



1976 Round 4 Saturday 10th April Lidcombe Oval



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Canterbury-Bankstown 12

Wayne SMITH
 Don ROGERS
 Ron GITEAU
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
 Les BOYD
 John ELFORD
 Geoff FOSTER
 Peter YOUNG
 John PURCELL
 John DONNELLY
 Jim MURPHY
 Shane DAY

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-eighth
Half
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row
Replacement
Replacement

Don MOSELEY
 Peter O'NEILL
 Mick RYAN
 Mark HARRIS
 Chris ANDERSON
 Garry HUGHES
 Phil YOUNG
 Graeme HUGHES
 Keith HARRIS
 Bob McCARTHY (c)
 John PEEK
 George PEPONIS
 Bill NOONAN
 Steve GEARIN
 Stan CUTLER



Tries Wayne SMITH (2)
 Les BOYD

Peter O'NEILL
 George PEPONIS

Goals Ron GITEAU (5)

Don MOSELEY (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Parker, R Giteau, R Mullins; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, J Elford, J Donnelly, J Purcell, P Young

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: P O'Neill, M Hughes, M Ryan, C Anderson; five-eighth: G Hughes; half: P Young; forwards: H Hughes, R McCarthy (c), J Peek, K Harris, G Peponis, W Noonan **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 17th April 1976)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday gained sweet revenge on Canterbury-Bankstown, winning a bruising match 19-12 at Lidcombe Oval. Wests' supporters, remembering last year's controversial "missing point" match at Belmore gave the Magpies a heroes' reception after the win. Wests powered home to win yesterday's game after being in trouble early in the second half. They slipped to a 12-7 deficit when Canterbury hooker George Peponis scored a try soon after half-time. But Wests gradually gained the upper hand in a match which featured some torrid forward clashes. They levelled up when full-back Smith scored a try wide out and then hit the front when centre Ron Giteau kicked a difficult conversion. Canterbury's bid to get back into the match fizzled out on the final minutes. Near the end, Smith backed up inside Giteau to score his second try to wrap up the two points for Wests. The Berries took the field with a surprise positional change – Don Moseley at full-back and the announced full-back Peter O'Neill on the wing. Canterbury put first points on the board when Moseley kicked a simple goal after an off-side penalty against the Wests' centres. Tough forward exchanges marked the early minutes of the match. Referee Cook called out opposing forwards Young and McCarthy after both had lashed out in a tackle. Wests' new kicker Giteau missed with his first shot at goal. But Giteau quickly made amends with a neat goal from in front after 15 minutes. Wests' forwards, steaming up the middle, were putting heavy pressure on the Canterbury defence. In the 22nd minute, hooker Purcell stole the ball from Canterbury's Peek as the Berries tried to work play out from their own line. A quick dash by Raudonikis carried play to within feet of the line. Then lock Boyd was on hand to take the ball on the blindside and force his way over. Giteau's conversion attempt missed by inches on the right-hand side. Canterbury second-rower Harris was sickened in a tackle as he tried to stop Wests' Elford. Finally, a rubber-legged Harris was replaced in the 29th minute. At that stage Wests had a 7-2 lead after a second goal by Giteau, kicked into the wind. Against the play, Canterbury levelled the score. Winger O'Neill grabbed a dropped ball and ran 40 metres to score. Moseley's conversion made it 7-all. The Canterbury kicker was out of luck when a penalty shot from way out hit the upright just before half-time. **(Sunday Telegraph 11th April 1976)**

Notes: Wests took revenge for the "Liubinskas affair" in the previous season and came out to bustle Canterbury out of the match with a powerful tackling display. John Elford led the charging defence, but it was Tom Raudonikis who was once again the star. Canterbury had a re-shuffled team after a Wednesday Amco Cup game but Wests were still the superior team. Wests finally found a goal-kicker with Ron Giteau kicking five good goals although he still missed a sitter.