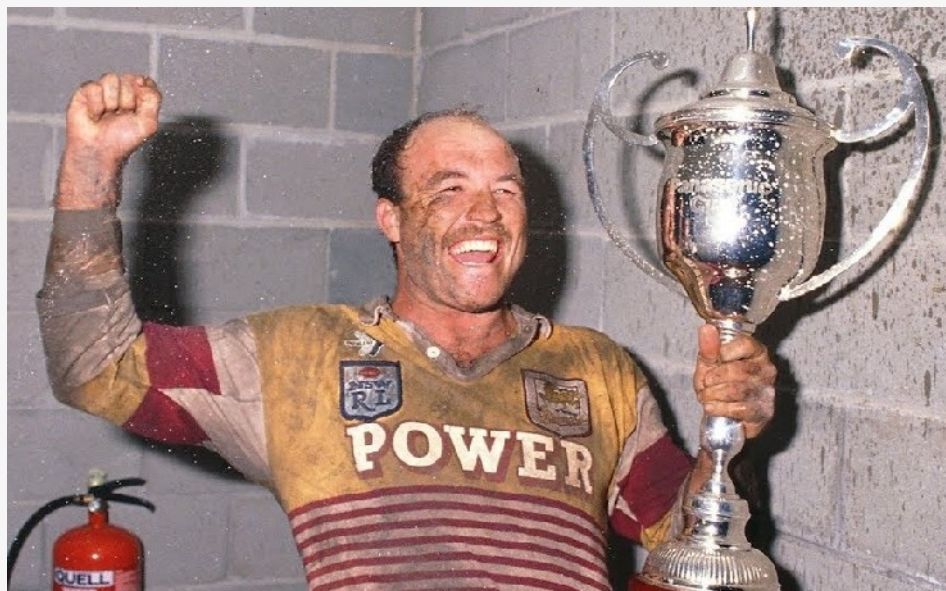


THE AMCO CUP TO THE PANASONIC CUP



**A History of Queensland teams in the
National Midweek Competition (1975-1989)**

AMCO / TOOTH / KB / PANASONIC CUP

(1975-1989)

The Amco Cup was a midweek competition designed for television. It was based on English soccer's FA Cup where teams from various divisions would compete in a knockout competition. In its first season teams from Sydney, NSW country areas and an Auckland team competed and no Brisbane teams were invited to compete in 1974. Western Division surprised all with its 6-2 win over Penrith in the first final.

In **1975** for its second season the top four Brisbane teams from the previous season (Valleys, Brothers, Norths and Souths) as well as Ipswich and Toowoomba competed in the 1975 Amco Cup. Toowoomba had an impressive 22-13 win over North Sydney. Only Valleys made it to the quarter finals and were beaten by Parramatta 33-10.

In **1976** The Amco Cup midweek competition was again expanded. All of the Brisbane teams except Wynnum-Manly and a number of Queensland country teams competed in 1976.

Again only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals. In the preliminary rounds Brothers became the first Brisbane team to beat a Sydney team beating Penrith 19-8 but were beaten in their quarter final against Balmain 19-3.

In **1977** all of the Brisbane teams and a number of Queensland country teams competed in the Amco Cup.

Only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals. Valleys made the quarter finals but were thrashed 35-2 by Easts (Sydney).

In **1978** all of the Brisbane teams and a number of Queensland country teams competed in the Amco Cup.

The 1977 BRL premiers, Easts, had a big 27-6 win against North Sydney to make the quarter finals. Again only one Brisbane team made the quarter finals and were beaten by another Sydney team when Easts put up a gallant fight against Manly-Warringah at Lang Park going down 27-10. Both teams would go on to win that year's Brisbane and Sydney premierships respectively.

The poor showing by Brisbane clubs in the previous Amco Cup tournaments (1975-1978) with only one team a year making the quarter finals and not proceeding any further saw the end of individual BRL clubs competing in the Amco Cup.

In **1979** a combined Brisbane and a combined Queensland Country team competed and both advanced further than any of the individual BRL clubs. Queensland Country had wins over Newtown (16-14), North Sydney (12-5) and Parramatta (18-9). Brisbane also had solid wins over St George (13-10), Manly-Warringah (13-10) and Easts (17-8).

Brisbane met Queensland Country in one of the semi-finals with Brisbane winning 8-5. They lost to Cronulla 22-5 in their first midweek final.

In **1980** the national midweek competition became the Tooth Cup in which a combined Brisbane and a combined Queensland Country team again competed. Brisbane lost 14-4 to Easts (Sydney) then beat Manly 27-20. Controversially they failed to make the quarter finals on for and against.

Queensland Country lost both their games heavily; 40-5 against North Sydney and 45-5 against Balmain, which was a major reversal of their excellent form from the previous year where they made the semi finals.

In the **1981** Tooth Cup a combined Brisbane and a combined Queensland Country team both competed again. Both teams lost their two games and did not progress to the quarter finals. Brisbane lost 23-19 to Newtown and lost 25-5 to Cronulla. Queensland Country lost 24-2 against Manly and lost 33-7 to Newtown.

In **1982** the national midweek competition became the KB Cup in which a combined Brisbane and a combined Queensland Country team both competed.

Brisbane made the quarter finals for the first time since their debut in the 1979 Amco Cup. They lost to Balmain 13-10 before beating South Island (NZ) 34-3 and then lost their quarter final to eventual Sydney premiers for 1982, Parramatta, by 25-7. Queensland Country lost both their games; 26-10 against St George and 43-3 to Balmain.

In the **1983** KB Cup Brisbane went one step further than the previous year by making the semi final stage of the midweek competition.

Brisbane made the quarter finals after an impressive 38-18 win against North Sydney. They thrashed NSW Country 54-14 in their quarter final but were unable to make the final going down in a tough semi final against Manly at Lang Park 23-14.

Queensland Country were thrashed 78-4 in their only game by Manly who, after beating Brisbane in the semis, were the eventual KB Cup winners for 1983.

In **1984** the national midweek competition became the National Panasonic Cup. Brisbane won the competition for the first time after previously losing their first final in 1979. In 1984 Wally Lewis captained his club side Wynnum to the BRL premiership, Brisbane to victory in the National Panasonic Cup as well as Queensland to a third straight State of Origin series victory.

Brisbane beat four Sydney sides over the course of the competition and all by slimmer and slimmer margins. They beat South Sydney 25-18, then Canterbury by 3 points (14-11) in their quarter final, then beat Parramatta by 2 points in their semi final (14-12) and then beat Easts by a single point in the final to win 12-11 after a late disallowed try to Easts.

Queensland Country in their last appearance in the midweek competition beat Auckland 25-18 before being knocked out by Easts 44-0.

Queensland Country did not compete in the competition from 1985 through to 1989.

In **1985** after winning the competition the previous year Brisbane failed to make the quarter finals after losing their sole preliminary round game 33-16 to eventual midweek competition winners, Balmain, a side who were a bogey team for both combined Brisbane and later the Broncos during the 1980's.

Despite the strength of the Queensland Origin team this pattern for Brisbane in the midweek competition would repeat itself in 1986 and 1987.

In **1986** Brisbane again failed to make the quarter finals after losing their sole preliminary round game 18-10 to Manly.

In **1987** Brisbane again failed to make the quarter finals after losing their sole preliminary round game 14-2 to Penrith.

In **1988** the Sydney competition expanded to become a national competition with the introduction of the Brisbane Broncos and the Gold Coast Tweed Giants.

Both the Brisbane Broncos and Gold Coast were knocked out in their sole preliminary round games. The Broncos lost 24-10 to Penrith and Gold Coast lost 12-6 to North Sydney. A combined BRL Brisbane team also would compete in 1988 beating NSW Country 8-0 and before losing 26-0 to Newcastle.

In **1989** the Brisbane Broncos would go on to win the last midweek competition, the Panasonic Cup.

The combined BRL Brisbane team had a solid run again beating Port Moresby 21-12, NSW Country 9-2, only to be knocked out in a gallant effort against St George 14-10. The Gold Coast were again knocked out by North Sydney 13-6.

The Brisbane Broncos started strong beating Canberra 18-13 in Parkes, then thrashed Parramatta 42-6 in their quarter final before a delirious crowd in Townsville. In their semi final they easily accounted for Souths 24-4 setting up a final at Parramatta Stadium against Illawarra. The Broncos started off strongly going out to a 16-0 lead before a strong fightback by Illawarra led by Great Britain halfback Andy Gregory. The Brisbane Broncos managed to hang on and win 22-20 in front of a less than gracious crowd to win the 1989 Panasonic Cup.

1975



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

(Games involving Brisbane clubs, Toowoomba & Ipswich)

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 2, 1975	Souths (Sydney)	37	def	Ipswich	6	Redfern Oval
April 16, 1975	Balmain	24	def	Brothers	16	Lang Park
April 30 1975	Toowoomba	22	def	Norths (Sydney)	13	Leichhardt Oval
May 7, 1975	St George	35	def	Norths (Brisbane)	16	Leichhardt Oval
May 7, 1975	Penrith	37	def	Souths (Brisbane)	9	Leichhardt Oval
June 18, 1975	Valleys	15	def	Toowoomba	6	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 23, 1975	Parramatta	33	def	Valleys	10	Leichhardt Oval
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Wednesday April 2 (Redfern Oval) South Sydney 37 v Ipswich 6

Ipswich never in hunt

SYDNEY. — South Sydney outclassed Ipswich in the opening match of the 1975 AMCO Cup Rugby League competition yesterday.

Souths won 37-6, scoring 11 tries to one.

They tried three kickers, who between them were able to land only two goals from 11 attempts.

Fullback Eric Simms missed his four and was replaced by five-eighth Greg Purcell.

Purcell landed goals with his first two attempts and then missed two and was replaced by winger Ross Birrell.

Birrell missed his three.

Centre Owen O'Donnell, scored three tries, mainly due to weak defence.

Lock forward Paul Sait scored two good tries before he was replaced for the second half.

Souths led 22-6 at half-time and ran on five tries in the second half.

Ipswich scored only one try, which was converted by five-eighth Lionel Tewes. Centre Peter White kicked a field goal.

The Ipswich try was scored by winger Rex Jorgenson after Ipswich had their best attacking period of the match.

Ipswich won the scrums 15-13, but bad handling let them down.

Souths led the penalties count 11-8.

South Sydney 37 (O'Donnell 3, Purcell 2, Sait 2, Van Gilt, McCarthy, McCarthy, Simms tries; Purcell 2 goals) v Ipswich 6 (Jorgenson try, Tewes goal).

1975



Wednesday April 16 (Lang Park)
Balmain 24 v Brothers 16

Tigerish defence stops Brothers

By Jack Reardon

SYDNEY Rugby League team Balmain put Brothers out of the Amco Cup in the main match at Lang Park last night by winning a scrappy game 24-16.

Balmain took the lead 11 minutes from the start and were always in front from there, scoring four tries to two.

Balmain's captain and halfback Keith Outten was awarded the player of the match. He was tremendous in defence and smart in attack, but I thought he had his best period in the last 10 minutes.

For this award, Outten receives a color TV set. I thought fullback Allan McMahon was well ahead of Outten for this award until he was replaced at half-time for no obvious reason.

McMahon had figured brilliantly in a 60-yard burst and a few minutes later, in one of his ventures into the attack, he whipped through Brothers' backline defence to take two tacklers over the line as he scored.

Brothers were below strength.

Mishandled

Before the match they lost their captain and fullback Wayne Bennett and outstanding forward of last week-end, Noel Harrington, with injuries received last Sunday.

The local competition leaders did not really fire until the last quarter when they attacked with more zip, scored one try and narrowly missed several others.

However, Brothers under the sharpshooting defence of Balmain, frequently mishandled as they tried to pass in impossible positions.

Brothers' best player was centre Graham Quinn, who was particularly strong in defence and looked dangerous in attack when he was given a good pass.

Quinn scored Brothers' second try with a great

burst of speed after taking a pass from second rower Lester Young.

Young had also done the lead up work for Brothers' first try when he weaved through three tackles and gave Ian Dauth an opportunity to beat the fullback and score.

Dauth had kept Brothers within touch of Balmain's score with a series of penalties. He landed five goals which, with his try, gave him a personal tally of 13 points.

Generally, Brothers lacked the experience and speed of the Balmain backs. But in the forwards, David Wright was well up with the best of his opponents and Bob Cock did not give up trying for the entire match despite a severe battering.

Cock, however, did mishandle on a few occasions in vital positions.

The best of Balmain's forwards were lock Trevor Ryan and second rower John Spencer while in the backs apart from

Outten, Jeff Shield was very quick and clever.

Former Queensland player Dennis Mantell came on as a replacement but had only one threatening run late in the match.

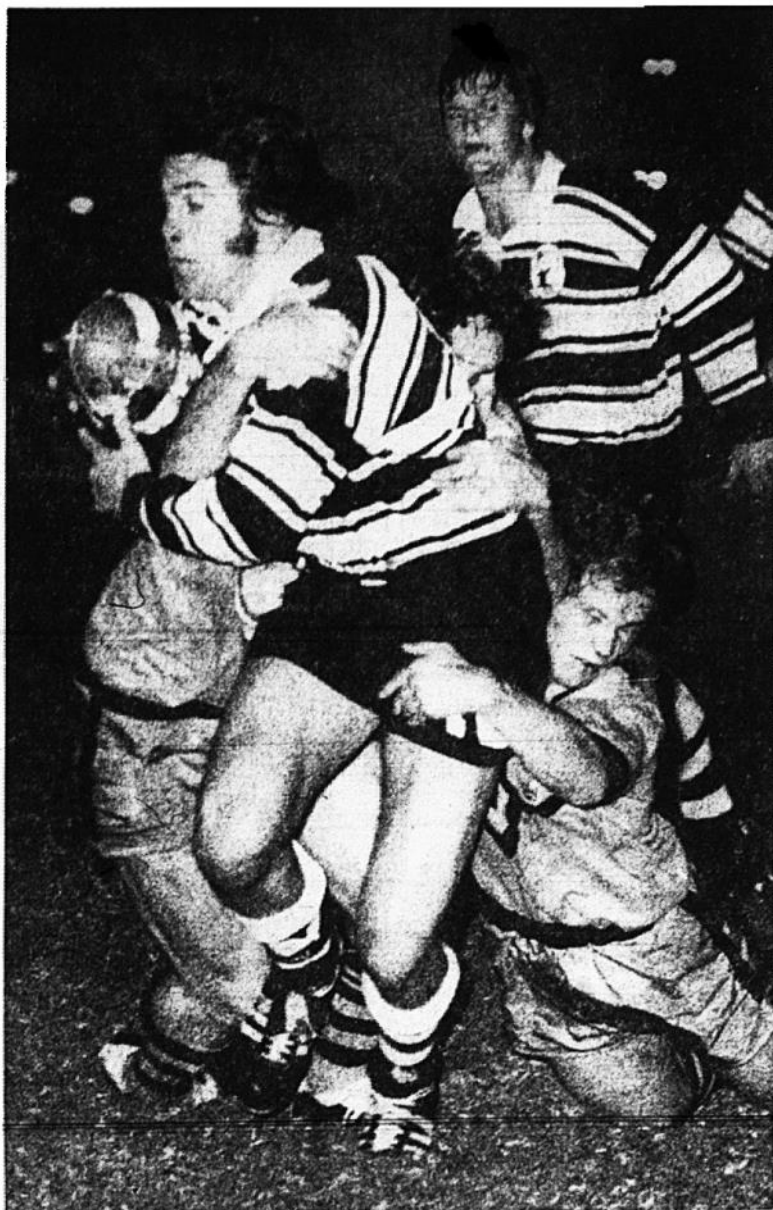
The try of the match came from Shield, who whipped through to follow up a well-placed short kick by Outten, got the right bounce and gathered the ball in to score without a hand laid on him.

Brothers centre Murray Schultz and lock Stan Damro were injured and replaced by Brian Bennett and Mike Seary.

Referee Don Lancashire was very severe on Balmain for their offside tactics, particularly in the rucks. He penalised them 21 times to Brothers 10. Scrums favoured Balmain 8-7.

First scorers: Balmain 2, Brothers 1. First try scorers: Balmain 1, Brothers 1.

Scores: Balmain 24 (A. McMahon, M. Fish, J. Shield, K. Outten tries, T. Forward 6 goals) v Brothers 16 (I. Dauth, G. Quinn tries, I. Dauth 5 goals).



BROTHERS replacement centre Brian Bennett found himself the meat in the sandwich of this tackle by two Balmain defenders in last night's Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park. Looming in support of Bennett is second rower, Lester Young. Balmain won 24-16.

1975



Wednesday April 30 (Leichhardt Oval)
Toowoomba 22 v Norths (Sydney) 13

LINDENBERG STAR IN TMBA R.L. CUP WIN

SYDNEY. — Toowoomba halfback Wayne Lindenberg was the star of his team's victory over North Sydney in their Amco Cup Rugby League clash at Leichhardt Oval last night.

The Toowoomba team had a comfortable 22-13 win with Lindenberg the key figure in most of his side's movements.

Lindenberg tackled the bigger North Sydney forwards out of the game and always made ground in possession.

He capped a fine performance with a superb solo try 12 minutes into the second half.

Lindenberg shaped to kick 25 metres from the North Sydney line, but darted through a gap, dummied to beat fullback McLachlan and scored near the posts.

North Sydney won scrums 15-10 but Toowoomba shocked the southerners when they went to a 7-nil lead after only 25 minutes.

Toowoomba's captain, prop forward John Wilson combined with Lindenberg and then received a pass from Lindenberg to crash over alongside the posts.

Toowoomba went further ahead after half time to lead 22-5 with 12 minutes of play remaining.

North Sydney scored two face-saving tries in the last two minutes but the run came too late to halt Toowoomba's path to victory.

The Toowoomba forwards gave a solid defen-

sive exhibition and nullified much of North's glut of possession.

Norths made too many mistakes, with front-rower Healey throwing a long pass which was intercepted by Toowoomba's Willie Weatherall, who ran 80 metres to score.

Toowoomba have six representatives in the Queensland Country team to play Brisbane on Sunday in the final Queensland selection trials.

Former Kangaroo centre John McDonald coached the Toowoomba side.

As Lindesay Jones saw it, Page 28.

Tmba wins 22-13

by LINDESAY JONES

Toowoomba lived up to its reputation of the "Galloping Clydesdales" and dumbfounded the southern critics by giving North Sydney a beating by 22 to 13 after having led by seven points to five at half-time.

The match, an Amco Cup fixture, was played at Leichhardt Oval, Sydney.

The win was spear-headed by Toowoomba's half Wayne Lindenberg, who is without doubt the most promising and entertaining footballer since present Toowoomba coach John McDonald was play-

ing here in the mid-sixties.

Lindenberg won a colour television set for his efforts.

The home side's captain John Wilson played a fine game until he left the field with an arm injury.

Apart from the dancing feet of Lindenberg, it must

have thrilled League followers to see the magnificent solo effort of winger Willie Weatherall, who after intercepting a North Sydney pass, ran the length of the field hotly pursued by champion professional runner McLachlan.

However, Weatherall stuck to his task to just reach the try line to score.

Toowoomba now goes into the second round.

Much of the credit for the win must go to the coaching process of former international John McDonald.

Scores: Toowoomba 22 (Wilson Lindenberg, Weatherall, Muirhead tries; Frith 4, Lindenberg goals) d North Sydney 13 (Pretti, Colman, Rawlins tries, Burnett 2 goals).

North Sydney won scrums 15-10.

1975



Wednesday May 7 (Leichhardt Oval)
St George 35 v Norths (Brisbane) 16

Saints swamp Norths

SYDNEY. — St. George, Rugby League premiership leaders, took a step in another direction when they overpowered Brisbane's Northern Suburbs 35-16 in an Amco Cup first round match at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Led by Billy Smith in the absence of Graeme Langlands who was a late withdrawal with a knee injury, Saints scored seven tries to their hapless opponents two, and were in complete charge from half-time.

Norths mixed their play in the opening half after receiving ample opportunity, with hooker Nick Geiger and half-back Tommy Bishop combining to give them a better than 3-1 advantage in the scrums.

Norths in fact, led 2-nil in the opening minutes, but Smith, who was voted the player of the match, dummed his way over from a handy position to score and the match was then never really in doubt.

Bishop was only a shade behind Smith, in a rematch of past duels and he figured in both Norths' tries.

St. George 35 (L. Darke 2, R. Cox, W. Smith, P. Mills, S. Fitch, E. Goodwin tries; Goodwin 7 goals) d. Brisbane Norths 16 (G. Harrison, G. Brohman tries; S. Warwick 5 goals).

Wednesday May 7 (Leichhardt Oval)
Penrith 37 v Souths (Brisbane) 9

Bill Ashurst dominated Penrith's 37-9 win over Brisbane Souths.

Ashurst scored two tries and had a hand in three others as he demoralised the south forwards.

Penrith 37 (Ashurst 2, West 2, Allsopp, Quinn, Klein, Langmae, Sheens, tries; Gigg 3 goals, Ashurst 2 goals) d. Souths 9 (Debrich try; Graham 3 goals).

1975



Wednesday June 18 (Lang Park)

Valleys 15 v Toowoomba 6

Valleys end the drought

AMCO CUP WIN 15-6

By David Falkenmire

VALLEYS Rugby League team's drought ended in pouring rain at Lang Park last night when they upset Toowoomba in a second round Amco Cup match.

A huge possession advantage was the chief reason for Valleys 15-6 win.

Valleys' irrepressible little hooker Hugh O'Doherty, not a recognised ball winner, crushed Toowoomba's Mal Haworth 22-11 in the scrums.

O'Doherty was also outstanding in general play and received the man of the match award — a color television set.

The win broke a succession of eight losses for the Brisbane premiers, who relished the wet going.

The best try of the night was scored by Toowoomba in the first quarter. It resulted from the brilliance of half back Wayne Lindenberg who intercepted a pass from Valleys centre Bob Beaton and raced 40 metres before putting winger Russell Crisp over in the corner.

Toowoomba's other try came late in the third quarter when substitute fullback David Klease kicked an up and under which he regained over the line.

The match was marred by loose handling because of the continuous rain.

Valley's best were O'Doherty, Strudwick, Abbott, Gill and Scanlan and for Toowoomba halves Lindenberg and Alan Smith showed out. Steve McCosker and Greg Platz were the best of the Toowoomba forwards.

French referee Francis Escande awarded penalties 16-7 to Toowoomba.

First scorers: Valleys 8, Toowoomba 2. First try scorers: Valleys 8, Toowoomba 2.

SCORES: Valleys 15 (J. Gill, R. Strudwick, G. Fitzpatrick tries; Strudwick, I. Sommer goals; Strudwick 2 P.s.) 6, Toowoomba 6 (R. Crisp, D. Klease tries).

Second win

It was only Valley's second win of the season and they now find themselves in the quarter finals of the Amco Cup against Parramatta.

The highly-favoured Toowoomba looked the best side up until half time when Valleys were lucky 8-3 leaders.

But Valleys, adapting better to the conditions, took control in the third quarter to take a 13-6 lead and half back Ross Strudwick potted two field goals in the last quarter to seal the result.

It was simply a matter of Toowoomba not being able to chase the ball all night and keep the pressure on Valleys, and their pattern of play subsequently suffered.

Toowoomba was unlucky to lose its prop forward and captain John Wilson in the opening minutes with an injury, while Valleys tough second rower John Abbott left the field early in the last quarter and was taken to hospital with a severe concussion.

Sideline kick

Valleys scored three tries to two with lock Jeff Gill and Strudwick both forcing their way over from the dummy half position.

The Diehards third try came early in the third quarter when prop Bruce McLeod picked up a loose ball and spun it quickly out to Marty Scanlan who put Gerry Fitzpatrick over.

Replacement winger Ian Sommer kicked a great conversion from near the sideline to put Valleys ahead 13-3.

1975



AMCO CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 23 (Leichhardt Oval)

Parramatta 33 v Valleys 10

Valleys overwhelmed in Sydney

SYDNEY. — Parramatta had too much pace and power for Valleys, winning 33-10 in the Amco Cup Rugby League quarter-final last night.

Spearheaded by former Australian five-eighth Dennis Pittard, Parramatta scored seven tries to two, and Pittard landed six goals from eight attempts.

Valleys had a brief moment of glory when they led 5-0 at the end of the first quarter after a spectacular try by winger Doug Muir.

Five-eighth Marty Scanlan got the ball to Muir at halfway. The speedy winger outpaced his opposite, then cut inside to beat the covering lock forward and the fullback to score beside the post.

Muir was the outstanding Valleys player. He defended strongly and twice prevented certain tries by crossing to the opposite wing to make strong tackles.

Parramatta levelled at 5-all early in the second quarter, then went ahead 15-5 after winning five successive scrums.

Valleys scored their second try when Al McInnes put John Abbott over near the post from a ruck.

But by half-time Parramatta had gone to a 20-10 lead and was in charge from then.

Valleys were Queensland's last hope in the Amco Cup. Their "take" for reaching the quarter-final was \$3350.

1976



SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Games involving Queensland teams)

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

March 31, 1976	North Queensland	21	def	Wide Bay	11	Rockhampton
March 31, 1976	Toowoomba	39	def	Northern Territory	7	Toowoomba
March 31, 1976	Ryde-Eastwood	29	def	Ipswich	13	Toowoomba
March 31, 1976	Souths (Sydney)	17	def	Souths (Brisbane)	8	Lang Park
April 7, 1976	Brothers	19	def	Penrith	8	Lang Park
April 7, 1976	Canterbury (Sydney)	40	def	North Queensland	0	Lang Park
April 14, 1976	Auckland	30	def	Redcliffe	5	Lang Park
April 14, 1976	Cronulla	28	def	Toowoomba	5	Lang Park
April 21, 1976	Easts (Brisbane)	38	def	Canterbury (NZ)	7	Lang Park
April 28, 1976	Riverina	36	def	Valleys	2	Lang Park
May 5, 1976	Wests (Brisbane)	17	def	Norths (Brisbane)	2	Lang Park
May 19, 1976	Brothers	12	def	Northern Division	6	Leichhardt Oval
June 9, 1976	Manly-Warringah	24	def	Wests (Brisbane)	8	Lang Park
June 30, 1976	Canterbury (Sydney)	13	def	Easts (Brisbane)	7	Leichhardt Oval

QUARTER FINAL

July 14, 1976	Balmain	19	def	Brothers	3	Leichhardt Oval
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Wednesday March 31 (Toowoomba) North Queensland 21 v Wide Bay 11

NQ too strong

ROCKHAMPTON. — North Queensland outclassed Wide Bay in their Amco Cup Rugby League match at Browne Park last night, winning 21-11.

North Queensland's defence was too strong, although Wide Bay's large forwards kept them in calculations for the first quarter.

Wide Bay received a penalty in the first minute, but failed to convert. In all, they missed four penalties and two try conversions.

First points came in the seventh minutes of the second quarter. North Queensland fullback Frank Daisy took a pres-

sure kick about 10 m from his own line and slipped a pass to speedy winger Gerrard Ellul.

Ellul ran down the touch line, passed back to Daisy, who broke through a weak tackle then gave the ball again to Ellul. He raced away for a great combination try.

North Queensland went further ahead when Craven crashed through several weak tackles to score under the posts.

Michaels converted as the half-time hooter sounded and North Queensland went into the break with an 8-nil lead.

Wide Bay broke through after 10 minutes of the third quarter when Greg Heading scored.

Three minutes later, Eddie Roberts put North Queensland back in command. The initial break was made by Savuro with Roberts finishing off the try.

Wide Bay scored in the ninth and 17th minutes in a late assault.

NORTH QUEENSLAND 21 (N. Savuro, G. Ellul, E. Roberts, T. Craven tries; F. Daisy 2, R. Michaels goals) **d. Wide Bay 11** (T. Brown 2, G. Heading tries; D. McCullum goal).

First try scorers: North Queensland 8, Wide Bay 5. Attendance 1600.

1976



Wednesday March 31 (Toowoomba)
Toowoomba 39 v Northern Territory 7

TMBA HAS EASY WIN IN AMCO CUP CLASH

by LINDESAY JONES

In yesterday's Amco Cup tie played at the Athletic Oval, the home side coached by former international John McDonald easily defeated Northern Territory by 39 to 7 after leading 18 to 7 at the end of the second quarter.

Toowoomba's halfback Tape opened the scoring with a brilliant try after some good lead-up work by second rower Connell.

The home side's second try was a gem. When champion professional runner Crisp found himself hemmed in by the cover defence, he centre kicked to a perfectly positioned five-eighth Smith, who plucked the ball from the air and raced away to score.

Toowoomba were quickly exerting their superiority and tries started to come easily because of good positional play, particularly by second rower Platz, lock forward Gill and five-eighth Smith.

Smith was the most constructive back on the field. He consistently played for the man outside him and this gave the home side's fast outside backs every chance.

The Northern Territory side contained some fast and talented players — notably fullback Ah Wong and the centre combination of Smith and Birch.

Toowoomba's lock forward Gill showed his class until he left the field with a hand injury.

Toowoomba now goes to Sydney for its next Amco Cup match to play Cronulla-Sutherland.

The local side is building up into a formidable combination and are fortunate in having a coach of the calibre of John McDonald who knows what is required to do well in Sydney football by today's standards.

Toowoomba play Wide Bay here next Sunday in a Carlton Cup match.

Toowoomba 39 (R. Crisp 3 tries, W. Tape 2, A. Smith 1, I. Lindenmayer 1, M. Muirhead 1, W. Weatherall 1; G. Arndt 4 conversions, W. Tape 2) defeated Northern Terri-

tory 7 (R. Adams try; Ah Wong 1 conversion and a penalty).

A pair of football boots donated by Alderman Lindesay Jones for the most constructive Toowoomba player were won by Alan Smith.



DETERMINATION or desperation . . . Northern Territory players in action in an Amco match in Toowoomba yesterday when they went down to the Toowoomba Rugby League team 39-7.

Wednesday March 31 (Toowoomba)
Ryde-Eastwood 29 v Ipswich 13

EARLY GAME

Sydney's second division premiers from last season Ryde Eastwood easily defeated Ipswich by 29 to 13 after leading 21 points to 5 at the end of the second quarter.

Ipswich fullback Chemello opened the scoring with a difficult penalty, but soon afterwards Ryde Eastwood's five-eighth Tilbrook scored the first try when he dummed his way through near the posts.

Ryde Eastwood had a glut of the ball throughout the match. They are a team which makes the ball do the work as evidenced by winger Moy's two tries.

Ryde's best players were the back row trio of Barrett, Palmer and Rady who were constructive in attack and destructive in defence.

The Ipswich combination was spirited, but they lacked the experience and

condition of the Sydney side. In a beaten side front rower Glass and halfback Tewes played enterprising games.

Front rower Glass and halfback Tewes had good games.

