1973 Round 7 Sunday 6th May Lidcombe Oval

Western Suburbs 34 def. Eastern Suburbs 25

Tony FORD	***Fullback***	Allan McKEAN
Allan ASHMORE	***Wing***	Jim PORTER
Stephen KNIGHT	***Centre***	John BRASS
Robbie PARKER	***Centre***	Harry CAMERON
Russell MULLINS	***Wing***	Bill MULLINS
John HEYWARD	***Five-eighth***	John BALLESTY
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Kevin JUNEE
Neville SINCLAIR	***Lock***	Ron COOTE (c)
Nick MOROKO	***Second Row***	Laurie FREIER
Barry BRYANT	***Second Row***	John ARMSTRONG
Russell JOHNSTONE	***Front Row***	Ian McKAY
Shane DAY	***Hooker***	Peter MOSCATT
John O'BRYAN	***Front Row***	Arthur BEETSON
Geoff FOSTER	***Replacement***	

Tries	Russell MULLINS (2)	Jim PORTER (2)
	Allan ASHMORE	John ARMSTRONG
	John O'BRYAN	John BRASS
	Geoff FOSTER	Bill MULLINS
	Tom RAUDONIKIS	
Go*als*	Tony FORD (8)	Allan McKEAN (5)

Match Description

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, B Bryant, J O'Bryan, S Day, R Johnstone

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: A McKean; three-quarters: J Porter, J Brass, H Cameron, W Mullins; five-eighth: J Ballesty; half: K Junee; forwards: R Coote (c), L Freier, J Armstrong, I McKay, P Moscatt, A Beetson **Referee: C Edwards (The Sun 7th May 1973)**

Eastern Suburbs experienced one of their most embarrassing Rugby League defeats since the " horrors" of 1966 when Western Suburbs dragged them to the last rung of the ladder yesterday. Wests won 34-25 at Lidcombe Oval in a game where 11 tries were scored and tackle was a nasty six-letter word. The game was embarrassing to Easts, because it left last year's grand finalist, and one of League's biggest spenders, equal last with Wests and Penrith, six points from the lead after only seven competition rounds. Their match-winning centre Mark Harris was allowed to leave this week to try out for gridiron football in Boston, USA. …. Easts could do with Reilly's defence in first-grade but it might mean that captain Ron Coote will have to play in the second-row. Half-back Kevin Junee will return to sharpen the attack and Harris is expected home this week to face Balmain at Leichhardt Oval next weekend. Wests' coach Don Parish remarked yesterday that his team did not perform as well as they did in losing to Newtown on Anzac Day. It was certainly a loose performance by both teams, with Wests snapping up many of the dropped passes and making the most of their limited opportunities. Then there was full-back Tony Ford booting goals from every angle, except, ironically, two kicks at short range, by far his easiest. Wests led 14-2 in a surprise opening 20 minutes and although Easts worked back to 14-12 at half-time, they could never head the home side. … **(Sydney Morning Herald 7th May 1973)**

Former Rugby League Test lock Ron Coote yesterday offered to switch positions after Easts crashed to last place on the competition ladder. Coote, Easts' captain, offered to switch to the second-row after Wests handed the Roosters a 34-25 hiding at Lidcombe Oval. "I'm prepared to play anywhere that will help us win games." Selectors will consider switching Coote to second-row and bringing lightweight lock Barry Reilly into the side to improve the defence. The defence of Easts' forwards yesterday was woeful in a free-flowing game that produced 11 tries. Easts, grand finalists last year, are now equal last with Western Suburbs after losing five of their seven premiership games. Wests, inspired by a whole-hearted performance from half Tommy Raudonikis and front-rower John O'Bryan, dominated the match, apart from a lapse just before half-time. Wests led 14-2 after 25 minutes but were only 14-12 ahead at the interval. Easts, without star centre Mark Harris (who is in America this week) and half Kevin Junee (injured), had little to offer. O'Bryan, a shock selection in City Firsts last year, was the star forward, easily overshadowing Easts' international Arthur Beetson. O'Bryan capped a fine game with a good try, pushing off two Easts' forwards on his way to the line. Wests' fullback, Tony Ford, kept his team travelling comfortably with eight goals from 10 attempts. **(Daily Telegraph 7th May 1973)**

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Notes: *In their best performance of the year so far, Wests overcame a 7-2 scrum deficit and penalty loss of 15-5, to run away from Easts. Raudonikis and O'Bryan both had outstanding games, strengthening their claims for City First selection. O'Bryan, in particular, played all over Arthur Beetson. Robbie Parker also had another strong game, demonstrating he had graduated very well from Union.*