



1976 Round 6 Sunday 25th April Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 23

def.

St George 13

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

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

Graeme LANGLANDS (c)
 Michael SORRIDINI
 Roy FERGUSON
 Robert FINCH
 John CHAPMAN
 John BAILEY
 Billy SMITH
 Steve HURWORTH
 John JANSEN
 Bruce STARKEY
 Russell COX
 Steve EDGE
 Barry BEATH
 Max COLE



Tries

Peter YOUNG
 John PURCELL
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Geoff FOSTER
 Steve BLYTH

Roy FERGUSON
 Robert FINCH
 Steve EDGE

Goals

Ron GITEAU (4)

Graeme LANGLANDS (2)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: G Langlands (c); three-quarters: M Sorridini, R Finch, R Ferguson, J Chapman; five-eighth: J Bailey; half: W Smith; forwards: S Hurworth, B Beath, J Jansen, B Starkey, S Edge, R Cox

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, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 1st May 1976)

Western Suburbs, probably the most enthusiastic team in Sydney, yesterday beat St George 23-13 at Lidcombe Oval, but were not happy with their form. The Western Suburbs players felt after the game they had dominated for all but a few minutes that they should have won by more points. Their skipper Tom Raudonikis said the performance was one of his team's worst of the season, and that doesn't say much for St George. Wests scored five tries to three in a game they tried to confine almost entirely to the forwards. Four of Wests' tries came from their pack, with Les Boyd and John Donnelly the only forwards not to touch down. Their tactics were fair enough, as the St George six simply could not hold their opponents in defence and could make little headway in attack. The solidly-built "kid from Cootamundra" Les Boyd was a dominant figure in the Western Suburbs forwards, continually worrying the life out of the St George defence pack. But the outstanding player was Western Suburbs winger Russell Mullins. If Western Suburbs are an enthusiastic side, then it is Mullins who is the super-enthusiast among them, and yet amazingly has not played representative football. He was everywhere yesterday, tackling strongly, taking high kicks, running the ball up and even taking the first pass off the rucks. He never failed to gain ground as he hurled his bony frame at St George players, who obviously did not fancy the task of bringing him down. Apart from Mullins and Boyd, Western Suburbs were best served by prop John Donnelly, Raudonikis and five-eighth Graeme O'Grady. O'Grady made a couple of long breaks as well as defending stoutly until replaced ten minutes from the end with an injured thumb. St George certainly have their problems. They were never in the game and this could be their most bleak winter for many seasons. They desperately need their main attacking forces, Ted Goodwin and Rod Reddy, back on the field, yet neither will be playing next week. In the meantime, the Saints will have to make do with a team that has difficulty making a break. Yesterday, veteran centre Roy Ferguson was their outstanding player and in fact was extremely close to being the Telegraph's Man of the Match. Ferguson took the advice of his captain-coach Graeme Langlands and ran hard on to the ball rather than attempting to dance his way around the opposition. The move worked wonders and Ferguson was the only St George player to cause Western Suburbs any real problems. He scored one try and played a prominent part in another try scored by Robert Finch. Bruce Starkey contributed the only fire in the St George pack. (**Daily Telegraph 26th April 1976**)

Notes: Tom Raudonikis thought this was their worst performance of the year but Wests were backing up from a mid-week Amco Cup win, where John Elford had broken an arm, so it was still a good effort. Geoff Foster had his best game of the season and was ably backed up by Boyd and Raudonikis. The forwards kept pouring through gaps up the middle, allowing the backs to have strong games, especially Robbie Parker.