



1983 Round 7 Sunday 10th April North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 22

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Larry WILKIE
 Allan SHEPPARD
 Simon BROCKWELL
 John ADAM
 Chris LUCKMAN
 Mitchell COX
 Laurie SPINA
 Alan BURNS
 Mark GRAHAM (c)
 Fred TEASDELL
 Don MCKINNON
 Phil RITCHIE
 Lindsay JOHNSTONE
 Keith HARRIS
 Peter CROSS
 Stan NAPA

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

David GREENE
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Wayne SMITH
 Michael DUKE
 Warren BOLAND (c)
 Terry LAMB
 Trevor COGGER
 Mark BEAVEN
 Brett GALE
 Brian BATTESE
 George FAHD
 Arthur MOUNTIER
 Bill HILLIARD
 John COGGER



Tries Mitchell COX (2)
 Allan SHEPPARD
 John ADAM

George FAHD
 Steve BROUGHTON
 Warren BOLAND

Goals Larry KELLY (3)

David GREENE (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Greene; three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, M Duke, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: T Cogger; forwards: M Beaven, B Gale, B Battese, G Fahd, A Mountier, W Hilliard

North Sydney: Full-back: L Kelly; three-quarters: A Sheppard, S Brockwell, J Adam, C Luckman; five-eighth: M Cox; half: L Spina; forwards: A Burns, F Teasdel, M Graham (c), D McKinnon, P Ritchie, L Johnston **Referee: M Stone (The Sun 11th April 1983)**

North Sydney took the two competition points from Western Suburbs at North Sydney Oval yesterday but coach John Hayes was far from excited. "You can't play football for 15 minutes and expect to win matches," said Hayes. The Bears scored four tries in the final 20 minutes to scrape home 22-16. In one of the tries, described by fans as the best Norths have scored this season, eight players handled before winger Alan Sheppard touched down. Wests were the better side up to the final quarter, showing more flair in attack and bustling Norths into error. But an intercept try by centre John Adam against the run of play brought the Bears' confidence back and they delighted the crowd of 5425 with some free-flowing play. The resurgence of Norths coincided with a return to form by five-eighth Mitchell Cox, who described his first-half display as pretty hopeless. But he said he had been ill several times just before the match and lacked energy up to the break. He got a "second wind" and darted over for two brilliant tries. Disappointed Wests' coach Len Stacker said he was still confident of winning with 15 minutes to go. "We proved with our win over Parramatta last week that we don't fold, but lack of possession and the run of the ball cost us dearly," he said. "I was pleased the way the forwards shared the workload." Norths' half-back sensation Laurence Spina again left his mark on the game., and the North Queensland must be close to securing a place in the Maroons for the State of Origin match later in the season. Spina shows outstanding maturity for his initial season in Sydney first-grade football. Hayes singled out Spina, Sheppard and front-rower Lindsay Johnston as the players who held Norths together in a shoddy first display. The Bears had a setback in the opening minutes when their captain Mark Graham knocked the thigh injury which has been nagging him all season. He tried to carry on, but was replaced as soon as Wests had notched their second try in the 24th minute. Wests were best served by work-hungry forwards, lock Mark Beaven, second-rower Brett Gale and props George Fahd and Bill Hilliard. **(Daily Telegraph 11th April 1983)**

Coach John Hayes considered replacing Mitchell Cox three times before the brilliant five-eighth turned on a devastating burst that yielded two tries in as many minutes for North Sydney to steam-roll Western Suburbs 22-16 in the Rugby league match at North Sydney. Through the magic of Cox, Norths swept from a 6-10 deficit, to a match-winning 16-10 lead, 10 minutes from full-time. Cox had been struck down all week with a virus and only decided to play yesterday. **(Sydney Morning Herald 11th April 1983)**

Notes: Wests looked to be well on top, leading 10-2 with 15 minutes to go but an intercept try by John Adam stirred the Bears to life and they ran in four tries in the last 15 minutes. The hard-working pack, led by Mark Beaven and George Fahd, were well on top until the fateful intercept.