



# 1971 Round 19 Sunday 1st August Lidcombe Oval



## Balmain 21

Bob SMITHIES  
 Paul CROSS  
 Geoff STARLING  
 Ron LOOMBES  
 Ron LEIS  
 Keith OUTTEN (c)  
 Alan TILBROOK  
 Olaf PRATTL  
 Dennis TUTTY  
 Greg FRYER  
 Terry CROSS  
 Peter BOULTON  
 Garry LEO  
 Barry McTAGGART

def.

## Western Suburbs 17

Tony FORD  
 Don ROGERS  
 Derek BROUWER  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Mick ALCHIN  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Colin WITHERS  
 Rod SMITH  
 John BAKER  
 Barry BRYANT  
 Russell JOHNSTONE  
 Ken STONESTREET  
 Tony ANTUNAC  
 Neville SINCLAIR



**Tries** Paul CROSS (2)  
 Olaf PRATTL  
 Bob SMITHIES  
 Geoff STARLING

Rod SMITH (2)  
 Mick ALCHIN

**Goals** Ron LEIS (3)

Tony FORD (4)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, T Murphy, D Brouwer, M Alchin; five-eighth: T Raudonikis (c); half: B Winney; forwards: R Smith, B Bryant, J Baker, R Johnstone, K Stonestreet, A Antunac

**Balmain:** Full-back: R Smithies; three-quarters: P Cross, G Starling, O Pratl, R Loomes; five-eighth: K Outten (c); half: A Tilbrook; forwards: J Spencer, D Tutty, G Fryer, T Cross, P Boulton, G Leo **Referee: G Cook (The Sun 1st August 1971)**

An intercept try, almost from goal line to goal line, by winger Paul Cross, made the final difference when Balmain beat Wests 21 to 17 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Wests were pressing on Balmain's line in the first half when a loose pass came Cross' way. He accelerated to beat two diving tackles and won the race to the line. When Bob Leis converted, Balmain led 13 to 7. Although Wests fought back to be ahead 14-13 at half-time in a see-saw game it was the "gift" try by Cross that was the decider between two evenly matched teams. What should have been a bright game was spoilt by over-eagerness leading to bad handling and loss of possession. With nothing depending on the first grade game, main interest for Wests supporters was in the reserve grade win by 11 to 6. Wests have now to win only one more game to go into the semi-finals. Their nearest rivals can't afford another loss. Magpie officials are heartened by the display of their second team which contains plenty of potential for the future. Those to impress yesterday were Bob Mullins, George Skeers and Dick Timbs. **(The Sun 2nd August 1971)**

Balmain defeated Western Suburbs 21-17 in a bright Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval. Balmain scored five tries to three but the result was always in doubt. Wests led 14-13 at half-time and it wasn't until the 21st minute of the second half that Balmain regained the lead. Olaf Pratl, who had replaced John Spencer as lock, made a break down centre field. Paul Cross and Bob Smithies handled before centre Geoff Starling crossed between the posts for Ron Leis to convert. Balmain went in again seven minutes later when the Wests defence hung off Smithies, who went over near the corner. Balmain then led 21-14 but Wests hit back when winger Mick Alchin went over in the corner after Don Rogers had made a long break on the right flank. Balmain winger Paul Cross showed his finishing ability in crossing for two tries, including an intercept where he ran 80 yards to beat the defence. For Western Suburbs, lock Rod Smith capped a good game with two tries. Five-eighth Tom Raudonikis, who had to take over the half-back spot when Col Withers was injured early in the game, suffered the effects of Saturday's interstate clash. **(Daily Telegraph 2nd August 1971)**

Balmain rallied from a half-time deficit to beat Western Suburbs 21-17 in a bright Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Although Balmain scored five tries to three, the result was in doubt until the final whistle. Wests led 14-13 at half-time and it was not until the 21st minute that Balmain went ahead. Burly Olaf Pratl, who had replaced John Spencer as lock, made a break down centre-field. Paul Cross and Bob Smithies handled before centre Geoff Starling crossed between the posts, for Ron Leis to convert. ...Balmain then led 21-14 but Wests hit back when winger Mick Alchin went over in the corner after Don Rogers had made a long break on the right flank. **(Sydney Morning Herald 2nd August 1971)**

**Notes:** Wests were very unlucky to lose this match. They were basically beaten by a 90-yard Paul Cross intercept try when Wests looked like they were about to score. In a fast, open game Rod Smith had a blinder coming back from a broken jaw, while Mick Alchin scored consecutive tries since coming back to First Grade. The Reserves had a crucial 11-6 win, making it almost certain they would make the semi-finals.