1973 Round 10 Sunday 27th May Leichhardt Oval

Western Suburbs 17 def. Balmain 12

Tony FORD	***Fullback***	Michael ROSS
Stephen SATTERLY	***Wing***	Mark TONKS
Stephen KNIGHT	***Centre***	Geoff STARLING
Robbie PARKER	***Centre***	Tim MURPHY
Russell MULLINS	***Wing***	Glen CAPELIN
John HEYWARD	***Five-eighth***	Jeff SHIELD
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Peter DUFFY
Neville SINCLAIR	***Lock***	John SPENCER (c)
John BAKER	***Second Row***	Bruce DOUST
Barry BRYANT	***Second Row***	Vic QUERIN
Nick MOROKO	***Front Row***	Greg FRYER
Shane DAY	***Hooker***	Peter BOULTON
John O'BRYAN	***Front Row***	Garry LEO
Jim CODY	***Replacement***	

Tries	Russell MULLINS	John SPENCER
	Tom RAUDONIKIS	Geoff STARLING
	Stephen SATTERLY	
Go*als*	Tony FORD (4)	Mark TONKS (3)

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, J Baker, B Bryant, J O'Bryan, S Day, N Moroko
Balmain: Full-back: M Ross; three-quarters: M Tonks, G Starling, T Murphy, G Capelin; five-eighth: J Shield; half: P Duffy; forwards: J Spencer (c), B Doust, V Querin, G Fryer, P Boulton, G Leo **Referee: K Holman (The Sun 25th May 1973)**

It's a long time since Balmain have been at the bottom of the Rugby League competition table, but that's where they are following 12-17 loss to Western Suburbs at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. The Tigers, proud holders of the premiership in 1969, are now on six points along with Wests and Penrith. Yesterday they were in the game only in the last 10 minutes, pounding the Wests' line hoping to at least snatch a draw. But they found the Wests' defence too strong. The entire Wests' side tackled Balmain out of the game and their defence was beaten only twice. John Spencer reached over the line to lace the ball one-handed, and Geoff Starling ran on to a pass to burst over. Apart from that is was mostly all Wests. Wests' hooker, Shane Day, took a thorough lacing in the scrums from Peter Boulton, but the Magpies' defence held, and indeed was so solid that Balmain were bustled into giving possession away. Wests' captain and half-back Tom Raudonikis was undoubtedly the star. He was in everything, taking the first pass from the rucks to make 10 yards through the forwards to intercepting a pass from Boulton and racing 40 yards to score. He was well supported by Nevill Sinclair, the lock forward, who again seemed to wrap himself around the legs of every attacking Tiger. Winger Russell Mullins was another Wests' star, scoring a great try under the posts and keeping his opponent Mark Tonks solidly in check. …. But when it came to pin-pointing the real difference between the two sides, there's no doubt it was Raudonikis. **(Daily Telegraph 28th May 1973)**

Tom Raudonikis had spectators at Leichhardt Oval yesterday wondering why his Western Suburbs Rugby League side have not won more matches. Wests added to their meagre competition points tally with a 17-12 win over Balmain, and Raudonikis used the game to verify his standing in the half-back ranks. Raudonikis was outstanding for the game's 80 minutes and his flair for the unorthodox directly resulted in two of Wests' three tries. He also chose to take on the forwards' duty in running the ball out from his own line. Big Wests' full-back Tony Ford had his best game of the season, even though restricted by old knee problems. Wests, able to get on top early although playing with little possession, easily held out Balmain's finishing effort. Ford opened the scoring after only a minute of play with a penalty goal and this was quickly followed by one of Raudonikis' try-producing ploys. Raudonikis kicked over the defence and the ball was taken by his five-eighth John Heyward, who gave winger Steve Satterly the pass to score in the corner. … Wests were unlucky not to score on several occasions in the first half but their second try came in circumstances against the trend of play. Balmain hooker Peter Boulton threw a loose pass near the half-way line and the ever-alert Raudonikis was on the scene to snap up the ball. The cover defence scrambled to get back into position but Raudonikis had stolen a march and made it to the try-line untouched. Wests' winger Russell Mullins, one of the game's best attacking players, settled the issue when he left his flank to come through a ruck and score under the goal-posts. **(Sydney Morning Herald 28th May 1973)**

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Notes: *Tommy Raudonikis completely dominated this game, making numerous line breaks and taking the ball up strongly next to his forwards. Wests also defended very strongly in the last ten minutes when Balmain were assaulting their line. Neville Sinclair, the unsung hero, and Russell Mullins were prominent in this period. Wests were always in control however, and were unlucky not to score more tries.*