1973 Round 11 Sunday 3rd June Kogarah Oval

St George 22 def. Western Suburbs 14

Graeme LANGLANDS (c)	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Kevin McFARLANE	***Wing***	Stephen SATTERLY
Gary PETHYBRIDGE	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Ted GOODWIN	***Centre***	Robbie PARKER
Paul MILLS	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
John PEARD	***Five-eighth***	John HEYWARD
Billy SMITH	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Lindsay DRAKE	***Lock***	Neville SINCLAIR
Rod REDDY	***Second Row***	John BAKER
Graeme SAMS	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Barry BEATH	***Front Row***	John O'BRYAN
Col RASMUSSEN	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Peter FITZGERALD	***Front Row***	Nick MOROKO
Harry EDEN	***Replacement***	Geoff FOSTER

Tries	Rod REDDY	Barry BRYANT
	Gary PETHYBRIDGE	John BAKER
	Ted GOODWIN	
Go*als*	Graeme LANGLANDS (6)	Tony FORD (4)
	Billy SMITH (1) Field goal	

Match Description
St George: Full-back: G Langlands (c); three-quarters: P Mills, G Pethybridge, T Goodwin, K McFarlane; five-eighth: J Peard; half: W Smith; forwards: L Drake, G Sams, R Reddy, B Beath, C Rasmussen, P Fitzgerald
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 **Referee: D McDonald (The Sun 4th June 1973)**

St George Rugby League forward Peter Fitzgerald suffered a cracked thumb at Kogarah Oval yesterday but does not believe it will interrupt his football. Fitzgerald was x-rayed after the game, in which St George beat Western Suburbs 22-14. Saints are thin in the forward ranks and could ill afford to lose Fitzgerald, even though he is playing out of position in the front row. He is replacing Brian Norton at prop and it seems unlikely that Norton will be back next week because of knee and ankle injuries. Saints are struggling for possession, and the scrum count yesterday showed how much this phase of the game can dictate the trend of play. Western Suburbs won the ball 13-10 from the re-united Saints' pair, scrum-half Billy Smith and hooker Col Rasmussen. Saints' reorganized pack were doing their job the hard way in the first 30 minutes of the game, when Wests skipped away with eight of the 11 scrums. Wests could not take advantage of their opportunities in attack and really let Saints off the hook in this period. A smart attacking team like Manly would have been hard to stop. Saints won the last three scrums of the first half, and this vital possession helped five-eighth John Peard put second-rower Rod Reddy through a gap close to the line for the first try. Saints won important scrums early in the second half and the whole picture of the game changed – more openings appeared in the Wests' defence and St George gave their fans plenty to cheer about with good, free running. From one such scrum, Smith probed the blind-side and slipped a pass inside to centre Gary Pethybridge, who ran 60 yards to score under the posts. It was significant that when Wests won the last few scrums, second-rowers John Baker and Barry Bryant scored tries. St George don't need to hear from me of the shortcomings up front – they know them too well. Saints for years had the best props in the business but now they have four specialist second-rowers in their six forwards. There is nobody to draw the defence up the middle and breaks are coming from wide of the rucks. Everybody is pulling their weight, none more than Barry Beath, but specialists are the only answer to Saints' problem. Graeme Langlands became the first man to top 100 points this season when he kicked six goals to take his tally to 102 points. The much-awaited half-back duel between Billy Smith and Tom Raudonikis was anti-climactic. Smith was his scheming self while Raudonikis, although not individually brilliant, worked himself to a standstill in trying to get his team moving. State selector Ernie Hammerton learned nothing he didn't already know. **(Sydney Morning Herald 4th June 1973)**

…. Smith, who shaded arch rival Tom Raudonikis on the day, cleverly engineered a try for centre Gary Pethybridge down the blind-side and full-back Graeme Langlands kicked a penalty. St George missed two more tries when Langlands dropped the final pass close to the line. Full-back Tony Ford kept Wests in the match with goal-kicking before forwards Barry Bryant and John Baker went over for late tries. **(Daily Telegraph 4th June 1973)**

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Notes: *Wests had a good chance to win this match, playing a significantly weakened Saints' team, but were unable to rise to the occasion. Even though they won the scrums 13-10, Wests often squandered possession and St George were always in control even when Baker and Bryant scored late tries. Tommy Raudonikis had his usual game but playing behind a losing pack, he was shaded on the day by Billy Smith.*