



1971 Round 8 Sunday 16th May Sports Ground



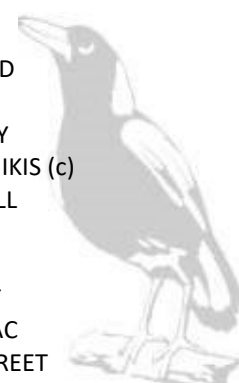
Balmain 23

Bob SMITHIES
 Paul CROSS
 Geoff STARLING
 Terry PARKER
 Len KILLEEN
 Peter FARDELL
 Keith OUTTEN (c)
 John SPENCER
 Dennis TUTTY
 Greg FRYER
 Terry CROSS
 Peter BOULTON
 Garry LEO

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Tony FORD
 Don ROGERS
 Noel HURFORD
 Tim MURPHY
 Wayne MERRY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 John MAXWELL
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 Tony ANTUNAC
 Ken STONESTREET
 George SKEERS



Tries
 Paul CROSS (2)
 Garry LEO
 Bob SMITHIES
 Geoff STARLING

John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 Don ROGERS

Goals
 Len KILLEEN (4)

Noel HURFORD (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: R Smithies; three-quarters: P Cross, T Parker, G Starling, L Killeen; five-eighth: P Fardell; half: K Outten (c); forwards: J Spencer, D Tutty, G Fryer, T Cross, P Boulton, G Leo

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, T Murphy, N Hurford, W Merry; five-eighth: T Raudonikis; half: J Maxwell; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, S Winter, K Stonestreet, G Skeers **Referee: G Bennett (Sun 14th May 1971)**

Balmain remained in premiership contention with a determined 23-14 win over Western Suburbs in the Rugby League match at the Sports Ground yesterday. The Tigers withstood an early second-half rally by Wests after leading 18-0 at half-time. Balmain mastered the Wests' pack early. Garry Leo, Geoff Starling, Paul Cross and Bob Smithies all scored excellent team tries in this period. After blundering their way through 40 minutes of their poorest football, Wests put on three scintillating tries in five minutes after the interval. John Baker, Barry Bryant and Tom Raudonikis scored the tries. Balmain led 18-11. The Tigers regathered their strength and Smithies made a break. Cross raced over in the corner for his second try. Balmain's back row forwards Spencer, Tutty and Fryer all had fine games. In the backs Bob Smithies and Peter Fardell were impressive. Wests' best were Tim Murphy, Raudonikis, Rod Smith and Bryant. **(Daily Telegraph 17th May 1971)**

Balmain remained in premiership contention with a determined 23-14 win over Western Suburbs in the rugby League match at the Sports Ground yesterday. ... Showing much of the old "Tiger" spirit, Balmain mastered the Wests' pack early and had run up a match-winning 18-0 lead by half-time. Garry Leo, Geoff Starling, Paul Cross and Bob Smithies scored excellent tries in this period. But after blundering through 40 minutes of their poorest football, Wests in the second half scored three scintillating tries in five minutes, to trail 18-11. Promising winger Don Rogers raced 50 yards to score Wests' final try. **(Sydney Morning Herald 17th May 1971)**

Two youngsters, promoted to fill gaps caused by injuries, helped Balmain stay in the premiership race and then earned a further reward last night. Geoff Starling, a 19-year-old centre, and Terry Cross, a 22-year-old prop, rose from virtual obscurity to gain places in the City Seconds' side. They were unknown when Balmain, in dire straits with injured players, called on them to fill the holes early this year. They weren't Balmain's best players in their club's 23-14 win over Wests at the Sports Ground but they showed sufficient polish to warrant selection in the Seconds' team. It is just another example of the Balmain resilience and their ability to bring the best out in unknowns almost overnight. They raced to an 18-0 lead at half-time and it seemed the ineptness of Wests was going to let them coast to an easy win. But Wests found something to revitalize them in the dressing room at half-time and in the space of five minutes scored three great tries. Two of the tries came from a move worked from a tap kick in which lock Rod Smith broke the defence both times. Barry Bryant scored one try and John Baker the other. But Balmain regathered their forces and finished strongly to claim a well-earned victory. **(The Sun 17th May 1971)**

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Notes: Wests played an abysmal first half and were down 18-0 at half-time. Three quick second-half tries by Wests brought them storming back into the match. The Balmain pack monstred the Wests' pack for 40 minutes but they were able to steady themselves to start a comeback. On the other hand, Balmain had lost three in a row, so it was another poor performance. Geoff Starling debuted for Balmain in this match.