Ryde Eastwood 29 (May 2 tries, Trudgett 1, Cohen 1, Tilbrook 1; Gibson 5 conversions and 2 penalties) defeated Ipswich 13 (Glass 1 try, Duncan, McMillan 1; Chemello 1 penalty and conversion).

1976



Wednesday March 31 (Lang Park)
 Souths (Sydney) 17 v Souths (Brisbane) 8

SAIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO SYDNEY

By Lawrie Kavanagh

AUSTRALIAN Rugby League Test forward Paul Sait led South Sydney to a 17-8 victory over Brisbane Souths from the unaccustomed position of five-eighth in last night's Amco Cup match at Lang Park.

Sait, who appeared to usurp leadership from Souths captain and Australian team-mate Gary Stevens, pulled the team out of depression early in the second half.

At that stage Brisbane Souths led 4-0 from two goals by winger Tom Gillogly, some great defence by the local boys, and some very ordinary foot-ball from the visitors.

There were only two clean breaks in the first half, and both came from South Sydney against a team weakened by several withdrawals. Souths' forward leader and Australian player Greg Ververs withdrew shortly before the match.

Creditable

It was a credit to the Brisbane team, particularly the way the pack stuck to defence in the first half.

All locals played their part in great first-half defence, but outstanding were replacement second-rower Doug Drew, new prop John Unicombe, and fullback Dale Graham.

In that dreary first half, South Sydney players greatly attributed to their own troubles in attack with little variation from a general theme of head - down - up - the middle attack.

Brisbane Souths accommodated this play with solid front-on defence, and could have held the Sydney team all night had they persisted. But from the start of the second half the match, which had been a sow's ear, turned into a silk purse, with Sait the man who waved a magic wand.

From a scrum immediately following the second half kick-off Sait made a great break to send replacement centre, Steve Little over for the first try.

From then Sait became the danger man, always commanding attention of up to three and four de-

fenders and inspiring his team when needed.

He gained great support from halfback Bob McMillan, second-rower, Stevens (who scored two tries), replacement forward David Grant, and big winger Terry Fahey.

By the end of the third quarter Sydney had established superiority with two tries to nil, although they still had a shaky hold at only 10-8 after Brisbane winger Tom Gillogly had booted four goals.

A minute before three-quarter time, following a great break by Brisbane centre John Grant, referee Ian Smith sensationally sent off Sydney lock Trevor Reardon for "manhandling the referee".

Reardon was later found guilty of the "manhandling" charge and received a severe caution.

The incident occurred when Brisbane was in the midst of a movement which could have put it ahead. Grant had shattered the defence, served a great pass to second-rower Pat Phelan.

Phelan, with flying winger, Mitch Brennan outside and only one man to beat, passed yards too soon and the ball was knocked down by a defender.

Overall it was a creditable display by a patched-up Brisbane Souths, and the hero of the side was fullback Dale Graham.

Graham was involved in this match more than any fullback has been in Brisbane this year.

In the curtain-raiser, Kedron High School beat Caboolture High 30-0 in the first round of the Amco Shield.

First scorers: Brisbane Souths 4; South Sydney 3. Scores: South Sydney 17 (G. Stevens 2, S. Little 1); Brisbane Souths 8 (T. Gillogly 4 goals).

Downs easily

TOOWOOMBA. — The home side easily beat Northern Territory 39-7 in an Amco Cup match yesterday, scoring nine tries.

Toowoomba was quick to gain the upper hand and tries started to come easily as a result of good positional play, particularly by second rower Platt, lock forward Gill, and five-eighth Smith.

TOOWOOMBA 39 (R. Crisp 2, W. Tate 2, A. Smith, M. McInnes, I. Lindsay, W. Weatherall tries, G. Arndt 4, W. Tate 2 goals) 4 NORTHERN TERRITORY 7 (R. Adams try, A. Wong 2 goals).

RYDE 28 (Tredwell, Campbell, Tullbrook, May 3 tries; S. Gibson, 7 goals) 4 IPSWICH 13 (Giles, Duncan, McMillan tries; Chelmsley 2 goals).



BRISBANE Souths Rugby League centre John Grant (right) stepped out of one tackle but was firmly held by South Sydney five-eighth, Paul Sait, during last night's Amco Cup match at Lang Park. South Sydney won 17-8. Sait was the star of the match.

1976



Wednesday April 7 (Lang Park)

Brothers 19 v Penrith 8

BROTHERS FIRE

A crushing Cup win

By Lawrie Kavanagh

BROTHERS scored a crushing 19-8, five tries to two victory, over Sydney Rugby League club Penrith in the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

It was a runaway win, but had Brothers' goalkicker, Ian Douth, been in his usual form it would have been slaughter.

Douth missed seven goal attempts well within his normal kicking range and several of them were easy.

His kicking was so bad he took himself off for the final kick in the closing stages. His replacement, Rick Willmet, missed another easy shot. Penrith, grand finalists in the Amco Cup in 1974, were dreary last night and never looked like winning against a patched Brothers side.

Take English second rower Brian Ashurst and halfback Terry Wickey out of this Sydney side and it could have been a team from Boggabilla on an end-of-the-season trip.

Brothers' pack, headed brilliantly by captain and second rower David Wright, overpowered the Sydney forwards.

Wright was my man of the match for his leadership, direction of play, his personal performance and complete involvement in the play.

But I did not disagree when Brothers' prop Noel

"Chips" Harrington won the color TV set as the player of the match.

Harrington played himself into the ground and staggered out shortly before full time suffering cramp and exhaustion.

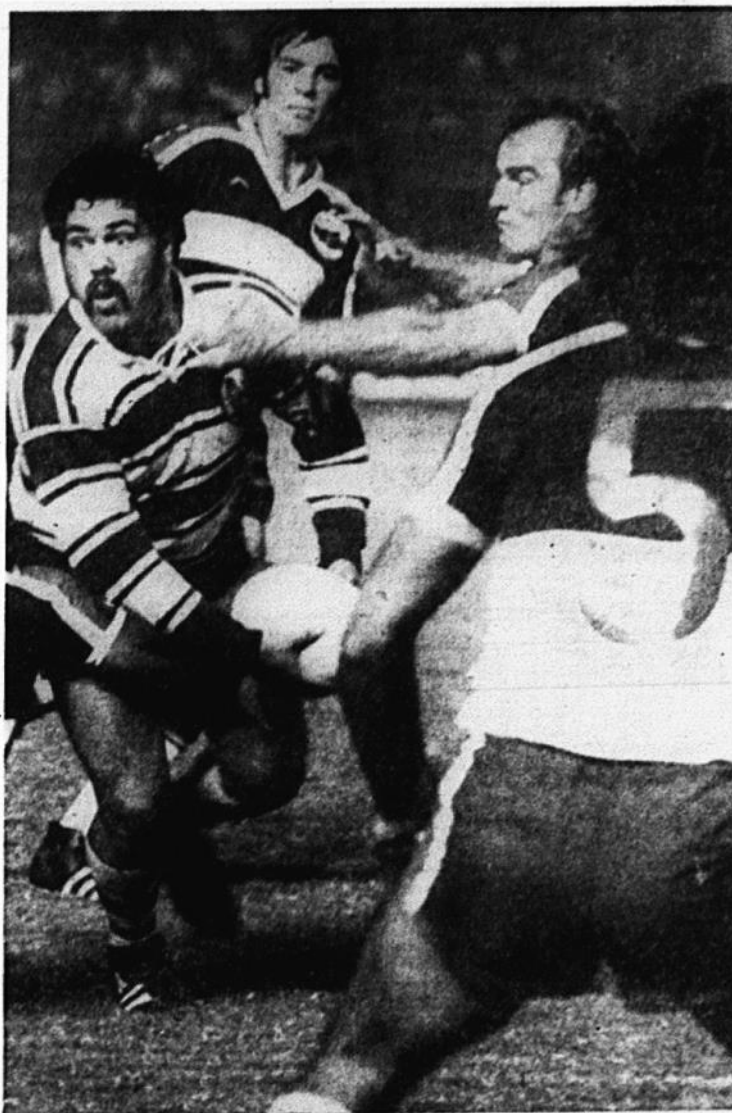
He played a leading role for half the match, softening the Penrith pack with bullocking runs in centre field.

Harrington rarely failed to bump off two and three tacklers in his early attack. He ran with such force that he had Sydney defenders holding off and opening the way for Brothers attack.

Another hero for Brothers was half back John Herlihy, who played all over his opponent.

First scorers Penrith No. 1, Brothers No. 2. **Scores:** Brothers 19 (I. Douth, J. Herlihy, J. Short, P. McKinnon, K. Harrington tries; Douth 2 goals) & Penrith 8 (W. Ashurst, V. Humphries tries; K. Wilson 2/2).

Amco Shield: Padua 28 d. Iona 7.



BROTHERS' forward Noel "Chips" Harrington gets the ball away as the Penrith defence closes in

Wednesday April 7 (Lang Park)

Canterbury (Sydney) 40 v North Queensland 0

A CANTER

Canterbury Bankstown scored one of the easiest wins seen here this season with a demoralising 40-nil victory over North Queensland.

North Queensland defence was non-existent and their all-round display was little better.

Canterbury scored ten tries and never looked in danger of having their line crossed.

FIRST SCORERS: Canterbury No. 2, North Queensland No. 12.

SCORES: Canterbury Bankstown 40 (C. Anderson 3, K. Harris, P. O'Neill, D. Moseley, P. Young, P. Castles, C. Hughes, S. McCarthy tries; Moseley 5 goals) & North Queensland: nil.

1976



Wednesday April 14 (Lang Park)
Auckland 30 v Redcliffe 5

REDCLIFFE BLITZED BY VISITORS

MISTAKES PROVE FATAL

By Lawrie Kavanagh

THE so-called amateur Rugby League players of Auckland shattered a highly professional Redcliffe team 30-5 in the Amco Cup at Long Park last night.

The Auckland team, underrated because there were many new players in the side which has been together only since Monday, swamped Redcliffe in the last three quarters.

Redcliffe looked to have a chance of staying in the game in the first quarter when hooker Bob Jones scored the only Redcliffe try from dummy half.

After that it was one long procession to the Redcliffe tryline — thanks mainly to a painful, at times disgusting, weak display by Redcliffe.

The facts are that four of Auckland's six tries came from bad passing and handling by Redcliffe.

The Kiwis could have been forgiven for thinking Christmas Day fell on April 14 at Long Park, because Santa Claus was definitely there last night.

Know-how

● In the 10th minute of the second quarter centre Fred Ah Kuoi scored a great try after second rower Kurt Sorenson made the initial break from a dropped Redcliffe pass.

● In the 20th minute of the same quarter Ah Kuoi scooped up another Redcliffe pass and scored untouchable.

● In the 34th minute of the third quarter winger Dave Lapper scored after Ah Kuoi picked up a loose Redcliffe pass.

● In the 14th minute of the last quarter Ah Kuoi scored his third try after forcing through yet another loose Redcliffe pass.

But the main fact is that Auckland had the speed, the know-how and the quick recover to capitalise on even the smallest Redcliffe mistake.

The way Redcliffe played last night Auckland had plenty to capitalise on.

Auckland's outstanding players were Sorenson, nephew of the great Kiwi Test player and coach of this side, Bill Sorenson, and centre Ah Kuoi.

This pair completely dominated the Redcliffe team in every department.

Sorenson was named player of the match and won a colour television set.

After that it was one long procession to the Redcliffe tryline — thanks mainly to a painful, at times disgusting, weak display by Redcliffe.

The facts are that four of Auckland's six tries came from bad passing and handling by Redcliffe.

The Kiwis could have been forgiven for thinking Christmas Day fell on April 14 at Long Park, because Santa Claus was definitely there last night.



REDCLIFFE second rower Chris Mason goes in knee first in a bid to halt an Auckland player during the Amco Cup match at Long Park last night. Centre Vic Tighe moves in to support. Auckland outclassed the Dolphins 30-5.

1976



Wednesday April 14 (Lang Park)
Cronulla 28 v **Toowoomba 5**

Downs never likely

SYDNEY. — A dazzling display by international centre Steve Rogers spearheaded Cronulla's lead to a 28-5 victory over Toowoomba in the Amco Cup Rugby League clash last night.

Rogers was at his devastating best in attack and left his Toowoomba opponents bemused on many occasions as side-stepped and swerved into attacking position. He scored Cronulla's sixth and final try and had a hand in three others.

Brilliant

Rogers' try was brilliant individual effort.

Not far behind Rogers was captain Greg Peck, who also scored a try and combined brilliantly with Rogers in two others.

Toowoomba was outclassed and lacked the ability and pace of Cronulla.

They scored a try at nine minutes when hooker Joel Duke barged through some weak Cronulla defence, but had to wait until the 32nd minute to score again.

Winger Barry Collins landed a penalty goal and apart from the try, the quarter, which was scoreless, Toowoomba never seemed likely to upset the sharks.

1976



Wednesday April 21 (Lang Park)
 Easts (Brisbane) 38 v Canterbury (NZ) 7

EASTS RUN RIOT WITH 10 TRIES

By Lawrie Kavanagh

BRISBANE Rugby League team of the moment, Easts, squashed New Zealand's Canterbury 38-7 in the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

The score flattered Canterbury because, in true perspective, it was 10 tries to one. Had Easts fielded a reasonably competent kicker it would have been a cricket score.

Without regular kicker Ron Clark, who is injured, Easts stand-ins Wayne Lindenberg and Neil Crausaz, combined to miss nine attempts at goal. It ended with Crausaz kicking four goals from 10 attempts and Lindenberg missing three from three.

Canterbury, the New Zealand district champions last season, were a great disappointment against a team riding high on its great win over Brisbane premiers, Wests, at Lang Park on Monday.

In fact last night's win gave Easts a score of 16 tries to three against the best teams in Brisbane and New Zealand in the last three days.

All that can be said from here is: Look out Brisbane grand finalists, Redcliffe, when you come up against Easts at Langlands Park on Sunday.

Easts' brilliance again came from the 'Tigers'

strong forward combination, spearheaded by captain-coach, Des Morris, his young brother Rod Morris and the best hooker-forward in Australia for some years, Johnny Lang.

Des Morris was always able to break the extremely brittle Canterbury defence and set up the attack as he liked.

Leader

He had his side running like a Test team with attackers able to pass almost at any time, at any angle and know that a teammate would be there.

Des Morris won the color television set as the player of the match and no one would dispute the decision.

But then Lang could well feel cheated for missing such a prize as player of the match.

The genius of Lang came through on many

occasions, but never more so than when he managed to fly up inside halfback Lindenberg and later centre Steve Farquar to score his two tries.

Lang also won scrums 15-11.

As with his big match against Wests, prop Rod Morris is forcing himself into the front line of Queensland forwards.

Easts' centre Steve Farquar again had a great match as did forward Errol Slingsby.

Fill-in five-eighth Steve Bowerman was not disgraced and while they were on the field in the

tough early stages lock John Abbott and prop Geoff Naylor were prominent.

Looking for good news in the New Zealand team was a hopeless task. Second rower Wayne Bunn tried all the way and halfback Wally Wilson deserves to be with a better team, although he was captain and maybe could take some blame for the way his team fell apart.

Test winger Mokee Brereton was completely wasted on the wing, but then he didn't seem too interested in getting into

the action except midway through the second half when he scored a typical try from a determined heavyweight winger... New Zealand's only try.

First scorers: Easts 13, Canterbury 5.
 Scores: Easts 38 (S. Farquar 2, W. Lindenberg 2, R. Morris 2, J. Lang 2, G. Naylor 2, Dargin tries; H. Crausaz 4 goals; 4 Canterbury 7 (H. Brereton try; L. Hudson 2 goals; Banya High 20 & Warrnambool 11).



ALMOST oblivious of Canterbury (New Zealand) players hanging off him, Easts Rugby League captain-coach, Des Morris, still manages to set up a pass for his supports during last night's Amco Cup match at Lang Park.

1976



Wednesday April 28 (Lang Park)
Riverina 36 v Valleys 2

Valleys turn on shocker

By Lawrie Kavanagh

**NEW SOUTH WALES district Rugby League
Riverina humbled Brisbane Valleys 36-2 in
the Amco Cup at soggy Lang Park last night.**

Both teams were patched up because of missing stars, but even at full strength, it is hard to imagine Valleys getting anywhere near the visitors.

It was a pathetic display by Valleys, matched only by Redcliffe's disaster against Auckland several weeks ago.

From early in the first quarter Riverina swarmed all over Valleys.

The only difficult thing about the match was picking the best Riverina player for the color television set.

the teams came on after half-time with Valleys trailing 2-15.

"Hey! Riverina. Give the boys a go. Don't be too hard on them!" the Diehard yelled.

Riverina replied by pouring on another 21 points to nil.

First scorers Riverina 1, Valleys 10.
SCORERS: Riverina 36 (A. Blakeney 2, G. Cooke 2, I. Teske, P. Bishop, J. Doyle, C. Scott, tries: P. Eisenhauer 8 goals) 2. Valleys 2 (I. Sommer 2).

Sparkling

Riverina fullback Alan Blakeney took the TV in a close tussle with all team-mates but particularly centre Greg Cooke and lock David Howell.

Blakeney was not involved in this match as much as his team-mates, but when he was, he was sound, and at times, sparkling.

The match was played mainly in Valleys territory, although Valleys won a fair share of scrums.

However, Valleys were tackled out of the game early by a hard-hitting bunch who continually knocked the ball loose in heavy tackles, or had Valleys attackers looking for the defence.

Riverina players ran onto the ball and backed up like Valleys might have two years ago. It is to be hoped the Queensland selectors were not watching.

The match can be put in perspective by a plaintive plea from a Valleys supporter in the Outer as

1976



Wednesday May 5 (Lang Park)

Wests (Brisbane) 17 v Norths (Brisbane) 2

WESTS WHIP INTO NEXT CUP ROUND

LIGHTWEIGHT NORTHS FINALLY WILT

By David Falkenmire

TOP Brisbane Rugby League team Wests beat lowly placed Norths 17-2 in a hard-tackling Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night.

It was a much closer match than the scores suggest although Wests never really looked like losing. Norths lacked the penetration in attack to fully test Wests' defence.

But Norths tackled like terriers to restrict Wests to only one try and a 7-2 lead until late in the third quarter.

The defence finally cracked and Wests' half-back Greg Oliphant scampered over for the first of his two tries.

Oliphant's busy, all-round display in a match which featured no real stars won him a color television set for being

named man of the match. Wests have joined two other Brisbane teams, Brothers and Easts, in

the second round of the Amco Cup.

Their next match will be against the powerful Sydney team, Manly, at Lang Park on June 9.

Last night's match drew the best crowd of the series and no one would have left the ground disappointed.

It was a lively match from start to finish and there was plenty of feeling between the two teams.

Bullocking prop Max Williamson was probably Wests' best forward, and was certainly the most destructive.

He caused havoc among the lightweight Norths forwards by repeatedly charging up the middle with three or four defenders hanging from him.

The Wests camp claims Williamson is not yet fully fit, so look out for him as the season progresses.

Bob Green, the other prop, played strongly before being forced off at three quarter time after taking a heavy knock.

Richie Twist made several exciting runs and scored Wests' first try after brushing aside a couple of tacklers and sprinting 30 metres.

Gary Prickett and Norm Carr gave their usual wholehearted displays, particularly in defence.

A worry

There were plenty of goers in Norths' team, the most prominent being the back row pair, Steve Calder and Tony Trent.

Hooker Brad O'Sullivan gave it everything and Darryl Brohman featured on occasions.

But coach Tommy Bishop must be concerned at the lack of attacking ability in his team. The sooner Bruce Warwick gets back the better.

It took Wests until the 18th minute of the first quarter to score a try and they were ahead only 5-2 at half time.

Wayne Stewart, after missing his first three shots at goal, kicked the next four.

Brohman landed one out of two for Norths.

First scorers: Wests No. 9, Norths No. 11.

Scores: Wests 17 (G. Oliphant 2, R. Twist tries; W. Stewart 4 goals); Norths 2 (D. Brohman goal). Scrums: Norths 15, Wests 15. Penalties: Wests 9, Norths 7.



NORTHS Rugby League halfback Gary Dickens (left) finds himself bottled up by Wests prop Max Williamson during the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night. West won 17-2.

1976



Wednesday May 19 (Leichhardt Oval)

Brothers 12 v Northern Division 6

Dauth's boot the winner

SYDNEY. — Goal-kicking winger Ien Dauth scored Brisbane club brothers to an uninspiring 12-6 win over Northern Division in the Amco Cup rugby league match at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Both teams scored two tries, but Dauth made the difference by landing five goals from six attempts while Northern Division tried two goal kickers without success.

Brothers missed their powerful second rower David Wright, who is on duty with the Queensland State side and although they are running second in the Brisbane competition, they failed to impress against the little-fancied Northern Division.

Northern Division lacked pace in their backs and were forced to attack through their forwards but for most of the match the straight line Brothers defence was equal to any attack.

Brothers' halfback John Herlihy, who scored his team's first try, had a sound game at the scrum base and won the man of the match award.

Dauth sealed Northern Division's fate when he punted 60 metres and evaded two would-be cover defenders to score near the posts.

Herlihy had made the initial break before passing to lock Alan Rafton who sent Dauth on his dash to the line.

Brothers 12 (Dauth, Herlihy tries, Dauth 5 goals) 6 Northern Division 6 (Glass, Cook tries).

1976



Wednesday June 9 (Lang Park)
Manly-Warringah 24 v **Wests (Brisbane) 8**

BUSHIE BURSTS INTO SPOTLIGHT

By Lawrie Kavanagh

THREE Poms and a bushie from Dubbo boosted top Sydney Rugby League club Manly-Warringah to a shattering 24-8 victory over Brisbane premiers Wests in the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

Wests were not in the race once the Sydney team got into stride late in the match.

But Wests were unlucky not to have lead at halftime after seeing Manly winger Peter Byrne, score from what appeared to be a forward pass, and minutes later have a try ruled away when Henry Williamson lost the ball over the line.

That was the bad luck for the local premiers.

But the real difference in the two free-flowing teams were Manly's three English imports, lock Steve Norton, playing his first game for Manly, halfback Gary Stephens and second rower Phil Lowe, and the surprise packet of the match, prop forward Col Parks. Norton, the fiery Englishman who was outstanding in Great Brit-

ain's tour of Australia in 1974, was brilliant in his first club match in Australia.

Wests' defence could not cope with his ability to set up teammates no matter how many defences hung from him.

Devastating

He was taken off at three-quarter time, no doubt club officials well satisfied that he should go straight into First Grade with the team in next week-end's Sydney fixtures.

His fellow countrymen Lowe and Stephens were no less devastating, particularly Stephens in one outstanding individual try late in the third quarter.

But that was to be expected from players of such vast international experience.

What was not expected was the display from the 21-year-old Dubbo unknown, Col Parks, which won him a color television set as player of the match.

Parks played a flawless game and capped it by scoring a most deserved try — one of six scored by the visitors.

His positioning in attack and defence and controlled passing were a feature of the match.

Before this match Parks was more or less an after-thought for Manly-Warringah.

Manly talent scouts were in Dubbo for their grand final last year to look at their hooker of last night, Brian Wilson.

Wilson played well enough to attract a small sprinkle of big city money and Parks, who was outstanding in that match, was also signed

up in a bargain-basement deal.

On last night's performance, Parks is headed for the top.

Sad to say no one from Wests looked headed anywhere but sideways in the last two quarters.

After their setback of the lost try, they just faded away.

But several players were worthy of mention. Halfback Greg Oliphant was once again notable for his direction of play and fullback Garry Thomas and Greg McCarthy made some crowd-pleasing breaks.

Centre Harry Cameron was tough and clever as always but lacked the speed to break the class defence.

Prop John Young made some strong runs as did second rower Henry Williamson.

But generally Wests could not match the guile and the strength which was mainly provided by three Poms and a bushie.

First scorers: Manly-Warringah 2, Wests 5.
Scores: Manly-Warringah 24 (M. Waller, T. Mooney, P. Byrne, J. Martin, G. Stephens, C. Parks) tries; Waller 3 goals) defeated Wests 8 (R. Bradshaw, G. Prickett tries; W. Stewart g). Amco Shield: Kedron High 13 d. Gunnedah High 3.



WESTS Rugby League centre Harry Cameron makes a desperate diving tackle on Manly's Alan Thompson during the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night. The Sydney-siders won 24-8.

1976



Wednesday June 30 (Leichhardt Oval)
Canterbury (Sydney) 13 v Easts (Brisbane) 7

Easts not disgraced

SYDNEY.— Cold and rain and Gary Dowling put Brisbane club Easts out of the Amco Cup Rugby League second round match at Leichhardt Oval here last night.

Easts were upset by a bitter driving wind accompanied by sleety rain, but their biggest problem was the Canterbury-Bankstown fullback Dowling, who recently returned from a long spell with a broken jaw.

Dowling led his team to a 13-7 win over Easts — certainly no disgrace for the Brisbane team.

But if one took Dowling out of this Canterbury team there was nothing between the fourth placed Sydney premiership team and Easts.

Dowling scored two brilliant tries in a match in which Canterbury scored three tries to one.

But it was not an overwhelming victory by any means.

Considering Easts had three State forwards, John Payne, and Des and Rod Morris out, it was an incredible performance by Easts.

The young Easts players went particularly well, with reserve grade replacement Kim Smith doing an outstanding job at second row once again.

Easts gave a great defensive display against a sharp attacking Canterbury team. Canterbury had most of the possession, although they lost the scrums 12-13,

through passing lapses by the Queenslanders.

East's fullback Roger Kuhn always looked dangerous in attack and defended very well.

Steve Farquhar also was outstanding and set up the try of the match.

He caught the Canterbury team flat footed with a smart, delayed pass to Kuhn, who sent winger Mick Nicolau over for Easts only try after 10 minutes.

That gave Easts a shock 5-0 lead.

But it was not long before Canterbury-Bankstown came back with an equalising try two minutes later and the score was 5-5.

Pattern

Dowling set the pattern for Canterbury when he scored two tries within ten minutes at the end of the first quarter and into the second quarter.

At half time Canterbury led 13-7 — the final score.

The Queensland team was on the defensive for much of the second half, but they held out courageously.

Outstanding forwards for Easts were second rower Kim Smith, lock John Abbott, and prop Geoff Naylor.

And in the backs Farquhar, Wayne Lindenberg and Roger Kuhn were solid.

Canterbury-Bankstown 13
(G. Dowling 2, R. Morris tries; D. Hossley 2 goals) **4**
Easts 7 (M. Nicolau try; W. Lindenberg 2 goals).

1976



AMCO CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 14 (Leichhardt Oval)

Balmain 19 v Brothers 3

Brothers sink in Cup bog

SYDNEY. — Brothers, Brisbane's last Amco Cup challengers, were eliminated by Balmain in a quarter-final last night.

Balmain won 19-3 in a match played under deplorable conditions.

Rain has fallen almost continuously in Sydney since Sunday, and there is no reason why the match could not have been switched to Lang Park.

Balmain selector, and former first grade centre Terry Parker, said: "We were all prepared for the match to be transferred to Brisbane.

"The conditions were close to the worst I have seen at Leichhardt Oval in 10 years with Balmain."

Balmain, aided by a massive 17-6 scrum advantage, overpowered Brothers, whose hooker, Greg. Keane, was playing

his first top grade match. Balmain scored five tries to one and the result was never in doubt.

Casualty

Brothers were unlucky to lose fullback Alan Power after the first quarter with a leg injury. He is unlikely to play against Valleys on Saturday.

Halfback John Herlihy was a late withdrawal. His place was taken by Shane Dyson who gave a determined display.

Balmain's evergreen second-rower Dennis Tutty stood out in defence and won the man of the match award.

He was closely pressed by rubbed prop Keith Cook, and Brothers long-striding second-rower Bob Cook.

Cook made the only clean break in the match, from which a try should have eventuated, and was always prominent.

Brothers' only points came midway through the second quarter when Keane dived over from dummy half.

Balmain led only 5-3 at half-time, but increased to 11-3 after the third quarter.

They added two more tries and a penalty goal by Russel Cox in the last quarter.

Former Brothers player Dennis Mantel, returning from a long lay-off through injury, had a good game for Balmain.

Peter McNamara and David Wright were the best for Brothers, along with Cook while the backline had little chance in the bog.

SCORES: Balmain 19 (T. Ryan 2, A. McMahon, D. Mantel, J. Shield, tries; G. Cox, K. Cook goals) v Brothers 3 (G. Keane try). **Scrum:** Balmain 17, Brothers 6; **penalties** Balmain 13, Brothers 13.

1977



SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Games involving Queensland teams)

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

March 30, 1977	Toowoomba	31	def	North Queensland	13	Toowoomba
March 30, 1977	Brothers	16	def	Wynnum-Manly	15	Lang Park
March 30, 1977	Central Queensland (Won on penalty countback)	7	def	Wide Bay	7	Rockhampton
April 6, 1977	Redcliffe	19	def	Wests (Brisbane)	10	Lang Park
April 6, 1977	Cronulla	75	def	Central Queensland	3	Leichhardt Oval
April 13, 1977	Wests (Sydney)	60	def	Norths (Brisbane)	0	Lang Park
May 4, 1977	North Coast	40	def	Ipswich	22	Ipswich
May 4, 1977	Valleys	19	def	Illawarra	10	Lang Park
May 4, 1977	Souths (Brisbane)	20	def	Canterbury (NZ)	12	Lang Park
May 25, 1977	Monaro	21	def	Easts (Brisbane)	18	Lang Park
June 1, 1977	Valleys	13	def	Brothers	9	Lang Park
June 8, 1977	Canterbury (Sydney)	25	def	Toowoomba	15	Toowoomba
June 8, 1977	Wests (Sydney)	20	def	Redcliffe	2	Leichhardt Oval
June 29, 1977	Northern Division	34	def	Souths (Brisbane)	20	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 20, 1977	Easts (Sydney)	35	def	Valleys	2	Lang Park
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Wednesday March 30 (Toowoomba) Toowoomba 31 v North Queensland 13

At Toowoomba, Queensland representative Greg Platz spear-headed Toowoomba to an impressive 31-13 win over North Queensland in an Amco Cup match.

Platz consistently broke the defence with crashing bursts and his ball distribution was a major influence in most of Toowoomba's seven tries.

