



1977 Round 5 Sunday 17th April Penrith Park



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Penrith 13

Wayne SMITH
Peter ROWLES
Gavin MILLER
Ron GITEAU
Russell MULLINS
Ken HEY
Geoff SMITH
Geoff FOSTER
Mick LIUBINSKAS
Steve BLYTH
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY (c)
Doug LUCAS
Graeme O'GRADY

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

Kevin DANN
Terry QUINN
Jim REYNOLDS
Glenn WEST
John RYAN
Ross GIGG
Terry WICKEY
Zac OLEJARNIK
Paul MERLO
John KING
Ross CALE
Mike STEPHENSON (c)
Bob O'REILLY
Richard COOKE
George LONGHURST

Tries

Ron GITEAU (2)
Steve BLYTH
Geoff FOSTER

Terry QUINN (2)
Terry WICKEY

Goals

Peter ROWLES (4)
Ron GITEAU (1) Field Goal

Kevin DANN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, G Miller, R Mullins; five-eighth: K Hey; half: G Smith; forwards: G Foster, M Liubinskas, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day (C), D Lucas

Penrith: Full-back: K Dann; three-quarters: T Quinn, J Reynolds, G West, J Ryan; five-eighth: R Gigg; half: T Wickey; forwards: Z Olejarnik, P Merlo, J King, R Cale, M Stephenson, R O'Reilly (c) **Referee: R Humphreys (Rugby League Week 23rd April 1977)**

A Sydney first-grade Rugby League coach running onto the field to embrace his players? It happened at Penrith Park yesterday when Wests stormed home to beat Penrith 21-13. Magpies coach Keith Holman didn't miss a player as he made his delight apparent to his somewhat embarrassed team. Holman still had to go through his usual practice of blasting them at half-time though. He had plenty of reason to. "I called them everything I could think of," he said with a smile. "I doubted their heart and pride," he said. The Panthers had their teeth back in with the return of Mike Stephenson and his superb direction around the rucks saw the locals dash away in what appeared to be a match-winning 13-4 lead at half-time. The home crowd were delirious – but it wasn't to last. It was a different Wests after the break – their one-out pattern made way for power running up the middle. The Magpies actually played football for only 40 of the 80 minutes. It was enough. Wests' players shoved team-mates aside to take the ball, which flowed 12-5 from Shane Day's boots. "I couldn't believe the difference in our forwards," Day said after the match. The big Wests' pack, led by Geoff Foster, Stephen Blyth, and more importantly, John Donnelly, pounded Penrith into submission. .. **(The Sun 18th April 1977)**

Western Suburbs yesterday came back to earth with a jolt, having to struggle all the way to a 21-13 win over Penrith at Penrith Park. The memories of the dream 60-0 win over North Brisbane in the Amco Cup on Wednesday had turned sour yesterday when the Panthers led 13-4 at half-time. Penrith rattled up three first-half tries against a Wests' team which was flat and seemed reluctant to tackle. A blast from Wests' coach Keith Holman during the interval changed the whole complexion of the game remarkably. Holman asked his players if they had any heart or pride left. It took only three minutes for Wests to provide the answer. With hooker Shane Day winning four of the first five second half scrums, Wests piled on the pressure to send second-rower Geoff Foster over wide out for a start. Then within the space of 18 minutes Wests had surged to the lead. Penrith simply fell apart after skipper Mike Stephenson left the field with leg and rib injuries. By this stage Wests had scored two of their four tries through a glut of possession and Stephenson, realizing he was ineffective in the scrums, left the field. .. But the home side had no idea how to handle the Holman-inspired Magpies in the second half. Strong running centre Ron Giteau went in for tries in the 13th and 18th minutes. Wests were now dominant in the forwards with prop John Donnelly repeatedly finding gaps up the middle. ...**(Daily Telegraph 18th April 1977)**

Notes: Peter Rowles debuted in this match and Doug Lucas returned after injury. Geoff Foster also came in late for Neville Sinclair. Wests were coming off a 60-0 win over North Brisbane in the mid-week Amco Cup match and were lethargic in the first half, trailing 13-4 at half-time. After a powerful half-time rev-up from Keith Holman, where he questioned their commitment, the Wests' pack, led by Donnelly, got on top and Wests scored four good tries. The injection of Graeme O'Grady for the injured Liubinskas provided the spark needed.