

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: M Pobjie; three-quarters: D McCarthy, J Jarvie, T Melrose, L Biles; five-eighth: K Wright; half: G Murray (c); forwards: M Carberry, D Boyle, N Gibbs, G Hambly, K Stewart, P Tunks

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Boland (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, M Duke, D Greene; five-eighth: M Neil; half: T Lamb; forwards: M Beaven, B Gale, B Battese, G Fahd, D Hall, W Hilliard Referee: G West (The Sun 18th April 1983)

Western Suburbs and South Sydney both put in a claim for the 1983 wooden spoon with forgettable displays in a 6-all draw at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. But Wests took some consolation from the match, scoring the only try and creating three scoring opportunities. Souths again disappointed with a colourless attacking game. Their woes were increased with a serious elbow injury to five-eighth Ken Wright in the sixth minute. Wright was taken to St Vincent's Hospital where an x-ray this morning will reveal the extent of the damage. Neither Len Stacker (Wests' coach) nor Ron Willey (Souths) had much to enthuse about after the game. Willey said he could sense a new-found enthusiasm in his forwards as they took the ball up to Wests. "I'm the first to admit it was a below-standard game, but the potential is there and we will improve." Wests' hooker David Hall had an unhappy match, dropping the ball twice with the line open and going to ground with half-back Terry Lamb in support and the Rabbitoh defence in tatters. Lamb scored the lone try of the day in the 10th minute of the second half after some good lead-up work by full-back David Greene. Wests then led 6-4 and looked odds-on winners. But Souths' winger Tony Melrose kicked his third penalty from four attempts with 10 minutes to go to snatch a draw. The first-grade debut players, Darren McCarthy (Souths) and Michael Neil (Wests), had little chance to impress but will be improved by the experience. **(Daily Telegraph 18th April 1983)**

Western Suburbs' centre Wayne Smith had victory in his grasp when Wests drew 6-6 with South Sydney in their Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval. Smith missed a match-winning field goal one minute from full-time, after setting up the only try of the match. "It was always on line but fell away at the wrong time," he said. "It only missed by about a foot." Wests half-back, Terry Lamb, scored 10 minutes into the second half with a 30m dash for the line after Smith had broken through the defence near half-way. Wests' full-back David Greene converted Lamb's try while Souths' centre Tony Melrose bagged all his team's points with three goals. "Souths never looked like scoring a try while we bustled them many times and bombed at least three tries," Wests' coach Len Stacker said. Souths lost five-eighth Ken Wright with a dislocated elbow in the opening minutes, and after that the Rabbitohs never looked in the match. ……. Wests' rookie five-eighth Michael Neil – making his first-grade debut – played well throughout, earning praise from Len Stacker for his agility, especially in the first half. Wests' prop, Bill Hilliard, with 40 tackles, did a great job in preventing Souths from scoring. **(Sydney Morning Herald 18th April 1983)**

Notes: Played on a rain-soaked field, Wests were very unlucky to lose a lack-lustre match. Wayne Smith missed a field goal by a foot with a minute to go. David Greene moved on to the wing and had a great match while Captain Warren Boland moved to full-back. Wests made a lot of breaks but dropped balls cost at least three tries. Bill Hilliard, with 40 tackles, was a tireless worker while Michael Neil, on debut, was impressive.

.....