1967 Round 12 Sunday 11th June Sydney Sports Ground

Western Suburbs 9   def.   South Sydney 6

Western Suburbs	Position	South Sydney
Dave BARSLEY	*Fullback*	Eric SIMMS
John MOWBRAY	*Wing*	Mike CLEARY
Peter DIMOND	*Centre*	Bob MOSES (c)
Roy FERGUSON	*Centre*	Arthur BRANIGHAN
John ELFORD	*Wing*	Brian JAMES
Denis PITTARD	*Five-eighth*	Jimmy LISLE
Ross GOODMAN	*Half*	Ivan JONES
Barry BRYANT	*Lock*	Ron COOTE
John ARMSTRONG	*Second Row*	Bob McCARTHY
Jim CODY	*Second Row*	Gary STEVENS
Doug WALKADEN	*Front Row*	Rod GORMAN
Ken STONESTREET	*Hooker*	George PIGGINS
Noel KELLY (c)	*Front Row*	John O'NEILL
Rob McGUINESS	*Replacement*	

Tries	Jim CODY	
Goals	Dave BARSLEY (3)	Eric SIMMS (3) One field goal

Match Description
South Sydney: Full-back: E Simms; three-quarters: M Cleary, R Moses, A Branighan, B James; five-eighth: J Lisle; half: I Jones; forwards: R Coote, G Stevens, R McCarthy, J O'Neill, G Piggins, R Gorman
Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Barsley; three-quarters: J Mowbray, P Dimond, R Ferguson, J Elford; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: R Goodman; forwards: B Bryant, J Cody, J Armstrong, D Walkaden, K Stonestreet, N Kelly (c)   **Referee: L Bruyeres   (as per program Rugby League News 11th June 1967 + newspaper validations)**

South Sydney Rugby League players claimed they were "robbed" after Western Suburbs defeated them 9-6 on a muddy field at Sydney Sports Ground. Souths were adamant that centre Arthur Branighan scored a fair try between the posts in the last three minutes of the match. Winger Brian James sent Branighan away almost 50 yards out. But referee Laurie Bruyeres ruled that James had been off-side when taking a pass from second-rower Bob McCarthy. Most of the crowd of 22,832 did not see Bruyeres' hand go up as Branighan set out for the try-line. Branighan planted the ball between the posts to a tumultuous reception from Souths' supporters. Many Souths' fans demonstrated when they saw Branighan recalled. Youngsters, who streamed onto the field when the full-time siren sounded, pelted rubbish at the referee. Bruyeres was escorted from the field by police to a rain of papers and fruit peel, and abuse. I was sitting almost opposite to where James took the pass from McCarthy. It was a very close thing. If James was off-side, it must have been an inch or so. But my opinion was that had Souths won they should have bought each player an Opera House lottery ticket. Wests were clearly the better side on the day. Wests' hooker Ken Stonestreet upset Souths' hopes by winning a feast of the ball from the scrums that mattered in the second half. Souths led 4-3 at the interval, but Wests shut them out of the game in the second half. Mid-way through the second half, Wests won seven successive scrums. Souths maintained a solid line of defence. But they would not have been in Wests' territory for more than 10 of the last 40 minutes. Wests, who have struck a purple patch, now will get the match-of-the-day against St George at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday. They are playing their old brand of football and could give any team a run. Yesterday's game was loaded with all the anticipated fireworks. Both teams hammered each other in the first 20 minutes. Midway through the first half, Wests' second-rower Jim Cody spun out of a weak tackle near Souths' line to go over for a try in the corner. Souths' full-back Eric Simms hit back with two penalties before half-time. But after that, as far as Souths were concerned, it was a case of "no ball – no dice." Dave Barsley, who switched from the wing to full-back for Wests when Don Parish withdrew shortly before the match, put his team in front with a penalty goal under pressure midway through the second half. Two more penalty goals from Barsley and Wests led 9-4 until the last six minutes. Then Simms snapped one of his cool field goals for Souths. Wests' half-back Ross Goodman suffered a badly cut mouth after 20 minutes and was replaced by Bob McGuinness. Souths five-eighth Jim Lisle suffered a badly corked thigh and was little more than a "passenger" in the second half. Souths hooker George Piggins will want to forget the game. Besides his second half lacing in the scrums, Piggins was laid out cold with one of the best punches seen outside Sydney Stadium in years. **(Daily Telegraph 12th June 1967)**

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Notes: Souths hotly disputed a late "no-try" when Branighan scored under the posts, after a pass from Bob McCarthy that was ruled forward. Wests players were adamant after the match that it was a definite forward pass. As it turned out, Wests would have been desperately unlucky to lose the match with the Wests' forwards dominating after Ken Stonestreet won a lion's share of the ball. Dave Barsley was moved to full-back after Don Parish's late withdrawal and he played a brilliant attacking match, both with his running and his kicking. George Piggins didn't remember much of the game, after being flattened by Noel Kelly, who was lucky to stay on the field.