1973 Round 4 Sunday 15th April Lidcombe Oval

Cronulla 33 def. Western Suburbs 7

Warren FISHER	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Steve EDMONDS	***Wing***	Robbie PARKER
Steve ROGERS	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
Bob WEAR	***Centre***	Terry MULLINS
Dave COTTER	***Wing***	Geoff FOSTER
Chris WELLMAN	***Five-eighth***	John HEYWARD
Tommy BISHOP	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Greg PIERCE	***Lock***	Neville SINCLAIR
Ken MADDISON	***Second Row***	Nick MOROKO
John MAGUIRE	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Graham BOWEN	***Front Row***	Russell JOHNSTONE
Ron TURNER	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Cliff WATSON (c)	***Front Row***	Brian ISBESTER
	Replacement	John BAKER
	Replacement	Jim CROUCHER

Tries	Greg PIERCE (2) Cliff WATSON (2) Bob WEAR (2) Steve ROGERS	Robbie PARKER
Go*als*	Barry ANDREWS (6)	Tony FORD (2)

Match Description
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
Cronulla-Sutherland: Full-back: W Fisher; three-quarters: S Edmonds, S Rogers, B Andrews, R Wear; five-eighth: C Wellman; half: T Bishop; forwards: G Pierce, J Maguire, K Maddison, G Bowen, R Turner, C Watson **Referee: D McDonald (The Sun 13th April 1973)**

Cronulla's bouncy captain-coach Tommy Bishop has asked the club to find him a top-line player – and he doesn't care if the newcomer is a back or a forward. "Then we'd really give things a shake," he said after the Sharks had poured through Wests' feeble opposition to win 33-7 at Lidcombe. "Let's not get too carried away with what happened today," Bishop said after a victory which lifted Cronulla to share the competition lead with St George. His simple plan was to use his much bigger pack of forwards to create the gaps up the centre at their injury-stricken rivals. It really worked because Ken Maddison repeatedly cracked the brittle defence and Cliff Watson ploughed through to score two of the first three tries. Bishop told me between swigs of his orange drink: "Our young backs were bloody tremendous but I've told the club we need to buy a good player to round things off. It's up to them. We've got scouts out looking and there's some good players in Brisbane. There's not much use worrying about England because the type of man we want can earn just as much over there as he could here under the present set-up. **(The Sun 16th April 1973)**

Cronulla's big pack yesterday crushed Western Suburbs 33-7 at Lidcombe Oval. Prop Cliff Watson, lock Greg Pierce and winger Bob Wear scored two tries each. Wear's second try was the best of the match. Five-eighth Chris Wellman pounced on a loose ball. He fired a quick pass to Wear who backed him up splendidly to cross wide out. In all, Cronulla scored seven tries to one. Wests made many fundamental errors and were lucky to keep the score to 12-4 at half-time. (**Daily Telegraph 16th April 1973)**

Cronulla-Sutherland's big pack of forwards led the side to a crushing 33-7 win over Western Suburbs in the Rugby League match at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. Cronulla prop Cliff Watson and lock Greg Pierce were the pick of a hard-working six, each scored two of their team's seven tries. Wests had led 4-0 after 15 minutes with two penalty goals by full-back Tony Ford. In the 23rd minute Cronulla scored their first try, completely against the run of play. Winger Bob Wear cleverly evaded two Wests' cover defenders before bullocking his way over wide out, with two players clinging to him. After powerful lead-up work by the big men, Watson, Greg Allen and Ken Maddison, Cronulla found another gap and Watson barged over. Wests had made too many fundamental errors and were lucky to have kept the score down to 12-4 at half-time. The loss of props Brian Isbester and Russ Johnstone with injuries added to Wests' woes. **(Sydney Morning Herald 16th April 1973)**

……

Notes: *Wests were completely overpowered in this match by a very big Cronulla pack. Even Tommy Raudonikis was outplayed by Tommy Bishop and the rest of the backs offered feeble resistance. Russell Johnstone also went off injured and Brian Isbester was replaced as he got tired, having been up all night at hospital as his wife gave birth. The continuing injuries were taking a heavy toll.*