Toowoomba 31 (Platz 2, Stellman 2, Robison, Lindemeyer, Green tries, Scholl 5 goals) d Nth Queensland 13 (Savuro, Quagliotto, Knott tries, Grew 2 goals)

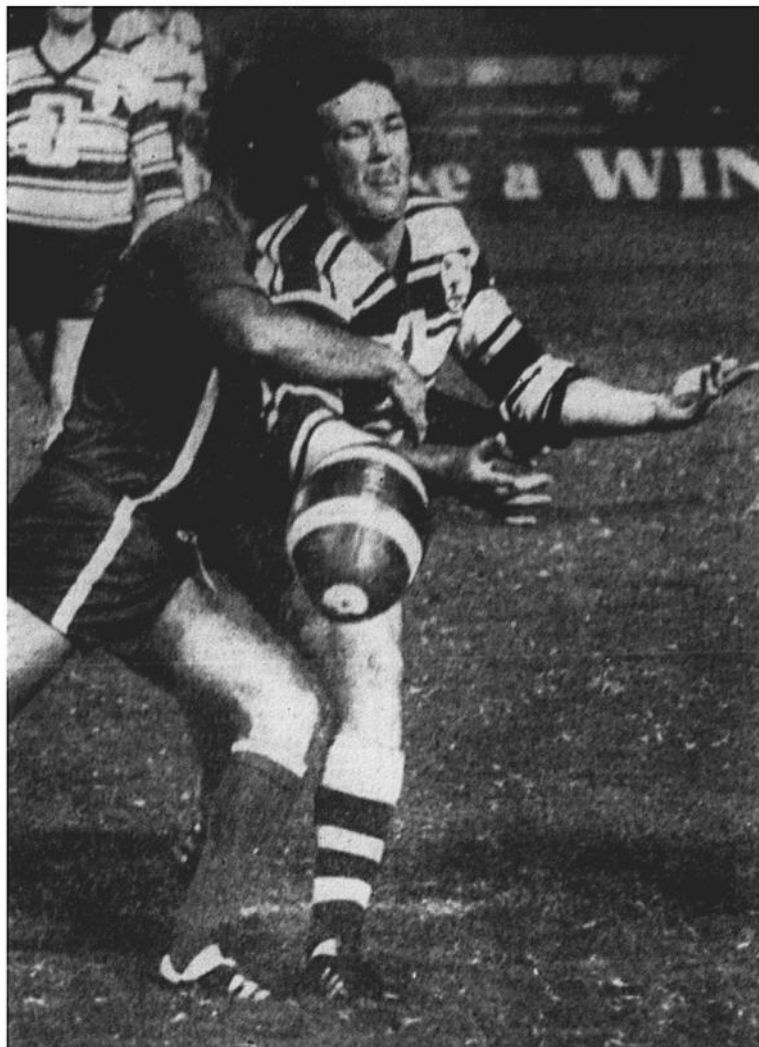
1977



Wednesday March 30 (Lang Park)

Brothers 16 v Wynnum-Manly 15

A 16-15 CUP THRILLER



Brothers tip Wynnum

By Lawrie Kavanagh

A DEVASTATING 13 points spree in six minutes during the second quarter gave Brothers a 16-15 win over Wynnum-Manly in the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night.

Brothers, spearheaded throughout by halfback Chris Ryan, but particularly in that shattering second quarter period, just clung to victory in the face of a great Wynnum-Manly comeback.

Wynnum came from down 5-16 at half time with outstanding individual play by fullback Trevor Wood, centre Greg Perrett and halfback Ernie Edwards.

But despite the Wynnum recovery they did not deserve to win.

Brothers had the better of play for the majority of the match and produced the brighter attack.

Ryan, who switched from five-eighth to halfback because of injury to three Brothers halves, was the outstanding player and deserved the color TV set he won as player of the match.

He gave his fast backs superior service, was brilliant in attack and tackled tenaciously.

Ryan is a great five-eighth, but after a display like last night he must have Brothers' selectors thinking about holding him at halfback for a while.

Because of his lightning service Brothers'

centres Mark Thomas and Paul Beauchamp and wingers Ian Dauth and Noel Russell had a field day in attack.

Dauth gathered his usual bag of points with two tries and two goals.

His tries were typical corner efforts by an old warrior being in position at the right time.

He was a bit off line in kicking, landing only two from five attempts.

Advantage

Brothers also had a big advantage in forward leader Bob Cock and new comer Mick McGuane, his second row partner.

Wynnum-Manly's forwards Neil Kingston — while he was on the field — and hooker John Dowling were hard workers.

First scorers and try scorers: Brothers: No. 2 (Ian Dauth) and Wynnum-Manly: No. 4 (Greg Perrett). **Scores:** Brothers 16 (Dauth 3, C. Ryan, M. Thomas tries; Dauth 2 goals) and Wynnum-Manly 15 (L.

Photo: J. Ogburne. G. Perrett (left); T. Wood 3 goals). Amco shield. Kedron High 22 & Wynnum North High 5.

BROTHERS fullback Alan Power gets his pass away as he is tackled from behind by a Wynnum-Manly player in last night's Amco Cup match at Lang Park. The pass was timely, as Brothers winger Ian Dauth ran off to it and scored. — Photo by Barry Pascoe.

Wednesday March 30 (Rockhampton)

Central Queensland 7 v Wide Bay 7

Central Queensland won on a penalty countback

At Rockhampton, Central Queensland won on a penalty count after drawing 7-7 with Wide Bay.

Central Queensland 7 (C. O'Brien try, J. Smith 2 goals) drew with Wide Bay 7 (B. Kennedy try, R. McRae 2 goals).

1977



Wednesday April 6 (Lang Park)
Redcliffe 19 v Wests (Brisbane) 10

Redcliffe on top again

By Lawrie Kavanagh

OUTSTANDING Redcliffe defence led to an impressive 19-10 win over Brisbane Rugby League premiers Wests in the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

Wests had every opportunity to take the match. They won scrums 18-11 and benefited from Redcliffe handling errors.

But the Dolphin defence was almost impenetrable. Redcliffe forwards were magnificent, with

big games from lock Ian Thinee, second rower Chris Mason and prop John Barber. Thinee had a typically

non-stop game and won the color television as the player of the match.

But Barber also was very impressive.

He is not the same overweight player who came from Sydney last year for what appeared to be a holiday in the sun.

Barber still was firing in the heat last night when the final whistle blew.

The surprising thing about Redcliffe defence was the way it bottled up champion fullback Greg McCarthy who beat Norths almost single-handed last Sunday.

McCarthy was completely frustrated by the tight Redcliffe pattern.

The Redcliffe team was continually put under pressure by tactical up and under kicking by five-eighth Garry Thomas.

Thomas, who had an outstanding match at five-eighth, was obviously under instruction from coach Ron Raper to follow the pattern set down by international Geoff Richardson in the last two years.

Sent off

It was no runaway win for Redcliffe — as it had been in the opening fixture when Redcliffe defeated Wests 26-0 — but it was nevertheless convincing.

There was no weak link in Redcliffe's side.

Wests' winger Wayne Stewart was sent off by referee Don Lancashire with nine minutes to go after a tackle on his opposite Ron Carver.

Stewart later appeared before the Queensland Rugby League judiciary committee charged with violent conduct in that he stiff-armed an opposing player.

He was suspended for two weeks.

First scorers: Wests No. 6, Redcliffe No. 7. First try scorers: Wests No. 3, Redcliffe No. 7.

Score: Redcliffe 19 (G. O'Connell, 1 Thinee, C. Mason tries, 1 Pearce S. Quinn), 4 Wests 10 (H. Cameron 3 tries, W. Stewart 2 goals). Amco Shield: Iona College 7 d. Caboolture High 3.



REDCLIFFE winger Craig Fenton tries to evade the tackle of Wests' Max Williamson during last night's Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park. Looming up in support are Peter Leis and Tony Obst. Redcliffe won 19-10.

Wednesday April 6 (Leichhardt Oval)
Cronulla 75 v Central Queensland 3

In Sydney, Cronulla-Sutherland thrashed Central Queensland 75-3, scoring 17 tries to one. Nobbs scored for Central.



Norths in League

shambles

A 20 x 20 Grid: (continued)
North 1st St. Avenue 12.



25

1977



Wednesday May 4 (Lang Park)
Valleys 19 v Illawarra 10

Qld. double in League

QUEENSLAND scored an unexpected Rugby League double when Valleys and Souths defeated visiting teams in the double-header at Lang Park last night.

Valleys were very impressive with their 19-10 win over Illawarra (N.S.W.) in the opening match.

But a patched up Souths team really caught the imagination with their 20-12 victory over top New Zealand side Canterbury.

The wins salvaged some League prestige for Queensland, which has suffered two shattering defeats in the Amco Cup so far this year.

A forward pack headed by props Al McInnes and Tom Duggan spearheaded Valleys to victory after poor handling had made them look a very ordinary bunch in the first quarter.

Valleys settled down in the second quarter with McInnes shattering the defence on many occasions while gaining much valuable territory for Valleys.

He was my top player of the match.

But it would be difficult to take any award away from his prop partner Duggan, who scored three tries.

It was Duggan's first try early in the second quarter that changed the tide for Valleys.

It was a try through

some weak defence, but nevertheless Duggan ran like a winger for 40 metres for the touchdown.

Duggan is normally a second rower, but he handled the prop position well, combining excellent defence with punishing attack.

Bursts

Duggan's two other tries were from short bursts but were scored with great determination and anticipation.

His three-try effort earned him the color television set for the player of the match.

McInnes notched Valleys fourth try.

Illawarra managed only two tries which they scored in the first quarter.

Valleys captain Ross Strudwick, after a shaky start, settled down to play a good captain's game.

In the centres Alan Beauchamp was outstanding in all departments.

First scorers Valleys No. 13, Illawarra No. 3.

Scores. Valleys 19 (T. Duggan 3, A. McInnes tries; J. Ribot 3 goals, R. Strudwick 1 goal) d Illawarra 10 (T. Trudgett, G. Stewart tries; P. Schofield 2 goals).

1977



Wednesday May 4 (Lang Park)

Souths (Brisbane) 20 v Canterbury (NZ) 12

Grant inspiration

FORMER World Cup player John Grant starred for Souths in their shock win over Canterbury

Grant scored the try which gave Souths the kick along they need in the third quarter when the scores were 12-all.

At that stage Souths were becoming a little ragged after leading up to that stage.

In the 16th minute of the third quarter Grant burst through half a dozen tackles over 20 metres to score a gallant try which lifted his team.

Gillogly, who scored 11 of his team's points with a try and four goals, con-

verted Grant's try and Souths led 17-12.

Souths' non stop hooker Brad Holland won the player of the match award but he must have been pushed very closely by Grant, halfback Noel Cowell, Wayne Bennett and Darryl Van De Velde.

Bennett played an inspiring game, leading much of the attack.

For Canterbury prop John Greengrass was the outstanding player with big matches from five eighth Bob Jarvis and lock Rod Walker.

First scorers Souths No. 8, Canterbury No. 5.

Scorers: Souths 20 (J. Grant, T. Gillogly, P. Phelan, M. Connell tries; Gillogly 4 goals) d. Canterbury (NZ) 12 (M. Brereton, J. Greengrass tries; M. O'Donnell, C. Leney, R. Walker goals).

Wednesday May 4 (Ipswich)

North Coast 40 v Ipswich 22

Ipswich out

IPSWICH. — North Coast NSW, brilliantly led by lock Tom Searle, scored a convincing 40-22 win over Ipswich in the first round Amco Cup rugby league clash at the North Ipswich oval last night.

North Coast NSW 40 (T. Searle 4, J. Bragg 2, A. Wood 8, Rutley, E. Fuller, K. Vidler tries; J. Bragg pen goal, 4 conversions) d. Ipswich 22 (G. Hearn, G. Walker, B. Claffy, B. Beaton tries; I. Doyles 2 pen goals, 3 conversions).

1977



Wednesday May 25 (Lang Park)

Monaro 21 v Easts (Brisbane) 18

FIGHTBACK BY EASTS FAILS

By Lawrie Kavanagh

A STIRRING comeback spearheaded by Wayne Lindenberg and Des Morris just failed to lift Easts to victory in their Amco Cup Rugby League match against New South Wales Country champions Monaro at Lang Park last night.

Monaro won 21-18 with a kick just on full time after they had led 19-18 for the last 18 minutes.

At one stage, Easts looked completely down and out when they trailed 19-7 after 12 minutes in the third quarter.

But Lindenberg, returning from injury, made some brilliant attacking runs to put Easts in try-scoring positions.

Lindenberg, although on a beaten side, won the man of the match award.

Captain coach Des Morris, after a shaky start, had his team settled down in the third quarter.

It appeared too late after Monaro had scored five tries to Easts' one to lead 19-7. Nevertheless Easts managed to score three great tries in the last 23 minutes.

RIGHT PLACE

While Lindenberg was doing a great job of putting Easts on the attack, their hooker, lightweight Trevor Smith, got himself in the right place at the right time to score two of those tries.

Easts' replacement back, Nick Nicolau, scored the third try when he ran off Morris.

Top players for Monaro were lock Olaf Pratt, second rower Steve Thompson, five eighth John Ballesty, centre Percy Knight, and fullback Peter McGrath.

Knight, a New South Wales Combined Country player, was the next best attacking player to Lindenberg on the night.

It was the combination between Knight and his winger Larry Corowa, another Combined Country player, which gave Monaro its big lead over Easts with two tries.

Knight cleverly broke the line on both occasions and ran to Corowa's wing.

In Sydney Newtown won their first match in more than two months when they beat Riverina 32-3 in a second round Amco Cup match at Leichhardt Oval.

First scorers: Easts 7, Monaro 2. First try scorers: Easts 5, Monaro 2.

Scores: Monaro 21 (L. Corowa 2, G. Thomas, M. Schell, J. Jones, tries, Thomas 2, McGrath goals) d. Eastern Suburbs 18 (T. Smith 2, M. Nicolau, S. Stacey tries, G. Holben 2, W. Lindenberg goals).

Amco Shield: Richlands High 24 d. Padua College 22.

1977



Wednesday June 1 (Lang Park)

Valleys 13 v Brothers 9

Late Rally by Valleys 13-9

By Lowrie Kovanogh

VALLEYS scrambled to a late 13-9 victory over Brothers in the Amco Cup Rugby League third round at Lang Park last night despite a shattering lack of possession.

Only in the fourth quarter when Valleys managed to win several scrums, did the Diehards climb to victory.

Overall, Valleys lost scrums 18-7. Going into the final quarter they were down 16-4 in scrums and 9-5 in points.

But in the final 20 possession Valleys made a fighting comeback, spearheaded by second rower Tom Duggan.

Duggan set up Valleys first try of that quarter in the third minute with a clever break close to Brother's line and served Alan Beauchamp who scored. Ross Strudwick converted for Valleys to lead 10-9.

Duggan's break came from the first scrum

Valleys had won in 23 minutes.

Five minutes later Duggan backed up a sharp movement and scored the try which ensured Valleys the match.

Duggan and Strudwick tied for the player of the match award but Strudwick took the color T.V. on a toss of the coin.

This was not an outstanding match as there were too many mistakes on both sides. But it did feature strong defense particularly from Brothers' hooker Barry Jensen.

Jensen was in line for the player of the match award with his tremendous hooking effort and general play, but he lost a great deal of bill when he was tackled.

Valleys now go into the

quarter final against the winner of East (Sydney) — Parramatta match.

VALLEYS 13 (A. Beauchamp, R. Milne, T. Duggan tries; J. Critch, R. Strudwick goals) 4 Brothers 9 (R. Cogan try; I. Daulton 3 goals). First scorers: Brothers No. 2, Valleys No. 12. First try scorers Valleys No. 5, Brothers No. 11.

1977



Wednesday June 8 (Leichhardt Oval)
Wests (Sydney) 20 v Redcliffe 2

20-2 thrashing for Redcliffe

SYDNEY.— Wests emphasised the difference in standards between Sydney and Brisbane club football when they easily beat top Brisbane club Redcliffe 20-2 in a third round Amco Cup match at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Wests are struggling in eighth place on the Sydney points table, while Redcliffe are outright premiership leaders in Brisbane.

The game was played in wet and greasy conditions which resulted in the ball being constantly dropped with Redcliffe the worst offenders.

Redcliffe has one of the game's fastest players, winger Brian Gardner, but he was left languishing out wide throughout the match.

Redcliffe opened the scoring in the sixth minute when their captain and centre Ian Pearce kicked an easy penalty goal.

Wests equalised three minutes later when centre Don Moseley scored from a scrum penalty 40 m out.

Five minutes after this fullback John Dorahy lofted a clever pass to his

lanky winger Russell Mullins who scored in the corner.

Eight minutes before halftime Wests scored a great team try, with winger Peter Rowles crossing under the posts after a movement sweeping 60 metres.

Four minutes later second rower Geoff Foster finished off a fine passing move to go over in the corner and give Wests a halftime lead of 13-2.

Two further goals from Moseley in the third quarter stretched Wests' lead and they scored their fourth try two minutes into the final quarter when replacement centre Gavin Miller soared above the defence to take a John Dorahy "bomb" and score. Moseley converted.

Best for Wests was their young lock, Graham O'Grady, second ro-

wer Geoff Foster and Stephen Blyth and five-eighth Ken Hey.

Second rower Forrester Grayson and was easily Redcliffe's best but he lacked support.

Lock Ian Thinee and centre Peter Leis also played well.

Wests v Redcliffe 20-2
(Wests: Foster, Mullins, Miller tries; Moseley 4 goals) & Redcliffe 2 (Pearce goal).

1977



Wednesday June 8 (Toowoomba)
Canterbury (Sydney) 25 v Toowoomba 15

Canterbury too strong

TOOWOOMBА. —
Canterbury's Mark Hughes scored a try and kicked five goals from five attempts in his side's 25-15 win over Toowoomba in the Amco Cup Rugby League match yesterday.

Canterbury scored five tries to three, and although they trailed 8-7 after the first quarter, soon found holes in the local defence.

Canterbury 25 (Pack, Keir, Anderson, Mortimer, Hughes tries, Hughes 5 goals) v Toowoomba 15 (Lindemeyer 2, Schell tries, Pardon 3 goals).

1977



Wednesday June 29 (Lang Park)
Northern Division 34 v **Souths (Brisbane) 20**

Rollicking play by Northern

By Lawrie Kavanagh

Northern Division (NSW) were untroubled to beat Souths 34-20 in the Amco Cup Rugby League third round at Lang Park last night.

Northern Division, with wins over top sides Newcastle and Auckland (NZ) in the earlier rounds of the cup, started favourites, and apart from the first few minutes, they did nothing to dispel their position.

They scored eight tries to four, and at one stage in the last quarter led 34-10.

Souths opened like champions, with a great try by fullback Mitch Brennan after six minutes.

It was an encouraging start for Souths, in which they showed great promise with sparkling attack and players running on to the ball.

But that was the last of it.

Confident

From there, Northern Division ran with great confidence and threw the ball around like an Australian team.

At one stage they were passing to the opening and there was always someone there to accept the pass.

Stars for Northern Division were centres Ashley Barnett, who scored three tries, and Ron Burgess, who scored a try and kicked five goals.

Barnett, who captained New South Wales Combined Country this year, was deservedly named Player of the Match.

In the forwards, second-rowers Gary Hinkelbien and Dennis Corrigan were always in the picture, with Hinkelbien possibly the outstanding forward.

Veteran prop Peter Jacques gave an untiring effort, belying his balding looks and his age — which he claims to be 32.

SCORES: Northern Division 34 (A. Barnett 3, R. Burgess 1, Craigie, G. Hinkelbien, D. Corrigan, P. Jacques, Brian Burgess 5 goals) v Souths 20 (M. Brennan 2, S. McGrath, C. Thornton 1, S. Turnbull 4 goals). **PICK:** **SCORES:** Northern Division No. 3, Souths No. 2 **PICK:** **TRY SCORES:** Northern Division, No. 6, Souths No. 1, Amco shield: Richards 26 v Rams 10.

1977



AMCO CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 20 (Lang Park)

Easts (Sydney) 35 v Valleys 2

Valleys crushed by Easts

By Lawrie Kavanagh

SYDNEY EASTS outclassed Brisbane Valleys 35 - 2 in the Amco Cup Rugby League quarter final at Lang Park last night.

Valleys seemed overawed by the Sydneysiders and presented the visitors with several tries through ridiculous passes and at times weak defence.

Easts were not as impressive as their huge score suggests, but there were several outstanding performances.

Lock forward Bob Laurie was my man of the match for his great attack and equally good defence.

But he was narrowly beaten for the television set award by his halfback Kevin Hastings.

There were some outstanding games from Valleys players, with centre Alan Beauchamp and second rowers Tom Duggan and Bruce Cameron the pick.

Valleys were unlucky to lose hooker Mark Hirst early and it was not surprising that they were beaten 18-11 in the scrums.

However, it was Easts' night.

SLICK PROFESSIONALS

It was the old story of a slick team of professionals playing a team of week-end footballers.

Easts winger Ian Schubert gave a great display of attacking football, especially in the first half.

He seemed to be keen to give the surprisingly good night crowd their money's worth.

Russell Fairfax and Bob Fulton took things easy, which is understandable in a match which was expected to go the way it went.

One of Easts top forwards, David Grant, also attacked well.

Artie Beetson only came on the field in a token appearance in the last quarter, and was not called on to have more than a training run.

In the dressing room after the match Beetson said it was difficult to criticise such a convincing win.

But he said several lapses in handling had cost at least two more tries.

"We can play a lot tighter," Beetson said.

Easts now meet Penrith in two weeks in the semi-finals.

SCORES: Easts 35 (W. Mullins 2, I. Schubert, K. Stevens, K. Hastings, A. Laurie, R. Aylliffe tries; Stevens 7 goals) and Valleys 2 (R. Strudwick goal).

First scorers: Easts No. 2, Valley No. 7. **First try scorers:** Easts No. 2, Valleys No. 12.

Amco Shield, quarter final: Farrer High (NSW) 18 d Richlands High 7.

1978



SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Games involving Queensland teams)

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

March 26, 1978	Toowoomba	22	def	Ipswich	12	Ipswich
March 30, 1978	Gold Coast	18	def	North Queensland	16	Gold Coast
March 30, 1978	Newtown	49	def	Brothers	0	Leichhardt Oval
March 30, 1978	Wests (Brisbane) (Won on penalty countback)	8	def	Wynnum-Manly	8	Lang Park
April 5, 1978	Souths (Brisbane)	10	def	Gold Coast	4	Gold Coast
April 5, 1978	Illawarra	35	def	Valleys	7	Lang Park
April 5, 1978	Wide Bay	12	def	Central Queensland	3	Maryborough
April 12, 1978	Riverina	43	def	Wide Bay	4	Griffith
April 19, 1978	Wests (Sydney)	25	def	Souths (Brisbane)	5	Leichhardt Oval
April 26, 1978	Wests (Brisbane)	4	def	Redcliffe	3	Lang Park
May 24, 1978	North Coast	22	def	Toowoomba	13	Lismore
May 24, 1978	Illawarra	44	def	Norths (Brisbane)	5	Wollongong
June 7, 1978	Parramatta	28	def	Wests (Brisbane)	0	Leichhardt Oval
July 5, 1978	Easts (Brisbane)	27	def	Norths (Sydney)	6	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 19, 1978	Manly-Warringah	27	def	Easts (Brisbane)	10	Lang Park
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Sunday March 26 (Ipswich) Toowoomba 22 v Ipswich 12

TMBA WITHSTANDS IPSWICH CHALLENGE

John McDonald's Toowoomba Rugby League side had to withstand a strong second-half challenge before defeating Ipswich by 22 points to 12 in the opening Fourx-Amco Cup match at Ipswich yesterday.

After leading by 15 points to 2 at the half-time break Toowoomba looked set for an easy victory.

However Ipswich coach and former State forward Jim Foreman had different ideas.

Foreman sacked his entire front-row during the break. The three new players—Shane McNally, Hugh O'Doherty and Les Haden—sparked the Ipswich side into action.

After 13 minutes play in the second-half Ipswich

were only three points behind. Tries by winger Neil Booksedge and Haden which were both converted by McNally, put Ipswich within striking distance.

However Toowoomba stuck to their task and here in the match they were once again the better side.

Jim Foreman said after the match, "Toowoomba didn't win, we lost it in the first half when our forwards gave a pathetic display".

Foreman also blamed the cancellation of a pre-season trial against Warwick for his side's defeat. "If we had had that match under our belt today would have been a different story", he said.

Foreman was right on target. It was a pathetic display by the Ipswich side in the first-half. Garry Sutton, Peter Connell, Rowan Hancock and captain Greg Platz were quick to size up the situation.

Sutton and Connell made numerous raids deep into Ipswich territory. But possession also had a lot to do with Toowoomba's first-half display.

WON SCRUMS

Graham McDermid dominated scrums 8-2.

Hallmark Greg Robison was the local side's outstanding player. Robison was the brains behind the Toowoomba attack.

His clever switches of play and his great understanding with his back-row forwards continually baffled the opposition.

Robison was always on hand to back up the player in possession or dive on the loose ball. He was rewarded with two tries.

Robison's first try came after Connell had put Platz through a gap close to the line.

Platz was held up a metre out. He dropped the ball and Robison scooped it up and dived over.

Robison's second try came from backing up. Centre Alan Smith found Robison backing up inside when he was held in a tackle 16 metres out.

Five-eighths Terry Arnold scored Toowoomba's other first-half try.

Prop forward Garry Sutton paved the way for this try.

Sutton burst through the defence and gained 40 metres before he was caught. From the ensuing ruck Toowoomba fed winger Ron Briskey who took play to within metres of the line. From this ruck Arnold bulldozed his way through several would-be tacklers to score in a handy position.

BIG MATCHES

Willie Weatherall and Rose Stallman also had big matches for Toowoomba.

Weatherall enjoyed the overwhelming supply of possession and spent much of the match in the backline.

Stallman only made one glaring error. He sent a pass off the ground after making a fine break which would have put Toowoomba in a strong attacking position.

Newcomer Des Ride also made his presence felt with some good breaks in the second-half.

BEST PLAYER

Captain Steve Crear was Ipswich's best player. After a nightmare first session in which he received little support, Crear lifted his game during the second-half.

The absence of Peter Connell during the second-half also allowed Crear more latitude.

Connell gave Crear some special attention while he was on the field and it was apparent that this affected Crear's performance.

However, Crear enjoyed the second-half. He had forwards running both sides of him and he continually put players through the gap with clever passes.

Second-power and prop-forward in the second-half Robin Burgess also gave a strong display for Ipswich.

Scrum-favoured Toowoomba 17-9 and penalties went Toowoomba's way 10-8.

SCORES

Toowoomba 22 (tries by Robison 2, Arnold and Booksedge; R. Stallman 5 goals); Ipswich 12 (tries by Haden and Booksedge; McNally 2 goals, Pickering 1 goal).

1978



Thursday March 30 (Gold Coast)
Gold Coast 18 v North Queensland 16

Dauth, Cock Coast stars

FORMER Brothers players Ian Dauth and Bob Cock scored all Gold Coast's points in their thrilling 18-16 Amco Cup win over North Queensland at Owen Park last night.

Dauth booted six goals and Cock scored two tries.

However, Cock, was later found to have a broken bone in a hand and will miss Gold Coast's second match against Brisbane Souths.

The locals led 14-2 at halftime.

Gold Coast went to an early lead when Dauth kicked two goals and when former State player Bob Cock went over for a try, they held a 7-2 advantage at the first change.

In the second quarter, the Gold Coast side went further ahead despite North Queensland supremacy in the scrums

when Cock scored his second try just before the siren. Dauth kicked the goal.

Shortly after half-time Kevin Boustead swooped on a dropped pass and easily stepped around Mark Farrelly to score North Queensland's first try.

John Drew converted and the score looked healthier at 14-7.

Gold Coast 18 (R. Cock 2 tries: I. Dauth 6 goals) d. North Queensland 16 (K. Boustead, M. Balderson tries: John Drew 5 goals).



It's on for young and old in the Amco Cup match between Gold Coast and North Queensland recently. Gold Coast won the match narrowly but we don't know how they fared in the fight...

1978



Thursday March 30 (Leichhardt Oval)
Newtown 49 v Brothers 0

JETS TOUCH DOWN 11

In Sydney, three tries by captain Barry Wood paved the way for Newtown's 49-0 annihilation of Brisbane Brothers at Leichhardt Oval.

Wood won the Man of the Match award, but was closely pressed by teenage fullback Phil Sigsworth, who tallied 20 points from two tries and

seven goals from as many attempts.

This match could have answered one of Newtown's problems — goal-kicking.

Before trying Sigsworth last night, former Queensland representative lock John Ribot was successful with only one goal from five attempts.

Newtown opened the scoring in the sixth minute when Wood touched down near the posts after a good solo effort from 20 metres.

Ribot converted the try, and the Jets led 5-0 at quarter time.

Bad handling by the Jets limited them to only one try in the second quarter, scored by Sigsworth after only four minutes and they led 8-0 at halftime.

Aided by a glut of scrum possession from hooker Barry Jensen, ironically a former Brothers player, the Jets ran riot in the last two quarters and piled on nine tries and seven goals.

Newtown 49 (Wood 3, Sigsworth, Hetherington 2, Walters, Bowden, Pilon, Ribot tries; Sigsworth 7, Ribot goals) d. Brothers 0.

1978



Thursday March 30 (Lang Park)

Wests (Brisbane) 8 v Wynnum Manly 8

Wests won on a penalty countback

Penalties count against Wynnum

By Lawrie Kavanagh

A COUNTBACK of penalties decided Brisbane's opening Amco Cup Rugby League match when Wests beat Wynnum-Manly at Lang Park last night.

The match was drawn 8 all after both teams scored two tries.

But under the rules of the Amco Cup a drawn match is decided on the penalty count.

Wynnum was penalised five times and Wests three.

This says a great deal for the refereeing of Toowoomba's M. Merchant.

He kept the game flowing in fine style, and hopefully will be seen again at Lang Park.

Wynnum's hero was centre Greg Perrett, who scored both his team's tries with shattering acceleration.

Perrett won a television set as Man of the Match but was closely pressed by Wests' five-eighth Wayne Carr.

Carr was always in the thick of the match and deserved to be on the winning team.

He scored one of Wests two tries.

His brother Norm had several great patches from lock.

Wests fullback Rod Sellers had another outstanding game but faded in the closing stages.

Wynnum-Manly hooker John Dowling won an overwhelming majority of scrums to keep Wynnum in the game.

Wests 8 (W. Carr, G. Perrett tries; P. Vaulin goal) d Wynnum-Manly 8 (G. Perrett 2 tries, R. Orchard goal) on penalty countback.

First scorers: Wests 6, Wynnum-Manly 4.
Amco Shield: Kelvin Grove State High 18 d Banyo 3.



WYNNUM-MANLY prop Bernie Ernst attempts to step through a grounded Wests tackler during the Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park last night. Wests won on a penalty countback after the match had been drawn 8-8.

1978



Wednesday April 5 (Gold Coast)
Souths (Brisbane) 10 v Gold Coast 4

Souths up on whistle

SURFERS' PARADISE. — Brisbane's Souths won through to the third round of the Amco Cup last night with a cliff-hanging 10-4 victory over Gold Coast at Owen Park, Southport.

But the score was by no means an indication of the game with Souths not sealing the win until the final seconds.

They led 5-4 with a minute to go, but wrapped it up when Bruce Astill took a perfect pass from skipper Grez Veivers to score beside the posts as the final hooter sounded.

Tom Gillogly booted the conversion to make the final score 10-4.

