



# 1980 Round 9 Sunday 25th May Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 21

def.

## Parramatta 17

Wayne SMITH  
 Wayne BUCKLEY  
 Ted GOODWIN  
 Ron GITEAU  
 Warren BOLAND (c)  
 Terry LAMB  
 Alan NEIL  
 Jim LEIS  
 John McLEOD  
 Bob COOPER  
 John DONNELLY  
 Jack JEFFRIES  
 Bruce GIBBS  
 Brian COOK

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

Garry DOWLING  
 Neville GLOVER  
 Michael CRONIN  
 Mark LEVY  
 Eric GROTHE  
 Tony MELROSE  
 John KOLC  
 Ray PRICE (c)  
 Peter WYNN  
 Geoff GERARD  
 Arthur BEETSON  
 Steve EDGE  
 Ron HILDITCH



**Tries** Warren BOLAND (2)  
 Ted GOODWIN  
 Wayne BUCKLEY

Tony MELROSE  
 Garry DOWLING

**Goals** Ron GITEAU (4)  
 Terry LAMB (1) Field Goal

Michael CRONIN (5)  
 Tony MELROSE (1) Field Goal

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: W Buckley, E Goodwin, R Giteau, W Boland (c); five-eighth: T Lamb; half: A Neil; forwards: J Leis, J McLeod, R Cooper, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

**Parramatta:** Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: N Glover, M Cronin, M Levy, E Grothe; five-eighth: T Melrose; half: J Kolc; forwards: R Price (c), P Wynn, G Gerard, A Beetson, S Edge, R Hilditch **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 28th May 1980)**

Top radio commentator Col Pearce summed it up: "You could only describe it as a Canterbury try," he said, as Wests' winger Wayne Buckley raised his fist in salute. He was hoarse after calling the play from near Wests' line – a break by tiny Alan Neil, a backline rush which climaxed with Giteau slipping the ball to the sprinting Buckley who dived over wide out. Probably five, maybe more, players handled in a movement that had everything from the basketball lob to the one-handed slip – the sort of try the Bulldogs are famous for. Then came Giteau again, out of touch with some abysmal kicking early, to raise the flags – but the blood pressure first. From right on touch, with his around-the-corner style, he kicked high – and it hung there for seconds, before struggling over. It all gave Wests a 17-16 lead late in the second half when Parramatta revived, at last free of their first-half blues. Even when Tony Melrose dropped a goal to level, Wests were spirited enough to work play to Parramatta's end where Lamb's field goal got back the one-point edge. Yet there was more! This mind you from a Wests without the foreman forward, Dallas Donnelly, who had been on the sideline since the break with torn ligaments. At half-way Jim Leis sliced through and from the final pass Warren Boland was over in the corner. Roy Masters said of this great Wests' win: "That took a special brand of courage. I am very proud of them. That last 10 minutes was amazing. Courage was born in them. This win had nothing to do with me." He stopped choking long enough to announce, tongue in cheek, he thought the only forward passes on the day came in the Parramatta tries. There were many who thought Neil's pass to Smith when Goodwin scored in the first half was well forward; and a short pass that sent Leis on his way before Boland scored the final try looked forward too. Ray Price was sportsmanlike: "We're here to play, not whinge. They've got the two points. I'd say it was the one that got away." ... After opening up a handy 12-3 lead early, Wests allowed Parramatta full-back Garry Dowling in for a try just before the half-time break. Parramatta were a completely different side in the second half with their forwards playing far more constructively. Safer handling made the ground work for a Tony Melrose try and three goals by centre Mick Cronin saw the Eels in front 16-12 with only 18 minutes to play. Wests had many fine players, with Alan Neil and Bob Cooper best and second-rower John McLeod, a new recruit from Brisbane playing only his second first grade game, had a strong game. For Parramatta, second-rower Geoff Gerard and prop Arthur Beetson made long runs. Mick Cronin suffered a bad knock when shoulder-charged by Ted Goodwin. After that, he rarely showed the gifted ball-handling that is his trademark and was well tied up by the Wests' defence. What a remarkable influence Masters has had on Goodwin. He is important to Wests. Says Masters: "He is my mid-field general. I told him he should use his experience to help the young blokes in the second half." (The Sun 26th May 1980)

**Notes:** This was a very closely contested match, where the lead changed five times. In an exciting last ten minutes, Lamb potted a field goal to take the lead 18-17, then Boland scored his second try late to seal the game. Wayne Buckley's spectacular team try was rated the best of the season. Alan Neil and Bob Cooper were Wests' best but, unfortunately, John Donnelly was forced off at half-time with torn ligaments, replaced by Brian Cook.