1984 Round 15 Sunday 10th June North Sydney Oval

North Sydney 13   def.   Western Suburbs 6

North Sydney	Position	Western Suburbs
Stephen CASEY	*Fullback*	Trevor COGGER
Andrew SIMONS	*Wing*	Steve BROUGHTON (c)
Neigel TAIT	*Centre*	Eddie FLAHEY
Simon BROCKWELL	*Centre*	John McARTHUR
Chris LUCKMAN	*Wing*	Mick PINKERTON
Paul McCAFFERY	*Five-eighth*	Michael NEIL
Laurie SPINA	*Half*	Brett CLARK
Alan BURNS	*Lock*	Allen GEELAN
Peter CROSS	*Second Row*	Michael DUKE
Bob COOPER	*Second Row*	Craig MADSEN
Don McKINNON (c)	*Front Row*	John COVENEY
Phil RITCHIE	*Hooker*	Scott RIGNEY
Erroll HILLIER	*Front Row*	Garry WEBSTER
	Replacement	George FAHD
	Replacement	Peter LAMB
	Replacement	Charlie KHALIFEH

Tries — Andrew SIMONS, Chris LUCKMAN   Steve BROUGHTON

Goals — Stephen CASEY (3) One Field Goal   John McARTHUR (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: T Cogger; three-quarters: S Broughton (c), E Flahey, J McArthur, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: M Neil; half: B Clark; forwards: A Geelan, C Madsen, M Duke, J Coveney, S Rigney, G Webster

North Sydney: Full-back: S Casey; three-quarters: A Simons, S Brockwell, N Tait, C Luckman; five-eighth: P MCaffery; half: L Spina; forwards: A Burns, P Cross, R Cooper, D McKinnon (c), P Ritchie, E Hillier   **Referee: G McCallum**   (The Rugby League Week 14th June 1984)

A change of luck was all North Sydney needed to end a worrying six-match losing streak at North Sydney Oval yesterday. And that change came against the luckless Wests, who continued their apparently cursed run with a 13-6 loss to the Bears. Norths scored two tries to one and, on the surface at least, deserved to finish with the two points. But whereas Wests' sole try came from a good backline move, Norths' first try came from a mis-directed bomb and the second was an intercept. And to rub salt into the wounds, a field goal attempt from Norths' Steve Casey at a crucial stage hit the upright and rebounded. "When you're at the bottom, things always seem to go against you and that's the sort of luck we've had all year," Wests' coach Ken Gentle lamented. **(Daily Mirror 11th June 1984)**

Western Suburbs wasted a lot of second-half possession to allow the bigger North Sydney to get on top and win their Rugby League match 13-6 at North Sydney Oval yesterday. … Young hooker Scott Rigney won the scrums 13-3 but, after an enterprising first 40 minutes, Wests paid the penalty for dropping the ball. A crowd of 1,689 braved the wet to see Norths hit the lead after only nine minutes when winger Chris Luckman regathered a kick from five-eighth Paul McCaffery. Luckman strolled over near the posts and full-back Stephen Casey converted to make it 6-0. A try by captain Steve Broughton and a penalty from centre John McArthur put Wests level. Casey kicked a field goal on half-time. Norths scored after the break when Wests' second-rower Michael Duke, standing in a tackle, threw a pass which was intercepted by winger Andrew Simons, who raced 30 metres to score. North Sydney coach John Hayes said: "It's great to beat any first-grade side and today we really needed that confidence booster. With so many players out injured, I thought the boys put in a fine performance." Norths' injury list lengthened when Bob Cooper sustained a head injury and prop Errol Hillier needing stitches in his face. Wests' second-rower Craig Madsen was replaced in the first half because of a neck injury. Magpies' coach Ken Gentle was proud of his side but said Norths' size had been the decisive factor. For Norths, Simon Brockwell gained Hayes' praise for a fine defensive display in the centres. Hillier and Peter Cross were strong in the forwards and McKinnon made a welcome return to form. Wests' new half-back Brett Clark combined well with five-eighth Michael Neil. **(Sydney Morning Herald 11th June 1984)**

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Notes: Wests were very unlucky to lose this match. Both Norths' tries came against the run of play with a bomb and an intercept. Wests fielded a vastly re-shuffled side on a bog at North Sydney, in a game played in very poor conditions. John McArthur went to the centres and a new halves combination in Michael Neil and Brett Clark were impressive. Steve Rigney was again Wests' best player, winning the scrums 13-3 and tackling like a bulldog. Bob Cooper (ex-Wests and having served a 15-month suspension), was a good player in the pack for Norths.