1973 Round 6 Wednesday 25th April Henson Park

Newtown 16 def. Western Suburbs 14

John FLOYD	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Lionel WILLIAMSON	***Wing***	Allan ASHMORE
Brian MOORE (c)	***Centre***	Stephen KNIGHT
David OLIVERI	***Centre***	Robbie PARKER
John BRADSTOCK	***Wing***	Russell MULLINS
Des O'CONNOR	***Five-eighth***	John HEYWARD
John BONHAM	***Half***	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)
Neil PRINGLE	***Lock***	Neville SINCLAIR
Paul DAWSON	***Second Row***	John BAKER
Gary SULLIVAN	***Second Row***	Nick MOROKO
Mick SOUTER	***Front Row***	Russell JOHNSTONE
Mark ROBERTSON	***Hooker***	Shane DAY
Dennis GARDINER	***Front Row***	John O'BRYAN
Ken WILSON	***Replacement***	

Tries	Brian MOORE (2)	John HEYWARD
	Neil PRINGLE	Neville SINCLAIR
	Des O'CONNOR	
Go*als*	Ken WILSON (2)	Tony FORD (4)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: John Floyd; three-quarters: L Williamson, J Bradstock, B Moore, D Oliveri ; five-eighth: D O'Connor; half: J Bonham; forwards: N Pringle, G Sullivan, P Dawson, M Souter, M Robertson, D Gardiner

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: A Ashmore, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins ; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: N Sinclair, J Baker, N Moroko, J O'Bryan, S day, R Johnstone **Referee: R Humphreys (The Sun 25th April 1973)**

A rugged display yesterday by Wests' former Rugby Union centre Robbie Parker may have given him a place in the city teams to be selected in three weeks. Parker's name was placed on the list after he impressed selector Bruce Ryan in the match against Newtown at Henson yesterday. Newtown won a great match 16-14 after Wests seemingly had the game safely in their keeping. Parker, with a bare 10 games of League to his name, was selected back in the centres yesterday after a few "learning" games on the wing. Last week Canterbury players were full of praise for the former Union centre and yesterday he was even more impressive. Metropolitan selectors claim they are eager to blood young talent in the City Seconds and Parker would be an ideal experiment. Wests could not sustain the pressure. As in most games, they failed over the "final furlong." Last week, Canterbury scored 29 points against them in the final 10 minutes of the two halves. Yesterday, Newtown scored their vital eight points in the final 12 minutes. …. Brian Moore must also have set Metropolitan selectors a poser. Is he too old for representative matches? On form, he will be hard to keep out, but he is not included in selectors' plans to elevate untried talent. **(The Sun 26th April 1973)**

Newtown defeated Western Suburbs 16-14 in another thrilling game of Rugby League at Henson Park yesterday. Watched by a miserable Anzac Day crowd of only 4,371, first Wests and then Newtown produced football worthy of a Grand Final. Newtown literally picked themselves up off the ground for victory after trailing 0-12 midway through the second half. Two typical tries to evergreen Brian Moore, a 50-yard dash to the line by Des O'Connor, and a 25-yard burst to the corner by lock Neil Pringle, all in the last 20 minutes, were the only times in the entire game Newtown looked dangerous. On the other hand, Wests grafted and fought through every minute for their points and for 60 minutes looked a much better side. …. Newtown, although winning possession, were tackled out of the game by Heyward, Sinclair, Raudonikis, Robbie Parker and Knight. With a win in their sights, prop forwards Russ Johnstone and John O'Bryan began running on to the ball and Wests looked to have the game in their keeping. But the Jets rallied to score their four tries, two of which were converted by replacement Ken Wilson, while Ford put over another penalty for Wests. The turning point came when Newtown received a hotly disputed penalty in the final two minutes. … …. while for Wests, Heyward, Raudonikis, Parker, Knight, Ford and Sinclair did not stop trying. Wests' prop John O'Bryan had his best game since returning to football after an injury and made several bruising runs up the middle. **(Daily Telegraph 26th April 1973)**

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Notes: *Stephen Knight and Robbie Parker were paired in the centres for the first time and it was very successful. In a fast-paced high quality game, Wests led 14-4 with ten minutes to go but couldn't hold on. Newtown scored a very hotly disputed try in the last two minutes after Tommy Raudonikis was penalised for a play-the-ball infringement. A greatly improved tackling effort, led by prop John O'Bryan, back to top form after returning from injury, gave Wests a hope of better things to come.*