



1976 Round 5 Sunday 18th April Henson Park



Western Suburbs 28

def.

Newtown 4

Wayne SMITH
 Don ROGERS
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 Peter YOUNG
 John PURCELL
 John DONNELLY
 Jim MURPHY
 Steve BLYTH

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

John FLOYD (c)
 Kevin BRADSTOCK
 Mark WRIGHT
 Steve KOSTA
 Brian PLUMMER
 Paul HAYWARD
 Steve HANSARD
 Bruce LANGDALE
 Paul DAWSON
 Col CASEY
 Rob SULLIVAN
 Ron TURNER
 Doug LUCAS



Tries Les BOYD (2)
 Geoff FOSTER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Wayne SMITH

Goals Ron GITEAU (5)

Kevin BRADSTOCK (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, J Elford, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

Newtown: Full-back: J Floyd (c); three-quarters: K Bradstock, M Wright, S Kosta, B Plummer; five-eighth: P Hayward; half: S Hansard; forwards: B Langdale, P Dawson, C Casey, R Sullivan, R Turner, D Lucas **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 24th April 1976)**

Newtown, a foundation club of Rugby League, yesterday completed one of its blackest days when humbled 28-4 by Wests at Henson Park. The six-try-to-nil first-grade blitz came after a 52-0 debacle in reserves. Earlier, Newtown's under-23 side had saved the club's respectability with a 17-11 win. It was a day Newtown will want to forget, and one which again stamped Wests as a serious threat in the topsy-turvy premiership. The win lifted them to third place on the table. It was Wests in control all the way, with Newtown struggling to get out of their half when they had the ball. Newtown's hooker Ron Turner made sure they had their fair chance, winning the scrums 11-7. But the scrum advantage was wasted on Newtown, their attack lacking thrust and cohesion. The Jets' lone attacking force, five-eighth Paul Hayward, would bridge the Wests' defence and find his supports trailing well behind. Wests yesterday combined as every coach would want – two or three players backing up the man with the ball. With captain Tom Raudonikis as pivot, Wests spread the ball across the field, eventually finding a break in the defence line. Raudonikis, as terrier-like in attack as in defence, would send the Magpies' forwards bursting through. Boyd, O'Grady and Foster crossed in the first half, leaving Newtown trailing 12-4 at the break. It was the same story in the second half; Wests bagging a hat-trick again. Only four minutes after the re-start, Raudonikis led the Wests' charge, and a free-wheeling 50m movement had full-back Wayne Smith sprinting 15m to score in the corner. This was the try of the match. Lock Les Boyd, rapidly becoming the Magpies' pinup, after a spirited 20m dash, got to his feet and played the ball forward to notch a double 12 minutes later. Again, it was Raudonikis who made the first break in Wests' last try, with winger Russell Mullins backing up second-rower Geoff Foster to score. The first half started fiercely. Two scuffles involved several players from each side. But the fight was gone from Newtown after 20 minutes. **(Daily Telegraph 19th April 1976)**

Lock-forward Les Boyd's powerhouse performance netted him two tries in Western Suburbs' 28-4 thrashing of Newtown at Henson Park yesterday. Boyd, 19, created many openings and tackled magnificently as Wests finished with six tries to nil. But captain Tom Raudonikis said: "It was not one of our best matches and the task was made more difficult by Newtown, who always adopt a spoiling type of game." ... Wests' five-eighth Graeme O'Grady dislocated his thumb early in the game but he returned to the field with his hand heavily bandaged and did not stop trying. **(Sydney Morning Herald 19th April 1976)**

Notes: Although a fiery match early on, the Wests forwards, led by Geoff Foster and a rampaging Les Boyd, took control and allowed Tom Raudonikis to have another dominant display. The forwards ran off him all day and Wests scored six tries to nil. Peter Young contributed with a punishing 37 tackles. The Reserves also won 52-0 so it was a good day overall, although Graeme O'Grady dislocated a thumb and Giteau again missed a couple of easy shots at goal.