1979 Round 15 Sunday 1st July Lidcombe Oval

South Sydney 16 def. Western Suburbs 14

Eric FERGUSON	***Fullback***	Wayne SMITH
Kevin ROCHE	***Wing***	Buddy CAIN
Paul BEAUCHAMP	***Centre***	Mark BEAVEN
Gary KNIGHT	***Centre***	Les BOYD
Terry FAHEY	***Wing***	Warren BOLAND
Gary KNIGHT	***Five-eighth***	Peter WALSH
Bob McMILLAN (c)	***Half***	Don MOSELEY
Robert LAURIE	***Lock***	Graeme O'GRADY (c)
John PEEK	***Second Row***	Ray BROWN
Nathan GIBBS	***Second Row***	Bob COOPER
Gary HAMBLY	***Front Row***	John DONNELLY
Ken STEWART	***Hooker***	Jack JEFFRIES
Fred PAGANO	***Front Row***	Bruce GIBBS
Charlie FIRTH	***Replacement***	Paul HURNEY
Rod McGREGOR	***Replacement***	

Tries	Gary WRIGHT	Wayne SMITH (2)
	Kevin ROCHE	Graeme O'GRADY
	John PEEK	
	Paul BEAUCHAMP	
Go*als*	Eric FERGUSON (2)	Don MOSELEY (2)
		Graeme O'GRADY (1) Field Goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: E Cain, M Beavan, L Boyd, W Boland; five-eighth: P Walsh; half: D Moseley; forwards: G O'Grady (c), R Cooper, R Brown, J Donnelly, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

South Sydney: Full-back: E Ferguson; three-quarters: K Roche, P Beauchamp, G Knight, T Fahey; five-eighth: G Wright; half: R McMillan (c); forwards: R Laurie, J Peek, N Gibbs, G Hambly, K Stewart, F Pagano **Referee: J Gocher (The Sun 5th July 1979)**

Competition strugglers South Sydney yesterday put a big dent in the premiership chances of Western Suburbs with a shock 16-14 victory at Lidcombe Oval. It was Wests' second defeat in two matches and now coach Roy Masters has to prepare the team for three very tough games against Cronulla, Canterbury and St George. Defeat cost the Magpies their spot at the head of the competition table with St George. Even without captain Tom Raudonikis and centre John Dorahy, Wests could offer no excuses. Hooker Jack Jeffries won the scrums 13-7 and referee John Gocher awarded 11 penalties to Wests and six to Souths. Without Raudonikis supervising in the centre and Dorahy making the charges out wide, the Magpies played like a team that was in Souths' position on the ladder. Without these two spearheads, coach Masters was forced to make several positional changes before the match. Test second-rower Les Boyd was moved to the centres but could not get involved in play until he was moved back into the pack with about 15 minutes remaining. For South Sydney, it was their first victory for two months. The club's last win was over North Sydney in the seventh-round match at North Sydney Oval. The Rabbitohs scored four tries to three and thoroughly deserved the win. Second-rower Nathan Gibbs had a blinder – throwing the final pass for three of the tries. In the backs, the halves Bob McMillan and Gary Wright shone. It was the worst afternoon for Wests on Lidcombe Oval for some time. Lat year they were undefeated at home but yesterday the club tumbled in all three grades. It was a sad day, especially for goal-kicker Don Moseley, who was shifted to half-back from five-eighth when Raudonikis withdrew with a hip injury. He landed only two goals from eight attempts. Surprisingly, stand-in captain Graeme O'Grady stuck with him all afternoon instead of giving someone else a chance. **(Daily Telegraph 2nd July 1979)**

Not since the days of the great Bob McCarthy, have Souths been able to boast of a potential free-running second row champion. The time may be right for a second in 19-year-old Nathan Gibbs. Gibbs, a second-year student at the NSW University is studying medicine and he certainly had the right "prescription" to handle Wests yesterday….Under contract for the next three years, Gibbs played a dominant role in Souths well-deserved win. Gibbs overcame a bad knock early, was revived at the break with smelling salts, and came back to play a role in three of Souths' four tries. The five positional changes to Wests, following the loss of John Dorahy and Tom Raudonikis before the match, seemed to completely disrupt the Magpies. **(The Sun 2nd July 1979)**

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Notes: *John Dorahy was still out and Masters experimented, ineffectively, with Les Boyd in the centre. Tom Raudonikis sustained a hip injury in the Saturday Test against Great Britain and was replaced by Peter Walsh, who went to five-eighth and Moseley into half. Both players were sorely missed and Wests seemed lethargic, allowing Souths to score a huge upset win. Don Moseley only kicked 2/8 penalty goals which was very costly. Wayne Smith was again Wests' best player.*