1973 Round 1 Sunday 25th March Lidcombe Oval

North Sydney 23 def. Western Suburbs 6

Barry GLASGOW	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
George VARELA	***Wing***	Robbie PARKER
Mal McLACHLAN	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Terry DOUGLAS	***Centre***	John HEYWARD
George AMBRUM	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
Keith OUTTEN	***Five-eighth***	Neville SINCLAIR
Gary PRETTI	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Bruce WALKER	***Lock***	Ted WALTON
Dave COOPER	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Eddie HEATLEY	***Second Row***	John BAKER
Steve WINTER	***Front Row***	Jim MURPHY
Brian ANDERSON	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Ross WARNER (c)	***Front Row***	Brian ISBESTER
	Replacement	Terry MULLINS
	Replacement	Nick MOROKO

Tries	Dave COOPER Terry DOUGLAS Mal McLACHLAN	
Go*als*	Barry GLASGOW (7)	Tony FORD (3)

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: R Parker, S Knight, J Heyward, R Mullins; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: E Walton, J Baker, Bryant, J Murphy, S Day, B Isbester
North Sydney: Full-back: B Glasgow; three-quarters: G Varela, M McLachlan, T Douglas, G Ambrum; five-eighth: K Outten; half: G Pretti; forwards: B Walker, D Cooper, E Heatley, B Anderson, R Warner (c), S Winter **Referee: D McDonald (The Sun 26th March 1973)**

Jim Murphy's badly broken jaw will keep the big Western Suburbs prop-forward out of action for at least three months. "It is a bad break … it's split right in the middle of his chin," said Wests' coach Don Parish this morning. Now he is awaiting word of an X-ray today which will determine whether second-rower John Baker's elbow is broken. Parish's only crumb of comfort is that lock Ted Walton's injured back is "not too bad," and he will play against Parramatta at the weekend. You couldn't help feeling sorry for Parish as Wests trooped off the field after being badly beaten 23-6 by North Sydney at Lidcombe Oval. "I've lost a whole pack of forwards (John Elford and John O'Bryan already being on the casualty list) and I've got no one to replace them," he said. Murphy's injury occurred midway through the second half when he attempted to tackle Steve Winter, a former Wests' player, head on. As if Winter's fiery display wasn't bad enough, Barry Glasgow, another cast-off from Wests, rubbed salt into his old club's wounds by kicking seven goals from eight attempts. Norths weren't all that impressive but coach Noel Kelly said: They're all having a go, that's the main thing. Steve Winter got through a mile of tackling." Then he added: "It's often hard to play a lot of sparkling football against a side that's not going well." Kelly revived the seemingly doomed Norths both on and off the field and after the match, he turned on an 18-gallon keg for his players. Further good news for Norths was that Tim Pickup, who missed yesterday's game due to a hamstring muscle injury, will be back against Balmain at the weekend. Wests were never in the hunt as Norths led 16-2 at half-time following tries by Dave Cooper and Mal McLachlan, a likely looking young centre. Norths' remaining try occurred when centre Terry Douglas swooped on a wild pass by Stephen Knight and scored without a hand being laid upon him. This capped a most disappointing display by Knight as he continually failed to make use of his size and strength to crash through the opposing defence. **(The Sun 26th March 1973)**

.. It was a disastrous day for Wests. Their Queensland import, front-rower Jim Murphy, was carried from the field midway through the second half with a smashed jaw after colliding with Steve Winter. Lock Ted Walton (pinched nerve in the back) and second-rower John Baker (suspected fractured elbow) completed Wests' tale of woe. Former Western Suburbs player, Barry Glasgow, rubbed salt into the wound by landing seven goals from eight attempts for Norths. **(Daily Telegraph 26th March 1973)**

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Notes: *A number of players made their debut in this match, including Robbie Parker (ex-Manly Rugby Union), Brian Isbester (3rd Grade player of the year 1972), Shane Day (Souths) and Jim Murphy (Qld). The story of the match was the continuing injury toll. Having already lost John Elford and John O'Bryan in the pre-season, Jim Murphy broke his jaw in the second half, John Baker chipped a bone in his elbow and Ted Walton pinched a nerve in his back. Baker and Walton were replaced at half-time by Terry Mullins and Nick Moroko (also on debut). To add salt into the wound, Steve Winter and Barry Glasgow (both ex-Wests) were the stars for Norths. The total disruption caused by the injuries meant that Wests never got into the match and they would be struggling to find a competitive team for the following week.*