

1982 Round 8 Sunday 18th April Sports Ground

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Greg COX Steve BROUGHTON Wayne SMITH Ted GOODWIN Warren BOLAND (c) Michael DUKE Terry LAMB Jim LEIS George FAHD Bob COOPER Paul MERLO Arthur MOUNTIER Tom ARBER Jeff CASE Fullback Wing Centre Centre Wing Five-eighth Half Lock Second Row Second Row Front Row Hooker Front Row Replacement Replacement

Eastern Suburbs 2

Marty GURR David MICHAEL Kerry BOUSTEAD Ron GITEAU Steve McFARLANE Russel GARTNER Robert LAURIE John TOBIN Des O'REILLY Ian BARKLEY Royce AYLIFFE (c) Jeff MASTERMAN John HARVEY Ian SCHUBERT Steven COLLINS



Tries

Arthur MOUNTIER

Goals

Ted GOODWIN (1) Field Goal

Ron GITEAU (1)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: M Gurr; three-quarters: D Michael, K Boustead, R Giteau, S McFarlane; five-eighth: R Gartner; half: R Laurie; forwards: J Tobin, D O'Reilly, I Barkley, R Ayliffe (c), J Masterman, J Harvey

Western Suburbs:Full-back: G Cox; three-quarters: S Broughton, W Smith, E Goodwin, W Boland (c); five-eighth: M Duke; half: T Lamb;forwards:J Leis, G Fahd, R Cooper, T Arber, A Mountier, P MerloReferee: B Goldsworthy (The Sun 19th April 1982)

Bob Seabrook, the Eastern Suburbs secretary, shook his head and put his club's dilemma neatly into perspective as the players trooped from the Sports Ground after their Rugby League clash with Western Suburbs yesterday. "I have seen better in Centennial Park," Seabrook said. "But if I knew what was wrong, I would be coach, not secretary." After 80 minutes of dour, defensive football, laced with mistakes and devoid of thrills, Wests emerged with a 4-2 win - their first against Easts at the Sports Ground in almost a decade. It was the fifth loss for Easts in eight first round matches, and as Bob Fulton, the worried coach said: "I think we are in a very precarious situation." Ironically, the man who did most to put them there yesterday was a one-time Easts player - Western Suburbs' hooker, Arthur Mountier. Mountier was ready for retirement in October when he walked into a Chullora motor dealership to buy a new car. Terry Fearnley, manager of the dealers' division and the coach of Wests, happened to be pondering the loss of Jack Jeffries to St George. He needed a hooker and his thoughts turned to Mountier, whom he knew from his days at Easts. By the time Mountier had left the office, he had signed two contracts - one for a new car and the other to play with Wests. He has not looked back. "I did not want to retire, but after a couple of years in reserve grade (with South Sydney) it gets harder to break back into firsts, "Mountier said yesterday. "But I think I am playing better than ever." He will get little argument after yesterday's display in which he out-hooked Jeff Masterman 17-8, tackled everything that moved, and crashed over form dummy half to score the only try of the match. It was a monumental effort on the part of the 29-year-old player whose appearance in yesterday's match was touch and go until Saturday because of a severely corked thigh. And when it was over, he needed three stitches in a cut under his right eye. Mountier also had great support from Jim Leis and George Fahd in a match noteworthy for the crunching effectiveness of the tackling by the forwards. Equally obvious was the tendency by Easts to bottle the game up. They did nothing all day other than play it one out from the rucks and turn it back inside. When they did not drop the ball, they found themselves running into a brick wall. It was not pretty, it was not constructive, and neither was it effective. Sixty minutes had gone before Ron Giteau landed a penalty goal to open the scoring. But Easts' lead was short-lived. A jigging run by full-back Greg Cox took play close to Easts' line, and Mountier bulldozed his way through the defence from the play-the-ball to put Wests in front. Moments later, Ted Goodwin landed a field goal from in front. But Easts, despite a penalty count that favoured them 13-6, were not happy with a "no-try" ruling by referee Barry Goldsworthy as they piled on the pressure in the closing minutes. Russel Gartner, the five-eighth, appeared to touch down after the ball had been toed ahead. But Goldsworthy, after glancing at his linesman, ruled that Mountier had got there first. But the saddest feature was the loss of Wests' winger Steve Broughton, who left the field badly concussed after a tackle. Broughton was already on the ground, held around the legs, when an Easts' forward came diving in. The referee and a linesman must have seen it happen, but neither said a word. ... (Sydney Morning Herald 19th April 1982)

Notes: This match was all about Arthur Mountier gaining sweet revenge on his former club. He won the scrums 17-8, topped the tackle count with 32, and won the match with a burrowing dummy-half try. All the forwards, Fahd, Cooper, Merlo, Leis and Arber slugged it out and made many breaks up the middle of the ruck. Lamb had another outstanding game at half, while, unfortunately, Steve Broughton was carried off with concussion after an illegal tackle not seen by the referee or both linesmen.

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