



1977 Round 9 Sunday 22nd May Lidcombe Oval



North Sydney 18

Mal McLACHLAN
Graham HAYWARD
Gordon WEST
John ADAM
Terry ADAMS
Kevin WILSON
Barry WOOD
Keith HARRIS
Bruce WALKER
Rex MURPHY
Bruce FOYE
John GRAY
Bill HAMILTON (c)
Jeff SHIELD
Paul HOPE

def.

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

Western Suburbs 17

John DORAHY
Peter ROWLES
Wayne SMITH
Ron GITEAU
Russell MULLINS
Ken HEY
Geoff SMITH
Les BOYD
Steve BLYTH
Geoff FOSTER
John DONNELLY
Shane DAY (c)
Doug LUCAS
Graeme O'GRADY
Pat HUNDY



Tries

Keith HARRIS
Bruce WALKER
Barry WOOD
Kevin WILSON

Geoff FOSTER
Russell MULLINS
Ron GITEAU

Goals

John GRAY (3)

Peter ROWLES (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Dorahy; three-quarters: P Rowles, R Giteau, W Smith, R Mullins; five-eighth: K Hey; half: T Raudonikis (c)G Smith; forwards: L Boyd, G Foster, S Blyth, J Donnelly, S Day, D Lucas

North Sydney: Full-back: M McLachlan; three-quarters: G Hayward, G West, J Adam, T Adams; five-eighth: K Wilson; half: B Wood; forwards: K Harris, B Walker, R Murphy, B Foye, J Gray, W Hamilton (c) **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 28th May 1977)**

Norths proved at Lidcombe yesterday what every fan in Sydney knows – Wests are lost without Tommy Raudonikis. In what must rank as one of the worst games of the year, Norths laboured their way to an 18-17 win over the leaderless, sluggish Magpies. You could only feel sorry for stand-in captain Shane Day as his troops straggled from one blunder to another. Wests desperately need the drive and bite of Raudonikis. "The trouble with these blokes is they think they're world-beaters," said Wests' coach Keith Holman. World-beaters don't, as a rule, argue for a full minute what to do with a free kick or give anything less than 80 minutes of football. Neither do they generally lose to North Sydney Rugby League team. To give the Bears credit, they stuck, more or less, to the sort of plan Bill Hamilton has designed for them – backing up through the centre of the ruck and hoping. ... Geoff Foster's try after seven minutes looked like opening up those familiar flood-gates. He brushed through four Norths' tacklers. ... **(The Sun 23rd May 1977)**

A bearded Bear named Barry Wood had a picnic yesterday at Tom Raudonikis' expense. While Tom was playing for NSW in Queensland, Wood at half-back, spear-headed North Sydney to a shock 18-17 win over Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. After the game Wood admitted the picnic might not have been so enjoyable with Wests' skipper Raudonikis on the other side of the scrum. Wood said he thought Raudonikis would certainly have made a difference to Wests but it would not have altered the game. "Raudonikis stands back when in possession and looks for gaps in the defence out wide to put his big men through," he added. Relishing the lack of defence Raudonikis would have supplied around the rucks, Woods was always probing the suspect Wests' line. He made several long bursts to take play deep into Wests' territory. Wests, with a win over premiership favourites Eastern Suburbs last match were never really in the hunt against Norths. They trailed 8-5 at half-time. Without Raudonikis they were only a shadow of the side that humiliated Easts. However, they opened the scoring in the seventh minute when second-rower Geoff Foster shrugged off several would-be tacklers before touching down in the corner. ... Facing a 13-5 deficit, Wests got to within one point of Norths with a try by winger Russell Mullins and two goals by winger Peter Rowles. ... With five minutes to go Walker found a gap and charged over near the posts. A late try by Wests' centre Ron Giteau made the score more respectable for Wests. **(Daily Telegraph 23rd May 1977)**

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Notes: There was a two week gap in the schedule with the 22nd May match against Cronulla postponed to June 26th. This was regarded as a shock loss. The forwards just didn't fire and seemed to lack the drive that Tommy Raudonikis often gave them. Even though Wests got to within one point in the second half, they never seemed to be in the match. At least Ken Hey and Steve Blyth continued their outstanding form.