1971 Round 5 Sunday 25th April Henson Park

Newtown 7   def.   Western Suburbs 6

Newtown		Western Suburbs
Alan MADDALENA	*Fullback*	Tony FORD
Danny GOUGH	*Wing*	Don ROGERS
Barry WOOD	*Centre*	John ELFORD
Brian MOORE (c)	*Centre*	Tim MURPHY
Lionel WILLIAMSON	*Wing*	Dick TIMBS
Des O'CONNOR	*Five-eighth*	Tom RAUDONIKIS
John BONHAM	*Half*	John MAXWELL
Bob CARNEGIE	*Lock*	Rod SMITH
Barry BRIGGS	*Second Row*	John BAKER
Greg BANDIERA	*Second Row*	Barry BRYANT
Col CASEY	*Front Row*	George SKEERS
Mark ROBERTSON	*Hooker*	Ken STONESTREET
Charlie RENILSON	*Front Row*	Jim CODY (c)
Ron FOGARTY	*Replacement*	Roy FERGUSON
Oscar DANIELSON	*Replacement*	

Tries	Barry BRIGGS		
Goals	John BONHAM (2)		Tony FORD (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, J Elford, T Murphy, R Timbs; five-eighth: T Raudonikis; half: J Maxwell; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, J Cody (c), K Stonestreet, G Skeers

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: A Maddalena; three-quarters: L Williamson, B Wood, B Moore (c), D Gough; five-eighth: D O'Connor; half; J Bonham forwards: R Carnegie, B Briggs, G Bandiera, C Casey, M Robertson, C Renilson   **Referee: L Samuelson   (Rugby League Week 1st May 1971)**

A late penalty goal by half-back John Bonham enabled Newtown to snatch a 7-6 Rugby league win over Western Suburbs at Henson Park yesterday. In a game of lost opportunities, Newtown finished strongly, scoring the only try. Wests, after leading 4-0 at half-time, moved ahead a further two points when full-back Tony Ford added his third goal soon after the resumption. Twenty-five minutes into the second half Newtown second-rower Barry Briggs made a weaving run to score under the posts. It was compensation for his "try' only minutes earlier disallowed by referee Les Samuelson for off-side. The conversion by Bonham put Newtown one point behind and with 15 minutes to go, they pulled out all stops. Shortly before full-time, Newtown captain and centre Brian Moore, sent lock Bob Carnegie over between the posts. But referee Samuelson ruled that Moore had passed the ball from the ground. With the full-time siren two minutes away, second-rower Barry Bryant was caught off-side right in front of the posts to give Bonham an easy kick. Bonham made no mistake, and Newtown had the two competition points in the bag. The penalty was bad luck for Bryant, who had played soundly throughout the game with strong weaving runs. Both teams were guilty of poor handling and inability to hang on to the ball in tackles. Time and again players had the ball either snatched or bumped from their grasp just when an opening appeared. Both sides played a tight defensive game with little to excite the small crowd. **(Daily Telegraph 26th April 1971)**

A penalty goal by half-back John Bonham 90 seconds from the final bell gave Newtown a 7-6 win over Western Suburbs at Henson Park yesterday. Bonham took the kick from right in front on the Western Suburbs 25. Three penalty goals from four attempts by full-back Tony Ford had given Wests a 6-0 lead which they maintained right up to the 25th minute of the second half. Then a converted try right under the posts by second-rower Barry Briggs, saw Newtown scent victory for the first time. Briggs scored after a weaving, 40-yard run which caught Ford badly out of position. Both sides adopted a tight defensive pattern of play and the game drew very little enthusiasm from the crowd of 4,953. The crowd seemed more concerned hooting many controversial decisions by referee Les Samuelson. Two policemen walked beside Samuelson as he made his way to the dressing room after the final bell. Despite the scrappy nature of the whole game there were some outstanding individual performances on both sides. Danny Gough, a last minute replacement for full-back Dave Barsley, made long penetrating runs down the left flank for the winners. Brian Moore showed out both in attack defence and Tom Raudonikis, in the five-eighth spot, was outstanding and brought great drive to the Wests' backline. **(Sydney Morning Herald 26th April 1971)**

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Notes: Roy Ferguson was a shock axing for this match with Jim Cody also being made a surprise captain. The game was lost in the very last minute of the match with a John Bonham goal. Both teams had two tries disallowed in a scrappy match. Barry Bryant had a powerful, barging performance while Tom Raudonikis won maximum points in all the best-and-fairest competitions. Wests had now lost three in a row after a dazzling first round.