being beaten by North Sydney 16-8. The blow was more painful because of the standard of North Sydney's play. Norths all too often lacked coordination and imagination, and their handling verged on pathetic. Many attacking moves by the Bears were ruined by almost unbelievable dropped passes, but they were still fortunate enough to score two tries against an always eager Wests who, however, were unable to find gaps. John Hayes, the North Sydney coach, best summed it up:" We did not play at all well. We played the full six tackles out only once without dropping the ball. You don't need any more statistics than that. You couldn't get anything more horrifying. Still, I was also impressed with the Magpies as they played as I thought – with enthusiasm." But it takes more than zest to win Rugby League matches as Wests found out last night. Although they were always vigorous, Wests were not eager to pass the ball far past their ruck. The only notable feature of the match occurred when referee Barry Barnes sent Wests' front-rower John Coveney and Norths' prop Don McKinnon to the sin-bin for 10 minutes late in the second half after a fight between the packs. **(Sydney Morning Herald 5th April 1984)**

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Notes: This was a very poor-quality match which featured poor handling by both sides. Wests, however, were very competitive, only losing the game in the last ten minutes. Mark Harrigan (41 tackles) was very strong in defence.