1979 Round 9 Sunday 20th May Brookvale Oval

Western Suburbs 17 def. Manly-Warringah 10

Wayne SMITH	***Fullback***	Graham EADIE
Buddy CAIN	***Wing***	Simon BOOTH
Mark BEAVEN	***Centre***	Russell GARTNER
John DORAHY	***Centre***	Alan THOMPSON
Warren BOLAND	***Wing***	Tom MOONEY
Don MOSELEY	***Five-eighth***	Martin MEREDITH
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	***Half***	Steve MARTIN
Graeme O'GRADY	***Lock***	Paul VAUTIN
Les BOYD	***Second Row***	Bruce WALKER
Bob COOPER	***Second Row***	Stephen KNIGHT
John DONNELLY	***Front Row***	Terry RANDALL
Ray BROWN	***Hooker***	Max KRILICH (c)
Bruce GIBBS	***Front Row***	Ian THOMSON
	Replacement	Wayne SPRINGALL

Tries	Warren BOLAND (2)	Ian THOMSON
	Don MOSELEY	Steve MARTIN
Goals	John DORAHY (4)	Graham EADIE (2)

Match Description
Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Smith; three-quarters: E Cain, M Beavan, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: D Moseley; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: G O'Grady, L Boyd, R Cooper, J Donnelly, R Brown, B Gibbs
Manly-Warringah: Full-back: G Eadie; three-quarters: S Booth, R Gartner, A Thompson, T Mooney; five-eighth: M Meredith; half: S Martin; forwards: P Vautin, B Walker, S Knight, T Randall, M Krilich (c), I Thomson **Referee: J Danzey (Rugby League Week 27th May 1979)**

Manly Rugby League secretary Ken Arthurson yesterday conceded defeat in the club's drive to retain its premiership. "Being realistic, I have to say we are out of it now," Mr Arthurson said, after Manly went down 17-10 to Western Suburbs in a brawling, spiteful clash at Brookvale Oval. "It would take a super-human effort to make the semi-finals from here," he said. Yesterday's loss leaves Manly lamenting on seven competition points – five points behind the four teams in equal third spot and facing matches against Cronulla and Canterbury in the next fortnight. Manly's last-ditch stand to push for the semi-finals really went West yesterday, lost in a cloud of dust from brawling and fighting in one of the fieriest game of the season. The pressure was on from the start as Wests, who were also fighting to re-establish themselves as a premiership force, took the game to Manly in vigorous fashion. It was no-holds-barred until the inevitable happened in the 16th minute and there was a violent all-in brawl involving a dozen players. The eruption came after Manly hooker Max Krilich was flattened from behind by a Wests' player while trying to placate players in a minor scuffle. After the brawling, referee Jack Danzey sent off Wests' prop John Donnelly and Manly second-rower Steve Knight on charges of punching. Both camps claimed to be upset by the brawling. "I've never been flattened so many times in a match," claimed Krilich. "We didn't want to brawl – it was the last thing we wanted. But players rushed in to help me when I was knocked down." Wests' coach Roy Masters claimed that the brawling was "unfortunate" but there is no doubting its proven value to Wests against Manly. It's becoming an accepted tactic for fighting to supersede football when the teams clash. There were brawls last year in an exhibition game in Victoria and in the first premiership match. Ironically, Wests proved there was no need for them to indulge in the rough play by scoring two spectacular tries yesterday. It was magic and mayhem from Wests as, after the brawl was over, they scored two length-of-the-field tries in which eight players handled. The ball flew among the Wests' players in bewildering fashion, as they passed and backed up in classic style. The first of the tries, in the 25th minute, was scored by winger Warren Boland, giving Wests a 7-3 lead, they held until half-time. The second try – this time by five-eighth Don Moseley – came in the 50th minute to put Wests ahead 12-3. They looked to have the match sewn up but a heavy penalty count of 9-2 in the second half (16-7 overall) brought Manly back into the game. Wests, with no ball, tackled themselves to a standstill but couldn't prevent Manly from fighting back to trail only 12-10 with 12 minutes of an exciting second half to go. Wests finally clinched the match with a second try from Boland after good lead-up work from second-rowers Ray Brown and Les Boyd. **(Daily Telegraph 21st May 1979)**

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Notes: *Wests and Manly resumed their ongoing feud with an early all-in brawl involving all 26 players. When the dust finally settled Stephen Knight and John Donnelly were sent off. After that, Wests played some brilliant open football, with Les Boyd's dashing running causing havoc. Both of the Boland and Moseley tries were brilliant long-range efforts. Wests looked to run away with the match but a heavy 9-2 penalty count against them in the second half meant they had to do a lot of last-ditch tackling.*
You can watch a replay of the match here: Manly vs Wests Rd 9 1979