There was nothing in the match throughout with the young Gold Coast side throwing everything at their experienced opponents right from the start.

Souths led two-nil at quarter time after a penalty goal by Tom Gillogly.

They increased their lead to 5-4 at half-time after a see-saw battle which produced fiery clashes between forward packs.

There was no score in the third quarter and midway through the final quarter Gold Coast looked certain to advance to the third Amco Cup round when they pounded the Souths line for 10 solid minutes.

But the Brisbane side's defence held and right on the final whistle they sewed up the match with the final converted try.

Souths now go to meet last year's Amco Cup winners, Western Suburbs Sydney, in New South Wales next week.

Souths 10 (Phelan, Astill, tries; Gillogly 2 goals) v Gold Coast 4 (Dault two goals).

1978



Wednesday April 5 (Lang Park)

Illawarra 35 v Valleys 7

Bishop stirs, Valleys whipped

By Lowrie Kavanagh

ILLAWARRA, stirred on by coach Tommy Bishop, out-classed Brisbane Valleys 35-7 in their Amco Cup Rugby League clash at Lang Park last night.

Valleys were not in the race after Illawarra went to a 27-2 half-time lead.

Despite the big lead, Bishop, the former Great Britain Test half, and Brisbane Norths captain-coach harangued his players throughout.

During the quarter breaks he could be seen and heard stirring on his players.

Certainly he presented a well-drilled and precise combination.

Valleys were not in the same class.

There were plenty of triers for the Diehards, but they could not match Illawarra man-for-man.

One of Valleys' hardest workers was halfback Ross Strudwick, but two of his short kicks in the first quarter led to Illawarra's first two tries.

It was a disappointing start for Strudwick and Valleys.

Valleys hooker Wayne Barr was taken to hospital by ambulance when he suffered a neck injury

in a collision with teammate Strudwick during the third quarter.

Barr had X-rays taken at Mater Hospital late last night, but no further details were available.

Illawarra scored seven tries and kept their line intact until nine minutes from the end when Valleys' replacement player Wayne Lewis scored.

Although Illawarra defended well, Valleys did not show a great deal in attack.

And one of their set moves involving a flat cross field run by the ball carrier in front of the backs should be dropped immediately.

It was tried twice last night with disastrous results.

Overall, it was a dismal performance by Valleys against a superior team.

Illawarra's speedy full-back Brian Johnson won the player-of-the-match award, obviously for his early work when he cut Valley's defence to pieces.

But a more deserving player for this award would have been second rower Peter Wynn, or five-eighth Neil Davis.

First scorers: Illawarra Ho. 7, Valleys Ho. 7, Illawarra 38 (P. Wynn 2, B. Johnson, A. Sheppard, J. Penn, S. Morris, D. Coall triers; R. Hennessey 7 goals); 2 Valleys 7 (W. Lewis 1 try; R. Strudwick 2 goals).
Amco Shield: Iona College 10 d Aspley High 10 (on countback of penalties).



AN anxious Valleys Rugby League club president Dr. Tom Dooley (left) supports hooker Wayne Barr after he was injured in a collision with a teammate during the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night. Illawarra won 35-7.



TOMMY BISHOP looking on at Lang Park last night.

Wednesday April 5 (Maryborough)

Wide Bay 12 v Central Queensland 3

Wide Bay win

MARYBOROUGH — Wide Bay beat Central Queensland 12-3 in the Amco Cup match played here last night.

Wednesday April 12 (Griffith)

Riverina 43 v Wide Bay 4

WIDE BAY CRASH

SYDNEY. — Riverina over-ran Wide Bay in the Amco Cup Rugby League competition at Griffith last night.

Riverina ran in nine tries in their 43-4 romp. R. McRae landed two goals for Wide Bay.

1978



Wednesday April 19 (Leichhardt Oval)
Wests (Sydney) 25 v Souths (Brisbane) 5

Cup holders too slick for Souths

SYDNEY. — Brisbane joint competition leaders Souths, after a staunch half hour's play, wilted under sustained pressure from Amco Cup holders Wests to go down 25-5 at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Wests had too much experience and skill for the Brisbane side.

Wests' captain and international halfback Tom Raudonikis was voted man-of-the-match, but Wests' second rower Geoff Foster pushed him close.

Other players to stand out were Wests lock Graeme O'Grady and Souths' lock John Grant.

Souths took the lead in the first quarter through a long distance penalty by winger Tom Gillogly and the score remained at 2-0 to Souths at the first break.

But Wests' inside backs began to provide overlaps for their wingers and Souths could not hold up under the pressure.

Wests scored two tries in the second quarter, the first by winger Don Moseley following clever lead-up by centre Ron Giteau. Giteau also made the second try for Wests' other winger, Wayne Smith, with a well placed short kick.

learned a lot from the match and he will be looking to coach Wayne Bennett to show him again where he should run.

Souths' captain Greg Veivers was, for the most part, more a director than a player and came to life with some fire only in the last quarter.

Wests 25 (D. Moseley, W. Smith, T. Raudonikis, G. O'Grady, M. Liubinskis tries; P. Rowles 5 goals) d. Souths (Brisbane) 5 (B. Turnbull try; T. Gillogly goal).

This weekend's Brisbane Rugby League matches are — Saturday, Bishop Park: Norths v Wynnum-Manly (E. Ward). Sunday, Lang Park: Wests v Souths (I. Smith); Redcliffe Showground: Redcliffe v Brothers (W. McKenny); Tuesday (Anzac Day), Lang Park: Easts v Valleys (H. Dearness).

Intercept

Souths' only try came from an intercept by right winger Brian Turnbull, who raced 45 metres to score near the corner flag in a tackle.

Souths were strongest in the forwards, but generally did not have the overall skills to match Wests.

Lock Grant was Souths' best player. Youngsters Bob Kellaway and David Brown stood up to a good deal of buffeting and never backed away.

Pat Phelan must have

1978



Wednesday April 26 (Lang Park)

Wests (Brisbane) 4 v Redcliffe 3

Redcliffe's tale of woe

By Lawrie Kavanagh

WESTS downed Redcliffe 4-3 in a shabby Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park last night.

Favourites Redcliffe made far too many mistakes to win, although they had the better of play late in the match.

In the last 15 minutes Redcliffe crossed Wests' line twice.

Darryl Van de Velde went over with 14 minutes to go but the try was ruled away by referee Eddie Ward for a double movement. It was a close decision.

With three minutes to go Redcliffe centre Tony Obst hit the corner post as he dived over for what

appeared to be a fine corner try.

That too was ruled away.

Added to this, Redcliffe's usually reliable goal kicker and captain, Ian Pearce, missed five goals from five attempts.

Redcliffe also were heavily penalised 16-5 but they took the scrums 18-9.

The only try of the match came from Redcliffe prop forward Dave Moffett, in the 15th minute after a good run by Van de Velde.

The television set for man-of-the-match deservedly went to Moffett.

Scores: Wests 4 (P. Vautin 2 goals) d. Redcliffe 3 (D. Moffett try). First scorers: Redcliffe 13 Wests 9. Amco Shield: St. Edmunds 18 d. Miami High 5.

Star

Moffett was one of the game's stars, with an outstanding display of tackling.

Redcliffe picked up \$3000 for the loss. Wests go on to meet Sydney club Parramatta. The losers of that match will collect \$4500.

Wests' points came from two goals by forward Paul Vautin.

1978



Wednesday May 24 (Lismore)
North Coast 22 v Toowoomba 13

TMBA DOWN IN CUP

LISMORE.— Former international John Brass led N.S.W. North Coast to a convincing 22-13 win over Toowoomba in an Amco Cup match here last night.

Toowoomba allowed Brass to dominate the first quarter. His long-raking line kicks and up-and-unders kept Toowoomba under pressure for the opening 20 minutes and North Coast went to an early nine-nil lead.

They increased their lead in the second quarter with a good try by winger Terry Mullins and led 12-nil at half-time.

Toowoomba's play up to this point had been disappointing. Their handling was poor and they rarely held the ball for six tackles.

Willie Weatherall crossed for Toowoomba's first try in the third quarter after lock forward Ian Bliss sent a well-timed pass to winger Ray Murphy who sprinted to the fullback and found Weatherall in support.

North Coast replied with another try by half-back Peter Mann. Brass converted and kicked a further penalty for North Coast to lead by 19 points to three at the end of the third quarter.

Toowoomba came back in the final quarter with

tries by centre Trevor Dunnemann and Weatherall.

Winger Murphy was once again instrumental in Weatherall's second try.

However, North Coast were not to be outdone and former international prop forward Jim Murphy set the backline in motion with a beautiful long pass and winger Steve Piper

scored in the corner.

Best players for North Coast were Brass, second rowers John Elford and Craig Brodie, prop Garry McQuillan, centre Tony McCartney and half-back Peter Mann.

Mann won the Player of the Match award.

Five-eighth Terry Arnold, second rowers Dennis Ride and Peter Con-

nell and winger Ray Murphy were the pick for Toowoomba.

Murphy only received the ball cleanly three times and twice the movements resulted in tries.

North Coast 22 (tries by Piper 2, Mullins and Mann, Brass five goals) defeated Toowoomba 13 (Weatherall 2, Dunnemann 1 and Stallman 2 goals).

1978



Wednesday May 24 (Leichhardt Oval)
Parramatta 28 v Wests (Brisbane) 0

Wests down in Cup

SYDNEY. — Parramatta downed Brisbane Wests 28-0 in the Amco Cup Rugby League match at Leichhardt Oval last night.

But Wests, who share the lead in the Brisbane premiership with Redcliffe picked up \$4500 for the loss.

It was their third Amco Cup match this year, and their first loss.

Wests were by no means disgraced although they failed to score while Parramatta ran in six tries.

But a break or two in the first quarter may have put Wests in a better position.

Wests had much the better of the first quarter, despite a scrum deficiency of 7-2 and running into a strong wind.

There were two clear breaks by Wests in that scoreless first term which narrowly missed tries.

Fullback Greg M'Carthy made one glorious break which was only an ankle tap away from the first try of the match.

In another, halves Kim Douglas and Wayne Carr combined for a long, clear break only to be brought down by the defence.

In yet another charge, Douglas dived over the line after a scrum, but was called back by the referee Garry Cook who ruled a penalty to Wests.

Even well into the second quarter Wests were

well in the match, frustrating Parramatta with excellent defence.

But when they failed to score from promising moves, their outstanding effort began to erode, and at half-time Parramatta led 8-0.

Best for Wests were M'Carthy, Carr, Douglas, Paul Vautin, Gary Prickett and Henry Williamson.

Man of the match was Parramatta lock Ray Price, although he must have been pushed closely by centre Ed Sulcowicz and prop John Mann.

First scorers: Parramatta 7, Wests 12.
SCORES: Parramatta 28 (John Koic 2, Ron Hildich, Ray Price, Geoff Murray, Paul Mann tries; Ed Sulcowicz 5 goals) d Wests 0.

Wednesday May 24 (Wollongong)
Illawarra 44 v Norths (Brisbane) 5

Norths beaten

WOLLONGONG. — Brisbane Norths were trounced 44-5 by Illawarra in the Amco Cup match here yesterday.

Country Firsts fullback Brian Johnson cut Norths to ribbons in the second half and finished with a hat-trick of tries.

Illawarra ran riot through Norths' thin defence scoring 10 tries to one. They led 18-2 at half time.

In Sydney last night Auckland defeated Riverina 39-3 in round four of the Amco Cup.

The full New Zealand touring team begin their 16-match Australian tour on Saturday week at Newcastle and 10 of this team were on show with the Auckland side last night.

1978



Wednesday July 5 (Lang Park)
Easts (Brisbane) 27 v Norths (Sydney) 6

Easts keep Cup alive

By Lawrie Kavanagh

BRISBANE Rugby League premiers Easts scored a convincing 27-6 win over North Sydney in the fourth round of the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

It was a rare victory for a Brisbane club over Sydney in the series, but it was as convincing as all those losses.

Any of four Easts players could have won the Man of the Match.

The award went to Wayne Lindenberg, whose attacking brilliance slashed the Sydney defence almost at will.

Lindenberg scored a try, kicked six goals, and set up at least two of Easts' other four tries.

If there were any Sydney talent scouts on hand they would have had open cheque books for the Brisbane half-back.

But he was very closely pushed for the award by Test reject John Lang.

who surprisingly narrowly won the scrums 11-10 over Bruce Foy.

Outstanding

Lang was outstanding in forward play.

Also vying for the outstanding player award were lock John Abbott and second rower Des Morris.

In the backs, centres Mark Payne and Frank Roddy overshadowed their Sydney counterparts.

The win assures Easts of \$6000 prize money; it would have been \$1500 had they lost.

There could be more in it for Easts if they get through their quarter-final — but they meet leading Sydney club Manly-Warringah.

Critics will say North Sydney is only second last in the local competition, but it is well to remember Norths have been beaten by only a few points by Sydney's leading teams this year.

First scorers: Easts No. 11, Norths No. 2. First try scorers: Easts No. 11, Norths No. 2.

SCORES: Easts 27 (B. Backer, M. Payne, J. Callan, W. Lindenberg, R. Morris tries; Lindenberg 6 goals); North Sydney 6 (T. Craig, J. Adams tries).

AMCO SHIELD: Warwick High 27, Kedron High 10.

Run ends

In Sydney, Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) stopped Illawarra's unbeaten run this year with a solid 12-2 win over the country champions in the first quarter-final at Leichhardt Oval.

Illawarra who had strung together nine wins this year held their experienced opponents to 2-2 until the end of the first quarter, but cracked in the final 20 minutes.

Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) 12 (O'Reilly, Morris tries; Fairfax 3 goals); Illawarra 2 (Mannisker goal).



EASTS Rugby League centre Frank Roddy grimaces as he runs into a high tackle from North Sydney wing John Adams in the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night. At right is North Sydney halfback Paul Keogh. Easts won 27-6.

1978



AMCO CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 19 (Lang Park)
Manly-Warringah 27 v Easts (Brisbane) 10

Early tries end Easts' Cup bid

TOP Sydney Rugby League side Manly-Warringah had to rely on an early scoring spree to down Brisbane Easts 27-10 in an Amco Cup quarter-final at Lang Park last night.

Easts turned in a spirited second-half defensive effort and had Manly struggling to repeat the breaks they created in the first two quarters.



MANLY captain John Gray finds himself sandwiched in a tackle from two Easts players during last night's Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park. Manly won 27-10.

With a glut of possession, Manly went to a 12-0 lead six minutes into the second quarter, but from there Easts almost matched them.

It was Manly's speedy backs who set up their win, although Test prop Ian Thomson did tremendous work in the rucks.

Brilliant fullback — come — halfback Johnny Gibbs was at his mercurial best and repeatedly made inroads into Easts' defence.

Gibbs, who scored a fine solo try late in the game, justifiably won the man-of-the-match award.

Lively centre Alan

Thompson always looked dangerous.

Easts' two tries came from "bombs" — one put up by halfback Wayne Lindenberg and the other by hooker Johnny Lang.

Unknown Manly third grade hooker Greg Cross took the first six scrums from Test rake Lang and finished the match with a 18-11 advantage.

But Lang had two second grade second rowers, Bob Arnold and Luciano Nobile, as props.

Manly led 8-0 in the first quarter after two tries from lock forward Bruce Walker, a former Easts' junior.

Walker stepped from

the base of a scrum and strolled five metres to score the first.

Winger John Callus scored Easts' first try when he regathered a fumbled ball after Lindenberg's perfectly placed bomb.

Smith scores

Seventeen minutes into the third quarter five eighth Russell Smith grabbed the ball from Lang's up-and-under after it had again been fumbled by two Manly players.

Players to go well for Easts were Smith, Callus, second rowers John Abbott and Des Morris and fullback Roger Kuhn, who was forced to make too many tackles when his forwards failed in defence.

First scorers: Manly No. 8, Easts No. 5. First try scorers: Manly No. 8, Easts No. 5.

Scorers: Manly-Warringah 27 (B. Walker 2, J. Gibbs, T. Mooney, A. Thompson tries; J. Gray 5, C. Montgomery goals) 4. Easts 10 (J. Callus, R. Smith tries; W. Lindenberg 2 goals).



1979



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 16, 1979	Queensland Country	16	def	Newtown	14	Lang Park
June 21, 1979	Queensland Country	12	def	Norths (Sydney)	5	Lang Park
July 4, 1979	Queensland Country	18	def	Parramatta	9	Lang Park
May 2, 1979	Brisbane	13	def	St. George	10	Lang Park
June 27, 1979	Brisbane	13	def	Manly-Warringah	10	Leichhardt Oval
July 25, 1979	Brisbane	17	def	Easts (Sydney)	8	Lang Park

SEMI FINAL

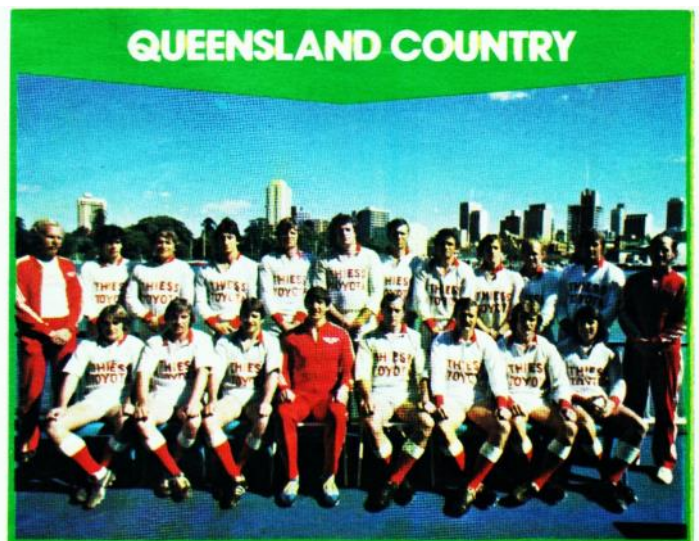
August 8, 1979	Brisbane	8	def	Queensland Country	5	Lang Park
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FINAL

August 15, 1979	Cronulla	22	def	Brisbane	5	Leichhardt Oval
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The pride of Queensland Rugby League – the Combined Brisbane team that contested the Amco Cup final against Cronulla last night (Wednesday) at Leichhardt Oval. BACK ROW: H. Long (manager), C. Close, R. Brown, D. Morris, V. Wieland, G. Quinn, P. McWhirter, J. McLeod, S. Bernardin, P. Dutton, B. Davidson. FRONT: H. Holloway (coach), W. Lindenberg, J. Lang, N. Carr, B. Backer, W. Lewis, M. Payne, R. Strudwick.



The gutsy Queensland Country team that almost pulled off the shock of the century by making the final of the Amco Cup this season. Country accounted for three Sydney first grade teams in their preliminary Cup rounds but fell in a semi-final to Combined Brisbane at Lang Park last week. BACK ROW: W. Warner (manager), R. Gallagher, R. Hancock, L. Cullen, K. McKenna, P. McNamara, P. Campbell, C. Scott, J. Hoffman, P. Apps, G. Moroko, R. Rowe (manager). FRONT ROW: L. Braggins, R. Stallman, A. Smith, J. McDonald (coach), G. Platz (captain), I. Dauth, T. Duneman, R. Kelly.

1979



Wednesday May 16 (Lang Park)

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 16 v NEWTOWN 14

COUNTRY DID IT THE HARD WAY

By Barry Dick

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY took over from where Brisbane left off with a rousing 16-14 win over Sydney club Newtown in the Amco Cup at Lang Park last night.

In front of a disappointingly small but vocal crowd, Country turned in a magnificent third quarter effort to overcome a 6-12 half-time deficit.

The win was a great tonic for Country who last Sunday lost 9-30 to Brisbane and for coach John McDonald who next week will be in charge of the Queensland team for the first interstate clash with New South Wales.

And country did it the hard way, tackling themselves into the ground in the last quarter when Newtown had all the possession.

In the final 20 minutes the Sydneysiders won scrums 6-1 (overall 16-9) and were awarded penalties 5-1 (12-8) and yet they could not score a point.

Ironically it was veteran skipper Ken Wilson who scored all of Newtown's points with two

tries and four goals who muffed a chance of drawing the game.

With four minutes remaining Wilson had a relatively easy kick for goal but put his attempt well out to the left of the uprights.

The first half of the game was fairly uninteresting with neither side showing much flair in attack.

Wilson provided the only excitement in the first two quarters with two tries, the first, three minutes before the first break and the second, two minutes from half-time.

Individual

Both were individual efforts and both should have been stopped by Country.

The game really came to life eight minutes into the third quarter when Country centre Ross Stallman touched down wide out after a good backline movement.

For a moment it looked as though Stallman had bombed the try when he ignored his unmarked winger and went on his own.

But the try of the match came two minutes before three-quarter time after a brilliant piece of work by Country prop Peter McNamara.

McNamara stood up in a tackle and slipped a sensational short pass to lively little halfback Larry Briggishaw who scampered 40 metres to score under the posts.

Ipswich five-eighth

Ray Kelly won the Man of the Match award from last night's Amco Cup game.

Kelly, included in the Queensland Country side after Country lost to City on Sunday, won a \$1400 video cassette recorder.

From a Queensland

really alarming thing about the game was new State fullback Colin Scott's inability to field "bombs" safely.

Blemishes

Newtown tried three up-and-downs and Scott fumbled the first behind his own line and dropped the other two.

Apart from these blemishes, Scott had a strong game, chiming into the backline at top pace as often as he could and always making ground in attack.

Briggishaw and five-eighth Ray Kelly, both

from Ipswich, were the best for Country.

Nuggety prop Peter Apps defended well until injured in the final quarter and McNamara again showed he was unlucky to miss State selection with some powerful runs in the middle of the rucks.

Newtown did not impress with too many players intent on going "one out" and it was easy to see why they are languishing near the bottom of the Sydney premiership ladder.

Wilson, second-rower Steve Nicholson, hooker Barry Jensen and centre Brian Hetherington were the mainstays for the losers.

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 16 (R. Stallman, L. Briggishaw tries, I. Dault 5 goals) d. **NEWTOWN 14** (K. Wilson 2 tries, 4 goals).

FIRST SCORERS: Queensland Country No. 2, Newtown No. 6. **FIRST TRY SCORERS:** Country No. 4, Newtown No. 6.



NEWTOWN second rower Steve Nicholson looks for his pass away when tackled by Queensland's Country prop Peter Apps during last night's Amco Cup game at Lang Park.



ALLAN SMITH eludes STEVE HAGE during the Queensland Country - Newtown Jets Amco Cup game.

Monday May 21 (Lang Park)

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 12 v NORTH SYDNEY 5

Country's Amco win

Queensland Country defeated North Sydney 12-5 in their Amco Cup Rugby League match at Lang Park last night.

Country scored two tries in one in a game played in atrocious conditions in front of one of the smallest crowds ever seen at Lang Park.

Scores: Queensland Country 12 (R. Kelly, R. Hancock tries; L. Cullen 3 goals) d. North Sydney 5 (D. McKinnon try; R. Henniker goal). First scorers and first try scorers: Queensland Country No. 6, North Sydney No. 11.



RAY KELLY pops up a short pass to Queensland Country captain GREG PLATZ during last year's Amco Cup win over North Sydney at Lang Park.

1979



Wednesday July 4 (Lang Park)

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 18 v PARRAMATTA 9

Country in charge — four tries to one

By Barry Dick

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY forced its way into the Amco Cup semi-finals with a tremendous 18-9 win over top Sydney side Parramatta, at Lang Park last night.

Country thoroughly deserved the win, scoring four tries to one and overcoming lack of possession in the second half.

The Lang Park hoodoo for Sydney teams continued, with Parramatta the fifth Sydney club team beaten in Brisbane this year.

Country picked up \$7000 for last night's win, to add to the \$8000 received for wins over Newtown and North Sydney, and now has a chance to collect the big money in the semi-finals.

Country will now play the winner of the July 25 Lang Park Brisbane-Eastern Suburbs clash.

Country's domination was indicated by the fact it took Parramatta 73 minutes to score a try.

And even then, Country hit back with a galloping 40 metre try by second-rower Roban Hancock three minutes later.

Gold Coast referee Joe Ticehurst called Queensland Country in the second half, giving Parramatta eight penalties to one. The Sydney-siders also won second half scrums 9-5.

Livewire halfback Larry Briginshaw was Country's Man of the Match, constantly finding holes in the defence and scoring two fine tries.

He was closely pressed by team-mates Hancock, Jay Hoffman and Peter McNamara.

Stirred

Skipper Greg Platz again led by example, and whenever Country's defence did start to flag, it was Platz who goaded them into better efforts.

Country led 5-2 at quarter time after a last-minute try by five-eighth Ray Kelly.

Parramatta won a scrum 20 metres from its line, but Briginshaw gathered the ball ahead of his opposite John Kolc.

From a quick play the ball, Platz put Kelly through a wide gap, and the Ipswich five-eighth raced over near the corner.

GOALKICKERS Ian Dauth and Mick Cronin earlier had each kicked a penalty goal. Dauth missed a penalty attempt in the 12th minute.

Country won the first six scrums and was camped in Parramatta territory for most of the first quarter.

The locals went into the half time break with a 10-2 lead after another last-minute try in the second quarter.

This time Briginshaw touched down beside the posts after a perfectly directed bomb by prop Peter Apps had Eels full-back Gary Dowling under pressure from five Country players.

Once again Country had by far the better territorially, and the only time Parramatta got within scoring distance, Cronin missed a fairly easy penalty attempt.

Country produced one of the best tries seen at Lang Park this year, midway through the third quarter.

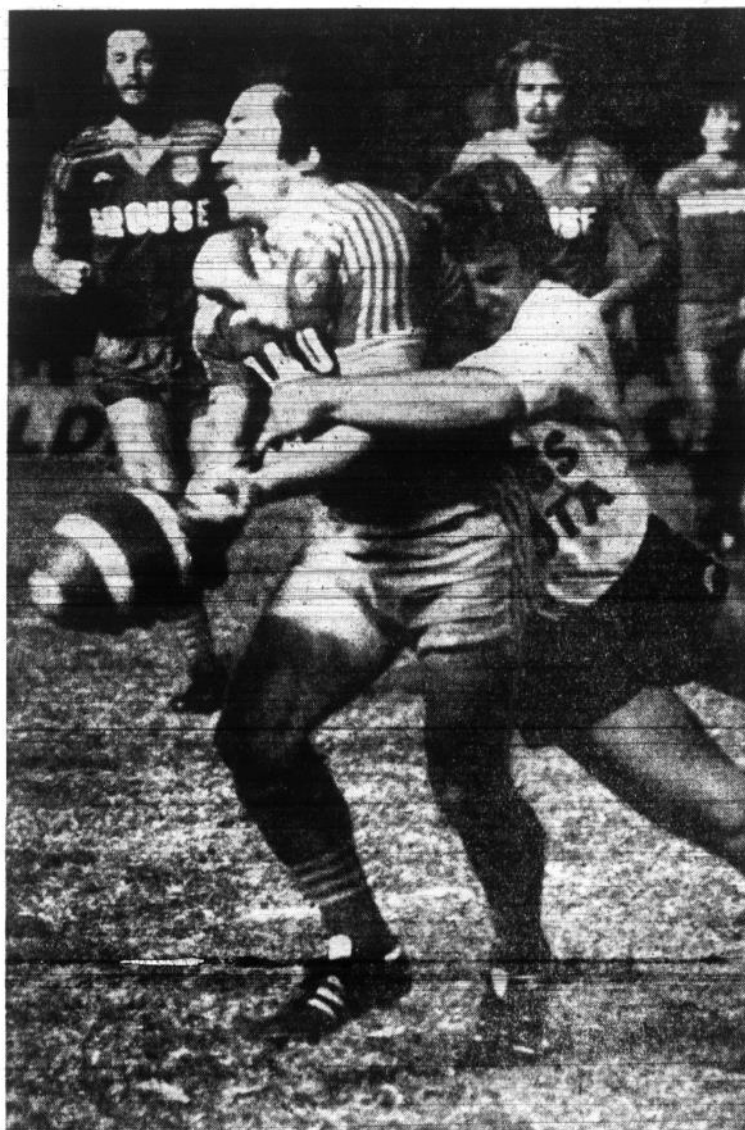
Non-stop hooker Hoffman ran from dummy half on his own quarter, found centre Ross Stallman in support, and Stallman in turn found prop McNamara, who sent Briginshaw flying clear.

Briginshaw had to beat four defenders to score his second try, but did it with ease.

It was a brilliant piece of teamwork which left Parramatta floundering, and with Dauth's conversion, the locals went into the final 20 minutes with a commanding 15-4 lead.

SCORES Queensland Country 18 (L. Briginshaw 2, R. Kelly, R. Hancock tries; I. Dauth 3 goals) 9 Parramatta 9 (R. Jay try; M. Cronin 3 goals). First scorers: Queensland Country No. 2, Parramatta No. 3. First try: Country No. 6, Parramatta No. 11.

The Courier-Mail
SPORT



QUEENSLAND Country half back Larry Briginshaw hits his opponent John Kolc with a body tackle that makes the Parramatta half back spill the ball in last night's Amco Cup action at Lang Park. Country won 18-9.

1979



Wednesday May 2 (Lang Park)
BRISBANE 13 v ST GEORGE 10

Team effort blasts Sydney myth

The Courier-Mail
SPORT

By Lawrie Kavanagh

BRISBANE made an explosive debut in the Amco Cup Rugby League competition with an exciting 13-10 win over Sydney club St. George at Lang Park last night.



In a match that continually had the 14,000 spectators in uproar, Brisbane turned on a brilliant team effort to score three tries to two.

While it was a total team effort, with several players turning on their best performances, the match belonged to Easts' war horse forward Des Morris.

Morris played the best game I have seen from him — better than anyone could expect from a 30 years plus veteran whose best days should be behind him.

He had a hand in just about everything that took Brisbane to a splendid victory.

His combination with halfback Wayne Lindenberg brought the crowd to its feet many times in the first half.

It was clean, tough individual breaks he Morris which set up Brisbane's three tries.

In the 32nd minute he put outstanding second rower Greg Quinn away for a 30-metre dash to a corner try.

Then in the 46th minute, he broke the line again, gave an excellent pass to fullback Peter Dutton, who in turn served Lindenberg, who scored through two tackles.

Explosive

Then in the 61st minute, the first minute of the fourth quarter, Morris again made an explosive burst through solid defence to put Norm Carr away down the line. Carr served an equally good pass to winger Brad Backer who scored in the corner.

The try started more than 60 metres out.

Brisbane missed scoring another try in the second quarter when Norm Carr was held up over the line.

Brisbane also missed out in the goal kicking department, with Mal Meninga kicking only two from five, and Lindenberg missing his one attempt.

Lindenberg earmarked the Queensland halfback position when he put it all over St. George's smart Ken Kearney, and later over the same man, halfback Steve Morris, who came on late.

