



1978 Round 5 Sunday 23rd April Cricket Ground



Balmain 24

Mike FISH
 Merv MUGGLETON
 Dennis BENDALL
 Wayne WIGHAM
 Larry COROWA
 Lloyd MARTIN
 Peter NINNESS
 Trevor RYAN (c)
 Gary SPEARS
 David GRANT
 Geoff NAYLOR
 Noel MAYBURY
 Keith COOK
 Steve LAVERS

def.

Western Suburbs 14

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



Tries

Larry COROWA (3)
 Geoff NAYLOR
 David GRANT
 Dennis BENDALL

Graeme O'GRADY
 Geoff FOSTER

Goals

Merv MUGGLETON (3)

Peter ROWLES (4)

Match Description

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

Balmain: Full-back: M Fish; three-quarters: M Muggleton, D Bendall, W Wigham, L Corowa; five-eighth: L Martin; half: P Ninness; forwards: T Ryan, D Grant, G Spears, G Naylor, N Maybury, K Cook **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 29th April 1978)**

Balmain Rugby League speedster Larry Corowa has a mortgage on one of the City representative wing positions after his dazzling display in his side's 24-14 win over Western Suburbs at the SCG yesterday. Corowa showed blistering speed to score three of Balmain's six tries and he seems assured of City selections when the teams are picked on May 14. His touchdowns, all of which were scored in the second half, came in the seventh, 17th and 33rd minutes. The third three-pointer was as good an individual effort as you could hope to see. A quick play-the-ball resulted in centre Dennis Bendall working his way down the blindside before juggling a pass, which touched a Wests' player, to Corowa. Corowa, with 40 metres between himself and the tryline, elected to run inside, beating his man and two others before scoring on the other side of the ground. Balmain, with five-eighth Les Mara and lock Neil Pringle ready to return from injury, must be rated as top five material on yesterday's performance. Referee Kevin Roberts caned the Tigers in the penalty department, awarding Wests 16 to Balmain's four. Noel Maybury, the best forward on the field, evened up possession to some degree by winning the scrums 15-9. "We will have to brush up on the rule book," Balmain coach Ron Willey said. "Our players gave away far too many penalties and this could have cost us the match against a better side." Western Suburbs, still bruised and battered from their mid-week Amco Cup clash with Southern Suburbs, Brisbane, never looked like winning. Balmain led 6-4 at the interval after tries by Bendall and hard-working prop Geoff Naylor, Wests' first-half points came from two penalty goals by five-eighth Peter Rowles. Corowa's first second-half try took the score to 9-4 but Wests were kept in the match by a Rowles penalty goal in the fifteenth minute. It was at this point where the rot set in for the losers. Balmain kicked deep into Wests' territory after the Rowles goal and lock Graeme O'Grady knocked on. Maybury won the ensuing scrum and a clever backline move, which saw replacement five-eighth Lloyd Martin handle the ball twice, resulted in Corowa scoring in the corner. Muggleton converted to give Balmain a handy 14-6 lead and it wasn't too long before he was having another attempt at conversion. Maybury displayed great ball sense to dummy before sending a well-judged pass to second-rower Gary Spears, who swerved towards the uprights before popping the ball on to his second-row partner David Grant for the easiest of tries. Wests' back-row forwards Geoff Foster and Graeme O'Grady scored in the latter stages of the half. Wests' coach Roy Masters paid tribute to the Balmain combination after the encounter. "They move the ball more than any other side we have come up against," he said. (Sydney Morning Herald 24th April 1978)

Notes: Wests were backing up from a torrid mid-week Amco Cup match against Southern Suburbs, Brisbane, and the forwards became fatigued in the second half, where they were put to the sword by the mercurial Larry Corowa, who scored three slashing tries. John Purcell lost the scrums 13-7 but his general play was again strong, keeping experienced Shane Day in Reserves.