1979 Round 3 Sunday 8th April Lidcombe Oval

Western Suburbs 18 def. Eastern Suburbs 9

Don MOSELEY	***Fullback***	Ian SCHUBERT
Wayne SMITH	***Wing***	Kerry BOUSTEAD
John DORAHY	***Centre***	Mark HARRIS
Ron BRODRICK	***Centre***	Ken WRIGHT
Warren BOLAND	***Wing***	Terry MURPHY
Graeme O'GRADY	***Five-eighth***	Bob FULTON (c)
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Kevin HASTINGS
Les BOYD	***Lock***	Bob O'REILLY
Bob COOPER	***Second Row***	Bob SHEENS
Ray BROWN	***Second Row***	Des O'REILLY
John DONNELLY	***Front Row***	Kevin STEVENS
Jack JEFFRIES	***Hooker***	Mal CONNOR
Bruce GIBBS	***Front Row***	Gary METCALFE
	Replacement	Paul JELFS
	Replacement	Kyle CONNOR

Tries	Les BOYD (2) Wayne SMITH John DORAHY	Mal CONNOR
Go*als*	John DORAHY (3)	Ken WRIGHT (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: W Smith, R Brodrick, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, R Cooper, R Brown, W Cloughessy, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: I Schubert; three-quarters: K Boustead, M Harris, K Wright, T Murphy; five-eighth: R Fulton (c); half: K Hastings; forwards: R O'Reilly, Bob Sheens, D O'Reilly, G Metcalfe, K Stevens, M Connor **Referee: K Roberts (Rugby League Week 12th April 1979)**

John Dorahy's speed was the vital factor in Wests' 18-9 win over Easts, their 13th in a row at Lidcombe and one which left them alone on top of the table. And the way the Magpies flew yesterday, with Les Boyd and Ray Brown also outstanding, the side should be favourites for the premiership. Only blow for Wests was a facial injury to John Donnelly who had his first game back for six weeks and suffered a suspected fractured cheekbone. Easts, further hit by injury, are back with Norths in last place and face Cronulla this week. They are paying heavily for the suspension of Royce Ayliffe and John Harvey who are still out this week. Easts finished with a hooking problem, nothing new to the club, but more serious than usual. With Arthur Mountier out, they lost Mal Connor at half-time and lock Paul Jeffs, who had hooked in reserves, made a rapid rise to first grade hooking on his first day in that role. Dorahy and Boyd must be almost in Sydney Firsts to play Country next month after their form yesterday. Dorahy's early speed and his anticipation in positioning himself will make him hard to displace from the Test teams. Boyd is back to this best form and finished with two tries after a fine game. Specialist hooker Ray Brown again went well as a second-rower even though lucky to be left on the field by referee Kevin Roberts. Wests' form was their best this season and a vast improvement of that shown against Balmain a week earlier. In fact, but for bombing three first-half tries, Wests could have finished with 30 on the board. Magpie coach Roy Masters said the game went as he predicted. "After all the criticism of Easts for not scoring tries against Souths I knew they would be spinning it about," said Masters. "We did a bit of spinning ourselves and our spinning was better than theirs," he added. Boyd's second try came from a 65m burst in which Bob Cooper got the ball to Dorahy as he was tackled and Dorahy did the damage with his speed. **(The Sun 9th April 1979)**

Rugby League's battling Magpies, Western Suburbs, grabbed the outright premiership lead yesterday. Wests bumped millionaire side Easts out of their way 18-9 at Lidcombe Oval to emerge as the only unbeaten side in the competition……. Wests beat Easts yesterday on a no-frills formula of toughness and determination. Wests' players have backed themselves at 4-1 to make the semi-finals. After yesterday's round they are going strongly, on top with 6 points ahead of a cluster of teams…. **(Daily Telegraph 9th April 1979)**

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Notes: *This was a strong win for Wests against a good Easts side. Ray Brown underscored his value with a stellar performance. He was easily the best player on the field. Wests were now starting to throw the ball around and Dorahy, with room to move, again completely outplayed the Easts' centres. Although close at half-time, Wests ran away in the second half. Bill Cloughessy was a late withdrawal, replaced by John Donnelly.*