1973 Round 3 Sunday 8th April Penrith Park

Western Suburbs 16 def. Penrith 9

Tony FORD	***Fullback***	Reg WALTON
Robbie PARKER	***Wing***	John MORAN
Stephen KNIGHT	***Centre***	Graham MORAN
Terry MULLINS	***Centre***	Peter SWANSON
Geoff FOSTER	***Wing***	Phil CAPPER
John HEYWARD	***Five-eighth***	Zac OLEJARNIK
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Phil RYAN
Neville SINCLAIR	***Lock***	Dennis TUTTY
Nick MOROKO	***Second Row***	Ron LYNCH (c)
Barry BRYANT	***Second Row***	Ron MASON
Russell JOHNSTONE	***Front Row***	Tim SHEENS
Shane DAY	***Hooker***	Doug BAYLY
Brian ISBESTER	***Front Row***	Terry GEARY
Terry ROSE	***Replacement***	Dennis COFFEY

Tries	Tom RAUDONIKIS	Phillip CAPPER
	Robbie PARKER	Ron LYNCH
	Brian ISBESTER	John MORAN
	Geoff FOSTER	
Go*als*	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

Penrith: Full-back: R Walton; three-quarters: J Moran, G Moran, P Swanson, P Capper; five-eighth: Z Olejarnik; half: P Ryan; forwards: D Tutty, R Mason, R Lynch (c), T Sheens, D Bayly, T Geary **Referee: G Bennett (The Sun 6th April 1973)**

A "spark" from Tommy Raudonikis and a "feast" of the ball from Shane Day led Wests' "unknowns" to a top rating 16-9 win over Penrith yesterday. The Western Suburbs "engine" couldn't get started in recent weeks. It took a great game from World Cup half Raudonikis and a 13-8 share of the ball from Day to set them on the road to victory. Raudonikis had not been playing well behind a disjointed Wests pack while Day hadn't been getting more than his fair share of ball. They were both on line yesterday and it did wonders for Wests. The club has lost World Cup second-rower John Elford with a broken arm, Jim Murphy with a fractured jaw and John O'Bryan with a fractured cheekbone. They are virtually Wests' pack. Yet without them yesterday, Wests showed the value of teamwork and a willingness to overrun Penrith. Penrith coach Leo Trevena, thoroughly disappointed after the match, seems certain to make some changes. Penrith beat Easts in the first match, failed against Souths last week and were no match for Wests, a team who had previously not won a game this year. They scored three tries as against Wests' four, but could not find an accurate goal-kicker. Penrith's forwards were disappointing and they seemed to have no pattern about their play. Wests raced to an early 8-0 lead and held it until half-time. **(The Sun 9th April 1973)**

Test scrum half Tom Raudonikis had a brilliant game in setting up Wests' Rugby League shock win over Penrith at Penrith yesterday. Raudonikis was the pivot in three of Wests' four tries. Raudonikis scored the third himself after getting the ball close to the Penrith line. He beat four opponents before going in. But goal-kicking on both sides was shocking. Wests' full-back Tony Ford was handicapped by a heavily-bandaged leg in moving to the ball. He could manage only two goals from eight attempts. For Penrith, Reg Walton (4) and Bruce Ward (3) missed all shots at goal. Wests held a half-time advantage of 8-0. Raudonikis starred first with a pass to Ford ten yards from the Penrith line. Front-rower Brian Isbester finished the move with a corner try. Raudonikis again set up the movement for Geoff Foster to go in wide out. Stephen Knight and Terry Mullins also figured in the move. An unconverted try by winger John Moran six minutes after half-time opened for Penrith. Robbie Parker, a Rugby Union convert, scored his first try for Wests after six players handled. Phil Capper crossed wide out on the right wing for Penrith with time running out. Raudonikis, Parker, Knight, and Mullins turned in good games for Wests in the backline. Barry Bryant, Russell Johnstone and Day stood out in an impressive Wests' pack. **(Daily Telegraph 9th April 1973)**

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Notes: *In a very promising sign, Shane Day again won the scrums, this time 13-8 and this allowed Tom Raudonikis to have one of his best games for Wests. He was truly inspirational, scoring a try by beating four opponents and setting up the other three tries. Wests led 8-0 at half-time and went on with it. Tony Ford, hampered by a heavily bandaged leg, only kicked two from eight goals but the whole backline fired, to overpower the Penrith backs.*

A short replay of the match can be seen here: Penrith Panthers versus Western Suburbs Magpies (Round 3, 8 April, 1973)