1973 Round 21 Saturday 11th August Pratten Park

Balmain 14 def. Western Suburbs 10

Mark TONKS	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Mal McMARTIN	***Wing***	Stephen SATTERLY
Trevor RYAN	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Tim MURPHY	***Centre***	Robbie PARKER
Ray BLACK	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
Bruce FINN	***Five-eighth***	John HEYWARD
Jeff SHIELD	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Geoff STARLING	***Lock***	Neville SINCLAIR
John SPENCER (c)	***Second Row***	Geoff FOSTER
Greg FRYER	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Bruce DOUST	***Front Row***	Jim CODY
Peter BOULTON	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Garry LEO	***Front Row***	Jim MURPHY
Des BONNER	***Replacement***	Jim MYERS

Tries	Mal McMARTIN	Geoff FOSTER
	Geoff STARLING	John HEYWARD
Go*als*	Mark TONKS (4)	Stephen SATTERLY (2)

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, G Foster, B Bryant, J Cody, S Day, J Murphy
Balmain: Full-back: M Tonks; three-quarters: M McMartin, T Ryan, T Murphy, R Black; five-eighth: B Finn; half: J Shield; forwards: G Starling, J Spencer (c), G Fryer, B Doust, P Boulton, G Leo **Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 18th August 1973)**

Balmain supporters warmed their hands over the fires of a fine 14-10 win over Western Suburbs on a bitterly cold afternoon at Pratten Park yesterday. Half hidden in the greyness by frequent heavy rain, the 1095 spectators watched Balmain hold on to win. Long time League followers were scratching their heads last night trying to recall a lower attendance at a first-grade fixture. With nothing hinging on the result except personal pride, Balmain rallied themselves to a fitting farewell for coach Leo Nosworthy who announced this week he would not seek re-appointment. The win carries Balmain to 14 points, and they appear to have avoided the wooden spoon, even though they meet premiers Manly next week. Teenage full-back Mrk Tonks was Balmain's hero yesterday, landing four goals from five attempts after both sides had scored two tries. Playing sound wet weather tactics Balmain set their forwards sloshing through the quagmire to pave the way for victory. The heavy rain worsened the already heavy conditions and the playing surface was as sticky as a gigantic pot of glue in the centre. Leading 9-8 at half-time Balmain stretched their lead to 14-10 midway through the second half with a fine individual try by lock Geoff Starling – and then held on. Wests missed a last-minute chance to win when second-rower Geoff Foster dived on the ball over the Balmain line near full-time but was re-called for off-side. Starling was one of Balmain's stars and appears to have regained confidence after some indifferent displays earlier this year. **(Sunday Telegraph 12th August 1973)**

A smart try by Balmain midway through the second half gave the Tigers a well-earned 14-10 win over Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. Tonks put Balmain in front with a 30-metre penalty in the second minute after referee Don McDonald penalized Wests for off-side play. Wests hit back three minutes later with big second-rower Geoff Foster racing 20 metres to crash over for a try between the posts. Balmain regained the lead when Tonks landed his second goal from a scrum penalty in the 10th minute. Balmain's centre Tim Murphy lost the ball when crash-tackled by his opposite Robbie Parker in the 17th minute and Wests' five-eighth John Heyward toed it through Soccer fashion. Heyward dived on the ball over the Balmain line for a try, converted by winger Steve Satterly. Wests were ahead 8-4. Tonks kicked his third successive goal in the 22nd minute from a penalty for off-side play by Wests to have Balmain trailing 8-6. Balmain centre Trevor Ryan pounced on the ball, got up quickly and played it to winger Mal McMartin, who raced over from dummy-half for a try that gave Balmain a one-point half-time advantage. Balmain prop Gary Leo, the dummy-half, put Starling through a gap 30 metres out from Wests' line when Balmain was behind 10-9. Starling raced in for the try, sliding over the line beside the goal post to score. Tonks converted to make his tally four goals from five attempts for the match. **(Sunday Mirror 12th August 1973)**

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Notes: *In a third return to Pratten Park for the season, this game was played in driving rain on a mud-heap. Robbie Parker was back and played well but Mark Tonks' kicking display in the mud was the difference. Geoff Foster had a chance to win the game when he grounded the ball right on full-time, following on from a Tony Ford up-and-under, but he was ruled off-side as the full-time whistle blew.*