



1984 Round 19 Sunday 8th July Lidcombe Oval



St George 26

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Brian JOHNSON
 Steve MORRIS
 Chris JOHNS
 Michael BEATTIE
 Steve GEARIN
 Paul MORRIS
 Perry HADDOCK
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Colin FRASER
 Chris WALSH
 Pat JARVIS
 Chris GUIDER
 Robert STONE (c)
 Rick POWELL
 Graeme WYNN
 Brian JOHNSTON

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

George GHOSN
 Steve BROUGHTON (c)
 George KATSOGIANNIS
 Wayne SMITH
 Mick PINKERTON
 Michael NEIL
 Brett CLARK
 Mark HARRIGAN
 Allen GEELAN
 Michael DUKE
 Garry WEBSTER
 Grant FYVIE
 Bruce CLARK
 Geoff SPOTSWOOD
 John McARTHUR



Tries Brian JOHNSTON (2)
 Steve MORRIS
 Steve GEARIN
 Michael BEATTIE

Michael NEIL

Goals Steve GEARIN (3)

George GHOSN (1)
 Grant FYVIE (1) Field Goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Ghosn; three-quarters: S Broughton (c), G Katsogiannis, W Smith, M Pinkerton; five-eighth: M Neil; half: B Clark; forwards: M Harrigan, M Duke, A Geelan, B Clark, G Fyvie, G Webster

St George: Full-back: B Johnson; three-quarters: S Gearin, C Johns, M Beattie, S Morris; five-eighth: P Morris; half: P Haddock; forwards: G O'Grady, C Walsh, C Fraser, P Jarvis, C Guider, R Stone (c) **Referee: K Roberts (The Daily Mirror 9th July 1984)**

For the second week in a row St George struggled to beat one of the competition's lesser lights when it downed Western Suburbs 26-7 at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Saints had to battle to beat the Magpies, just as they made things tough for themselves in last week's win over North Sydney. The victory takes St George into outright second place on the competition table, but coach Roy Masters had little else to enthuse about. "The score flattered us badly," Masters said. St George looked anything but a premiership contender. Saints wrapped up the match with three quick tries in the last nine minutes to stretch their lead from 10-7 to 26-7. "The final score flattered Saints. 10-7 would have been a fairer indication of the game," a disappointed Wests' coach Ken Gentle lamented. The Magpies got away to a dream start with a try to five-eighth Michael Neil after only two minutes, following a strong break by winger Mick Pinkerton. Saints could just not get going early and were easy prey for the eager-beaver Wests' defence. St George scored its only first half try in the 17th minute when five-eighth Paul Morris put centre Michael Beattie over but a field goal to full-back George Ghosn enabled Wests to lead 7-4 at the break. The turning point in the game came when Masters sent Brian Johnston on as a replacement for centre Chris Johns shortly after half-time. Johnston provided the thrust Saints needed and he put his team in front for the first time when he scampered over for a try in the 58th minute. He scored his second try 13 minutes later, then wingers Steve Gearin and Steve Morris chipped in with touchdowns in the closing stages. Masters declined to reveal to pressmen after the match what he told his players at half-time when they trailed 7-4. "During the first half I was very disappointed with two aspects of our play, but they fixed it up in the second half," Master said. "I don't want to say what it was I was unhappy with because I don't want to give too much away." ... Wests were best served by halves Neil and Brett Clark and lock Mark Harrigan. **(Daily Telegraph 9th July 1984)**

.... Wests' secretary Rick Wayde addressed the crowd of 5452 at half-time with news that Auburn Council had refused to permit the club to stage another fund-raising rock concert at Lidcombe Oval in October. A similar concert last year attracted 17,000 people and earned Wests \$90,000 profit. Wayde said council cited noise complaints as the reason for stopping the concert but the club will re-apply for permission. ... **(Daily Mirror 9th July 1984)**

Notes: The final score in no way reflects the course of the game. Michael Neil scored a brilliant team try after only two minutes and Wests led 7-4 at half-time. The score was only 10-7 with nine minutes to go but Bruiser Clark was sent to the sin bin and St George ran in three quick tries, although two of them were considered dubious. Ironically, ex-Wests player Graeme O'Grady was the spearhead for the comeback. Bruce Clark was powerful up front, while Mark Harrigan and Michael Neil were best for the team.