1973 Round 16 Saturday 8th July Belmore Oval

Canterbury 15 def. Western Suburbs 5

Gary DOWLING	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Don ROGERS	***Wing***	Stephen SATTERLY
Bernie LOWTHER	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Stan CUTLER	***Centre***	Robbie PARKER
Max COLE	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
Peter WINCHESTER	***Five-eighth***	Neville SINCLAIR
Phil YOUNG	***Half***	Colin WITHERS
John PEEK	***Lock***	John BAKER (c)
John McDONELL	***Second Row***	Geoff FOSTER
Geoff CONNELL (c)	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Henry TATANA	***Front Row***	John O'BRYAN
Greg PURCELL	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Bill NOONAN	***Front Row***	Jim MURPHY
Norm THOMAS	***Replacement***	Phil FRANKS
	Replacement	Brian ISBESTER

Tries	Gary DOWLING Bernie LOWTHER Don ROGERS	John BAKER
Go*als*	Henry TATANA (3)	Tony FORD (1)

Match Description
Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: D Rogers, B Lowther, S Cutler, M Cole; five-eighth: P Winchester; half: P Young; forwards: J Peek, J McDonell, G Connell (c), H Tatana, G Purcell, W Noonan
Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: C Withers; forwards: J Baker (c), B Bryant, G Foster, J O'Bryan, S Day, J Murphy **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 6th July 1973)**

Former Rugby League test prop Jim Murphy suffered a severe spleen injury when playing yesterday for Western Suburbs against Canterbury-Bankstown. Other Western Suburbs casualties were five-eighth Neville Sinclair (knee injury)), lock John Baker and full-back Tony Ford, both with shoulder injuries. Wests lost the match 15-5, at Belmore Sports Ground and thus fell out of contention for the competition semi-finals. Canterbury overcame a scrum disadvantage to score three tries to one. The luckless Murphy has yet to complete a first-grade premiership match since joining Wests from Brisbane at the start of this season. His jaw was broken in the opening round, on March 25. He returned to the game, in reserve grade, only two weeks ago. Murphy was taken to hospital yesterday after suffering the injury in the first half of the match. … A feature of the match was the forward struggle, with Henry Tatana, John O'Bryan and, until his injury, Murphy in their element in the heavy conditions. Tatana was particularly effective for Canterbury, with his running in the rucks and excellent ball distribution. In the second half Wests were "carrying" Baker, disabled with torn shoulder ligaments. Second-rower Geoff Foster was handling enough tackling for both of them. Wests' only try came when Knight made a great burst from deep in his own territory and, despite his injury, the break was finished off by Baker, who had to touch down using only one hand. **(Sydney Morning Herald 9th July 1973)**

Western Suburbs shouldn't leave their 21-year-old second-rower Geoff Foster on the unsigned list for another day. Foster emerged from the mud and slush of Belmore Sports Ground yesterday as one of the brightest young prospects in Sydney football. He had a special reason for going well yesterday. He came to Sydney from Griffith the season before last and couldn't crack the Berries top side. Despite his super tackling performance yesterday his side went down 15-5 to the tough Canterbury team. It certainly wasn't Foster's fault. Time and again, he halted the big Berries forwards with some crushing defence which would have done justice to the club's sidelined second-rower star John Elford. Wests have an option on Foster for next season and the youngster wants to remain with the club. "Wests have given me the chance and providing the money is right I am willing to sign a long-term contact," he said. The Magpies' shocking run of injuries continued yesterday when prop Jim Murphy and lock John Baker received serious injuries. Murphy was taken to hospital with spleen trouble while Baker couldn't lift his right arm for the game. … **(The Sun 9th July 1973)**

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Notes: *This match was played in a sea of mud and slush and it was a case of deja vu as Wests were hit by injuries again. Unbelievably, Jim Murphy after making his comeback in First Grade was carried from the field and taken to hospital with an apparently serious spleen injury. John Baker also finished the match with a trailing arm, remarkably scoring a try one-handed. He was the captain in place of Raudonikis who was playing for NSW. Geoff Foster shone in this match, which was decided by an opportunistic Lowther try, where he scored an 80-yarder, after picking up a dropped ball.*