1966 Round 7 Sunday 15th May Sports Ground

Western Suburbs 16   def.   Newtown 15

Western Suburbs	Position	Newtown
Dave BARSLEY	*Fullback*	Bob LANIGAN
John MOWBRAY	*Wing*	Dick QUINN
Roy FERGUSON	*Centre*	Brian MOORE (c)
John ELFORD	*Centre*	Bob KEYES
Gil MacDOUGALL	*Wing*	Ross BULLOCK
Denis PITTARD	*Five-eighth*	Bob CARNEGIE
Pat THOMAS	*Half*	John COX
Bill HANSEN	*Lock*	Peter KEOGH
John HAYES	*Second Row*	Graham WILSON
Alan ALLISON	*Second Row*	Ron COWIE
Denis MEANEY	*Front Row*	Bruce OLIVE
Noel THORNTON	*Hooker*	Clarrie JEFFREYS
Noel KELLY (c)	*Front Row*	Ray PICKARD

Tries	John HAYES	Dick QUINN
	John MOWBRAY	
Goals	Dave BARSLEY (3)	Bob LANIGAN (6)
	Pat THOMAS (2)	

Match Description
Newtown: Full-back: R Lanigan; three-quarters: R Quinn, B Moore (c), R Keyes, R Bullock; five-eighth: R Carnegie; half: J Cox; forwards: P Keogh, G Wilson, R Cowie, B Olive, C Jeffreys, P Armstrong, R Pickard
Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Barsley; three-quarters: J Mowbray, R McGuinness, R Ferguson, G MacDougall; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: P Thomas; forwards: W Hansen, J Hayes, A Allison, D Meaney, N Thornton, N Kelly (c)   **Referee: L Samuelson   (as per program Rugby League News 14th/15th May 1966 + Newspaper validation)**

Western Suburbs, two men short over the last 30 minutes at the Sports Ground yesterday, scored one of the most sensational wins in Rugby League history. Wests, which had folded up badly when whipped by St George 30-2 the previous weekend, beat Newtown 16-15. This was Newtown's first defeat. But it was not just the reversal of form – it was the determined play pf Wests' depleted, but inspired, team that made this match one that will be talked about when memorable League games come up for discussion. Two Test forwards had been sent off the field by referee Les Samuelson; second-rower Alan Allison after 25 minutes play and captain-coach and prop Noel Kelly after 10 minutes of the second half. They will be charged before the League's judiciary committee with having used knees on opponents. The crowd of 15,000 was thrilled by the way that Wests' 11 men (four forwards against six), fighting for possession of the ball and running determinedly when they got it, held Newtown at bay. Desperate rallies by Newtown were turned back. Wests were in Newtown's 25-yard area, and they had the ball, when the full-time siren sounded above the din of the crowd. Many people rushed on to the field to acclaim Wests' heroes. .. President Mr Lou Moses said: "This is the greatest win I have seen in 36 years in football. What a display of gut it was!" It was indeed. All those Wests' men – and one would include Kelly, for his direction of their spirited display before he was ordered off – had earned great admiration. If some had to be picked out for special admiration they would have to be forwards, lock Bill Hansen and Denis Meaney, for unrelenting efforts, 19 year-old five-eighth Denis Pittard for a sustained all-round display rich in promise, and full-back Dave Barsley, dashing runner, safe tackler, and successful goal-kicker in the crisis. … That opening effort just had to bring a try and it came with a crashing run by second-rower John Hayes, playing his 100th first grade game. .. As sometimes happens when a pack is depleted. Wests won the scrums in the second half 6-2. After six minutes of the second half, lead-up work by Kelly and centre Roy Ferguson ended in a try in the left corner by winger John Mowbray, gloriously converted by Barsley, and Wests led 12-8. Then Kelly went. This was surely the end of Wests. But, no! Meaney, forcing two men to tackle him as he charged through, lifted Wests. .. Then a sensation. From a penalty inside the 10 yard line and near the right wing, Barsley kicked to the left of the posts in his attempt at goal. He had taken the ball back to the 25-yard line, but the ball had to reach the goal-line before it could be caught by either side. Newtown men advanced; one caught the ball, and so a penalty near the posts. Barsley goaled. Lanigan responded with a beautiful goal. Wests 16-15. .. Wests won the scrum – and they held the ball! **(The Sydney Morning Herald 16th May 1966)**

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Notes: Secretary Lou Moses said this was the best win in his last 36 years and it was certainly heroic. Newtown was unbeaten and Wests were coming off a hiding against St George and were expected to be easy meat. Peter Dimond was also still out with a hamstring injury, replaced by Roy Ferguson. Alan Allison was sent off after 25 minutes for allegedly kneeing and things looked bleak but when Noel Kelly was also sent off, very unfairly by all accounts, the situation looked hopeless. Pat Thomas and John Hayes were also carrying leg injuries. Into the breach stepped Bill Hansen, Denis Meaney and John Hayes. The three-man pack matched the six man Newtown pack tackle for tackle; Denis Pittard and Dave Barsley both stepped up the attack and also defended grimly. Right on the final whistle the Wests' pack was holding on to the ball like their lives depended on it. This was a monumental win. John Elford came in for the injured Rob McGuiness.