Other outstanding players for Brisbane were second rower Greg Quinn, hooker John Lang — who won scrums 15-7 — prop Bill Whitmore, and backs Wayne Carr, Brad Backer and Peter Dutton.

But this does not take anything away from the rest. They all played important parts.

Captain and prop Greg Veivers had an ordinary first quarter when he seemed hesitant. But as the game wore on he

REWARD

Brisbane's Des Morris won the \$1400 video cassette recorder as Man of the Match in last night's Amco Cup match.

Morris is the first player in the history of Amco Cup play to win the award on the unanimous vote of 13 football writers.

played a valuable part as a battering ram up the middle.

The game was the best Cup match of the series this season, and fully justified the promoters' change in the system. Brisbane clubs had been impressively outplayed by Sydney teams in the past.

It showed Brisbane can produce football, and footballers equal to anything in Sydney.

Last night's win was worth \$1600 to Brisbane and \$2000 to St. George.

SCORES: Brisbane 13 (4 Backer, W. Lindenberg, G. Quinn tries; M. Meninga 2 goals) & St. George 10 (R. Reedy, R. Benge tries; R. Kearney 2 goals).

First scorers: Brisbane No 4, St. George No 5. First try scorers: Brisbane 10, St. George 9.



An elated Des Morris after starring in Brisbane's 13-10 win over St. George in an Amco Cup bumbinger last week.

Below: Des Morris on the burst with Greg Veivers backing up.



Big Henry Holloway, elated after Brisbane's Amco Cup win over St. George, chats with three Brisbane heroes from left, Mark Payne, Wayne Lindenberg and skipper Des Morris after the match.

BRISBANE second-rower Des Morris powers his way through St. George defenders Ross Gale (left) and Stephen Edge in the Amco Cup match at Lang Park last night. Morris led Brisbane to a 13-10 win and was voted Man of the Match.

1979



Wednesday June 27 (Leichhardt Oval)
BRISBANE 13 v MANLY 10

13-10 win to Brisbane

BRISBANE continued their dream run in the 1979 Amco Cup with a great fighting 13-10 win over Manly-Warringah at Leichhardt Oval in Sydney last night.

The win was yet another triumph for Henry Holloway's coaching methods and an even greater triumph for Brisbane football in general.

It proved that a Brisbane side could win away from home with the crowd against them and with an unfamiliar referee.

It has often been said that Brisbane teams can win only when they have a local referee and the support of a local crowd — but last night's win proved that wrong.

Every Brisbane player did his job and towards the end when four or five of them were obviously injured they still tackled tirelessly.

No player typified Brisbane's spirit more than prop Dave Brown, who constantly took the ball up and tackled fiercely throughout.

Halfback Ross Strudwick turned in a wholehearted performance which showed he can sell more than hold his own in top company.

Centres Chris Close and Mal Meninga, although not given many opportunities in attack, defended brilliantly especially in the second half.

Manly led 10-3 at half-time so it was a great effort by Brisbane to keep

the Sydneysiders scoreless in the second 40 minutes.

Brisbane hit the front for the first time in the match five minutes into the last quarter when replacement prop Shane Bernardin scored a clever individual try which was converted by Meninga to give Brisbane the 13-10 scoreline.

Manly swept to a 7-0 lead after 13 minutes of the first quarter following a penalty goal by prop John Gray and a brilliant converted try by centre Russell Gartner.

Gartner was sent clear on the half way mark when co-centre Simon Booth crashed into the defence and offloaded. Given room to move, Gartner was far too fast for the Brisbane cover defence.

Brisbane hit back a minute before the quarter-time break when second-rowers John McLeod and Greg Quinn combined for Quinn to dive over wide out.

Failed

Meninga's attempted conversion failed and Manly led 7-3 at the quarter time break.

Manly went further into the lead with a try by former Brisbane Wests player Paul Vautin five minutes before half-time.

One minute before threequarter time Brisbane narrowed the gap to

two points when hooker Johnny Lang dived over under the posts after receiving a great short pass from Des Morris.

Best players for Brisbane were Brown, Strudwick, lock Norm Carr (until replaced), Morris, McLeod, Close and Meninga.

Scrummages were 9-all and penalties went to Brisbane 17-14.

SCORES: Brisbane 13 (G. Quinn, J. Lang, S. Bernardin tries; M. Meninga 2 goals); Manly-Warringah 10 (R. Gartner, P. Vautin tries; J. Gray 2 goals).

1979



Wednesday July 25 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 17 v EASTS (SYDNEY) 8

Last quarter charge snatches semi spot

By Barry Dick



BRISBANE'S heroes John Lang, John McLeod and Shane Bernardin after they had led Brisbane to a 17-8 win over Sydney club Eastern Suburbs in the Amco Cup clash at Lang Park last night.

A COURAGEOUS final quarter effort against Sydney's Eastern Suburbs at Lang Park last night carried Brisbane into the Amco Cup semi-finals.

Trailing 7-8 when the last 20 minutes started, Brisbane scored two magnificent converted tries to snatch a 17-8 victory.

Brisbane's effort was its best in the Cup this year — the more fact it held Easts, the Amco Cup champions scoreless after quarter time showed the quality of their defence.

Easts joined a long list of Sydney club teams who have crashed at Lang Park this season.

In earlier rounds, Brisbane beat St. George, and Queensland Country accounted for Newtown, North Sydney and Parramatta.

Brisbane will now play Queensland Country at Lang Park on August 8.

The highly vocal crowd of about 8000 obviously helped Brisbane lift its game in that tremendous last quarter.

In the fourth minute of the final quarter, Valleys centres Vic Wieland and Chris Close combined in a long break which was finished off when winger Brad Backer scored wide out.

It was the first time Close had a chance to show his considerable talent, and what a time to make one of his typical bustling runs.

It was a Bernardin pass which set up Brisbane's first try.

McLeod, running wide of the ruck, ran on to Bernardin's long pass and stepped out of two tackles to score in the corner.

That took Brisbane to within a point at the three-quarter break, and then came that memorable 20 minutes of sustained attack.

Penalties went — Brisbane's way 10-9, and Lang won scrums 5-6, including 4-1 in the last quarter.

McLeod took out the Man of the Match award.

Scores: Brisbane 17 (B. Backer, J. McLeod, D. Brown tries; V. Wieland & Chris Close 2, J. Bernardin goals).

In front

It gave Brisbane the lead for the first time, and obviously lifted confidence sky high.

With four minutes remaining, prop Dave Brown used his strength to carry three tacklers over the line to wipe out any chance Easts might have had of getting back into the game.

There was some great individual efforts by Brisbane players, with second rower John McLeod leading the way. He found willing support from hooker Johnny Lang, lock and skinner Norm Carr, winger Bligh Davidson, fullback Peter Dutton, and halfback Wayne Lundenberg.

Easts took an 8-0 lead at the first-quarter break after two tries in the last five minutes of the quarter.

Brisbane coach Henry Holloway made his first important change late in the second quarter, when he replaced prop Bob Cook with Shane Bernardin.

Pivot

Bernardin immediately slipped into his familiar role of pivot, and gave the attack more authority.

The first seven penalties against Brisbane in the match were for scrum infringements, and the crowd began to "ride" referee Eddie Ward, who twice called both front rows out for lectures.

Brisbane got right back into the game in the third quarter, undoubtedly helped by the fact that Fulton — who had the Man of the Match award at his mercy — left the field midway through the quarter.

1979



AMCO CUP SEMI FINAL

Wednesday August 8 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 8 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 5

Backer's late try gets Brisbane up

By Barry Dick

A BREATHTAKING try two minutes from full time boosted Brisbane into next week's Amco Cup grand final against Cronulla with an 8-5 win over Queensland Country at Lang Park last night.



BRISBANE second-rower Greg Quinn shrugs off this shoulder tackle by Country centre Ross Stallman in one of his strong runs in last night's Amco Cup match at Lang Park.

It was the luckiest of escapes for Brisbane because Country had defended courageously for 78 minutes and really looked to have a grand final berth in their keeping.

With time ticking away and Country leading 5-3, it was obvious Brisbane would need a brilliant effort by some individual to win the semi.

And it was rangy second-rower Greg Quinn who produced the goods when City were so desperate.

Quinn, who won a \$1490 video cassette as man of the match, burst down the left touch line on the fifth tackle, accelerating with every stride and when hemmed in by the cover defence threw a speculative inside pass two metres from the line.

Winger Brad Backer was the man on the spot and he raced around to touch down right under the posts to give half-back Wayne Lindenberg the simplest of conversions.

The crowd of about 18,000 were torn between cheering the Brisbane win and sympathising with the gallant Country.

For many, it seemed totally unjust for Country to bow out of the Cup after so many tremendous performances this season.

They almost tackled Brisbane out of the game and by full time they were the weariest bunch of footballers seen at Lang Park for a long time.

One sobering thought for Brisbane was that they will need to improve at least 50 per cent to get past Cronulla at Richmond Oval in Sydney next week.

Value

Backer scored the only two tries of the match underlining again his value in representative football.

Brisbane coach Henry Holloway made a surprise switch before the game started when he put reserve forward Des Morris on to the field and left John McLeod, man of the match in the last Cup game on the bench.

In the scoreless first quarter Brisbane had several chances to put points on the board, but each time failed to finish off attacking move-

ments. Country stood up to four bombs in the first session three in the first 10 minutes when Brisbane were on the rampage.

Brisbane were helped in the first quarter by a

7-1 advantage in penalties but centre Vic Wainland missed two shots at goal when Country were battling to stay in the game.

By full time the penalties had fairly well evened out - going Brisbane's way 13-10.

Country were still under enormous pressure for most of the second quarter but again Brisbane could not score.

Country drew first blood when winger Ian Dault landed a long penalty goal 17 minutes into the second quarter.

Even then Brisbane came back to go within centimetres of scoring right on half time only to be held out by the desperate defence.

Dault took Country to a 4-0 lead with a penalty goal eight minutes into the third quarter before Backer scored his first try six minutes from three-quarter time.

Field goal

Backer was involved in the movement twice as he combined with hooker John Lang and prop Shiraz Bernardin in keeping the ball alive long enough to beat Country defence.

With Country leading 4-3 and three-quarter time only two minutes away, Country prop Peter Apper launched a 'heat' field goal to give his side a two point break.

Then came that final quarter when Country were tackling everything that moved before Quinn finally made the break to give Brisbane a chance to pick up the maximum \$80,000 from the Cup.

In the curtain raiser Kedron High School put up a brave effort but found St. Gregory's of Campbelltown (NSW) just a little too strong lasting 4-3.

Scores: Brisbane 8 (4), Country 5 (1). Dault 2 goals, Apper 1. First try: Apper (1). Best players: Brisbane 2, Country 2. First try scorers: Brisbane 2, Country 12.



Brad Backer's two tries in Brisbane's semi-final win against Qld Country.

1979



AMCO CUP FINAL

Wednesday August 15 (Leichhardt Oval)
CRONULLA 22 v BRISBANE 5

BRISBANE SWAMPED IN CUP FINAL—22-5

The Courier-Mail
SPORT

From Barry Dick

SYDNEY. — Cronulla-Sutherland ruthlessly shattered Brisbane's Amco Cup Rugby League dreams with a demoralising 22-5 win in last night's grand final at Sydney's Leichhardt Oval.

Cronulla scored four tries to one in what was an overwhelming display of professionalism.

Brisbane tried — make no mistake about that — but they just were not up to the task.

Cronulla were better organised in the forwards, faster in the backs and undoubtedly superior.

Naturally it was a disappointing end to the Amco Cup season for Brisbane but to make it to the final was a great effort.

Cronulla five-eighth Gary Cameron scored

three tries in last night's final to take the \$1400 video cassette as man of the match.

And Sharks lock forward Kurt Sorensen picked up one point in the man of the match to win the super star award for the year.

Brisbane again started disastrously when Cameron backed up a good

break by Sorensen to score in only the second minute.

Some argued that the final pass was forward. And six minutes before quarter-time Cronulla got the advantage of a doubtful "back to six

tackle" decision and availed back into an attacking position for full-

back Steve Rogers to put up a bomb.

Brisbane fullback Alan Mills got his hands to the ball but dropped it as he was tackled and two racks later Cameron was in for his second try.

With Rogers' two conversions the locals led 10-0 at the first break and looked by far the more professional outfit.

The Sharks swept to a 13-0 lead eight minutes into the second quarter when halfback Greg Cox made a long break down the right touchline and served winger Rick Bourke who touched down in the corner.

Brisbane lock Norm Carr got over to tackle Bourke and there seemed to be a puff of chalk

from the touch line before Bourke grounded the ball.

By half-time Cronulla had rocketed to a 15-0 lead following a Rogers goal from another dubious decision by referee Greg Hartley when Sharks prop Dane Sorensen lost the ball in a tackle.

Brisbane finally scored in the sixth minute of the third quarter when Norm Carr sprinted from dummy half to touch down wide out.

Faint hope

Centre Mal Meninga's great conversion made the score 15-5 in Cronulla's favour and gave some faint hope of a Brisbane revival.

But then Rogers kicked a long range penalty six minutes from three-quarter time to give the locals an unbeatable 17-5 lead with 20 minutes to go.

Cameron scored his third try three minutes into the last quarter and Rogers' conversion made the final score 22-5.

It was Cronulla's first major trophy win, and was fully deserved.

Brisbane hooker John Lang won scrums 12-9 and penalties went Brisbane's way 9-8.

Technical

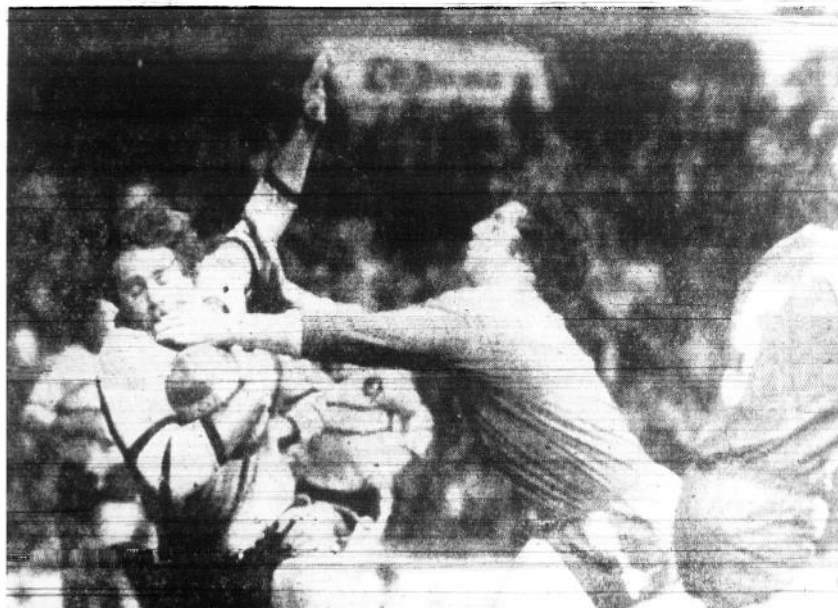
But the important thing about the penalties was that Hartley penalised Brisbane on technical points. Five of the eight penalties against Brisbane were within kicking range.

Brisbane were penalised four times for scrums, twice for shepherding and twice for taking the ball off players when the referee had called them held.

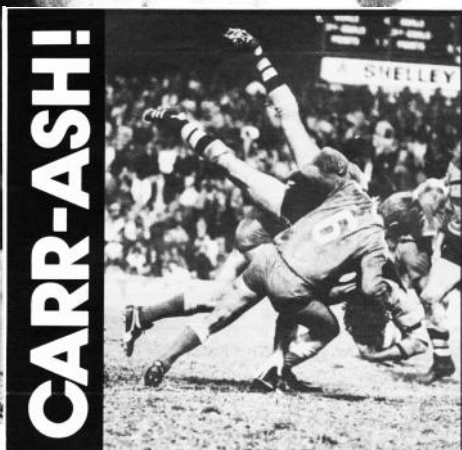
Brisbane coach Henry Holloway made three changes to the side in an attempt to stem the Cronulla flow.

He replaced Des Morris with John McLeod five minutes before half-time, sent Wally Lewis on for Greg Quinn midway through the third quarter and Mark Payne for Chris Close in the last quarter.

Scores: Cronulla 22 (G. Cameron 3, R. Bourke 1 try; S. Rogers 5 goals); Brisbane 5 (N. Carr 1 try; M. Meninga goal).



Lock Wally Lewis improved his credentials no end with a three-try effort for Valleys in their 40-7 win over Redcliffe at Dolphin Oval last Sunday. Lewis, a target for Sydney clubs, was the season's top try-scorer with 19. Here Lewis is brought down in a tackle by second-rower Steve Kneen in the Brisbane-Cronulla Amco Cup final at Leichhardt Oval last week.



CARR-ASH!

LEFT: Cronulla second-rower Steve Kneen is slammed into the Leichhardt Oval dirt by the Brisbane brothers Carr, Norm and Wayne (6), during the Amco Cup final last week.

1979



AMCO CUP SQUAD RUNNER UP 1979 AMCO CUP COMPETITION

BRISBANE	13	ST. GEORGE	10	BRISBANE	13	MANLY WARRINGAH	10
BRISBANE	17	EASTS SYDNEY	8	BRISBANE	8	QLD. COUNTRY	5
		CRONULLA	22	BRISBANE	5		



Back Row: R. STRUDWICK, P. DUTTON, M. NEILL, P. EASTWELL, T. WEBB, B. BACKER, W. LINDENBERG, W. CARR.

Second Row: H. HOLLOWAY (Coach), G. TREICHEL (Co Manager), P. McWHIRTER, V. WIELAND, R. COCK, W. WHITMORE, D. BROWN, J. LANG, H. LONG (Co Manager), M. McGINLEY (Co Manager).

Front Row: S. BERNARDIN, G. QUINN, W. LEWIS, W. HUNTER (B.R.L. President), J. McLEOD, D. MORRIS, N. CARR.

Absent: C. CLOSE, B. DAVIDSON, M. MENINGA, M. MURRAY, M. PAYNE, G. VEIVERS.

D. MORRIS (Capt. v St. George), N. CARR (Capt. all other games).

1980 TOOTH CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 28, 1980	North Sydney	40	def	Queensland Country	5	Leichhardt Oval
July 2, 1980	Balmain	45	def	Queensland Country	5	Lang Park
April 2, 1980	Easts (Sydney)	14	def	Brisbane	4	Lang Park
June 18, 1980	Brisbane	27	def	Manly-Warringah	20	Lang Park

Wednesday May 28 (Leichhardt Oval)

NORTH SYDNEY 40 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 5

Country trumped at every turn

Former Toowoomba player Alan Smith scored two of North Sydney's tries in their runaway win against Queensland Country in Tooths Cup league match last night.

At the same ground 12 months ago Smith scored four tries for Queensland Country.

Another Toowoomba player, Trevor Dunemann, posted Queensland's only try of the night.

North Sydney outplayed Queensland in all departments to win by 40 to 5 at Leichhardt Oval in Sydney.

In the first quarter,

the home team scored at almost a point a minute to notch up 18, but Queensland managed a more containing game in the other three quarters.

The Queensland side demonstrated a very poor team effort.

The tackling of many players was shocking, ball passing was virtually non-existent and backing up of the player was hardly ever seen.

Wednesday July 2 (Lang Park)

BALMAIN 45 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 5

Country thrashed

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

Sydney club Balmain forced their way into the Tooth Cup quarter-finals with a 45-5 win over Queensland Country at Lang Park last night.

It was an 11 try to one victory, but it was only in the last six minutes that Balmain became sure of joining seven other Sydney clubs in the quarter-finals.

Before this match Balmain needed to win by 26 points to force a way into the quarter-finals.

And although they dominated last night's match, it was touch and go in the second half whether they would get the required points.

Balmain players became a bit too relaxed after running through Queensland Country early.

Going into the final quarter there was an obvious concern in the Balmain camp that they still had not made it to the 26-point lead.

Five minutes after the start of the

final quarter Balmain prop forward David Grant, who was one of the stars, scored an excellent try to give Balmain a 30-5 lead.

But with six minutes to go Balmain still required one point to gain the quarter-finals.

Then in the last six minutes the Sydney club ran in three tries — by lock Ron Pilon, by centre Olsen Filipaina and by winger Wayne Miranda — all of which were converted by Miranda.

Miranda finished with 18 points from two tries and six goals, but also missed six goals.

Stars of the match were fullback Alan McMahon, Filipaina, Pilon, Grant and five-eight Percy Knight.

Scores — Balmain 45 (A. McMahon, W. Miranda, W. Wilson, R. Pilon, 2 G. Filipaina, L. Corowa, D. Grant tries; Miranda 6 goals), Queensland 5 (D. Byrne try).
Balmain No. 5, Country No. 3

1980 TOOTH CUP

Wednesday April 2 (Lang Park)
EASTS (SYDNEY) 14 v BRISBANE 4

Bad handling costs Brisbane game

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

PANIC PASSING and bad handling was a major cause of Brisbane's 14-4 loss to Sydney's Eastern Suburbs in the opening Tooth Cup rugby league match at Lang Park last night.

Despite the seemingly overwhelming score, Brisbane was in it all the way until outstanding Easts lock John Tobin flashed over for a converted try three minutes before fulltime.

It was only the second try of the match but, unfortunately for Brisbane, the second one for Sydney.

Brisbane was down only 3-0 after the first quarter, 7-4 at halftime, 9-4 at three-quarter time — and still in a 9-4 situation with only three minutes to go.

A determined defensive display by Brisbane kept the scoring exceptionally low for a Sydney team which did not come up to the expectations of the Brisbane crowd.

But it would be difficult to criticise Brisbane on the score of defence.

They defended very well to hold Easts to a try in the 12th minute by big centre Noel Cleal and one three minutes from fulltime by Tobin.

Brisbane went close to scoring on several occasions, particularly in the last quarter.

There were some excellent breaks by five eighth Peter McWhirter and Wally Lewis who came on as a reserve late in the second quarter.

But each time Brisbane players failed to capitalise on the ~~breaks~~ ~~breaks~~.

Still that is an old story for Brisbane playing one up football against top visiting sides.

Brisbane repeatedly failed to follow the ball carrier and paid the penalty when they remained tryless.

Ironically the final quarter was all Brisbane although they failed to score and allowed Easts a try in the closing minutes.

But there was terrific excitement when Brisbane spent the majority of the last quarter pressing close to Easts' line.

It was the talented lock Lewis who led the majority of Brisbane attack in that time.

With all his natural flair Lewis initiated some excellent attack with the deceptive half run delaying pass that seems to mesmerise all opposition.

Lewis has a great talent for drawing the majority of defence and still have time to pass to almost any position, behind him.

Unfortunately last night few Brisbane

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players elected to take advantage of that quality.

BOTH centres Chris Close and Mal Meninga had strong games and five eighth McWhirter really sparked up late in the match.

Lewis' appearance in the match seemed to spur on McWhirter, a renowned defender, into some brilliant attack.

After all they are Valley team mates.

SCORES: Easts 14 (No. 1 Tobin tries 2, Andrews 1 goals) v Brisbane 4 (M. Meninga 1 goal, P. McWhirter 1 try). **First try-scorers:** Easts No. 1, Brisbane No. 12. **Commonwealth Bank Cup:** Goodall High 15 v Kelvin Grove High 12.



BRISBANE winger Bligh Davidson has a firm grip on Eastern Suburbs half Barry Andrews last night.

1980 TOOTH CUP

Wednesday June 18 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 27 v MANLY 20

Brisbane up 27-20 but out of Cup

By BARRY DICK

BRISBANE bowed out of the 1980 Tooth Cup with a magnificent 27-20 win over top Sydney rugby league club Manly-Warringah at Lang Park last night.

To score 27 points against the Sydney premiership favorites and current co-competition leaders was a great effort from the Brisbane side which had such limited preparation.

Only a late try by Test fullback Graeme Eadie may have robbed Brisbane of a more impressive win.

The win still left Brisbane out of the Cup quarter-finals because the two other sides in the group — Easts and Newtown — finished with a better for and against average.

The game proved yet again that the so-called huge difference between Brisbane and Sydney football does not exist.

It also proved that young Souths centre Mal Meninga has come of age as a representative footballer.

Meninga deservedly won the man of the match award after his strongest performance in a top class game at Lang Park.

He may have missed the odd tackle but in a game which did not feature good defence the man of the match award simply had to go to the best attacking player and that was Meninga.

He constantly broke through tackles and set up the try of the match for fullback Colin Scott with a great solo run.

Brisbane captain Des Morris, who had all but forsaken his representative hopes, was the best forward for the locals.

Morris, at 32, seemed to have no chance of being picked for Brisbane when

he was sidelined for eight weeks with a fractured cheek bone.

But last night he again had a point to prove to Sydney audiences and did so in fine style.

During the game Brisbane lost both halves, Terry Saunders (ninth minute) and Brian Walsh (58th) with ankle injuries and ironically their replacements, Mark Murray and Wally Lewis, both scored tries.

Manly certainly did not live up to expectations.

For a team with so many internationals and players with huge reputations they were most disappointing.

Only Eadie, five eighth Martin Meredith and hooker Max Krilich produced anything like the football the small crowd expected to see.

Brisbane won the game against all the odds when scrums went against them 15-8 and penalties the same way 10-9.

But Manly were forced into errors by some heavy tackling early from prop Peter McNamara, hooker Jay Hoffman and second rower Greg Quinn.

Scores: Brisbane 27 (C. Scott 2, W. Carr, M. Murray, W. Lewis tries; M. Meninga 4 goals); Manly-Warringah 20 (M. Meredith 2, T. Mooney, G. Eadie tries) Eadie 4 goals.



MAN of the Match Brisbane centre Mal Meninga powers his way through two Manly defenders at Lang Park last night.

Right: Des Morris in the game against Manly.

Below: Mal Meninga on the burst.



1981 TOOTH CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 20, 1981	Manly	24	def	Queensland Country	2	Lang Park
June 10, 1981	Newtown	33	def	Queensland Country	7	Lang Park
April 29, 1981	Newtown	23	def	Brisbane	19	Lang Park
June 10, 1981	Cronulla	25	def	Brisbane	5	Lang Park

Wednesday May 20 (Lang Park)

MANLY 24 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 2

Country
improve,
but ...

SYDNEY club Manly-Warringah gained the Tooth Cup semi-finals for the first time in seven years when they beat Datsun Country 24-2 at Lang Park last night.

While it was a loss to the Queensland team, it certainly was an improvement on the terrible form of Country against Brisbane last Sunday.

Although they failed to score a try last night, Country's overall form, nevertheless, was a vast improvement particularly in defence.

But generally, the form shown by Manly-Warringah was not up to expectations.

Player of the match was Manly's Paul Vautin, who left Brisbane as a teenager several years ago. The lock forward turned in a non-stop performance, attacking at every chance and turning in a fine defensive game.

Considering the Manly team contained nine internationals, their dominance was not really as much as expected.

Country were kept well in this match with a top hooking display from No. 2 hooker Trevor Johnson. He won scrums 28-9 and his general play was excellent.

When top hooker Gary Prickett came on as a replacement late in the game, he moved to second row; and allowed Johnson to carry on his excellent job.

There were also strong games from prop Marshall Colwell and back rowers Howard Wicks, Paul Gardner and Gary Coyne. Halfback Paul Laffin also had a strong game against international half John Gibbs.

But overall, Gibbs was too fast for the majority of Queensland's defence. Other Manly players to impress were centre Alan Thompson, five-eighth Steve Martin and second rower Bruce Walker, before he was injured.

SCORES: Manly 24 (J. Dorahy 2, T. Mooney, A. Thompson, R. Gartner, J. Gibbs tries; Dorahy 3 goals) d. Country 2 (J. McDonald goal). First scorers: Manly 4, Country 2. Com. Bank Cup. Acacia Ridge High 21 d. Iona College 6.

Wednesday June 10 (Lang Park)

NEWTOWN 33 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 7

Country
down
33-7

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

SYDNEY club Newtown easily moved into the Tooth Cup rugby league quarter-finals with a 33-7 win over Datsun Country at Lang Park last night.

The score of seven tries to one was a fair indication of the difference in the standards of the teams.

Newtown were too strong all round, but particularly when it came to moving up in defence and to being on the ball in attack.

The Country players gave it everything and played to the best of their ability, but were just not up to the standard that can be produced over 80 minutes by the majority of Sydney teams.

There were some good individual performances from Newtown although overall they played as a team.

Lock forward Graeme O'Grady and second-rower Mick Pitman turned in top matches along with prop Steve Bowden, centre Brian Hetherington and fullback Mick Pobjie.

Ironically, O'Grady was named man-of-the-match.

It was a case of second time lucky for O'Grady. When Newtown played at Lang Park last month a controversy erupted between Queensland press writers, and Tooth Cup organisers about the award — local press writers voted heavily for O'Grady then, but winger John Ferguson got the nod from Cup organisers.

While he was not as prominent last night as he had been in his first Lang Park appearance, O'Grady was still a deserving winner of the award.

There were some good individual performances from the Country, particularly five-eighth Barry Davidson and his Newtown teammate prop Peter O'Davis.

Davidson faded a little towards the end, but his attack and defence early worried the Sydney players.

Queensland hooker Gary Prickett played his expected non-stop game and broke even in the scrums.

Country fullback Andrew McDonald came in for plenty of attention in a series of up-and-downs and apart from an early mistake handled the pressure extremely well.

Country captain prop Marshall Colwell involved himself in the heavy klops.

Scorers: Newtown 33 (M. Pobjie, B. Davidson, P. O'Davis, G. O'Grady, M. Pitman, J. Walters, C. Ellis tries; O'Grady 3 goals) d. Country 7 (J. McDonald goal). First scorers: Manly 4, Country 2. Com. Bank Cup. Acacia Ridge High 21 d. Iona College 6.



Inevitable coach, Greg Quinn (right) has released the ball a split second before being hit by Newtown centre, Alan McMahon during a 1981 A.S. Cup match at Lang Park. Quinn was a replacement forward for Queensland Country.

1981 TOOTH CUP

Wednesday April 29 (Lang Park)
NEWTOWN 23 v BRISBANE 19

SENSATIONAL END TO CUP CLASH, BUT...

NEWTOWN DESERVED TO WIN IT

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

NEWTOWN downed Brisbane 23-19 in a sensational Tooth Cup rugby match at Lang Park last night.

Seconds after the final hooter referee Eddie Ward awarded Brisbane a penalty which Wally Lewis put high into the air.

The ball was lost in a sea of players just behind the goal posts and Brisbane halfback Greg Olliphant appeared to come away with the ball and score a match winning try.

But Ward ruled the try away and Newtown went home with a deserved victory.

While it would have been a very popular win for a courageous Brisbane effort, it would have been a terrible way for the Sydney team to lose the match. Newtown played the sharper, faster and more professional football for the majority of the time and no-one could take it away from them.

Forgetting the closeness of the scores, Newtown scored five tries to Brisbane's three. The majority of Newtown's tries came from

some outstanding teamwork, while Brisbane's tries came mainly from big individual efforts.

