



# 1976 Round 8 Sunday 9th May Cumberland Oval



## Parramatta 8

def.

## Western Suburbs 4

Mark LEVY  
 Neville GLOVER  
 Geoff GERARD  
 Ed SULKOWICZ  
 Kevin MacFARLANE  
 John PEARD  
 John KOLC  
 John BAKER  
 Ray HIGGS (c)  
 Ray PRICE  
 Denis FITZGERALD  
 Ron HILDITCH  
 Tony CHARLTON  
 John VINCENT  
 Ted SULKOWICZ

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

Wayne SMITH  
 Don ROGERS  
 Robbie PARKER  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Russell MULLINS  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Les BOYD  
 Steve BLYTH  
 Geoff FOSTER  
 John DONNELLY  
 John PURCELL  
 Peter YOUNG  
 Neville SINCLAIR  
 Jim MURPHY



### Tries

Goals Mark LEVY (4)

Ron GITEAU (2)

### Match Description

**Parramatta:** Full-back: M Levy; three-quarters: N Glover, G Gerard, E Sulkowicz, K Macfarlane; five-eighth: J Peard; half: J Kolc; forwards: J Baker, R Higgs (c), R Price, D Fitzgerald, R Hilditch, T Charlton

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Giteau, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 15th May 1976)**

Parramatta yesterday knocked the wind out of Western Suburbs with an 8-4 win at Cumberland Oval. Neither team scored a try in a dour defensive game which saw some mighty tackling performances. Wests, sitting pretty in second place on the premiership ladder after a bruising 17-13 win over Souths in the previous round, looked jaded in attack. Second-rower and captain Ray Higgs (27) and lock John Baker (29), led the tackling barrage for the Eels. Parramatta full-back Mark Levy swung the game for his team with four penalty goals from seven attempts. Ron Giteau, Wests' centre, only had three attempts and landed two goals. Wests' second-rower, Stephen Blyth, threw a scare into the Magpies camp when he was carried from the field in the 10th minute after swallowing his tongue. Blyth was accidentally kicked by a Parramatta forward and was taken to Parramatta Hospital with severe concussion. The first half didn't reach any great heights as both sides refused to concede an inch. The only scoring opportunities came from two high "bombs" from Parramatta five-eighth John Peard but the ball was safely taken by Wests' full-back Wayne Smith. Smith had an unhappy day, failing to find touch with a penalty kick, and kicking the ball out on the full from a 25-metre drop-out which gave Parramatta two "certain" points from in front of the posts. Possession was continually squandered and Wests only held the ball for six tackles on four occasions. The Parramatta backline, led superbly by crash-tackling centre Geoff Gerard, didn't give Wests' backs any room to move. Gerard up-ended Wests' nippy centre Robbie Parker whenever he had the ball and the Wests' attack stopped with a jolt. Parramatta, with two goals from Levy, led 4-0 at half-time, but had their lead pegged with two goals from Giteau in the first 18 minutes of the second half. With plenty of ball in the second half Wests' captain Tommy Raudonikis spurred his team on. Raudonikis charged head on into the Parramatta forwards in an effort to crash through the defensive wall. But the Eels' pack stuck to their task and drove Wests back. Raudonikis was penalized in the 64th minute for incorrectly feeding a scrum and Levy landed the goal to put Parramatta back into the lead. Eleven minutes later, Raudonikis again was caught for a scrum infringement and Levy wrapped the game up with his fourth goal. Wests bombarded the Parramatta line in the dying stages of the match but the vigorous tackling of Higgs, Baker, Price and Fitzgerald held them out. Wests' props John Donnelly and Peter Young revelled in the heavy going. Donnelly broke the club tackling record with 43 effective tackles. **(Daily Telegraph 10th May 1976)**

**Notes:** This was a ferocious defensive match where tackling records were broken, Wests set a tackling record of 265 tackles, with John Donnelly making a record 43 personal tackles. After being on the defensive in the first half, Mullins and Raudonikis were outstanding in leading a relentless Wests' second half attack. Wests were hampered by Steve Blyth getting a severe concussion in the 10th minute, replaced by Jim Murphy.