1972 Round 7 Saturday 29th April Pratten Park

Western Suburbs 39 def. North Sydney 10

Tony FORD	***Fullback***	Peter INSKIP
Don ROGERS	***Wing***	Kerry COLLIEN
Stephen KNIGHT	***Centre***	Owen O'DONNELL
Stephen SATTERLY	***Centre***	Michael McLEAN
Allan ASHMORE	***Wing***	George AMBRUM
John HEYWARD	***Five-eighth***	John FAIRNS
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Keith OUTTEN
John BAKER	***Lock***	Bruce WALKER
John ELFORD	***Second Row***	John MCDONELL
Barry BRYANT	***Second Row***	John PAYNE
John O'BRYAN	***Front Row***	Jim MILLS
Jim CROUCHER	***Hooker***	Ross WARNER
John WALKER	***Front Row***	Merv HICKS (c)
	Replacement	Joe HANEY
	Replacement	Bob DOYLE

Tries	Don ROGERS	John McDONELL
	Barry BRYANT	Owen O'DONNELL
	Allan ASHMORE	
	John BAKER	
	John HEYWARD	
	Stephen KNIGHT	
	John O'BRYAN	
Go*als*	Tony FORD (9)	Peter INSKIP (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, S Knight, S Satterly, A Ashmore; five-eighth: J Heyward; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: J Baker, J Elford, B Bryant, J O'Bryan, J Croucher, J Walker

North Sydney: Full-back: P Inskip; three-quarters: K Collien, O O'Donnell, M McLean, G Ambrum; five-eighth: J Fairns; half: K Outten; forwards: B Walker, J McDonell, J Payne, J Mills, R Warner, M Hicks (c) **Referee: L Bruyeres (Rugby League Week 6th May 1972)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team demoralised North Sydney 39-10 and inflicted injuries to Norths' Keith Outten, Bruce Walker and Jim Mills at Pratten Park yesterday. Halfback Outten damaged ligaments in his left knee, lock Walker suffered a suspected fractured jaw and big prop Mills a probable broken arm in the seven tries to two hiding from Wests. Norths' selectors conferred in the dressing-room after the game and sacked four players – centre Mike McLean, second-rower John Payne, Outten and Mills from the team to play Parramatta next weekend at North Sydney Oval. The replacements will be George Varela, Tim Pickup, Brian Anderson and captain-coach Merv Hicks who are carrying injuries and did not play yesterday. Fairns will switch to half to make way for five-eighth Pickup, Noel Cavanagh to second-row for Hick's return to the front row and Walker was picked subject to confirmation of his injury. "They were very disappointing, the least said the better," said a dejected Hicks. "We made Wests look good by refusing to tackle. Outten and Mills would not have held their positions for next week even if they had not been injured." For Wests, it was their biggest win since trouncing Canterbury 55-12 in last season's opening premiership round. And the victory lifted Wests' record this season to three wins, a draw and three losses for seven points, just one point less than they notched in all last season's games to hold the wooden spoon. Tries by centre Stephen Knight and winger Allan Ashmore and three penalty goals by full-back Tony Ford lifted Wests to a 12-5 lead at half-time. Norths hit back with a try by second-rower John McDonell, converted by full-back Peter Inskip, to trail 12-10 after 49 minutes. Then Norths' pathetic defensive lapse set in, allowing Wests to score 27 points, including five tries with ease in the last 25 minutes. Wests' full-back Ford finished with a personal tally of 18 points with nine goals from 14 attempts. The ease of Wests' win was even more ridiculous, considering Norths' hooker Ross Warner won the scrums 10-4, including 5-1 in the second half. There were no real individual stars in Wests but former Manly prop John O'Bryan, with his tight play around the rucks, was the pick of the forwards. Smart halves Tom Raudonikis and John Heyward proved elusive in attack. Second-rower McDonell, who led Norths in Hicks' absence, was responsible for a strong defensive display and, with Warner, was the Bears' only real "goer". **(Sunday Mirror 30th April 1972)**

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Notes: *Wests celebrated their return to Pratten Park with a dazzling second-half display to thrash an injured North Sydney. The match was played in hot conditions, tiring for the forwards, but John O'Bryan and Barry Bryant rose to the occasion and, with Raudonikis and Elford firing on all cylinders, ran away from a battered Norths. Elford, in particular, seemed to be relishing his move to the second row.*