The match featured probably the most exciting second quarter ever seen under this format at Lang Park. Each team scored two tries in a four-minute burst with Brisbane coming out leading 12-11.

Newtown's two tries at that stage resulted from the absolutely blinding pace and elusiveness of winger John Ferguson.

~~Ferguson did not score the tries which came in the third and seventh minute of the quarter but, his pace set them up, beating the best defence Brisbane had to offer.~~

The tries were scored by full-back Mick Poppe and second-rower Steve Blyth.

At that stage Newtown led 11-2, and Ferguson, who hardly handled the ball after this point, won his man of the match award.

I thought five-eighth Phil Sigsworth and any of Newtown's backrowers could have won the award for their consistency, but then Ferguson was brilliant when he had the ball even if it was for a minimum of time.

In the second quarter Brisbane hit back with two strong individual tries by heavyweight centre Chris Close and talented lock Wally Lewis.

While Brisbane put up a courageous showing, you had to admire Newtown for their team effort and, no doubt, Brisbane will be the better for the outing.

A feature of the match was the long kicking of halfback Ken Wilson which continually had Brisbane back, pedalling after being in strong positions.

Newtown 23 (M. Pobjie, B. Hetherington, P. Sigsworth, M. Pitman, S. Blyth tries; K. Wilson 4 goals); d. Brisbane 19 (C. Close, N. Carr, W. Lewis tries; M. Meninga 3 goals). First scorers: Newtown No. 4, Brisbane No. 4. First try scorers: Newtown No. 4, Brisbane No. 3. Scrums: Brisbane 11-7, penalties: Newtown 9-8.



THE STRENGTH of Chris Close was never more evident than at Lang Park last night. In the top photo the big centre is held by the legs, with another Newtown player forcing the body down, and the line seemingly out of reach. But his weight and determination carries him over, with yet another Newtown defender on hand. — Photos Ray Cash.

1981 TOOTH CUP

Wednesday June 10 (Lang Park)

CRONULLA 25 v BRISBANE 5

BACK TO THE OLD DRAWING BOARD

SYDNEY. — The NSW rugby league team can take heart for the return interstate match in Sydney next week after a poor showing by Brisbane in the Tooth Cup match at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Cronulla-Sutherland ran out 25-5 winners against a team boasting 11 of the Queensland side that played NSW recently.

Cronulla scored five tries to one and dominated all but the opening quarter. Some of the Brisbane players did their representative causes no good, particularly centres Chris Close and Mal Meninga, who started strongly but faded.

Cronulla's most creative player was prop Paul Khan, whose strong positive play earned him the Man of the Match award.

Brisbane were determined to keep the ball deep in Cronulla's half and achieved this through direct, robust running and long, raking touch kicks.

But while they managed to peg the Sydney team down, they were not able to capitalise on their many opportunities, and it was Cronulla who ended the first quarter ahead through a Steve Rogers' penalty.

The second quarter saw a dramatic switch, with Cronulla doing most of the attacking and being rewarded with two tries.

Left wing John Jarvie took the ball after Steve Hansard broke from a scrum and fed out. Rogers missed the conversion from the touch line.

Cronulla moved to 10-0 when Dane Sorensen scored from dummy half. He stumbled and fell near the line, but was allowed to get up and scramble over. Rogers converted.

Brisbane were impressing with their strength, but were not able to move the ball quick enough to take advantage of their huge three-quarter line, in which centre Chris Close was an imposing figure.

The third quarter brought a try apiece, and the return of Artie Beetson. He went into the front row, and almost immediately upgraded the Brisbane effort with his calm, thinking play. But it was not enough to produce a winning effort.

Meninga opened his team's scoring when he was put through with a fine pass by strong running prop Brad Rowcliffe.

But Cronulla came back with an excellent try by front rower Khan. He broke in the middle, passed to Steve Rogers, and was there to take the final pass.

Cronulla set the seal on their win a few minutes into the final period when Kurt Sorensen, who had come on as a replacement for second rower Rex Williams, barged over near the posts. Rogers converted to make it 20-5.

Cronulla-Sutherland 25 (Jarvie 2, D. Sorensen, K. Sorensen, Khan tries; Rogers 5 goals) and Brisbane 5 (Meninga try, goal).

1982 KB CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 21, 1982	St George	26	def	Queensland Country	10	Lang Park
June 15, 1982	Newtown	43	def	Queensland Country	2	Lang Park
April 21, 1982	Balmain	13	def	Brisbane	10	Lang Park
June 15, 1982	Brisbane	34	def	South Island (NZ)	3	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 21, 1982	Parramatta	25	def	Brisbane	7	Lang Park
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Wednesday April 21 (Lang Park)

ST GEORGE 26 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 10

Country run out of puff against magic Dragons

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

St George finished all over Queensland Country to win the early KB Cup rugby league match 26-10 at Lang Park last night.

It was a case of St George full of running in the final quarter while the Queensland Country players ran out of puff to let the Saints swarm in for four tries.

St George went from 13-10 to 21-10 within seven minutes. It was a great pity for Country supporters to see the team wilt so badly after having played spectacular football.

Overall, St George deserved their win with a professional display. But their players must be still trying to work out some of referee David Manson's decisions.

Manson continually puzzled players from both sides and had the big crowd alternately in uproar or rollicking with laughter when he gave decisions for and against the local team. He called in George 10-3 in penalties but the Saints still managed to get away with blatant offside play many times.

There was encouraging play from the local team, with big displays by forwards Rowan Hancock, Jim Heery and Greg Quinn, and the halves Bob Wainman and Brad Garret. And second quarter replacement Martin Bella stamped himself as a footballer with a brilliant future.

The North Queensland prop played for Queensland and Australian under-18 teams last year and is still eligible for the under-18 grade again this season. Considering his youth, he was one of the top players on the field last night, showing little fear of the big reputations of his Sydney opponents, particularly Test men such as Craig Young.

Young had a consistent match last night, but he was a disappointment for those people expecting a little extra from a Test player of his ability.

Former Brisbane hooker John Dowling had a strong match, always on the ball and picking up a try from dummy half. He had another try taken away from him by the referee after a 45-metre dash that ended between the goalposts in a tackle by Wide Bay's Mark Connell. The momentum carried both players over the line but the referee ruled no try.

ST GEORGE centre Graham Quinn has the ball knocked out of his hands in a tackle by Queensland Country players Mark Connell (No. 5) and Kelvin Kerr last night in the KB Cup match at Lang Park.



It was not a match in which individual St George players stood out, but it was a good team effort. Second-rower Brad Buchanan turned in an excellent performance, with consistently good defence and strong attack.

Fullback Brian Johnson was the better of the two fullbacks, showing a tremendous turn of speed to score one try and have a hand in others. His opposite Garry Dowling tried too much in attack and was easily picked off by the solid St George defence.

ST GEORGE 26 (B. Johnson, B. Johnston, J. Ward, D. Kinchela, G. Grant, J. Dowling tries; G. Grant 2 goals) v. QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 10 (P. Finlay, R. Wainman tries W. Green 2 goals).

Wednesday June 15 (Lang Park)

NEWTOWN 43 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 2

Newtown run riot

By BARRY DICK

Newtown cruised into the KB Cup rugby league quarter-finals with a 43-2 win over Queensland Country at Lang Park last night.

The Jets, last year's Sydney premiership runners-up, needed only to win to secure a place in the final eight but they left nothing to chance, scoring nine tries to nil.

Country coach Henry Holloway stunned the small crowd in the 16th minute when he replaced captain and former international fullback Gary Dowling. Dowling, who apparently wanted to use his few representative chances this year to press claims for a place in the Kangaroo touring party, appeared astounded when Caloundra youngster Tim Dwyer was sent out by Holloway to replace him.

Indeed, it seemed a strange decision because Dowling was easily the most

experienced player in the Country line-up, but it is doubtful whether his presence would have slowed the Newtown onslaught.

The bad news for Queenslanders came moments before halftime when State of Origin second-rower Rohan Hancock went to ground after a heavy bump from Newtown captain Ken Wilson. Hancock did not return for the second half and, although the extent of his injury was not known last night, he must be considered doubtful for Tuesday night's interstate series decider in Sydney.

Newtown led 10-0 at quarter-time after easy tries by fullback Phil Sigsworth in the ninth minute and winger Mal Graham in the 19th minute. But even that quarter was no indication of the deluge of points that was to come.

By threequarter-time Newtown had raced to a 28-2 lead, posting six tries and bombing at least three more.

Country had no answer to the Jets' professionalism and pace.

Every time a Newtown player broke the line there was support and Country could not match the their backs for speed or ball skill.

Newtown's determination to run-the ball was shown by the fact that all their tries were scored by backs. Wilson went on a points-scoring spree, with a try and eight goals from 11 attempts.

Hooker Wayne Newling had a strong match for the visitors, blasting Eddie Muller 16-7 in the scrums and playing well in the open. But the best news for Newtown was the return-to form of former New South Wales representative Sigsworth, who was dangerous every time he touched the ball, splitting the Country defence time and again.

NEWTOWN 43 (P. Sigsworth 2, M. Graham 2, J. Farquhar, M. Ryan, L. Mara, R. Wilson, A. McMillan tries; Wilson 8 goals) v. OLD COUNTRY 2 (W. Green goal). First scorers: Newtown 1, Old Country 2. First try scorers: Newtown 1, Old Country 12.



Former Gold Coast five eighth, Bradley Garrett (now with Parramatta) moves in to tackle a Newtown player during last year's second round clash.

1982 KB CUP

Wednesday April 21 (Lang Park)
BALMAIN 13 v BRISBANE 10

First half lapses hinder Cup chances

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

BRISBANE went down fighting 13-10 to sixth-placed Sydney team Balmain in an exciting KB Cup rugby league match at Lang Park last night.

The home side finished strongly in the second half after looking a very shaky combination early. Too many times players appeared to lose concentration in the first half, and early in the third quarter. Concentration lapses caused many handling errors and missed tackles.

It was bitterly disappointing for home fans to see the Brisbane backline continually interrupted by forwards. Centre Mal Meninga virtually took the night off when possession was so slow getting out to the backs.

Surprisingly, he rarely went looking for the ball, but twice when he did, he shattered the defence. However, it was not enough for a player of his ability, and he will need to do more in the

State of Origin games later this year.

Player of the match was Balmain five-eighth Gary Bridge, who did all the damage with a hat-trick of tries. He showed plenty of class and got a great deal of speed, and got tremendous service from halfback Steve Martin.

Bridge scored a good try from a scrum and quick pass from Martin, to open Sydney's account in the ninth minute of the second quarter, and levelled the score 5-all.

Four minutes later Bridge was back over the line to take a Martin bomb and the converted try took Balmain to the lead for the first time 10-5.

About this stage Brisbane players appeared to be winding down and running out of steam.

Two who did not stop, however, were forwards Peter Griffiths and Brett Ferguson. Unfortunately, Ferguson's enthusiasm to be involved took him into the back line too many times, when Meninga in possession would have been much more advantageous for Bris-

bane. Again, after the third quarter opened, Brisbane players were very slow to get in the match, and it was not surprising, in the 46th minute, to see Bridge race 30 metres to beat at least four defenders for a great individual try which took the score to 13-7.

This try was the try of the night. Bridge's speed and his stepping caught Brisbane off balance, and although several players actually hit him, they were unable to stop him.

But Brisbane came right back into the match in the 55th minute when Wally Lewis, who had featured in some brilliant line kicking early, slashed through the defence with a dummy and a good strong run to dive over wide out.

Brisbane fired back into the game at 13-10 after looking to have let the match slip away, but once again concentration lapses caused them to lose possession, and despite some time on the Balmain line, they could not crack the defence.

Balmain 13 (G. Bridge 3 tries; W. Miranda 2 goals) d. Brisbane 10 (B. Harry, W. Lewis tries; M. Meninga 2 goals). First scorers: Bal. 6, Bris. 5. First try: Bal. 6, Bris. 6.



Above: Captain Wally Lewis and Coach Arthur Beetson during a 1982 KB Cup game.

1982 KB CUP

Tuesday June 15 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 34 v SOUTH ISLAND (NZ) 3



Brisbane halfback Brad Sully teases the South Island defence at Lang Park last night.



Star Brisbane forwards, Norm Carr (left) and Bryan Niebling prepare to lend a hand to an unidentified team-mate as a South Island opponent nears them during last week's second round KB Cup clash at Lane Park.



Brisbane's man of the match in the big KB Cup victory over New Zealand's South Island, Shane Bernardin applies a head lock on this unfortunate Kiwi opponent.

Brisbane give Kiwis the run-around

BRISBANE burst into the quarter-finals of the KB Cup with a 34-3 win over a lack-lustre South Island (New Zealand) combination at Lang Park last night. Needing to win by a minimum of 11 points, Brisbane were never in doubt of missing the final eight after they piled on four tries in the second quarter to go to a 21-3 lead.

Despite a pre-match warning from coach Artie Beetson not to go about their task in a rash manner, Brisbane tossed the ball around non-stop after an initial period in which they were guilty of loose handling.

The home side scored eight tries to one but it must be remembered that the opposition was particularly weak. After scoring the first try from a grubber kick, South Island were never in the hunt and lacked any semblance of combination in attack or defence.

Rugged North's captain Shane Bernardin deservedly won the man-of-the-match award on a countback from tireless Valleys' second-rower Bryan Niebling. Bernardin, a virtual crock last year with a knee injury, turned in a marvellous performance in his return to representative football.

Niebling was outstanding and if the final vote had gone to him there would have been few willing to argue.

Another outstanding player for Brisbane was halfback Brad Sully, who only got his chance when State of Origin half Mark Murray withdrew. After a shaky start, Sully constantly tore holes in the South Island defence and finished with two tries to his credit. Young Wynnum-Manly centre Brett



By
Barry
Dick

French also notched two tries in an impressive representative debut.

Brisbane's win gave them a plus 28 for-and-against rating after their first-round 10-13 loss to Balmain. Beetson may not have been too impressed with his team in the second half when they tended to coast after hitting the front.

Queensland captain Wally Lewis was replaced late in the final quarter and, although it was probably to give Souths' youngster Bruce Harry a run, Lewis was helped into the dressing room and appeared slightly injured.

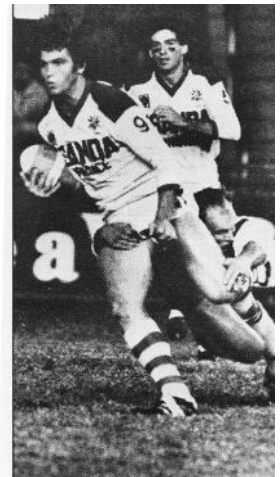
BRISBANE 34 (B French 2, B Sully 2, N Carr, C Scott, B Niebling, T Elliott tries: Scott 4, B Harry goals) **d SOUTH ISLAND (NZ) 3** (B Green try). First scorers and first try scorers: Brisbane 3, South Island 4).



Above: Colin Scott about to score a try.



Norm Carr in action for Brisbane against New Zealand's South Island in the 1982 KB Cup.



Brisbane second rower, Cavill Heugh tackled by a South Island (New Zealand) player during last year's round two clash at Lang Park. Winger Gary Thompson supports Heugh.

1982 KB CUP

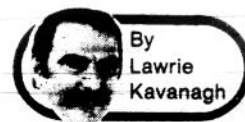
KB CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 21 (Lang Park)

PARRAMATTA 25 v BRISBANE 7



There were just too many of them



BRISBANE bowed out of the KB Cup last night, mastered by a highly professional Parramatta rugby league team in the quarter-final at Lang Park.



Wally Fullerton Smith on the burst for Brisbane in a KB Cup match.

For more than half the match there were just too many blue Parramatta jerseys on the field, and they won 25-7 after scoring five tries to one.

Man of the match was Sydney glam-boy Brett Kenny, who scored three tries. Kenny showed he knows how to be in the right place at the right time, but one wonders how he would have fared had he been up against Brisbane's Test five-eighth Wally Lewis.

What a pity it was for Kenny, Lewis, and the crowd that this pair did not get to repeat their deciding State of Origin match clash, which Lewis completely dominated, leading Queensland to a fine victory.

But with Lewis out injured last night Queensland were down a lot of points even before the kick-off. His replacement, Bruce Harry, is a very good player, but a Lewis he is not.

The Brisbane team sadly lacked that touch of class Lewis brings to any team, even the Australian team. But it is doubtful if his influence could have stemmed the blue tide last night.

Despite some courageous efforts by Queensland players, particularly half-back Mark Murray, forwards Norm Carr, Wally Fullerton-Smith, Gary Grienke and others, the Brisbane side just did not match up to the Sydney competition leaders in most departments.

It was particularly noticeable in the second half, when the Brisbane players just did not recover quickly enough in either attack or defence to match Parramatta.

Even in promising attacking positions they were bunched and disorganised.

Parramatta played the last seven

minutes with only 12 men after using all their reserves.

While Kenny took out the Man of the Match, I went for the unpopular Sydney warhorse, lock Ray Price.

Without Price Parramatta may have been an easier proposition, just as the Australian team was in the first Test against New Zealand with Price missing because of injury. But still, Australia won that match, and Parramatta would undoubtedly have won last night without him.

One of Kenny's three tries came from an excellent Price break in the first quarter when he sent Kenny flying for a 35 metre try. His last two came in the final quarter: he accepted the easiest of mishandled balls from Brisbane prop Grienke to dash over, and he was back for his third against limited opposition eight minutes before full-time.

Murray did no harm to his Kangaroo tour chances with a top display against another Kangaroo prospect, Peter Sterling. Murray, who narrowly missed Australian selection against Test man Steve Mortimer this season, showed again last night he is right up there with the best in Australia.

His defence was impeccable, and he was one of the few to make clean breaks when the defence was at its best. Two of his big breaks — in the first five minutes of the third quarter — were the best in the match, and only lacked back-up.

Murray played over Sterling, and must have forced more votes into his corner for a Kangaroo jersey.

Scores: Parramatta 25 (B Kenny 3, S Ella P Sterling, tries; M Cronin 5 goals) d Brisbane 7 (B Astill try; B Harry 2 goals).



No where to go for the 'Bear' ... Parramatta prop Bob O'Reilly is well and truly held by these Brisbane defenders who swarmed in to stop the former Test forward's progress in the KB Cup quarter-final at Lang Park last night.



Left: Parramatta score a try through a bomb that was not cleaned up by the Brisbane defence.

1983 KB CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 18, 1983	Manly	78	def	Queensland Country	4	Lang Park
May 18, 1983	Brisbane	38	def	North Sydney	18	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 27, 1983	Brisbane	54	def	NSW Country	14	Leichhardt Oval
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SEMI FINAL

August 10, 1983	Manly	23	def	Brisbane	14	Lang Park
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Wednesday May 18 (Lang Park) MANLY 78 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 4

Steamrolled!

MANLY-WARRINGAH steamrolled Queensland Country 78-4 at Lang Park last night in one of the highest scoring KB Cup rugby league matches on record.

Almost from the opening whistle, Manly scored almost as well as they rattied up 15 tries.

"I was hoping it might have been just a little bit closer but they are probably the best club side in the world," Country coach John Rhodes said. "The boys played well in patches but it's a bit hard to expect them to win against that lot."

From inside the first minute, when Manly halfback Phil Blake trailed winger Kerry Boustead to score between the posts after a 50m move, it was all downhill for Country.

In a relatively quiet first quarter, Manly scored only three tries - all from the Blake brothers, with centre Michael collecting two - but in the second quarter Manly hit their straps with tries by Phil Carey, another by Phil Blake after a magnificent break by Boustead from the kickoff, one to Ross Windshuttle and another by Chris Close.

In the third quarter, they piled on four tries and rounded it off with another four in the final quarter.

Country had to wait until the 13th minute of the final quarter before replacement five-eighth Darryl Morrissey scored after a scrum win 15m from the line.

Country's spirits were not helped by a 14-5 caning in the penalties by referee Eddie Ward.

Second-rowers Gary Smith and Robert Hanna, along with prop Steve Rohl, never shirked their duty in hitting the big Manly forwards at top pace while halfback Ray Owens went close to holding his own against Blake.

MANLY-WARRINGAH 78 IN BLAKE'S 3
Carey, Thomson, Cleal, Dreier tries;
Windshuttle 6 goals, Cochran 3 goals; d
QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 4 (Morrissey try).

1983 KB CUP

Wednesday May 18 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 33 v NORTH SYDNEY 18

Magic of Lewis makes it a romp

CAUGHT IN A BEAR HUG

BRISBANE charged into the quarter-finals of the rich KB Cup rugby league night series when they blasted North Sydney 38-18 at Lang Park last night.

It was Brisbane's best performance in four years, and once again it was engineered by skipper Wally Lewis, back on the centre stage of representative football he loves so much.

The Kangaroo vice-captain responded to the support given by the patriotic crowd of about 12,000 with another scintillating performance, directing traffic and having a hand in four of Brisbane's six tries.

His performance all but buried the representative hopes of North Sydney's rugby union convert Mitchell Cox — the form five-eighth of the Sydney competition — who paled into insignificance in comparison to Lewis.

But this was no one-man show by Brisbane. There were many outstanding performances, especially from the forward pack which was thrown together in the last couple of days following a string of injuries.

Two of the best players for Brisbane were prop Richie Poulsen and second-rower Wally Fullerton-Smith from the out of form Redcliffe club. Poulsen shone in the heavy work, taking the ball up willingly, while Fullerton-Smith pulled off some damaging tackles and made several clean breaks.

Kangaroos Greg Conescu and Mark Murray, who have been under plenty of pressure this year, returned to the big match scene with a bang. Conescu won scrums 9-3 — including four tightheads — and scored a great try, while Murray served his backline well, tackled ferociously and also notched a good try.

It was hard to find a bad player for Brisbane, with every player doing the job required of him. But the same could not be said for North Sydney, who were disappointing.

By BARRY DICK

The Bears have been one of the improvers in Sydney over the last two years, but they obviously left their best form behind them and had only one player who deserved special mention — captain and former Brisbane Norths player Mark Graham, who tried valiantly to lift his team.

Graham said after the game he "hated" four-quarter football but he acknowledged the great effort by the locals.

Brisbane dominated possession in the first quarter and, although they made plenty of handling errors, fully deserved their 12-6 lead.

The match opened just the way Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy would have hoped when winger Terry Butler capped off a move involving Lewis, second-rower Bryan Niebling and centre Mai Meninga with a try in the corner after 70 seconds.

North Sydney levelled when centre John Adam swooped on the ball after Brisbane fullback Colin Scott made a mess of a Cox bomb in the eighth minute, but the locals hit back with a try by winger Wayne Charlis off a Lewis bomb 90 seconds from quarter time.

The second quarter was much of the same, with Brisbane adding two tries to one, the first when Conescu charged through a gap from dummy half and stretched out to score a good individual try.

BRISBANE 38 (W. Charlis 2, T. Butler, G. Conescu, J. Tapp, M. Murray tries; M. Meninga 7 goals) **NORTH SYDNEY 18** (J. Adam, M. Graham, C. Luckman tries; L. Kelly 3 goals).



Brisbane second-rower Wally Fullerton-Smith drags down North Sydney prop Lindsay Johnston last night.



Above: Wally Lewis on the burst. **Below:** Mal Meninga grabs the ball after Greg Conescu scores a try.



1983 KB CUP

KB CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 27 (Leichhardt Oval)

BRISBANE 54 v NSW COUNTRY 14

It's on! The showdown of the year

SYDNEY.— Brisbane charged into the rugby league showdown of the year when they slaughtered New South Wales Country 54-14 at a bleak Leichhardt Oval here last night.

Brisbane will now take on Sydney competition leader Manly-Warringah at Lang Park on Wednesday night in a KB Cup semi-final that suddenly has become one of the most important interstate clashes of the season.

Next week's match might have been just another Cup semi-final a week ago but after the incredible drama at the highest level earlier this week it has now become the most talked-about clash of 1983.

Manly have what they wanted — a neutral referee — and Brisbane have what they wanted — their home ground — so the match, which has generated unprecedented interest in both states, has become a reality.

After last night's comprehensive victory over a disappointing NSW Country, Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy was thinking only of the Manly match. Despite the fact that Brisbane scored nine tries, McCarthy realises he will have to work hard to bring Brisbane up to the standard required to match what is arguably the most professional rugby league outfit in the world.

But McCarthy is far from overawed by the task confronting Brisbane. "I reckon there are a couple of weaknesses in the Manly side and we will be out to exploit those weaknesses next week. Tonight's game was not very attractive but we came down here for one thing and one thing only: To win."

It would have been hard for Brisbane to maintain full effort in the sterile atmosphere at Leichhardt last night. There were fewer than 400 people at the ground, it was bitterly cold and NSW Country never looked like pushing Brisbane to any extent.

But McCarthy admitted later that

From BARRY DICK

the lapses of concentration by the Brisbane players last night would be fatal against a brilliant attacking side such as Manly, who will be out for Brisbane's blood after the political conflict earlier this week.

McCarthy does not expect, nor would he ask, Brisbane clubs to rest their representative players this Sunday but he will have his fingers crossed that all his stars get through Sunday's round safely. He expects to train on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

One player who will not be available next week is winger Wayne Challis. Brisbane gambled on Challis' fitness last night but the gamble came unstuck in the 35th minute when he was replaced by his club skipper Bruce As-till because of a recurrence of his shoulder injury.

Challis is likely to be sidelined for some time and there must be some doubt about Test centre Mal Meninga.



WAYNE LINDENBERG

who was replaced in the 55th minute with a hip injury after scoring a try and kicking six goals.

Captain Wally Lewis, who had a relatively quiet game, was happy to get past NSW Country with such ease. "We needed that game to allow a couple of the new players to get used to one another and I'm sure we will be ready for Manly next week," Lewis said.

Brisbane were never in danger of losing last night's quarter-final from the time halfback Wayne Lindenberg scored the first of his two tries in the eighth minute.

Every time Brisbane decided to swing the ball wide they found gaps in the Country defence, simply not up to the task of containing a side including seven Test representatives.

Lindenberg had a brilliant game in his return to the big time. He took a great deal of the pressure off Lewis and must have pushed man of the match Gene Miles for the rich award. But Miles fully deserved his rating with some powerful breaks out wide and some clever ball work whenever he decided to inject himself into the forwards.

Three players spent time in the sin bin during a remarkably clean match.

Just after halftime Country props Ross Gibson and Geoff Foster were banished after an all-in brawl and Brisbane second-rower Wally Fullerton-Smith copped 10 minutes rest in the 59th minute after receiving his third caution.

BRISBANE 54 (Brennan 3, Lindenberg 2, Tassmann, Paterson, Miles, Meninga tries; Meninga 6 goals, Lewis 3 goals) v **NSW COUNTRY 14** (McCartney, Kearney tries; Elwin 3 goals).

Below Left: Mal Meninga converts a try. Below Right: Mitch Brennan after scoring a try.



1983 KB CUP

KB CUP SEMI FINAL

Wednesday August 10 (Lang Park)

MANLY 23 v BRISBANE 14

'Good big man beat good little man'



The makings of a try — Manly-Warringah centre Chris Close charges into a tackle by Brisbane winger Terry Butler on his way to scoring the first try last night.

BRISBANE bowed out of the 1983 KB Cup rugby league competition when they were beaten by a thoroughly professional and totally committed Manly-Warringah at Lang Park last night.

By BARRY DICK

Manly scored four tries to two in their 23-14 win to secure a berth in the August 10 final against either Eastern Suburbs or Cronulla-Sutherland, and on last night's performance the Sea Eagles will take a power of beating in the final.

Brisbane tried — no one could doubt their effort — but in the end it was the sheer professionalism and overall size of Manly which wore them down.

"The good big man beat the good little man," Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy commented. "Find me some blokes as big as Manly's and we would beat them."

McCarthy said skipper and Test five-eighth Wally Lewis had been "left on his own" to stem the Manly tide when Kangaroo centres Mal Meninga and Gene Miles came in for more than their share of treatment early.

Miles was a dejected figure in the dressing room. Brisbane strapper and Wynnum-Manly club secretary Bruce Cory said Miles' cheekbone could be broken, and certainly from outward appearances Miles' prospects of playing again this season did not look good.

Wynnum coach Des Morris mirrored Miles' dejection. Premiers Wynnum are caught in a life-and-death struggle in the Brisbane premiership and they can ill-afford to be without their most consistent player.

The disappointing crowd of about 12,000 — undoubtedly the TV replay which started 25 minutes after kick-off had an adverse effect on the attendance — was left hushed as Manly methodically over-ran Brisbane.

Brisbane were below par — the performance bore no resemblance to the one turned in against NSW Country in the quarter-final only a

week before and was a mere shadow of the great effort against North Sydney in the first round of the Cup — and Manly took full advantage.

Two players classed as "over the hill" and a young try-scoring sensation led the charge.

Former Kangaroo fullback Graham Eadie turned in a superlative display of custodian play in what must have been his final Lang Park appearance and lock Ian Schubert, another player at the end of his career, also stood out.

But it was brilliant young half-back Phil Blake who was the centre of attention from the time he replaced the injured Phil Sigsworth in the second quarter.

Blake, who has knocked up scoring tries in the Sydney premiership, did not let his fans down, displaying an uncanny sense of positional play to score two tries.

Brisbane's cause was not helped by New Zealand referee Don Wilson. The big "neutral referee" experiment was an abject failure as Wilson failed to police the five

metre rule throughout and missed countless infringements.

Still, the refereeing affected both sides to the same degree. It was probably just as well Wilson did not keep the sides 10 metres apart or Manly might have run riot.

The game ebbed and flowed in a scoreless first quarter and 16 minutes of play went by before the first scrum was packed. As soon as the ball was fed Wilson called both hookers out for a lecture and when the scrum re-packed Brisbane hooker Greg Conescu was banished to the sin bin for 10 minutes.

Chris Close scored the first try for Manly when he ran off a clever pass from hooker Ray Brown. Lewis had a firm hold of Close on the line and held him up for what seemed an eternity before the big centre grounded the ball.

Brisbane did not stop trying and Test second-rower Wally Fullerton-Smith typified the courage of the local forwards.

MANLY WARRINGAH 23 (P Blake 2, C Close 1, R Widdowhustle tries; G Eadie 3 goals; P Blake, Reld goals) v BRISBANE 14 (M Brennan; G Jones tries; M Meninga 3 goals). First scorers: Manly 3, Brisbane 5.

Below: Mitch Brennan is unable to stop Manly's Phil Blake scoring a try.



