



# 1978 Round 6 Saturday 29th April Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 19

def.

## Canterbury 15

John DORAHY  
 Don MOSELEY  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Buddy CAIN  
 Peter ROWLES  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 Trevor REARDON  
 John DONNELLY  
 Shane DAY  
 Bruce GIBBS

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

Greg BRENTNALL  
 Garry DOWLING  
 Stan CUTLER  
 Mark HUGHES  
 Steve GEARIN  
 Tim PICKUP  
 Steve MORTIMER  
 Garry HUGHES  
 Gary STEVENS  
 Graeme HUGHES  
 Phil CHARLTON  
 George PEPONIS (c)  
 John COVENEY  
 Geoff ROBINSON



**Tries** Tom RAUDONIKIS  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Trevor REARDON

George PEPONIS (2)  
 Garry HUGHES

**Goals** Peter ROWLES (5)

Steve GEARIN (3)

### Match Description

**Canterbury-Bankstown:** Full-back: G Brentnall; three-quarters: G Dowling, S Cutler, M Hughes, S Gearin; five-eighth: T Pickup; half: S Mortimer; forwards: G Hughes, G Stevens, H Hughes, P Charlton, G Peponis (c), J Coveney

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Moseley, R Giteau, W Smith, E Cain; five-eighth: P Rowles; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, G Foster, T Reardon, J Donnelly, S Day, B Gibbs **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 6th May 1978)**

Western Suburbs apparently do not forgive or forget ... they maintained their domination over Canterbury-Bankstown with a strong 19-15 win at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. The win, earned through a powerhouse display of running by their forwards in the first half, was Wests' fourth win in succession against Canterbury and their fifth in the last six matches. Only once, in a second-round match in 1976, have Canterbury been able to beat Wests since they protested successfully to the League against the club using an unqualified player as a replacement. That happened in the second round of the 1975 competition and the replacement, Mick Liubinskas, scored a try which enabled the teams to draw 7-all. The League took the competition point away from Wests and it eventually cost them a place in the semi-finals. That protest still rankles among some of the Wests' players who were in that match and it makes every win against Canterbury a little sweeter. One of the decisive moments of the match was when Wests' captain, Tom Raudonikis, tried a shock move immediately after George Peponis had scored the first of his two second-half tries. Raudonikis told John Dorahy to kick off short and he would follow on, fall on the ball and get possession. "But it did not quite work out the way I expected," Raudonikis said. "I expected John to kick it along the ground. But he put it up in the air and as it turned out, it was a better result than I expected." From the kick-off, Canterbury second-rower Graeme Hughes dropped it and Raudonikis, following on, toed it ahead. There was probably an element of luck for Tom "Terrific" when the ball bounced up nicely for him a few metres from the line and he dived over triumphantly. .. A superb Canterbury try, engineered by Steve Mortimer which involved Greg Brentnall and Mark Hughes and ended with Garry Hughes crossing, did not worry them greatly. Three penalties by Peter Rowles put them ahead 6-5 and, after 24 minutes from half-time, Wests scored their first try. It followed a slicing run by centre Wayne Smith and ended with hard-working second-rower, Trevor Reardon crossing. There was an element of doubt about this try. From the stand it seemed Smith's pass was forward. But there was no doubting the next, scored by Smith after lock Graeme O'Grady had scooped up a dropped pass. ... In the eagerly awaited half-back clash I thought Raudonikis finished a points winner over Mortimer. He had one of his top games. He was a magnificent organiser and his driving leadership had his big forwards pounding through and forcing the breaks in the rucks in the first half. He never stopped working and his try was a fitting reward. ... The Wests pack all played well and the selection of Bruce Gibbs and Trevor Reardon in first grade was a huge success. Gibbs and his prop partner John Donnelly, took charge early and they gave second-rower Geoff Foster more opportunities than he generally receives in a whole season. Wests must be thankful that Souths allowed Reardon to leave.... **(The Sun-Herald 30th April 1978)**

**Notes:** In what was considered an upset win, the Wests' forwards led the way, particularly in the first half, to over-power Canterbury. Coach Roy Masters made some controversial changes which proved a great success. With Dorahy back, Buddy Cain went to the wing and Wayne Smith went into the centres in place of Les Boyd. Smith had an absolute blinder, illustrating that this was his best position. John Purcell, Steve Blyth and Peter Young were also dropped, with Shane Day going to hooker, Trevor Reardon (ex-Souths) to second-row and Bruce Gibbs going to prop to form a partnership with John Donnelly. With Raudonikis also finishing on top of Steve Mortimer, it was a great win.