

## 1967 Round 2 Sunday 9th April Kogarah Oval

## St George 20 def. Western Suburbs 11

Graeme LANGLANDS **Fullback** Dave BARSLEY Ken MADDISON John ELFORD Wing **Bruce POLLARD** Centre Rob McGUINESS (c) **Reg GASNIER** Centre **Roy FERGUSON** Johnny KING Wing John MOWBRAY **Denis PRESTON** Five-eighth **Denis PITTARD** George EVANS Half Pat THOMAS Johnny RAPER Lock Jim CODY Barry BEATH Second Row John HAYES Elton RASMUSSEN Second Row John ARMSTRONG Keith MADDISON Front Row Doug WALKADEN Ian WALSH (c) Hooker Ken STONESTREET John LOVE Front Row Noel DOLTON

Tries Barry BEATH Denis PITTARD

Reg GASNIER

Graeme LANGLANDS

John LOVE

Goals Graeme LANGLANDS (4) Dave BARSLEY (3)

Rob McGUINESS (1) Field Goal

## **Match Description**

St George: Full-back: G Langlands; three-quarters: K Maddison, R Gasnier, B Pollard, J King; five-eighth: D Preston; half: G Evans; forwards: J Raper, B Beath, E Rasmussen, K Maddison, I Walsh (c), J Love

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Barsley; three-quarters: J Mowbray, R McGuiness (c), R Ferguson, J Elford; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: P Thomas; forwards: J Cody, J Hayes, J Armstrong, D Walkaden, K Stonestreet, N Dolton Referee: J Bradley (as per program Rugby League News 8th/9th April 1967 + newspaper validation)

St George scored four tries to one in beating Western Suburbs 20-11 in the Rugby League match at Kogarah Oval yesterday. The Saints had been embarrassed when Wests, intensely keen, even though minus experienced players Noel Kelly, Peter Dimond and Don Parish, shot to the lead, 11-8, with a converted try after 10 minutes of the second half. But 12 minutes later centre Reg Gasnier flashed up on to a pass infield from lock, Johnny Raper and scored brilliantly, with defenders gaping. Full-back Graeme Langlands goaled and thereafter Saints were not in trouble. They had led 6-4 at half-time, having scored two tries, against the stiff westerly. The first try, by Langlands was disputed by Wests' players, who thought referee Bradley should have ruled double movement. The wind wrecked many passes. Saints' display, while not completely satisfying, showed improvement – they were positive from early stages. Gasnier, in heartening form, was spurting from the outset. He worked "blind" side moves with half-back George Evans, five-eighth Dennis Preston and lock Raper. Gasnier's try was a gem of anticipation and acceleration. I fancy that Raper himself was surprised when Gasnier flew in to take his pass. Langlands had a great game, with determined running, sometimes penetrating with his wide side-step, and safe tackling. He got prodigious length on punts with the wind. Five-eighth Preston came through promisingly. He broke the line a few times, but found some of his passes going astray. Centre Bruce Pollard dropped a ball from Gasnier and let five-eighth Denis Pittard "steal" Wests only try. Otherwise Pollard was solid. Second-rower Barry Beath continues to play well. He chipped in with the backs and raced through for a fine try. Injured coach Noel Kelly was pleased with Wests' strong showing. (Sydney Morning Herald 10th April 1967)

Rugby League premiers St George yesterday survived a plucky Western Suburbs challenge to open their winning account on windswept Kogarah Oval. St George, after appearing set for an easy win at half-time, had to battle hard to beat the weakened Wests' side 20-11. Wests, with the prospect of facing a near gale in the second half, looked out of it when they were down 6-4 at half-time. Wests played much better football in the second half, and clung to a narrow lead until 19 minutes from the end. Fifteen minutes into the second half Wests' five-eighth Denis Pittard snapped up a dropped pass in the St George backline and raced over between the posts to give his side an 11-8 lead. It was only a magnificent and typical Reg Gasnier try that took the lead away from Wests then. Gasnier, in his first game on his home ground since 1965, plucked a bullet-like pass from Johnny Raper off his toes and accelerated through a shocked Wests' defence to put the ball down near the posts. Graeme Langlands converted the try and St George had the lead back 13-11... (Daily Telegraph 10th April 1967)

**Notes:** Wests were missing Noel Kelly (injured), Peter Dimond (suspended) and Don Parish, a late injury withdrawal. Dave Barsley moved to full-back and John Elford came in, onto the wing. The difference in the match was typically a brilliant Gasnier try. Graeme Langlands also played a blinder. For Wests, Pittard continued his stellar form while Ken Stonestreet matched Ian Walsh in the scrums.

