1973 Round 2 Sunday 1st April Cumberland Oval

Parramatta 27 def. Western Suburbs 18

Mike LEARY	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Terry SCURFIELD	***Wing***	Robbie PARKER
Brian BENNETT	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Garry THOMAS	***Centre***	Terry MULLINS
Phil CHESHAM	***Wing***	Geoff FOSTER
Terry REYNOLDS	***Five-eighth***	John HEYWARD
John KOLC	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
John QUAYLE	***Lock***	Neville SINCLAIR
John VINCENT	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Denis FITZGERALD	***Second Row***	Nick MOROKO
Keith CAMPBELL	***Front Row***	Russell JOHNSTONE
John McMARTIN	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Bob O'REILLY (c)	***Front Row***	Brian ISBESTER
John WILSON	***Replacement***	
Tries	John VINCENT	Terry MULLINS
	Garry THOMAS	Nick MOROKO
	Terry REYNOLDS	John HEYWARD
	Bob O'REILLY	Geoff FOSTER
	Keith CAMPBELL	
Go*als*	Keith CAMPBELL (5)	Tony FORD (3)
	Garry THOMAS (1)	

Match Description

Parramatta: Full-back: M Leary; three-quarters: T Scurfield, B Bennett, G Thomas, P Chesham, B Liles; five-eighth: T Reynolds; half: J Kolc; forwards: J Quayle, J Vincent, D Fitzgerald, K Campbell, J McMartin. R O'Reilly (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: R Parker, S Knight, T Mullins, G Foster; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, N Moroko, B Bryant, R Johnstone, S Day, B Isbester **Referee: B Barnes (Rugby League Week 5th April 1973)**

Parramatta, the shaky Eels of last year, would have the League season stopped now if they could. After yesterday's 27-18 win over Wests at Cumberland, they head the first-grade table, the U-23 premiership, the club championship and the top try-scorers in first grade. From wooden-spooners, they have jumped dramatically in status. They are the only side to win both games and have notched 13 tries in two matches. They scored eight in their big win over Souths and five against Wests. After yesterday's struggle, there were many prepared to concede they would soon come back to reality. After blitzing Wests in the first half, they raced to a 20-8 lead and in a seemingly unassailable position. Late in the second half they were hanging on 20-18 and it wasn't until captain Bob O'Reilly burst over, that victory was sealed. Last year Parramatta could win only four games. Already this year they have reached half that quota. Coach Dave Bolton is not hoping for miracles and was simply pleased to have got away with a win. "They played well in the first half, but our defence let us down later in the game," he claimed. Wests, without five of their top forwards, showed considerable spirit in their fight back. With Shane Day winning the ball, Wests commanded the rucks in the second half and it was only the size and experience of Bob O'Reilly that pulled the game around to Parramatta. Parramatta may be without half John Kolc this week. He left the field with a twisted ankle not long after half-time yesterday… Wests go back to Lidcombe Oval next week for the match against Penrith with the prospects of having John Baker, Ted Walton and possibly John O'Bryan available. Wests, with their best pack, would become a formidable side. **(The Sun 2nd April 1973)**

A try by skipper Bob O'Reilly and two goals by Keith Campbell in the last eight minutes gave Parramatta a 27-18 win over Western Suburbs at Cumberland. O'Reilly scored when he picked up near the Western Suburbs line to go in wide out. Campbell kicked a side-line conversion. Shane Day won the scrums for Wests 10-6. Penalties favoured Parramatta 17-9. Don Parish, Wests' coach, said his side beat themselves by giving away stupid penalties. He said Wests held the ball only three times for six tackles. Parramatta led 20-8 at half-time when scrum-half John Kolc retired early in the second half with a twisted ankle Wests quickly pulled up to trail 20-18. Campbell, Parramatta front-rower, landed five goals from as many attempts. Tony Ford, Wests' full-back, could manage only three goals from seven attempts. Parramatta got away to a flying start when second-rower John Vincent raced 30 yards to score between the posts only three minutes after the kick-off. Parramatta held their half-time 20-8 lead until midway through the second half. **(Daily Telegraph 2nd April 1973)**

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Notes: *Wests, with five regular forwards out, were down 20-8 at half-time and looked down and out. But with Tom Raudonikis leading the charge, they scored two quick tries and got the score back to 20-18. It was only in the last eight minutes that Bob O'Reilly scored a bustling try that sealed the match. Shane Day showed his value as a new buy, winning the scrums 10-6.*