



1974 Round 7 Sunday 12th May Lidcombe Oval



Eastern Suburbs 32

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Russell FAIRFAX
 Jim PORTER
 John BRASS
 Mark HARRIS
 Bill MULLINS
 Kevin STEVENS
 John MAYES
 Ron COOTE
 Barry REILLY
 Greg BANDIERA
 Arthur BEETSON (c)
 Elwyn WALTERS
 Laurie FREIER
 Greg McCARTHY
 Pat KELLY

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

Tony FORD
 Stephen SATTERLY
 John DORAHY
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Warren SNODGRASS
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 Pat HUNDY
 John PURCELL
 Steve RIGNEY
 Ron GITEAU



Tries Russell FAIRFAX (2)
 Greg BANDIERA
 John BRASS
 Mark HARRIS
 Pat KELLY

Robbie PARKER
 Steve RIGNEY

Goals John BRASS (7)

Tony FORD (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, J Dorahy, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: Graeme O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, J Elford, G Foster, P Hundy, J Purcell, S Rigney

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Fairfax; three-quarters: J Porter, J Brass, M Harris, W Mullins; five-eighth: K Stevens; half: J Mayes; forwards: R Coote, B Reilly, G Bandiera, A Beetson (c), E Walters, L Freier **Referee: G Hartley (Rugby League Week 18th May 1974)**

The speed and tremendous flair of Russell Fairfax finally sunk a very brave Western Suburbs team at Lidcombe Oval. They had tackled their hearts out to hold Eastern Suburbs to a 12-10 lead with 13 minutes to go. But it was all over when full-back Fairfax showed his creative and destroying genius in racing across for two tries within three minutes. For the first try he backed up a break by Ron Coote and sprinted clear with his long legs in a 40-yard dash to the line. Before Wests' defenders had time to get their breath back, Fairfax had ranged up inside Mark Harris to take the pass and race 45 yards to score another try. The final score-line was terribly deceptive as Tommy Raudonikis, Robbie Parker and Graham O'Grady sparked the depleted Wests' team into a tremendous effort. Easts lost half-back John Mayes with a nasty rib injury in the opening minutes and were back to 10-all when Parker scored a converted try under the posts seconds before half-time. Probably the scrums were the key to the game – John Purcell won the first half scrums 5-1 for Wests while Elwyn Walters struck back to have a 5-2 advantage after the break. Being only flesh and blood, the young Wests' players couldn't hold out against their bigger rivals once they started to get such a share of the ball. **(The Sun 13th May 1974)**

Eastern Suburbs half-back Johnny Mayes was admitted to hospital last night after Easts' hard-earned win over Western Suburbs at Lidcombe. Mayes was injured in the first 10 seconds of the game which Easts won 32-10 with a whirlwind late burst. Mayes, who has suspected fractured ribs, will be kept in St Vincent's Hospital today for observation. There were also suggestions last night that Mayes may have damaged a lung. Mayes was hurt when he dived on the ball from the kick-off and caught an accidental knee in the back. Easts, rattled by early injuries to Mayes and prop Laurie Freier (replaced by Greg McCarthy and Pat Kelly), had to shake off tenacious Wests yesterday. Sixteen minutes from the end of the game the scores were still tied 10-all. Only in the last quarter hour did Easts' size, pace and power finally get the tricolours home. Triggered off by two dashing Russell Fairfax tries, Easts ran all over Wests in the closing minutes. With half the First-Grade side in the grandstand injured, the Wests "novices" did a great job. They won plenty of first half possession, hustled Easts and generally had the Roosters back-peddling. But class told in the end with Easts' storming finish. Lively performances from Easts' Beetson, Fairfax, Harris and Coote and Wests' Parker, O'Grady and Raudonikis highlighted an entertaining match. **(Daily Telegraph 13th May 1974)**

Notes: The final score did not reflect the effort put in by the young Wests' players, filling in for the injured. It was 10-all at half-time and still that with 15 minutes to go until some Fairfax brilliance and a tiring pack allowed Easts to score 22 points in the final 15 minutes. Raudonikis and O'Grady were already showing signs of forging a good partnership but Pat Hundy was very impressive in a debut where he faced off against Arthur Beetson.