



1976 Round 9 Sunday 16th May Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 13

drew with

Balmain 13

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

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

Allan McMAHON
Mike FISH
Trevor RYAN (c)
Stephen KNIGHT
Frank RAGEN
Jeff SHIELD
Greg COX
Dennis TUTTY
Greg BANDIERA
Steve LAVERS
Dennis MANTEIT
Arthur MOUNTIER
Keith COOK
Neil PRINGLE
Brian LOCKWOOD

Tries Wayne SMITH

Stephen KNIGHT
Arthur MOUNTIER
Dennis TUTTY

Goals Ron GITEAU (3)
Peter WALSH (2)

Greg COX (2)

Match Description

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

Balmain: Full-back: A McMahon; three-quarters: M Fish, T Ryan (c), S Knight, F Ragen; five-eighth: J Shield; half: G Cox; forwards: D Tutty, G Bandiera, S Lavers, D Manteit, A Mountier, K Cook **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 22nd June 1976)**

A disputed converted try 15 seconds from the final siren gave Balmain Rugby League team a gripping 13-all draw against Western Suburbs at the SCG yesterday. The try started from an up-and-under by Balmain full-back Allan McMahon. The ball was juggled by replacement forward Neil Pringle before Dennis Tutty scored. There were claims later, and they appeared to be supported by the TV replay, that Pringle was off-side when McMahon chipped the ball over the Wests' defence. Tutty's try left Wests leading 13-11, as young half-back Greg Cox lined up the most important kick of his career from a slightly angled position. Unconcerned by the barrage of cat-calls, Cox steered the ball between the posts to give his team a magnificent draw. Balmain have never earned a tougher point and it kept them on top of the competition table with 15 points, one ahead of Manly-Warringah and three clear of Wests..... Tutty's try was a fitting climax to a superb struggle. A draw was a fair result. Wests seemed to have the match wrapped up when they led 9-0 at half-time, and 13-8 with only seconds to go. Balmain tried an up-and-under five minutes from the finish but the move went astray. With only seconds left Balmain tried the move again, and this time everything clicked. The ball went up and Pringle, anticipating the kick, charged through. For a heart-stopping second it looked as though he had run past the ball. He grabbed at it with his left hand and, as he said later: "There was no way I was going to drop it. I could see \$200 written all over it in big black letters." Pringle made ground, looked inside and there was the tireless Dennis Tutty who took the pass and galloped over, just beating Russell Mullins' tackle on the line. ... At half-time the Balmain main players were physically exhausted, but were whipped up for a second-half rally by some inspired talking from coach Paul Broughton. They gradually whittled away Wests' lead, first with a strong try by Stephen Knight and another five minutes later by Arthur Mountier from dummy half, to trail 8-9. Two penalties by replacement back Peter Walsh lifted Wests to a 13-8 lead and apparent safety. The disputed try did not greatly concern Wests' coach, Don Parish, who pin-pointed the loss on his team's failure to hang on to possession in the second half. ... Man of the match was undoubtedly Wests' half, who backed up Saturday's game with another great exhibition. John Donnelly was a powerhouse in the forwards while, at five-eighth, Graham O'Grady frequently had the Balmain defence in trouble. Wests' only try came in the first half when Robbie Parker superbly split the defence and full-back Wayne Smith positioned himself to take the inside pass. ...**(Sydney Morning Herald 17th May 1976)**

Notes: Wests were very unlucky to draw this match. Balmain scored a hotly disputed converted try in the final 15 seconds. Neil Pringle appeared to be off-side from a McMahon kick, where Pringle regathered and sent Tutty in to score. Raudonikis and Donnelly (39 tackles) were both backing up from the Saturday City/Country match and both were the two best players on the field. The defence of both sides was again devastating.