



1972 Round 7 Saturday 29th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 39

def.

North Sydney 10



Tony FORD
Don ROGERS
Stephen KNIGHT
Stephen SATTERLY
Allan ASHMORE
John HEYWARD
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
John BAKER
John ELFORD
Barry BRYANT
John O'BRYAN
Jim CROUCHER
John WALKER

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

Peter INSKIP
Kerry COLLIEN
Owen O'DONNELL
Michael McLEAN
George AMBRUM
John FAIRNS
Keith OUTTEN
Bruce WALKER
John MCDONELL
John PAYNE
Jim MILLS
Ross WARNER
Merv HICKS (c)

Tries

Don ROGERS
Barry BRYANT
Allan ASHMORE
John BAKER
John HEYWARD
Stephen KNIGHT
John O'BRYAN

John McDONELL
Owen O'DONNELL

Goals

Tony FORD (9)

Peter INSKIP (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, S Satterly, A Ashmore; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, J Elford, B Bryant, J O'Bryan, J Croucher, J Walker

North Sydney: Full-back: P Inskip; three-quarters: K Collien, O O'Donnell, M McLean, G Ambrum; five-eighth: J Fairns; half: K Outten; forwards: B Walker, J McDonell, J Payne, J Mills, R Warner, M Hicks (c) **Referee: L Bruyeres (Rugby League Week 6th May 1972)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team demoralised North Sydney 39-10 and inflicted injuries to Norths' Keith Outten, Bruce Walker and Jim Mills at Pratten Park yesterday. Halfback Outten damaged ligaments in his left knee, lock Walker suffered a suspected fractured jaw and big prop Mills a probable broken arm in the seven tries to two hiding from Wests. Norths' selectors conferred in the dressing-room after the game and sacked four players – centre Mike McLean, second-rower John Payne, Outten and Mills from the team to play Parramatta next weekend at North Sydney Oval. The replacements will be George Varela, Tim Pickup, Brian Anderson and captain-coach Merv Hicks who are carrying injuries and did not play yesterday. Fairns will switch to half to make way for five-eighth Pickup, Noel Cavanagh to second-row for Hick's return to the front row and Walker was picked subject to confirmation of his injury. "They were very disappointing, the least said the better," said a dejected Hicks. "We made Wests look good by refusing to tackle. Outten and Mills would not have held their positions for next week even if they had not been injured." For Wests, it was their biggest win since trouncing Canterbury 55-12 in last season's opening premiership round. And the victory lifted Wests' record this season to three wins, a draw and three losses for seven points, just one point less than they notched in all last season's games to hold the wooden spoon. Tries by centre Stephen Knight and winger Allan Ashmore and three penalty goals by full-back Tony Ford lifted Wests to a 12-5 lead at half-time. Norths hit back with a try by second-rower John McDonell, converted by full-back Peter Inskip, to trail 12-10 after 49 minutes. Then Norths' pathetic defensive lapse set in, allowing Wests to score 27 points, including five tries with ease in the last 25 minutes. Wests' full-back Ford finished with a personal tally of 18 points with nine goals from 14 attempts. The ease of Wests' win was even more ridiculous, considering Norths' hooker Ross Warner won the scrums 10-4, including 5-1 in the second half. There were no real individual stars in Wests but former Manly prop John O'Bryan, with his tight play around the rucks, was the pick of the forwards. Smart halves Tom Raudonikis and John Heyward proved elusive in attack. Second-rower McDonell, who led Norths in Hicks' absence, was responsible for a strong defensive display and, with Warner, was the Bears' only real "goer". (**Sunday Mirror 30th April 1972**)

Notes: Wests celebrated their return to Pratten Park with a dazzling second-half display to thrash an injured North Sydney. The match was played in hot conditions, tiring for the forwards, but John O'Bryan and Barry Bryant rose to the occasion and, with Raudonikis and Elford firing on all cylinders, ran away from a battered Norths. Elford, in particular, seemed to be relishing his move to the second row.