1969 Round 11 Saturday 7th June Lidcombe Oval

Penrith 14 def. Western Suburbs 8

Mike LEARY	***Fullback***	Tony FORD
Mal McMARTIN	***Wing***	Mick ALCHIN
Graham MORAN	***Centre***	Roy FERGUSON
David APPLEBEE	***Centre***	Barry GLASGOW
Bob LANDERS	***Wing***	Don ROGERS
Ern GILLON	***Five-eighth***	Tim MURPHY
Laurie FAGAN	***Half***	Bruce BEER
Maurie RAPER	***Lock***	John BAKER
Wal CRUST	***Second Row***	Jim CODY
Russ JOHNSTONE	***Second Row***	Barry BRYANT
Bob BROAD	***Front Row***	Doug WALKADEN
Ron WORKMAN	***Hooker***	Ken STONESTREET
Bob BOLAND (c)	***Front Row***	Noel KELLY (c)
	Replacement	John FISHER

Tries	Bob LANDERS Mal McMARTIN	
Go*als*	Bob LANDERS (3) Bob BOLAND (1) Field goal	Tony FORD (2) Barry GLASGOW (2) Field goals

Match Description

Penrith: Full-back: M Leary; three-quarters: M McMartin, G Moran, D Applebee, R Landers; five-eighth: E Gillon; half: L Fagan; forwards: M Raper, W Crust, R Johnstone, R Broad, R Workman, R Boland (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: M Alchin, R Ferguson, B Glasgow, D Rogers; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: B Beer; forwards: J Baker, J Cody, B Bryant, N Kelly (c), K Stonestreet, D Walkaden **Referee: P McCarroll (The Sun 6th June 1969)**

Penrith Rugby League Panthers yesterday knocked Western Suburbs into the Rugby League doldrums with 80 minutes of powerhouse tackling at Lidcombe Oval. Penrith created a "first" when they toppled Wests 14-8 in convincing fashion. Until yesterday, Western Suburbs were the only team in the competition that Penrith had not beaten in their short first division life. … They frustrated and harassed Wests with a near-watertight defensive line. In doing so they made Noel Kelly's team look as poor as they have done for several seasons. Wests, urgently needing a win yesterday, turned in a miserable performance. .. Noel Kelly's men were never in the hunt. They were behind the eight ball from the time they ran onto the field with classy centre Roy Ferguson obviously still carrying an ankle injury. Ferguson lasted just ten minutes on the field after making one sharp run which "found out" his ankle. It was obvious he should never have been out there in the first place. John Fisher, who had played through the reserve grade game ran on to replace Ferguson, and Wests were obviously going to have their hands full. … Wests never looked like scoring a try. … The match was only a minute old when centre David Applebee lost the ball a yard from the line with a Penrith try "on." But the Panthers quickly made amends when winger Bob Landers scored after smart lead-up work by five-eighth Ern Gillon and centre Applebee in the sixth minute. Penrith never looked back from that moment. Skipper Boland made full use of the wind with some driving tactical kicks. It was one of Boland's clever kicks that led to Penrith's second try after 24 minutes. The rugged prop put the ball high in the air on the fourth tackle. Wests' young winger Don Rogers made the mistake of waiting for the bounce … and bounce it did – right into the arms of Penrith centre Grahame Moran. Moran quickly turned the ball to winger Mal McMartin and McMartin was over between the posts before Wests knew what had hit them. .. The small crowd of 4307 anticipated some sort of Western Suburbs fightback in the second half. But it was not to be …. If anything Wests got worse. Barry Glasgow added a second field goal to the one he kicked in the first half and full-back Tony Ford potted a couple of goals. But they were only token efforts – Wests were never going to win the match. It was hard to believe looking at the competition table that Wests were the team on 12 points and Penrith had only five points. Penrith showed up as a strong defensive unit but with enough thrust to trouble any team in the competition in the forth-coming weeks. Skipper Bob Boland was the architect of Penrith's win. Boland led his side faultlessly. His tactics – marked by long kicking – with the wind in the first half were just right. In the second spell Boland used short, grubber kicks to keep Wests in disorder. Five-eighth Ern Gillon, lock Maurie Raper and centre Grahame Moran all had top class games for the Panthers. Centre David Applebee had the "best-worst" game imaginable. Applebee was rock-like in defence and made several strong breaks – but marred just about every piece of good work by losing the ball. Wests can forget all about a semi-final berth unless they can improve dramatically on yesterday's showing. At the moment they are a team almost entirely without penetration. Their only two penetrative players are centre Ferguson (who lasted 10 minutes yesterday) and full-back Tony Ford who carried a knee injury for more than half the match. Crack hooker Ken Stonestreet won the day 20-13 against Penrith's Ron Workman. **(Sunday Telegraph 8th June 1969)**

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Notes: *Roy Ferguson succumbed early to his continuing ankle problems and was replaced by John Fisher. Tony Ford also injured an ankle amid a growing injury toll. Overall this was a very poor performance by Wests, who ran with a strong wind in the second half but couldn't penetrate the Penrith defence. The lack of penetration in the backline was becoming a real concern.*

Watch the game highlights here: 1969 Wests v Penrith Rd 11