PHIL BLAKE
MANLY / CENTRE

1983 KB CUP

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED / BRISBANE DIVISION

KB CUP SQUAD 1983

BRISBANE 38 — NORTH SYDNEY 18

BRISBANE 14 — MANLY/WARRINGAH 23

BRISBANE 54 — NSW COUNTRY 14



FRONT ROW (left to right): Bruce Astill, Greg Conescu, Wally Lewic (Capt.), Bob McCarthy (Coach), Wally Fullerton-Smith, Cavill Heugh, Terry Butler.
SECOND ROW (left to right): Brad Tessmann, Shane Bernardin, Bryan Niebling, Gordon Treichel (Co-Manager), Trevor Paterson, Brad Sully, Wayne Lindenberg.
THIRD ROW (left to right): Mitch Brennan, Gavin Jones.

1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 16, 1984	Queensland Country	25	def	Auckland	18	Lang Park
June 6, 1984	Easts (Sydney)	44	def	Queensland Country	0	Leichhardt Oval
May 2, 1984	Brisbane	25	def	South Sydney	18	Lang Park

QUARTER FINAL

July 11, 1984	Brisbane	14	def	Canterbury	11	Lang Park
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SEMI FINAL

July 25, 1984	Brisbane	14	def	Parramatta	12	Leichhardt Oval
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CUP FINAL

August 15, 1984	BRISBANE	12	def	EASTS (Sydney)	11	Leichhardt Oval
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The victorious 1984 Brisbane National Panasonic Cup team

1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday May 16 (Lang Park)

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 25 v AUCKLAND 18

All go now for Country

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

A NEW era was ushered in to Queensland rugby league when Country beat top New Zealand side Auckland 25-18 in the National Panasonic Cup at Lang Park last night.

It was an excellent win and an excellent match, both teams turning on exciting, brilliant attacking football. But the night belonged to the much-maligned Queensland Country team.

It was the best performance from a country side in many years. Anyone needing more argument for retaining the State league had it last night.

The next big test — and it is a big one — for Queensland Country is

when they play Sydney Easts at Leichhardt Oval on June 6.

This year's series brought country players to their greatest pitch. Even when Auckland — with seven internationals — looked like taking the match with strong attack, the Queenslanders defended grimly.

And in the dying stages they were full of running when previous country teams could have been expected to be floundering. This is a direct result of the State League and the torrid matches players have been forced to play this year.

Queensland Country raced to a 24-

12 lead when Gill scored his second try just before three-quarter time. But Auckland hit back five minutes into the final quarter when five-eighth Shane Cooper scored from an excellent move by Clayton Friend.

The try put New Zealand just a converted try away. But five-eighth Robert Tew put an end to that when he snapped a field goal with six minutes to go.

Fullback Peter Gill scored two smart tries, and his spectacular, safe handling of bombs — after missing his first attempted take — was a highlight, as he went on to a flawless display.

His first try, in the second minute of the third quarter, was probably the try of the match. After a top passing burst from the Queensland backline Gill took the ball wide out and set sail for the line in a long run.

Nearing the line he almost lost his head in a high tackle, but stayed on his feet before sending the ball to winger Steve Gibson. Gibson found himself hemmed in on the corner and passed inside to Gill, who rocketed over.

Two North Queensland players injured and replaced, later declared they would be fit for Sunday's State League semi-final against Wynnum-Manly. Winger Dale Shearer had a groin injury and centre Habey Deemal injured a shoulder.

Mount Isa forward Kevin Bocos has been brought into the Queensland Country team to tour New Zealand to replace Paul Bleakley, who has work commitments.

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 25 (P Gill 2, S Gibson, R Armstrong tries; C Lindenberg 4 goals; R Tew field goal) **AUCKLAND 18** (A Sinclair, S Cooper, C Friend tries; C Lovett 2, N Wright goals).

First scorers: Auckland 7, Country 7. **First try scorers:** Auckland 7, Country 2. **Scrums:** Country 14-8; **penalties:** Country 8-7.



Above: Peter Gill on the burst as he goes on to score one of his two tries.



QUEENSLAND Country prop Marshall Colwell (11) attempts to brush aside an Auckland defender at Lang Park last night.



The last team from New Zealand to play at Lang Park was Auckland — on May 16 when they lost 18-25 to Queensland Country. Fullback Peter Gill is pictured here scoring a spectacular Country try in the tackle of Auckland fullback, Darryl Williams and five eighth, Shane Cooper. Looking on is referee, Ian Irwin and Country five eighth, Rob Tew.

Wednesday June 6 (Leichhardt Oval)

EASTS (SYDNEY) 44 v QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 0

Roosters crowing

From LAWRIE KAVANAGH

SYDNEY. — Queensland Country wilted to lowly-rated Sydney rugby league team Easts in the National Panasonic Cup at Leichhardt Oval last night.

The 44-0 thrashing was a thoroughly disappointing effort from Country after their earlier performances, including a win over Auckland and two out of three wins on their recent tour of New Zealand.

But last night the Country boys seldom looked a chance, although the Roosters gained their first points with a try by hooker Rowland Beckett from a forward pass. From then it was one-way traffic for Easts.

Easts, given a tremendous advantage by halves Scott Gale and Mike Eden, ran riot. Man of the match was Gale but Eden starred in his own right, with five goals and two tries for 18 points.

Queensland Country players gave it everything but they were outgunned and, in some cases, belittled.

EASTS 44 (M Eden 2, R Beckett 2, S Gale, R Simkins, P Dunn, D Greene tries; M Eden 5, K Hastings goal) **QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 0.**

1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday May 2 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 25 v SOUTH SYDNEY 18

Game flows as brawls cover field



Our final tribute to the ESANDA Brisbane team. Scenes from the match which started it all — the first round victory over South Sydney. Brisbane prop, Richie Poulsen is helped by hooker Eddie Muller after bumping off two Souths' defenders.

BRISBANE entered the National Panasonic Cup quarter-finals with a patchy 25-18 rugby league win over South Sydney at Lang Park last night.

The match was notable for the refereeing as much as it was for football; in some of the most amazing scenes witnessed on Lang Park, North Queensland referee Barry Gomersall calmly let the match flow while fights raged about him in the first quarter.

In the first minutes the first scrum broke up with props Greg Dowling (Brisbane) and Dean Rampling swinging punches. More players joined in, in front of Gomersall, but he ignored them. Both touch judges went onto the field.

FEW PLAYED

It was obvious he was intent on letting the players sort themselves out. But the fight raged on and spread, until at one stage there were five scrimmages spread over a wide area. And still the match went on.

Only a handful of players were involved in the match.

In the 10th minute, with tempers still frayed, halfbacks Henry Foster (Brisbane) and Craig Coleman tore into each other in front of the referee, who merely stepped around them.

By LAWRIE KAVANAGH

As they grappled on the ground, Dowling tried to separate them, and could be seen gesturing to Gomersall, obviously appealing to him to break the fight up.

Gomersall continued with the match.

Out of all these wild punches and head-butts Gomersall did not issue a caution. It was an amazing series of events, but the players eventually settled down to a tough, but relatively clean remainder of the match.

Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy said he thought Gomersall may have become overawed by the match. "I thought he would have been better to have warned all players the next one to throw a punch would be sent off," McCarthy said.

Brisbane almost blew their chances in the second quarter after taking an 8-0 lead after 20 minutes. After an excellent start in which they defended with great strength, they seemed reluctant to tackle.

Test centre Mal Meninga was particularly noticeable in this defensive lapse, missing several tackles after he appeared to have the attacker well covered. This complacency also spread to the attack, when few players seemed keen to back up the ball carrier.

Brisbane lifted their game in the second quarter and raced away to a 16-4 lead. But on half-time there was another lapse of support when players failed to get back to help winger Joe Kilroy take a bomb. It resulted in a loose ball that prop Bill Hardy toed through and dived on for his second try.

South Sydney got to within four points at 18-14 in the third quarter after five-eighth Neil Baker landed two goals and Brisbane looked to be in trouble.

There was bad news for the home side in the first minute of the final quarter when second-rower Wally Fullerton Smith was injured in a typical front-on tackle. He was replaced by Adrian Higgs. Fullerton Smith said later the injury was a pinched shoulder nerve and he hoped to be fit for Sunday.

INTERCEPT

Dowling snapped a field goal in the 65th minute to make it 19-14, but the match was still wide open. Meninga sewed it up when he scooped up an intercept that left him a clear run for the line.

BRISBANE 25 (G Belcher, M Meninga, J Kilroy, W Lewis tries; Lewis 4 goals, G Dowling field goal) **SOUTH SYDNEY 18** (W Hardy 2, L Biles tries; N Baker 3 goals.)



Brisbane replacement forward Adrian Higgs is tackled by South Sydney's Michael Carberry and Bill Hardy.



Above: Wally Lewis scores Brisbane's first try.



The first big representative game of the 1984 season at Lang Park — Brisbane versus South Sydney. Here South Sydney second row, Michael Carberry strides away from Mal Meninga, Bob Lindner and referee, Barry Gomersall. Brisbane won 25-18.

1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday July 11 (Lang Park)

BRISBANE 14 v CANTERBURY 11

Now for the Eels

BRISBANE advanced to the semi-finals of the National Panasonic Cup rugby league competition when they beat Sydney premier-ship leaders Canterbury-Bankstown 14-11 at Lang Park last night.

They will now play Parramatta in Sydney on a date to be set. Sydney Easts will play the winner of the St George-Balmain quarter-final in the other semi.

Brisbane were forced to battle hard all the way and it took two pieces of Wally Lewis magic to get them in front in the nail-biting final quarter.

Fullback Colin Scott accepted a superb 20 m pass from Lewis seven minutes into the final quarter to score untouched and bring Brisbane back to an 8-10 deficit, and after Canterbury had edged further ahead with a Terry Lamb field goal it was another long pass from Lewis which paved the way for the winning try.

Hooker Eddie Muller had cleverly raked back in a play-the-ball and in the ensuing ruck Lewis tossed a long pass to halfback Henry Foster, who stood in a tackle to give winger John Ribot a clear passage to the line.

Lewis was man of the match, but he must have been closely pressed by Wally Fullerton Smith, Bob Lindner and Richie Poulson, who set up the victory with some hard-hitting defence.

The match finished on a controversial note when, with five minutes to go, replacement Canterbury centre Greg Mullane dived over in the corner only to see the touch judge's flag go up. The TV replay showed the decision was correct, but Bulldogs halfback Steve

RUGBY LEAGUE

Barry Dick

Mortimer did not have the benefit of a replay and he was penalised for remonstrating with the touch judge.

Canterbury had gained a vital break seconds before three-quarter time when winger Ross Conlon landed the simplest of penalty goals following a silly indiscretion by Fullerton Smith. The goal gave the visitors a 10-4 lead going into the final 20 minutes.

Until then Brisbane had held firm against some sustained pressure, as well as mounting promising attacking raids.

Canterbury's first try, 17 minutes into the opening quarter, was scored by former Brisbane Souths hooker Billy Johnstone, but it should not have been awarded. Johnstone was more than a metre in front of prop Peter Kelly when he accepted the pass.

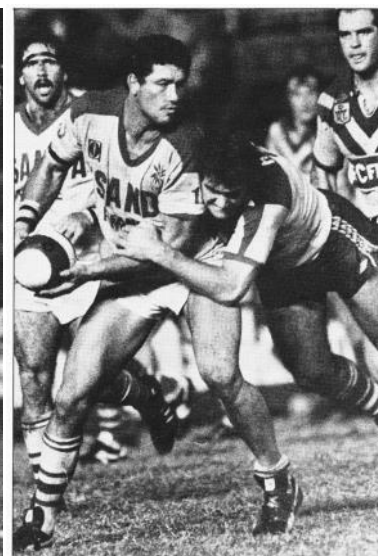
Referee Eddie Ward did not endear himself to the crowd earlier when he gave some strange scrum rulings, letting Mortimer get away with two blatant second-row feeds, and then penalising Brisbane half Foster for the same thing.

But if Ward upset the fans in the first quarter he really riled them in the second when the game became disjointed because of his heavy hand.

SCORES: Brisbane 14 (C. Scott, J. Ribot tries; M. Meninge 3 goals) v Canterbury Bankstown 11 (B. Johnstone try; R. Conlon 3 goals; T. Lamb field goal). First scorers: Brisbane 3, Canterbury 5. First try: Brisbane 1, Canterbury 12.



The last representative match played at Lang Park was the National Panasonic Cup quarter final between Brisbane and Canterbury — Bankstown last Wednesday. Brisbane won 14-11. Brisbane second rower, Wally Fullerton Smith is pictured tackling Canterbury prop, Peter Kelly.



Our tribute to the ESANDA Brisbane team which has reached the grand final of the National Panasonic Cup competition. Prop, Bob Kellaway prepares to unload the ball despite the attention of Canterbury — Bankstown centre, Andrew Farrar. Action from the Cup quarter final.

Below Centre: Joe Kilroy on the burst. **Below Right:** A Brisbane players gets unended in a fierce tackle.



Canterbury halfback Steve Mortimer tries to break the tackle of Brisbane prop Bob Kellaway in the National Panasonic Cup match at Lang Park last night. PICTURE: Kim Stretton



1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP SEMI FINAL

Wednesday July 25 (Leichhardt Oval)

BRISBANE 14 v PARRAMATTA 12

Brisbane stop Eels - now for the final!

From KEVIN HEPWORTH

BRISBANE last night proved once and for all that New South Wales is no longer the heart of the rugby league world with a magnificent 14-12 National Panasonic Cup semi-final victory at Leichhardt Oval.

In putting themselves in line for a \$120,000 payoff in the August 15 final against either Eastern Suburbs or St George, the Brisbane warriors ground the might of Sydney premiers Parramatta into the mud.

"In three matches we have knocked over the three best defensive sides in the Sydney competition," coach Bob McCarthy said. "And I think we won that one early when we held them for 30-odd tackles near our line. I don't think they had much left after that."

McCarthy's pride in his players was totally justified for, while maestro Wally Lewis again took off the man of the match award, he was not far ahead of his team-mates.

Lewis earned his points with another brilliant display of marshalling and two pinpoint passes that led to Brisbane's tries, by Bob Lindner and Ian French.

"The boys just kept going, they never let up," Lewis said. "We played dumb football in the last quarter when we put a lot of pressure on ourselves by not kicking, but the boys never gave it in."

McCarthy praised his forwards for a magnificent job and it really was up the centre that Brisbane broke Parramatta's heart.

SLIPPED A BIT

"We let it slip away a bit in the first two quarters but they had a very good pack of forwards," Parramatta coach John Monie said. "I thought tonight they were a better side than I gave them credit for."

The Brisbane win was all the more meritorious because they had to overcome some baffling refereeing from Greg McCullum that resulted in Parramatta enjoying an 18-5 advantage in the penalty count.

If anything, the scoreline flattered the Eels because they trailed 6-0 at quarter time, 14-4 at half-time, 14-6 at three-quarter time and crossed for their try only in the second last minute.

The Brisbane players took the field wound up like a spring. And from the time Mal Meninga potted a penalty in the third minute they were always in control.

The final quarter was all tension with Brisbane defending grimly for much of the 20 minutes. But Brisbane had the opportunity to seal the match for certain in the 17th minute when a brilliant passing move resulted in Meninga forcing his way over the line — only to bounce the ball.

Parramatta capitalised on that let-off when Ella finished off the only clean break of the night by giant winger Eric Grothe by crossing in the corner. Cronin made it four from four with the conversion but it was too late for the Eels.

BRISBANE 14 (B Lindner, I French tries; C Scott 2, M Meninga goals) **d PARRAMATTA 12** (S Ella try; M Cronin 4 goals) at Leichhardt Oval.



Above: Ian French about to score for Brisbane against Parramatta.



Above: Wally Lewis about to pass. Below: Bob Lindner scores for Brisbane.



1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP FINAL

Wednesday August 15 (Leichhardt Oval)

BRISBANE 12 v EASTS (SYDNEY) 11

Brisbane survive Cup cliff-hanger



ABOVE: Brisbane hooker Eddie Muller prepares to get his pass away in last night's National Panasonic Cup final against Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. He played through the match with painkilling injections in his foot because of a work accident. BELOW: Team-mate Colin Scott is carried off Leichhardt Oval last night after dislocating an elbow.

SYDNEY.— Brisbane are the National Panasonic Cup champions after beating Sydney batters Eastern Suburbs in a nail-biting rugby league final at Leichhardt Oval last night.

Brisbane won 12-11 but were forced to defend desperately in an unbelievable final few minutes when Easts hurled themselves at the tryline in a do-or-die attempt to capture their third Cup.

It was real Cup final stuff and Brisbane fully earned the \$120,000 first prizemoney after appearing to have blown handy leads several times.

Easts have had a disastrous year in the Sydney premiership, but the Brisbane players would take a lot of convincing that the Roosters are anything but a good and courageous football team.

The victory was yet another milestone in a great year of Queensland football, coming on top of the 2-1 State of Origin series success and the record-equalling number of Queensland Test representatives.

Wally Lewis, the Brisbane, Queensland and Australian captain, capped off a marvellous season when he was named man of the match for the fourth successive time in Cup matches to win the \$20,000 1984 superstar award.

But while Lewis often wins awards for his attacking genius, he got the vote last night for his superb defence when Brisbane needed it most.

Several times Easts appeared to have Brisbane in dire trouble, especially through great attacks from young prop Paul Dunn and pacey centre Glenn Leggett, but it was Lewis who stopped most of the attacking raids with superb ball-and-all tackles.

From BARRY DICK

Brisbane scored two tries to one and there was a note of controversy about the Easts' try, which came in the 64th minute when Lewis made a rare mistake and second-rower Terry Regan toed the ball through and attempted to ground it over the line.

A TV replay showed that Regan did not lay a hand on the ball but replacement forward Steve Hardy certainly did and it was a fair try. But arguments raged over whether referee Chris Ward had given the try to Regan or Hardy and it was not until after the match that it was confirmed that he had awarded it to Hardy.

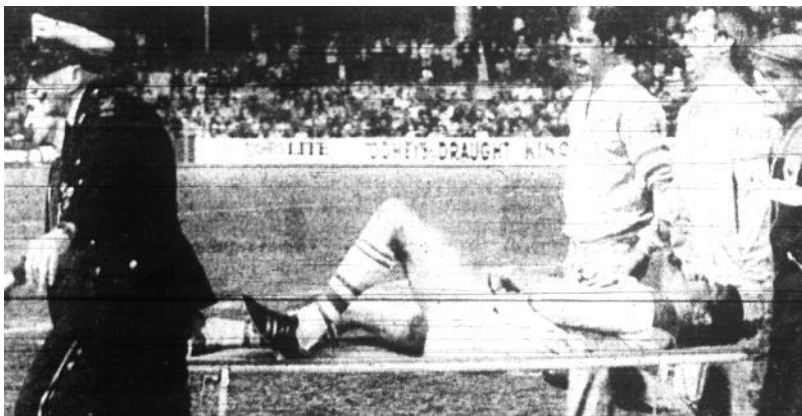
Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy, who went through 10 minutes of torture before the final hooter, praised his players' professionalism and experience in the cliff-hanging final stages.

McCarthy also revealed that hooker Eddie Muller had played through the match with painkilling injections in his foot because of a work accident that left him with a badly injured big toe two weeks ago.

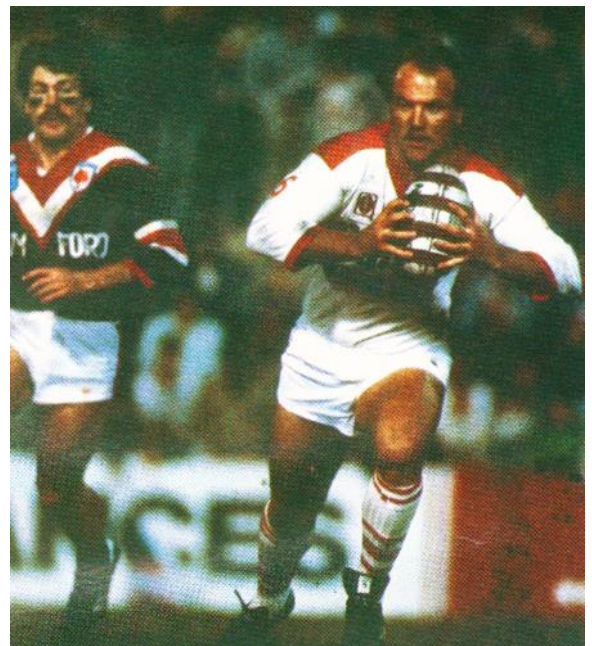
"We knew it would be tight because Easts were enthusiastic and they certainly didn't turn it up," McCarthy said.

Wynnum-Manly's brilliant fullback Colin Scott was replaced early in the second quarter after falling heavily and it was found that he had a dislocated elbow, which was later put back into place.

BRISBANE 12 (Lewis, Miles tries; Meninga 2 goals) **v EASTERN SUBURBS 11** (Hardy try; Eden 3 goals, Hastings' fd goal) at Leichhardt Oval. Crowd: 11,284. First scorers: Brisbane 6; Easts 8.



BRISBANE — Fullback, C. Scott; three-quarters, J. Kilroy; M. Meninga; G. Miles; J. Ribot; five-eighth, W. Lewis (capt); halfback, H. Foster; forwards, B. Lindner; W. Fullerton Smith; B. Niebling; R. Poulsen; E. Muller; G. Dowling.



Above: Wally Lewis playing for Brisbane against Easts in the 1984 Panasonic Cup final.

1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

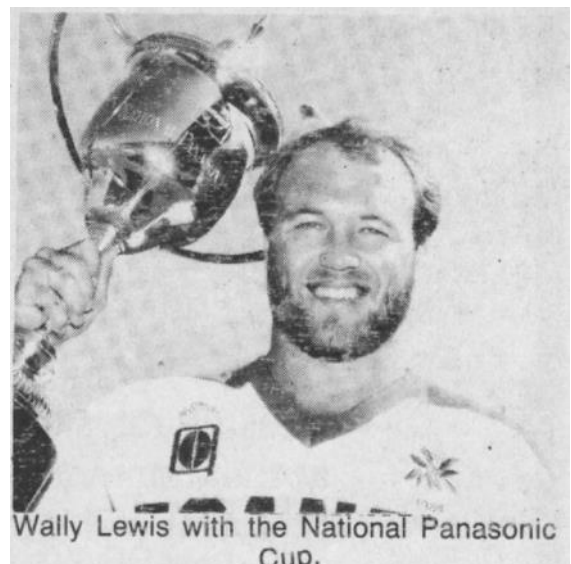
NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP FINAL

Wednesday August 15 (Leichhardt Oval)

BRISBANE 12 v EASTS (SYDNEY) 11



1984 PANASONIC CUP VICTORY
COMBINED BRISBANE DEFEATED EASTS 12-11
(Photo taken after customary swapping of jerseys)



1984 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

NATIONAL Panasonic's introduction to Rugby League's premier midweek Cup coincided with what many believe to be the finest final in the Cup's 11 year history.

It was no surprise that Brisbane made it — 1984 was the year of the Queenslanders — and Wally Lewis could do no wrong.

Despite Easts' lowly position in the Sydney premiership, it should also have been no surprise that they made it as Brisbane's opponents.

Easts were making their fourth final in 11 years, the most by any team.

On two of the three previous occasions this was their night, and most came to regard them as the experts at night time 20-minute quarter football.

Easts' road to the final was considerably easier than Brisbane's.

The Roosters met Queensland Country in the first match, overrunning them 44-0. They scored eight tries with Mike Eden scoring two of them and kicking five goals.

The next match was against NSW Country in the quarter finals. That resulted in a 24-4 win. This time five tries resulted.

In the meantime, Brisbane were working their way to the semi-finals.

They knocked over Souths in a fiery match in Brisbane 25-18, leaving them to tangle with Canterbury, the Sydney premiership leaders at that time.

The match was controversial, Canterbury leading for much of the time, and having a try in the corner disallowed late in the game.

Replays showed that the touch judge had made the correct decision and Brisbane won a tough, almost bitter match, 14-11.

There were those who believed that playing a semi-final against Parramatta at Leichhardt — away from Lang Park — would find Brisbane out.

Wrong! This Brisbane team, many of them in the Queensland State-of-Origin side, had been through so many tough

matches that they were prepared for Sydney's best clubs whether it be at home or away.

Despite an 18-5 penalty count against them, Brisbane scored two tries to Parramatta's one and won 14-12.

They were into their second final, following their first attempt in 1979 in which Cronulla won the Cup.

Easts were faced with St George, and again they were outsiders. St George had been playing well and were close to the top of the Sydney premiership ladder.

It was worth noting that 10 weeks earlier, Easts had beaten St George 20-10 in the first round of the premiership.

Amazingly, the score was almost the same in the National Panasonic semi-final. Easts won 22-10, scoring three tries to one and overcoming an 11-6 penalty count against them.

The curse that Easts appear to have over St George remained.

Brisbane coach Bob McCarthy expressed concern at the many critics who confidently predicted a Brisbane win in the final.

He knew too well the problems facing a team that might believe in the publicity, and not play to their potential.

There was the problem of Wally Lewis, ill in the dressing room before the game because of a virus.

But it was Lewis who set up a try, scored one himself and finally took out the Superstar award.

Brisbane won 12-11 but not after one of the most gripping finishes seen in a Sydney match for a long time.

The Queenslanders appeared to have the match in their keeping when they led 12-5 midway through the final quarter.

It was not as if Brisbane had outplayed Easts. Indeed Easts trailed only 6-5 at halftime and gave Brisbane little breathing space.

With Brisbane leading 12-5, Easts forward Steve Hardy was awarded a try after falling on the ball over Brisbane's line.

Kevin Hastings had kicked a "bomb".

Lewis dropped the ball and referee Chris Ward ruled that Hardy had touched down.

For eight minutes, Easts threw everything at Brisbane and it was a tribute to the defensive qualities of the Brisbane side that they held out.

Brisbane's victory was worth \$120,000. Easts earned \$83,000.

Lewis as Player-of-the-Series won \$20,000 worth of National Panasonic products, the richest individual prize offered in Rugby League.

The total sponsorship in National's first year was \$450,000.

The Golden Try award, a Carlton gold KB ingot valued at \$5,000, was won by Easts Mike Eden.

Round One

April 11: Balmain 12 b Cronulla 2, Leichhardt Oval.

April 18: Penrith 26 b Illawarra 10, Leichhardt Oval.

May 2: Brisbane 25 b South Sydney 18, Lang Park.

May 9: NSW Country 17 b Wests 4, Carrington Park, Bathurst.

May 16: Qld Country 25 b Auckland 18, Lang Park (qualifying match).

May 23: Canterbury 30 b Manly 10, Leichhardt Oval.

June 6: Easts 44 b Qld Country 0, Leichhardt Oval.

June 13: Parramatta 20 b Canberra 2, Leichhardt Oval.

June 20: St George 22 b Norths 0, Leichhardt Oval.

Quarter finals

June 27: Parramatta 16 b Penrith 6, Leichhardt Oval.

July 4: Easts 24 b NSW Country 4, Leichhardt Oval.

July 11: Brisbane 14 b Canterbury 11, Lang Park.

July 18: St George 26 b Balmain 6, Tamworth.

Semi-finals

July 26: Brisbane 14 b Parramatta 12, Leichhardt Oval.

August 1: Easts 22 b St George 10, Leichhardt Oval.

Final

August 15: Brisbane 12 (W. Lewis, G. Miles tries; M. Meninga 2 goals) b Easts 11 (S. Hardy try; M. Eden 3 goals. K. Hastings field goal). Scrums: Brisbane 6-5. Penalties: Easts 13-8. Crowd: 11,264. Referee: Chris Ward. Superstar 1984: Wally Lewis.

ODE TO BRISBANE



'Poet' Kevin Brasch with his 'Ode to Brisbane', flanked by Wally Lewis and Brisbane Lord Mayor Roy Harvey.

National Panasonic's a hard word to say,
But it's a series in which we must play.
Souths, the "Bulldogs" and Parra we beat
By anyone's standards — no mean feat!
But a final's a final and never real fun,
Not with the money so big to be won.

So off to Sydney, McCarthy in charge,
Went our boys in tracksuits, that were quite large.
Next the directors in blazers aglow,
Confidence and style was part of the show.
Then came the kick-off, the game had begun,
Wally in charge; our favorite son.

At halftime, concern that the game was in hand
was as rampant as noise from the military band.

Easts were real 'Tigers' not 'Roosters', you know,
It would take superb play to hold out our foe.
Superb play it was but the scores were quite even —
Perhaps a prayer to our old friend, St Stephen.

With five to go, we were in a bind,
The chairman was one we could not find.
Slumped in his seat with head held low.
This was the time for a bold, brave show.
But who could blame we mere directors?
Never a thought of being defectors.
When the booter went, our hearts stopped thumping,
'Twas then the adrenalin started really pumping.
We'd won, we'd won, now it was clear
We knew all along there was no real fear,
So up we got and led with a cheer,
The boys had won, it's time for a beer.
And beer we had, we had quite a few
Our visit to Leichhardt we would never rue.

The team they had done it, they did us quite proud,
Praise for our heroes will always be loud.
To Gordon and Ted who saw it right through,
Our confidence never wavered in you.
And now it's all over, let's resolve with great zest,
That next year, once more, Brisbane is best!!

1985 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 17, 1985 Balmain 33 def **Brisbane** 16 Leichhardt Oval

Wednesday April 17 (Leichhardt Oval)
BALMAIN 33 v BRISBANE 16

Balmain blitz leaves Brisbane in tatters

SYDNEY.—"King" Wally Lewis and his Brisbane court abdicated from the National Panasonic Cup throne last night.

Balmain romped home 33-16 with a four-try blitz in the final quarter that left not only Brisbane but Queensland's reputation as "kings of the world" in tatters.

After last night's thrashing, Queensland's internationals will need superhuman efforts in the State of Origin matches to retain their Test spoils for the series against New Zealand.

Even Lewis' position as Test captain must be challenged by Wayne Pearce, who led a determined Balmain team that underlined their class in the Sydney premiership.

Greg Dowling was one Brisbane player who did not stop trying, but his Balmain opposite, Steve Rugh, seems headed for an Australian jumper this year.

Hooker Greg Coneseu had a sound match, but former Australian schoolboy hooker Ben Elias outplayed him in all aspects and deserved his man-of-the-match award.

Balmain's four-try blitz started two minutes into the final quarter after Ross Conlon landed a penalty to recapture the lead for Balmain after Brisbane led 10-9 at the third break.

From the kick-off, fullback Gary Jack charged through the Brisbane defence to link with five-eighth Gary Bridge, who sent halfback Scott Gale on a 60m dash to the line.

That 19th-minute try broke the back of the Brisbane defence and in the next eight minutes Balmain were back for three more tries, two by second-rower David Brooks.

With Conlon converting each try, Balmain added 24 points in 10 minutes. Brisbane's second try a few minutes from the end was of little significance.

The Balmain barrage before a partisan crowd of 7500 was unexpected after an evenly-contested 60 minutes.

From JACK CRAIG

Balmain led 6-4 at the first break after Elias scored from a Gale bomb at the 14-minute mark.

The ball rebounded off fullback Colin Scott's chest and was fumbled by another Brisbane player before Elias grabbed it.

