



1974 Round 8 Sunday 19th May Redfern Oval



South Sydney 13

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Eric SIMMS
 Ross BIRRELL
 Owen O'DONNELL
 Peter Van GULIK
 Tom MOONEY
 Jeff WITHERS
 Peter BROWN
 Rod URQUHART
 Gary STEVENS (c)
 Bob BOLIN
 Grant JONES
 George PIGGINS
 Herb TIMMS

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

Tony FORD
 Stephen SATTERLY
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Warren SNODGRASS
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 John O'BRYAN
 John PURCELL
 Steve RIGNEY
 Ken RICE



Tries

Ross BIRRELL
 Owen O'DONNELL
 Peter Van GULIK

Stephen SATTERLY
 Robbie PARKER

Goals

Eric SIMMS (2)

Tony FORD (3)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: E Simms; three-quarters: R Birrell, O O'Donnell, P Van Gulik, T Mooney; five-eighth: J Withers; half: P Brown; forwards: R Urquhart, G Stevens, R Bolin, G Jones, G Piggins, H Timms

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: W Snodgrass, J Elford, G Foster, J O'Bryan, J Purcell, S Rigney **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 25th May 1974)**

South Sydney's two city reps George Piggins and Gary Stevens returned to club football yesterday to carry their side to a 13-12 win over Wests at Redfern Oval. Piggins won a glut of possession in the second half and Stevens inspired his younger team-mates with some great defence. Stevens seems to be relishing the job of captaining Souths. Not far behind the two Souths "stalwarts" was Eric Simms, another of the "old timers". Simms was safe under the pressure, kicked the winning goal and it was his kick that led to Birrell scoring. Souths did well, considering they were without Paul Sait, Bob Grant and Bob McCarthy. They trailed 5-0 in the first half and 12-8 midway through the second half. But then came a classic piece of football when Simms put the ball in the air and Birrell raced through to catch it on the full and touch down. Wests, also hit by injury, cannot take a trick and will have to be content among the also rans. Their forwards let them down at vital stages yesterday where the experience of Jim Murphy would have been invaluable up front. **(The Sun 20th May 1974)**

Spurred by the threat of being dropped, Ross Birrell yesterday produced the try of the year in South Sydney's thrilling 13-12 defeat of Western Suburbs at Redfern Oval. Birrell raced 45 yards to make a spectacular 'Rules-style' catch of Eric Simms' high kick over the Western Suburbs goal line. The try, which Simms converted from in front of the posts, put Souths ahead half-way through the second half. Souths, showing their old never-say-die spirit, held Wests out for the rest of the match. An elated Birrell said afterwards: "It was now or never for me. I needed a big game. My form hasn't been so hot and I was told this was my last chance." Souths had plenty of heroes, but none better than hooker George Piggins and ever-green full-back Eric Simms. Piggins won the scrums 8-2 and gave a bullocking performance in the forward play. Prop-forward Herb Timms, one of a hard-working pack, sustained a suspected broken knuckle. **(Daily Telegraph 20th May 1974)**

South Sydney had to produce all their renowned bulldog spirit to hold Western Suburbs at bay in the hectic last 20 minutes of their Rugby League match at Redfern Oval. Souths won the match 13-12 after Wests had led 18-8 with 21 minutes remaining. Test second-rower Gary Stevens inspired the young South Sydney forwards to finish on top of their bigger opponents. Hooker George Piggins also played a big part in the win, dominating the scrums 8-2, and thus allowing Souths to dictate play in the vital last 20 minutes. Wests' coach Don Parish was strongly critical of his forwards. "Irrespective of our lack of possession, I am disappointed with our forwards' performance – they did not try," he said. **(Sydney Morning Herald 20th May 1974)**

Notes: Even though the game appeared tight from the score, Don Parish was very disappointed with the lack-lustre performance of his forwards. John Purcell was also beaten soundly, 8-2, in the scrums and Souths used the glut of possession well. Jim Murphy was sorely missed in the tough stuff and John Elford also injured his back and was replaced. Russell Mullins had one of his best games, but in the end Wests were beaten by a leaping Ross Birrell try which was judged the try of the year.