



1971 Round 9 Sunday 23rd May Kogarah Oval



St George 14

Dennis PRESTON
 Stan GORTON
 Geoff CARR
 Kevin O'SULLIVAN
 Ken BATTY
 Tony BRANSON
 Mark SCHULMAN
 Graeme SAMS
 Barry BEATH
 Peter FITZGERALD
 Brian NORTON
 Col RASMUSSEN
 Apisai TOGA
 Paul MILLS
 Phil HAWTHORNE

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Tony FORD
 Don ROGERS
 Roy FERGUSON
 Tim MURPHY
 John ELFORD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 Brian WINNEY
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 Jim CODY (c)
 Ken STONESTREET
 Russell JOHNSTONE
 Jon CLARK
 George SKEERS



Tries Stan GORTON (2)
 Barry BEATH
 Kevin O'SULLIVAN

Rod SMITH
 Brian WINNEY

Goals Dennis PRESTON (1)

Tony FORD (1)

Match Description

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

St George: Full-back: D Preston; three-quarters: S Gorton, G Carr, K O'Sullivan, K Batty; five-eighth: A Branson; half: M Schulman; forwards: G Sams, B Beath, P Fitzgerald, B Norton, C Rasmussen, A Toga **Referee: C Edwards (Rugby League Week 29th May 1971)**

St George climbed back into Rugby league's top four when their makeshift 13 downed Western Suburbs 14-8 in a colourless match at Kogarah yesterday. Saints took the field with six regular players standing down, and lost two others during the match. Centre Geoff Carr injured a hamstring and was replaced at half-time, then Tony Branson suffered a hard knock in the first half and did not return after the interval. St George led from the opening minutes when full-back Dennis Preston kicked his only goal of the match and from that stage they were always in control. Second-rower Barry Beath and prop Brian Norton both caused damage with long runs down the sideline and Wests' defence at times seemed quite uninterested in their task. Branson had a lively game in his short time on the field. Wests have fallen to their lowest ebb in recent times and only five-eighth Tom Raudonikis and stand-in prop Russell Johnstone earned their appearance money. Raudonikis continually probed the defence, but support was almost non-existent. **(Sydney Morning Herald 24th May 1971)**

Saints' hooker Col Rasmussen, who shared the Opera House Lottery first prize on Thursday, struck the jackpot yesterday. He was in superb striking form and won the scrums 19-9 to help a makeshift St George team to a 14-8 win over Wests. At one stage in the first half, Rasmussen won seven scrums in a row and in the second half, eight in succession. But Col's hooking was the highlight of a very drab game. One spectator after the game summed it up – "That is the worst game of football I've ever seen" – and he had backed the winners. With such a feast of ball it did St George little credit that they were unable to score more points. Maybe Wests' giant share of the penalties, 12 to 3, kept Saints in check. With three or four exceptions, Wests played like a team of tired dispirited old men. Only Tom Raudonikis, Brian Winney and ex-Penrith forward Russell Johnstone, really earned their money. **(The Sun 24th May 1971)**

..... With Captain Jim Cody lacking form and coach Ron Watson on the verge of an ulcer, it might be advisable to have a change of leadership on the field by giving the enthusiasm of young Raudonikis the chance to spread throughout the team. Thus would take some responsibility from Cody, allowing him to concentrate on his own play and be of greater value to Wests' pack. **(Rugby League Week 29th May 1971)**

Notes: This game marked the debuts of Brian Winney (ex-Parramatta) and Russell Johnstone (ex-Penrith) who both had excellent matches. St George was a hugely re-shuffled team, with both Smith and Langlands out injured. Raudonikis stood out for Wests and a lot of commentators were saying he should be made Captain. The prop problem was highlighted when experienced hooker Ken Stonestreet lost the scrums 19-9.