



1977 Round 6 Sunday 24th April Cricket Ground



Parramatta 18

Mark LEVY
 Jim PORTER
 Michael CRONIN
 Ed SULKOWICZ
 Graeme ATKINS
 John PEARD
 John KOLC
 Ray PRICE
 John BAKER
 Ray HIGGS (c)
 Denis FITZGERALD
 Ron HILDITCH
 Graeme OLLING
 Warren SNODGRASS

def.

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

Western Suburbs 10

John DORAHY
 Peter ROWLES
 Gavin MILLER
 Ron GITEAU
 Wayne SMITH
 Ken HEY
 Geoff SMITH
 Geoff FOSTER
 Steve BLYTH
 Mick LIUBINSKAS
 John DONNELLY
 Shane DAY (c)
 Doug LUCAS
 Graeme O'GRADY
 Pat HUNDY



Tries

Mark LEVY
 Ray PRICE

John DORAHY
 Ken HEY

Goals

Michael CRONIN (6)

Peter ROWLES (2)

Match Description

Parramatta: Full-back: M Levy; three-quarters: J Porter, M Cronin, E Sulkowicz, G Atkins; five-eighth: J Peard; half: J Kolc; forwards: R Price, R Higgs (c), J Baker, D Fitzgerald, R Hilditch, G Olling

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, G Miller, W Smith; five-eighth: K Hey; half: G Smith; forwards: G Foster, M Liubinskas, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day (c), D Lucas **Referee: G Cook (Rugby League Week 30th April 1977)**

A torn groin muscle injury aggravated late in the game left Parramatta and their scoring star Mick Cronin with a big worry after the grinding 18-10 win over Wests yesterday. In as good a match as any fan would wish to see, the Eels were kept in the game for most of the day by the South Coast kicker. Cronin had been in doubt with a knee problem through the week, but that did not worry him yesterday. He was the man of the match because of his solid general play, as well as his six goals from nine attempts. Cronin is playing at his top and kicking for goal far more consistently than ever before. The Eels, now alone on the top of the table after Balmain's draw with Penrith on Saturday, had to work most of the way. They even found Wests still attacking them when the score was 18-10 and no time left to alter the decision. Apart from Cronin, Parramatta came through without injury and will be ready for another tough one with Penrith at Cumberland next Sunday. Wests played their best football of the year and have been completely transformed in the past few weeks. They were completely out of luck and although the penalty count ended 12-9 in their favour, four of these came in the last couple of minutes. Far more important were those in kicking range of Cronin, which went against them. The penalty which enabled Cronin to make it 4-nil amazed many spectators. Wests were also upset by the penalty when John Dorahy was penalised for dragging Ray Price off a tackled player to enable the ball to be played. That meant a 45m goal to Cronin to cut Wests lead to 10-8. But the clincher for Wests was the Ray Price try from a typical Johnny Peard bomb. Magpie full-back John Dorahy, who made a dashing return to first grade, was emphatic after the match Price took the ball after it bounced forward from a teammate's shoulder. That made it 18-10 and meant Wests had no chance of winning. The game was a good advertisement for Rugby League. There was tough football with head-hunting out and not one caution being administered. An accurate summation came from League vice-president Dick Dunn when he declared near the end, "There is not a bad player on the field." The Parramatta players could not find an outstanding man when they voted Cronin, half Johnny Kolc, who appreciated the absence of a specialist lock against him, and Graham Olling, each polled four votes. **(The Sun 25th April 1977)**

Notes: This was regarded as the best game of the season so far, with Wests playing very well but running into a red-hot Parramatta team, particularly in the second half. Wests made an official complaint against referee Cook for not enforcing the five-metre rule, claiming Parramatta were off-side all day. John Dorahy made an impressive return to First Grade, while Ken Hey and Ron Giteau were both outstanding.