1973 Round 17 Sunday 15th July Lidcombe Oval

Newtown 17 def. Western Suburbs 0

John FLOYD	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Lionel WILLIAMSON (c)	***Wing***	Stephen SATTERLY
Peter GORDON	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Neville SHOEMARK	***Centre***	Robbie PARKER
Bruce PICKETT	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
John BONHAM	***Five-eighth***	Phil FRANKS
Steve HANSARD	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Gary SULLIVAN	***Lock***	John BAKER
Paul DAWSON	***Second Row***	Geoff FOSTER
Ian SARTORI	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Tom MELVILLE	***Front Row***	John O'BRYAN
Mark ROBERTSON	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Colin CASEY	***Front Row***	Jim MURPHY
	Replacement	Jim CROUCHER

Tries Steve HANSARD (2)
Bruce PICKETT

Go*als* John BONHAM (4)

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: P Franks; half; T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, G Foster, B Bryant, J O'Bryan, S Day, J Murphy
Newtown: Full-back: J Floyd; three-quarters: L Williamson (c), P Gordon, N Shoemark, B Pickett; five-eighth: J Bonham; half: S Hansard; forwards: G Sullivan, I Sartori, P Dawson, T Melville, M Robertson, C Casey **Referee: K Holman (Rugby league Week 21st July 1973)**

A teenager whom Jack Gibson coached as an "E" grade junior in 1968, helped revive Gibson's Newtown first-grade team at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. He is 19-year-old half-back Steve Hansard, who scored two vital first-half tries in Newtown's 17-0 win over Western Suburbs. Hansard took the match by the scruff of the neck for Newtown in scoring his tries – both individual efforts – in the three minutes before half-time. He scored one from the dummy-half position, about 20 yards out and in the last 20 seconds before the hooter, ran 60 yards from the base of a scrum to score again. Hansard, in his initial first-grade game for Newtown, outplayed Australian half-back Tom Raudonikis and won "The Sun-Herald" best-and-fairest awards. "He's been pottering around here for six months. It's about time he did something," Gibson said dryly, within earshot of the young player after the match. Gibson coached Hansard in the Cronulla Junior League in 1968, the season sandwiched between his first-grade coaching appointments at Eastern Suburbs and St George. Hansard came from the juniors to Cronulla's grades last season, and played the first three games with the club's top side. When Gibson took the Newtown coaching appointment this season, he persuaded Hanson to join him. Hansard's two tries; late in the half, were most timely for Newtown because the team had been unproductive, despite camping in Wests' half for almost the whole 40 yards. At least three tries went begging until Hansard twice showed a great turn of speed in the heavy conditions to leave the defence standing. Newtown's drastic changes this week proved a winner. Hansard's selection speaks for itself, second-rower Ian Sartori was a strong force in the forwards and centres Peter Gordon and Neville Shoemark contained Wests' Stephen Knight and Robbie Parker. New winger Bruce Pickett showed a lot of promise and scored a very determined try. Newtown generally performed better, with spark from the half-back and five-eighth John Bonham relishing his good service. The forwards, playing as though they really meant business, found a lot of holes through the Wests' forwards. Referee Keith Holman came in for a lot of criticism from Wests' supporters when he failed to give Wests a penalty until the 55th minute of the game. He was booed angrily at half-time. The first half penalties went 6-0 to Newtown but 6-1 to Wests in the second half. Wests did not help their own cause – indeed, they turned in a terrible display. Hooker Shane Day and lock John Baker did more than their share of tackling. Geoff Foster made some strong runs – but spoilt them with some silly passes. **(Sydney Morning Herald 16th July 1973)**

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Notes: *Wests seemed complacent going into this match with the return of Raudonikis but they were completely outplayed. Even Raudonikis was over-shadowed by Newtown half, Steve Hansard. Played in very heavy conditions Wests didn't receive a penalty until the 55th minute and Tony Ford didn't have a single shot at goal. Remarkably, there is no mention of Jim Murphy's injury from the previous week. He definitely played after being taken to hospital as did John Baker, who seemed he would be out for weeks after a shoulder injury. Both very tough men! Phil Franks debuted at five-eighth.*