



1980 Round 5 Sunday 25th April Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 14

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Russell FAIRFAX
 Ian SCHUBERT
 John BERNE
 Noel CLEAL
 David MICHAEL
 Barry ANDREWS
 Kevin HASTINGS
 Gary WARNECKE
 Des O'REILLY
 Paul McCABE
 Royce AYLIFFE (c)
 John LANG
 Gary METCALFE

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

Wayne SMITH
 Wayne BUCKLEY
 Ted GOODWIN
 Ron GITEAU
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Peter ROWLES
 Alan NEIL
 Jim LEIS
 Paul MERLO
 Bob COOPER
 John DONNELLY
 Jack JEFFRIES
 Terry LEABEATER
 John RIBOT



Tries Gary WARNECKE
 John LANG

Peter ROWLES

Goals Barry ANDREWS (4)

Peter ROWLES (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: W Buckley, E Goodwin, R Giteau, W Boland (c); five-eighth: P Rowles; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, P Merlo, R Cooper, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, T Leabeater

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Fairfax; three-quarters: I Schubert, J Berne, N Cleal, D Michael; five-eighth: B Andrews; half: K Hastings; forwards: G Warnecke, D O'Reilly, P McCabe, R Ayliffe (c), J Lang, G Metcalfe **Referee: K Roberts (The Sun 28th April 1980)**

Eastern Suburbs yesterday recruited a lock from the Under-23s and then turned on another one of their sterling Anzac Day performances. With rookie Gary Warnecke an important part of the battle plan, Easts gunned down competition leaders Western Suburbs 14-7 at the Sports Ground. It was Easts' seventh successive win on Anzac Day. Secretary Bob Seabrook had to flick back to 1973 to find Easts' last Anzac Day loss, 15-16 to South Sydney. For 22-year-old Warnecke, an accomplished young player from Easts' classy Under-23 side, it was a day to remember. Warnecke received his call-up to big-time football yesterday morning, when problems with a poisoned leg forced John Tobin out of the match. Coach Bobby Fulton leap-grogged the youngster over the more experienced forwards in reserves and into the front line to face the competition leaders. Warnecke repaid Fulton's faith with a most impressive first grade debut in which he scored one try, gave the last pass for another, and brought off a desperation try-saving tackle. He figured in man-of-the-match awards and was one of the heroes in an efficient, grafting Easts' side who brought the high-flying Magpies back to Earth. Wests, with 'flu problems in the camp, failed to capture anything like the intensity of last Sunday's big win over Manly. Wests' men were quick to dismiss the fact that the team had lost another "big city" match as coincidence. But the fact remained that Wests came away from the Sports Ground yesterday a beaten side – as they have done every time, they have ventured on to the Moore Park playing fields in the past two-and-a-bit seasons. There was nothing flash about Easts' methods yesterday, but it was effective football which had coach Fulton justifiably pleased afterwards. Fulton had his men driving up midfield, often making ground from dummy-half and close to the ruck. After grafting to a 6-2 lead on the back of three Barry Andrews' goals they took the match with a lightning strike in the 55th and 57th minutes. First a half-break by John Berne in the middle, backed up by Warnecke brought a try for ever-present John Lang. Easts then finished it with a flourish when Paul McCabe and Ian Schubert set up an exciting try for Warnecke, who had trailed the ball as a good lock should. Wests were out of play. A nasty knee injury, a cut which required nine stitches, had forced forward star Bob Cooper out of the game. And against Easts' dogged defence Wests were finding it much harder to make progress than they had against Manly five days before. Fifteen minutes from the end Russell Fairfax spilled a Jim Leis "bomb" and Peter Rowles scored for 14-7. Not long afterwards Warnecke hared down the touchline after Wests' tearaway Alan Neil and saved the day with a spectacular dive which sent Neil sprawling. For Easts' skipper Royce Ayliffe, the victory was a perfect wedding present. Ayliffe is to be married today. Ayliffe and Wests' John Donnelly – playing his 100th first grade game – made their confrontation a personal duel, as a couple of hard-headed front-rowers should. Referee Kevin Roberts had them both out for cautions after a first-half scrum flare-up, and the two big men continued to play it hard all day. **(Daily Telegraph 26th April 1980)**

Notes: A bout of the flu significantly affected team choice with only five players training during the week. The team also seemed to be living off the glory of the Manly win and Coach Roy Masters had trouble getting them up for the match. That was a shame as it was John Donnelly's 100th game and he gave a wholehearted effort. Bob Cooper was forced off early in the second half with a nasty knee cut, requiring nine stitches and he was replaced by the great John Ribot (from Newtown 1979).