



1978 Round 8 Sunday 14th May Cumberland Oval



Western Suburbs 15

def.

Parramatta 14

John DORAHY
 Don MOSELEY
 Wayne SMITH
 Ron GITEAU
 Buddy CAIN
 Peter ROWLES
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Geoff FOSTER
 Trevor REARDON
 Peter YOUNG
 John PURCELL
 Bruce GIBBS
 Bob COOPER
 John CROW

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

Phil MANN
 Neville GLOVER
 Michael CRONIN
 Glenn WEST
 Graeme ATKINS
 Ted SULOWICZ
 Graham MURRAY
 Ray PRICE (c)
 John MANN
 Geoff GERARD
 Graeme OLLING
 Tim LOGUE
 Pat HUNDY
 Mick PATTISON



Tries

Trevor REARDON
 Tom RAUDONIKIS

Phil MANN
 Michael CRONIN

Goals

Peter ROWLES (4)
 Graeme O'GRADY (1) Field Goal

Michael CRONIN (4)

Match Description

Parramatta: Full-back: P Mann; three-quarters: N Glover, M Cronin, G West, G Atkins; five-eighth: T Sulkowicz; half: G Murray; forwards: R Price (c), J Mann, G Gerard, G Olling, T Logue, P Hundy

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, B Gibbs, J Purcell, P Young **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 20th May 1978)**

Parramatta's Mick Cronin sat alone for half an hour after yesterday's match at Cumberland Oval – pondering the two missed kicks at goal which had cost his side victory over Western Suburbs. The Magpies, inspired by "Tom Terrific" Raudonikis, squeaked home 15-14 in highly dramatic circumstances. ...In the sensational finish Cronin:

- Scored a block-busting try to get Parramatta to 14-15 six minutes from full-time.
- Missed a simple conversion attempt from only seven metres to the left of the posts
- Saw a 43-metre penalty attempt nudged away by the wind four minutes before the end.

Cronin, a match-winner for Parramatta so many times, was inconsolable after the game. He shrugged off commiserations. "It wasn't bad luck ... I should have kicked that first goal." Nine times out of ten he would have. ... Second-rower Geoff Foster finished up in hospital with a broken left leg and prop Peter Young was in bad pain from a shoulder injury which forced him out of the match in the second half. A wicked stroke of fate saw Foster snap his leg in a second-half tackle when he was bidding for representative selection. Under the circumstances, it was a victory which spoke loads for Wests' grit and determination. Two critical moments – a 39th minute try by Tom Raudonikis and a 69th minute field goal by Graeme O'Grady – were the match-winning blows for Wests. Raudonikis' try in the midst of another driving display by the Wests' captain enabled the Magpies to stretch a 9-4 lead to a commanding 14-4. **(Daily Telegraph 15th May 1978)**

... Magpie captain Tommy Raudonikis led the side magnificently with an all-the-way effort. "We can be well in this competition if we can get the same spirit into our replacements as the originals have had," said Masters. "But losses one way or another have left us very short and we are probably having to go to Under 23s for a prop this week. John Crowe who was used as a replacement today could be in again for the next game," added Masters. Wests, with John Donnelly and Les Boyd suspended, lost Geoff Foster with a fractured left leg yesterday and prop Peter Young with a severe shoulder injury. In addition, Raudonikis has rib injuries and has to play for Sydney against Country on Saturday before backing up on Sunday. **(The Sun 15th May 1978)**

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Notes: For some, this was a lucky win for Wests as Michael Cronin missed a simple conversion which would have won the match but Wests had been on top for most of the game. The forwards were completely on top early but a heavy scrum and penalty loss in the second half allowed Parramatta back into the match. The loss of Geoff Foster with a broken leg and Peter Young with a shoulder injury also hampered their efforts. John Crow debuted, coming on as a replacement. Wests had also lost Donnelly and Boyd, both suspended from video evidence from the previous Manly game, and this was another setback. Raudonikis was clearly the man of the match, while O'Grady's field goal ten minutes from the end proved a match-winner.