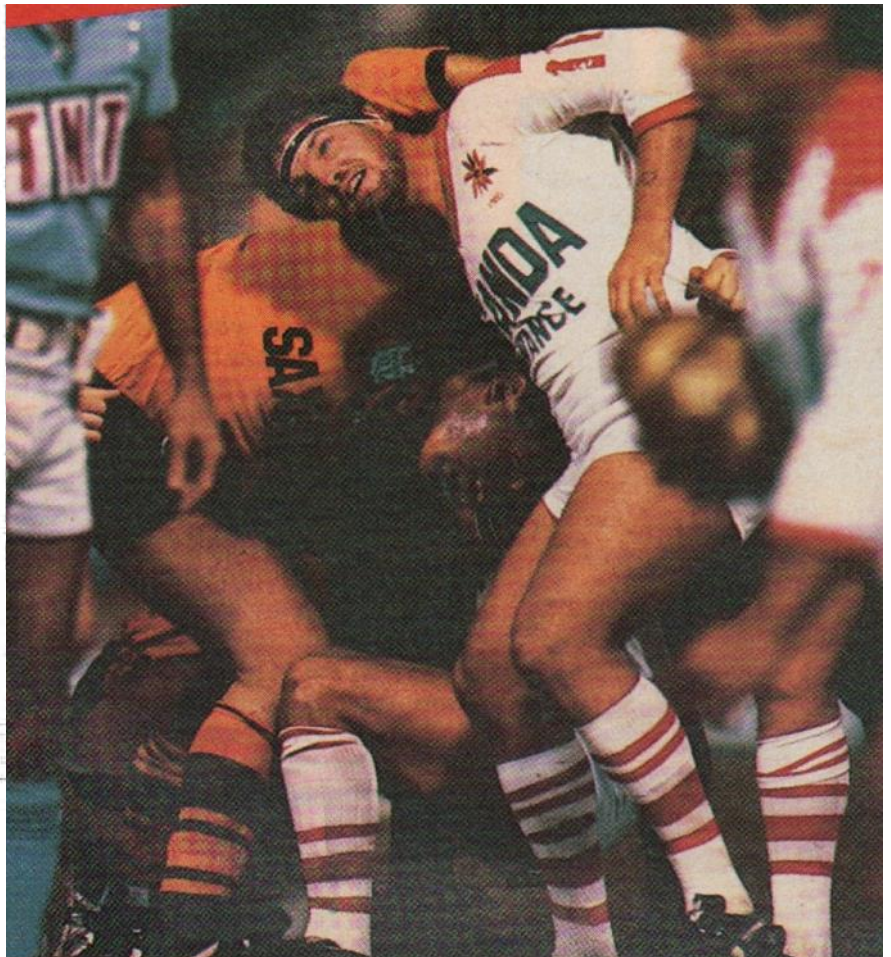
Conlon and John Ribot added penalties in the second quarter but Balmain were the more impressive with Elias, Rugh, Brooks and Pearce making good gains through the rucks.

Brisbane had little penetration, although Bub Lindner managed a long break with Coneseu and Ribot in support but the movement died 10m from pay dirt. Referee Kevin Roberts penalised Brisbane 7-2 in this period but only two were within Conlon's range.

Brisbane played strongly after half-time but still looked a disorganised unit and made uncharacteristic errors under pressure. But they hit their straps and the lead three minutes from the end of the quarter when the Wynnum-Manly connection finally clicked.

Dowling, Lewis, Brett French and Scott combined to send winger Steve Boys away to score in the corner and Brisbane led 10-9. That raised the hopes of the few Queenslanders here but two minutes into the last period Jack's magic run that resulted in Gale's try dashed all that.

BALMAIN 33 10 Brooks 2, B Elias, M Marketo, S Gale tries, R Conlon & goals, S Gale field goal & BRISBANE 16 15 Boys, T Dwyer tries, J Ribot & goals.



1986 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 16, 1985 Manly 18 def **Brisbane** 10 Lang Park

Wednesday April 16 (Lang Park)
MANLY 18 v BRISBANE 10

Boustead injury put seal on a bad night

NEWS was bad for Queensland's State of Origin chances on all fronts last night after Brisbane's 10-18 defeat by Manly-Warringah in the National Panasonic Cup rugby league match at Lang Park.

The effect of Brisbane's injury-disrupted preparation became obvious with a fourth quarter crash that heralded Brisbane's second successive first round exit from the series.

To add to the gloom of the May 27 interstate opener against New South Wales, Manly's champion Queensland winger Kerry Boustead broke his right ankle and appears certain to be ruled out of the Origin series.

Boustead's Queensland team-mates in the Manly side — Shearer, centre Chris Close and lock Paul Vautin — will be welcome recruits when Wayne Bennett's team face NSW next month. Shearer was man of the match.

When trailing 4-8 entering the final quarter, Brisbane played like a team which had had one serious training session together because of five withdrawals on Monday and Tuesday.

Manly, one of the specialists of four-quarter football, left no doubt as to their superiority with two Shearer-inspired tries.

Brisbane coach Barry Muir is still keen to continue as a representative coach despite the defeat. "That's definitely not the end of me," he said.

He paid tribute to Bryan Niebling and Wally Fullerton Smith: "God knows what would have happened if they weren't on the field", but lamented a couple of dropped balls in the third quarter that were the turning point.

Muir said he replaced halfback Mark Murray in the 51st minute because of a shoulder injury, as did prop Cayill Heugh, who was replaced at half-time by Mark Miskell.

"I brought James Sandy on for Peter Coyne not because I thought he

By PAUL MALONE

was playing badly but I thought James may have been able to penetrate their backline," he said.

Brisbane struck swiftly, in the second minute, when Niebling broke the defence and slipped a gem of a pass to lock Bob Lindner.

Lindner kicked out of the tackle of five-eighth Mitchell Cox and crossed for a 4-0 lead to lift the crowd of about 15,000.

It was about the only mistake Cox made in the first half, with his kicking game giving Manly a decided advantage.

Brisbane opposite Wally Lewis played like the flu-affected man he was, knocking on twice within a minute in the opening quarter and missing the mark a couple of times with passes.

Close enraged what could be his home Origin crowd in the fourth minute with a tackle of questionable height on winger John Richards. The young Redcliffe player was shaken and failed to show up in his representative debut.

Referee David Manson, handling his first representative match, acted early in the second half when replacement Manly forward Bill Hardy was given 10 minutes in the sin-bin for an incident behind the play on Niebling.

A scoreless second quarter followed Manly's ninth-minute try by Close which levelled at 4-4. Boustead half-volleyed a long pass from hooker Mal Cochrane magnificently and sent Close over.

Down 4-8 at the final change, Brisbane had time to win through percentage football, but turned in their worst quarter of the match to bow out of the series and miss out on a \$120,000 winner's cheque.

MANLY-WARRINGAH 18 IP Blake 2, C Close, D Ronson tries; M Cochrane goal; **BRISBANE 10** (R Lindner, S Lewis tries; C Scott goal). First scorers and try-scorers: Manly 3, Brisbane 8.



KERRY BOUSTEAD rests at Royal Brisbane Hospital last night after x-rays revealed he had broken his right ankle in the National Panasonic Cup match at Lang Park. Boustead had not even had time to change from his match jersey when KIM STREETEN took this picture.



Above: Mark Murray during the 1986 KB Cup game against Manly.

Right: Wally Lewis at marker attempting to ruck the ball back and gain possession.



1987 NATIONAL PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 17, 1985 Balmain 33 def **Brisbane** 16 Leichhardt Oval

Wednesday April 8 (Leichhardt Oval) **PENRITH 14 v BRISBANE 2**

'We took it too easy' says Lewis

SYDNEY — A stunned Wally Lewis concedes his team took Penrith too easy in last night's National Panasonic Cup and may have taken several injured players into the game.

"It was very quiet in the dressing room before the match. I don't know why," he said after Brisbane's humiliating 14-2 rugby league defeat by a patched-up Penrith missing five regulars.

Lewis offered no excuses and agreed a lot of work had to be done on fitness and mental approach before Brisbane could be confident of fielding a competitive side in the Sydney premiership next season.

"The bloke I feel sorry for is Barry Muir, who put in a lot of effort."

Muir was disappointed that four months of effort produced a performance well below the side's potential. "We went out and fell flat," he said. "Their commitment didn't surprise

From **ROBERT GRADDOCK**

me, because they had a lot of young blokes, but they had no reason to be more committed than we were as we had so much more to lose."

The crowd of around 1000 called for Lewis' send-off after a high tackle on Mark Bevan, and several players thought referee Kevin Roberts had ordered Lewis from the field, before apparently changing his mind.

"I thought I was going to get time in the sin bin," Lewis said. "It was a high tackle, but it was accidental and I think Roberts realised that. A few players thought I had been sent off, but I had my head down and didn't see it."

From the opening whistle, Brisbane appeared flat and disorganised. Hardly a player performed anywhere near full potential, although winger Clinton Mohr, fullback Peter Gill and prop Greg Dowling played fairly.

The Panthers were ably led by

young lock Craig Izzard, who was a popular choice as man of the match.

An uneventful first quarter hardly raised a roar from the small crowd, with both sides making many unforced errors.

Brisbane's early defence was suspect and disorganised. It took tiny halfback Alan Langer to make the first break, when he darted through an opening for a 15m burst.

Although the attack lacked cohesion, Lewis steadied the ship with several clever clearing kicks, one from a scrum win which reaped 40m.

After a scoreless first quarter, Brisbane drew first blood immediately after the break with a penalty goal to winger Steve Hegarty after Greg Alexander had been penalised for shepherding.

Brisbane failed to inject any real penetration into their attack and several times when a break appeared likely, the carrier was not supported.

Brisbane may have been unlucky, not to post a try when referee Kevin Roberts ruled a pass from centre Gene Miles to the unmarked Hegarty was forward.

Penrith posted their first points after second-rower Mark Geyer hoisted a probing bomb which was regained by winger Mark Robinson. He found lock Izzard, before fullback Rob Robards completed the four-pointer.

Lock Bob Keogh gave his all in a non-stop defensive display in the first half before being replaced by another newcomer, Tony Rea.

Brisbane went close to scoring twice in the third quarter, firstly when an awkward pass from Miles to Gill was spilt and two minutes later when Lewis forced his way over only to be held up.

The third quarter failed to produce a score, or any notable action as the match meandered towards an error-ridden anti-climax.

Penrith clinched the match 10 minutes from time when Alexander weaved his way across field and floated a perfect pass onto the chest of Izzard, who neatly unloaded to Bevan who crashed over.

PENRITH 14 (R Robards, M Bevan, G Alexander tries; M Bevan goal) **v** **BRISBANE 2** (S Hegarty goal) at Leichhardt Oval.



BRISBANE hooker Ray Herring on the burst against Penrith in last night's National Panasonic Cup match at Leichhardt Oval.



1988 PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

March 25, 1988	Brisbane (BRL)	8	def	NSW Country	0	Lang Park
March 30, 1988	Newcastle	26	def	Brisbane (BRL)	0	Newcastle
March 9, 1988	North Sydney	12	def	Gold Coast	6	Parramatta Stadium
April 6, 1988	Penrith	24	def	Brisbane Broncos	10	Parramatta Stadium

Friday March 25 (Lang Park) COMBINED BRISBANE (BRL) 8 v NSW COUNTRY 0

Brisbane in 8-0 Cup win

BRISBANE beat NSW Country 8-0 in a Panasonic Cup rugby league match at Lang Park last night but according to coach Ross Strudwick should have won by 40 points.

Strudwick said if Brisbane had hung on to the ball more often and converted attacking opportunities into tries, the final score could have been embarrassing.

Strudwick said he was never concerned Country would score a try.

Brisbane will meet Newcastle on Wednesday in the next round of the Cup and Strudwick believes his unfashionable combination can score an upset.

"I just hope there's 26,000 people there to see us because we're good value," Strudwick said.

There were only 300 fans at Lang Park last night to watch the combined Brisbane outfit win a Cup match for the first time since 1984.

The star of the match was Redcliffe's former Warwick schoolboy star Lex Neal who scored Brisbane's first try in the opening quarter and was involved in play as often as many of the forwards.

Strudwick described Neal as the

By STEVE RICKETTS

"Clinton Mohr" of the team and said he played just as well as the former Brothers star.

Strudwick nominated Easts prop Mark McIntyre as the best of a hard working pack of forwards. McIntyre came to Brisbane last year from Grafton.

Brisbane's second try was scored right on full time when hooker Bill Holmes followed through his own chip kick to touch down.

Strudwick said he was disappointed his players would not be allowed to rest from tomorrow's round of Brisbane Winfield Cup fixtures.

It was believed the Brisbane division might exempt players from club duties but the club's most effected have successfully put their case that the players should be available.

The main injury worry was five-eighth Peter Coyne who injured a shoulder in the final quarter. Coyne's kicking for touch in general play was superb and in the second half kept Country pinned in their own territory.

BRISBANE 8 (L Neal, B Holmes tries) d NSW Country 0.



COMBINED Brisbane lock Darren Smith lines up NSW Country five-eighth Rocky Laurie in their Panasonic Cup match at Lang Park.

1988 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday March 30 (Newcastle)

NEWCASTLE 26 v COMBINED BRISBANE (BRL) 0

Struddy undaunted

NEWCASTLE.— Brisbane rugby league coach Ross Strudwick rated his team as nearly on a par with the Broncos, despite last night's 26-0 loss to the Newcastle Knights in a Panasonic Cup first round clash.

Strudwick said the Broncos should gain little satisfaction from seeing the Knights struggle to their five tries to nil win over a weary Brisbane side.

"I don't think the Broncos are much better than us," Strudwick said. "They just train together all the time and therefore have superior team-work — and team-work and three doubtful tries were the winning difference for the Knights."

From STEVE RICKETTS

The Broncos will play the Knights in Newcastle on Sunday week in a Winfield Cup fixture.

Last night it took top individual performances by New Zealand imports Tony Kemp and Sam Stewart to get the Knights home.

Kemp scored two tries from fullback and second-rower Stewart one in a match marred by atrocious handling. The Knights led 4-0 at halftime with Brisbane's short line defensive pattern holding well against the home team.

A try early in the third quarter to Kemp put the Knights on the

road to victory — but it was one of the tries disputed by Strudwick.

"My players reckon he didn't ground the ball," Strudwick said. "Another try came from a blatant knock-on and another one from a penalty that should never have been given."

"The kindest thing you can say about the Knights is that they didn't stop trying. All my blokes can hold their heads high. If we had made the most of our half breaks, we would have won."

NEWCASTLE 26 (T Kemp 2, S Stewart, T Butterfield, S Fulmer tries, R Tew 3 goals) **v BRISBANE 0**. Scrums: Newcastle 16-14. Penalties: Brisbane 8-6. Crowd 9300.

1988 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday March 9 (Parramatta Stadium)
NORTH SYDNEY 12 v GOLD COAST 6



RAMPAGING Tony Rampling tries to crash through the tackle of North Sydney second-rower, Gary Smith in the National Panasonic Cup game at Seagulls Stadium last night. Rampling was taken to hospital for x-rays on a suspected fractured ankle.

Another five Giants down

From PAUL MALONE

TWEED HEADS.— Gold Coast-Tweed's injury toll reached crisis proportions last night in their 12-6 National Panasonic Cup defeat by North Sydney.

The short-handed playing staff was further reduced, with second-rower Tony Rampling to have x-rays on a possible fractured ankle and utility back Brett Rolls an arthroscope on his left knee.

Experienced centre Chris Close will be sidelined for up to a month with hamstring damage and second-rower Eric Kennedy will have x-rays on a popped shoulder. Prop Jim Cowell pulled a hamstring.

Coach Bob McCarthy will have to make do with the remnants for Sunday's Winfield Cup match against Illawarra in Wollongong.

Against the lost of four players in the first half, Gold Coast kept themselves in with a winning chance in a match of a dismal standard. Whatever attribute the Giants may lack, heart is not one of them.

But their attacking game is negligible.

"We're six weeks away from concentrating on our attack," McCarthy said. "We're starting with our defence."

The Bears' New Zealand half-back Clayton Friend was man of the match from Brothers signings Gary Smith and Tony Rea, both of whom were willing workers.

"Gary and Tony are making the transition to Sydney football well," coach Frank Stanton said.

Norths struck twice in the last four minutes of the first half to take

a 12-4 lead which could not be hauled back in the greasy conditions.

The crowd was again sparse, but the costs were picked up by the NSWRL and will not be an additional financial burden to the club, which will welcome the \$20,000 TV rights fee for Saturday week's home match against Cronulla.

With teamwork a luxury neither outfit could afford, the Bears pack ground out more metres than their opposites.

With two Mike Eden goals levelling at 4-4 after 24 minutes, Gold Coast were threatening until the injuries struck.

Giants replacement back Brett Rolls lost possession running back for a clearing kick, and Kiwi recruit Andrew Vincent crossed. In that incident, Rolls and Close were injured.

Vincent, who came back from a horror start with his handling, gained his chance when former Test winger Kerry Boustead withdrew before the morning flight from Sydney.

The Cup quarter-final draw made last night has the Brisbane Broncos down to meet St George if they can eliminate Penrith in the first round match.

NORTH SYDNEY 12 (C Friend, A Vincent tries; J Dorahy 2 goals) **d GOLD COAST 6** (M Eden 3 goals). First scorers: Norths 6, Gold Coast 6. Crowd: 3230.

1988 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday April 6 (Parramatta Stadium)
PENRITH 24 v BRISBANE BRONCOS 10

Penrith up in Bronco massacre

From PAUL MALONE

SYDNEY.— The Broncos' player depth has reappeared as a question mark after last night's 'Slaughter of the Innocents' at Parramatta Stadium.

With six first graders from the team which made the club unbeaten Winfield Cup leaders home and dry in Brisbane, the Broncos were defeated 24-10 by Penrith to be eliminated from the rich Panasonic Cup.

At least five premiership matches will be played mid-season without the representative stars and the loss strikes at the confidence built in the club through the dream premiership start and solid reserve grade results.

The hope in the Broncos camp

last night was that a starting point had been established for the less experienced players and they would at least know what to expect when they are next called upon.

"I suppose that will start up again now," skipper Wally Lewis said.

The remaining seven first grade regulars struggled to impose their professionalism on a match played against spirited Penrith control in persistent rain.

At best, it was the 'off' match that had been threatening from the past fortnight.

But there was enthusiastic resistance once the match had been lost after the first half with Penrith leading 24-0.

Brisbane quickly found themselves confronted by mission impossible — playing catch-up football in

heavy rain. Once behind, progress was all uphill with the lack of experience and teamwork the main problems.

"We went out there with instructions to kick on the second or third tackle. The only problem is we couldn't get that far," Lewis said.

Fullback David Bourke struggled in the slippery conditions which were worsened by the NSWRL's decision to use leather footballs.

Alexander, deservedly named best player after his involvement in the first three tries, was nearly in five minutes later when his chip rebounded off an upright and he lost possession on the line. But the ball flew out of Bourke's grasp as he was running play out and halfback Craig Grauf was called on to concede a ruck penalty on the Brisbane tryline.

When big second-rower Mark Geyer executed a heavy hit on Rohan Teevan, Penrith added to their overwhelming advantage in field position. The eagle-eyed Alexander tapped ahead at a ruck and plunged on the loose ball in the in-goal for a 12-0 quarter-time lead.

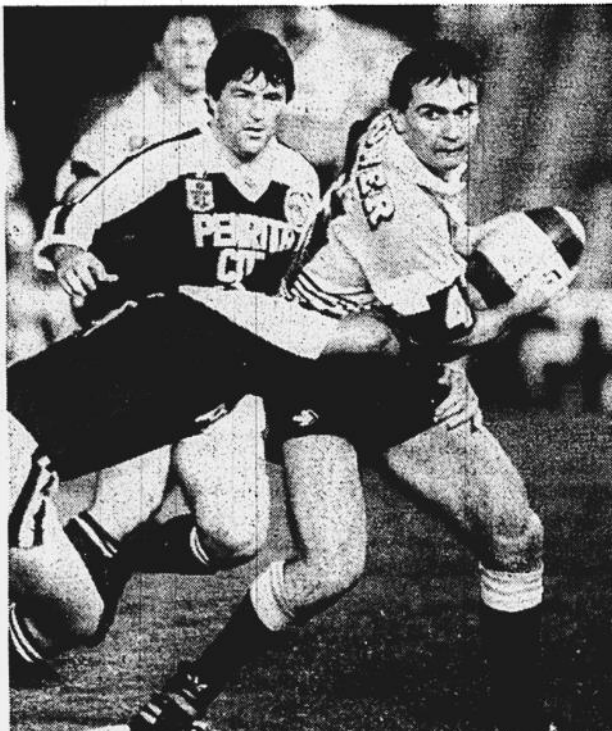
The Broncos consolidated in the second quarter, making more impression in the forwards and making more effective use of Wally Lewis' kicking game.

Twice they were within an ace of re-entering the match. A Lewis bomb forced one of Alexander's few errors of the night, but Grauf was held up by a pack of Panthers.

Then referee Mick Stone ruled a double movement when hooker Kerrod Walters bounced over from the closest Brisbane came to sustained pressure in the first half.

But Alexander again appeared three minutes from the second break to spear a grubber through which five-eighth Brad Izzard touched down under the posts at his leisure for a 20-0 advantage.

Brisbane scored first on three-quarter time when Greg Dowling scored from a Lewis grubber. Seven minutes from the end winger Michael Hancock gave the Broncos some respectability when he touched down after a Terry Matternson bomb.



BRISBANE Broncos rookie centre, Rohan Teevan, prepares to unload the ball as Penrith captain, Royce Simmons, comes up in support in last night's Panasonic Cup match at Parramatta Stadium.

PENRITH 24 (J Cartwright, G Alexander, B Izzard, R McNeill tries: McNeill 4 goals) **BRONCOS 10** (G Dowling, M Hancock try; T Matternson goal). Crowd: 8811.

1989 PANASONIC CUP

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

April 4, 1989	Brisbane (BRL)	21	def	Port Moresby	12	Port Moresby
April 7, 1989	Brisbane (BRL)	9	def	NSW Country	2	Seagulls Stadium
April 12, 1989	St George	26	def	Brisbane (BRL)	0	Lang Park
April 19, 1989	North Sydney	13	def	Gold Coast	6	Parramatta Stadium
March 1, 1989	Brisbane Broncos	18	def	Canberra	13	Parkes

QUARTER FINAL

May 17, 1989	Brisbane Broncos	42	def	Parramatta	6	Townsville
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SEMI FINAL

May 31, 1989	Brisbane Broncos	24	def	Souths	4	Bathurst
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CUP FINAL

June 6, 1989	Brisbane Broncos	22	def	Illawarra	20	Parramatta Stadium
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The victorious 1989 Brisbane Broncos Panasonic Cup team

1989 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday April 4 (Port Moresby)

COMBINED BRISBANE (BRL) 21 v PORT MORESBY 12

White leads Brisbane to second bid for qualifier

PORT MORESBY.— Tom Raudonikis tipped big things for prop Chris White after last night's 21-12 Panasonic Cup qualifying match win over Port Moresby.

The Brisbane rugby league coach said White was up to Sydney standard and he believed the Souths youngster would be in demand at the end of the season.

"There are quite a few in this team who could play in Sydney, but Chris really stood out," Raudonikis said.

White almost signed with the Giants at the start of last season, but after a trial, opted to remain in Brisbane.

Raudonikis also reserved praise for fullback David Bourke, who played with the Broncos last year. Bourke was solid under the high ball and scored a fine try following a Bill Holmes grubber kick.

Bourke saved a certain six points late in the second quarter with what the coach considered a professional foul. "I thought he should have got 10 minutes in the sin-bin, but even if he had, I would have had no complaint," he said.

Brisbane will play NSW Country in another qualifying match at Tweed Heads on Friday night, and Raudonikis is confident his players

From STEVE RICKETTS

can lift themselves despite weariness.

"The players are physically and psychologically up to the task," he said. "They know we haven't finished by a long shot. I think we are going to develop into a good side."

If Brisbane beat Country, they will play St George in Sydney next Wednesday.

Raudonikis said all his players had stuck to their guns and the only disappointing feature was some poor tackling in the first quarter and a bad defensive lapse from the kick-off in the third quarter, which resulted in a length of the field try for Port Moresby.

Although all four Brisbane tries came through the backs, it was the powerful running of the bigger forwards — Ian McKenzie, White and Scott McKay — that was the telling feature.

Port Moresby led 4-0 at quarter-time and were the more impressive team. By halftime Brisbane had recovered to lead 8-4, but from the kick-off in the third quarter Port Moresby scored the try of the match.

At three-quarter time, Brisbane led 17-12 and it was still anyone's match. The result was put beyond doubt when winger Guy Harvey scored in the corner with about 10 minutes to go.

Brisbane half Brett Daunt was an inspiration behind the scrum.

BRISBANE 21 (D Bourke, B Daunt, G Harvey, T Cook tries; Harvey 2 goals, Daunt field goal) d PORT MORESBY 12 (M Ipu, E Akula tries; Akula 2 goals).

1989 PANASONIC CUP

Saturday April 7 (Seagulls Stadium)
COMBINED BRISBANE (BRL) 9 v NSW COUNTRY 2

Guy boots Brisbane to top victory

TWEED HEADS.— After three unsuccessful penalty shots, winger Guy Harvey landed the one that counted in Brisbane's courageous 9-2 Panasonic Cup win over New South Wales Country at Seagulls Stadium last night.

Brisbane rugby league coach Tom Raudonikis said he had told captain Bill Holmes at three-quarter time to give Harvey one more shot and then replace him. That shot came five minutes from fulltime with Country leading 2-1.

Harvey, who admitted later to being in "shocking form," calmly steered the ball over the crossbar from 32m out and 10m in from the touchline.

Less than two minutes later, replacement forward Darren Smith completed the scoring for Brisbane when he dived over from dummy half after a scrum win inside Country's 22m. Harvey added the extras.

But it was Harvey's kick which broke the spirit of the Country players who thought they had the game wrapped up two minutes earlier when fullback Neville Elwin kicked a penalty from in front after Brisbane centre Dave McIntosh dived on to a loose ball from an off-side position.

Harvey's winning penalty kick came after referee Eddie Ward

From STEVE RICKETTS

ruled hooker Richie Jones used a shepherd.

Raudonikis described the win as one of the most courageous he had seen and Brisbane Division chairman Tom Drysdale said every player deserved a Victoria Cross.

He said it was especially noteworthy because the Brisbane players were "flat" after their hard-fought 21-12 win over Port Moresby last Tuesday night.

"Before the Moresby match, we had motivational films, pep talks, team meetings, the lot," Raudonikis said. "But for this match, the players had to do it themselves. We came down from Brisbane by bus and just walked around the streets for a few hours before the match."

Country had been in camp three days at Coolangatta and despite the late withdrawal of experienced goalkicking centre Ross Conlon were favored to win.

Brisbane's next clash will be against St George at the Parramatta Stadium on Wednesday.

For more than 70 minutes last night it seemed like Brisbane would get home courtesy of a field goal by half Brett Daunt, who kicked the one-pointer as the hooter sounded for the end of the first quarter.

He had two more unsuccessful shots at field goal and the score remained 1-0 until Elwin's penalty in the 73rd minute.

Raudonikis rated hooker Holmes his best player, followed by forwards Chris White and Ziggy Strasser. In the backs, halves Daunt and Kevin Langer were inspirational and Trevor Cook found space in the centres.

Daunt had an absorbing duel with Country half Mark Wakefield and both gained valuable ground with touch-finding kicks.

BRISBANE 9 (D Smith try; G Harvey 2 goals, B Daunt field goal) d **NSW COUNTRY 2** (N Elwin goal).



GUY HARVEY ... his kick made difference.

1989 PANASONIC CUP

Thursday April 12 (Lang Park)

ST GEORGE 14 v COMBINED BRISBANE (BRL) 10

Coyne pips Brisbane's brave effort



MARK COYNE ... scored the winning try.

SYDNEY.— St George rugby league coach Craig Young admitted his team had "got out of jail" in last night's Panasonic Cup win over Combined Brisbane.

He was one of the first into the Brisbane dressing room to congratulate coach Tom Raudonikis after St George's 14-10 success.

Young said he never doubted Brisbane would give St George a hard game despite the number of players lost to Sydney clubs in the past two years.

"We've got plenty of Brisbane players and didn't underestimate the opposition," he said.

It was one of those former Brisbane boys — centre Mark Coyne — who scored the winning try for the Dragons, seven minutes from time.

The teams went to the three-quarter break at 10-10, and for the first 10 minutes of the final period Brisbane

From **STEVE RICKETTS**

applied most of the pressure.

Halfback Brett Daunt missed with a field goal attempt 13 minutes from time and Brisbane took the wrong options on other occasions when it looked like they might score.

Brisbane could have led 16-6 five minutes after halftime when centre Trevor Cook was put into the clear by five-eighth by Kevin Langer. Referee Chris Ward ruled Cook did not ground the ball when hit by the desperate defence and rolled into touch.

The TV replay vindicated Ward's decision. Cook said he did not think he had grounded the ball.

Cook scored Brisbane's first try, after 11 minutes, when Easts teammate Mark McDonald left the right wing and joined in play on the opposite side of the field.

It was a sweetly-timed McDonald cut-out pass which put Cook in for the try.

St George hit the lead in the 33rd minute when another former Brisbane player, Clinton Mohr, scored between the uprights after good lead-up work.

But Brisbane stunned the crowd of 3587 when they went to halftime 10-6 after centre Dave McIntosh easily stood up the defence to score from a good pass by second-rower Ian McKenzie.

Brisbane had been fired up by a motivational talk from world boxing champion Jeff Fenech, and for 70 minutes they were the more enterprising.

Driven by new skipper Wally Fullerton Smith, the bigger St George pack began to make inroads into the defence in the final quarter.

Raudonikis was reluctant to nominate individuals, but said prop Chris White and lock Darren Wolens would have made many take notice.

Skipper and hooker Bill Holmes spent 10 minutes in the head-bin after a head gash early in the third quarter, and during his absence Brisbane lost a scrum against the feed. From the ensuing play winger Ricky Walford scored the try which levelled the scores.

ST GEORGE 14 (R Walford, M Coyne, C Mohr tries, R Walford goal) **v** **BRISBANE 10** (T Cook, D McIntosh tries, G Harvey goal).

1989 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday April 19 (Parramatta Stadium)
NORTH SYDNEY 13 v GOLD COAST 6

Florimo set for glory - McCarthy

SYDNEY.— Giants coach Bob McCarthy has tipped centre Greg Florimo to play for Australia this season after the youngster shot down the Gold Coast side's Panasonic Cup campaign last night.

From ROBERT CRADDOCK

Two pieces of individual brilliance from Florimo and his teammates was all it took to steer North Sydney into the competition quarter-finals with a 13-6 victory at Parramatta Stadium.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Giants saw the match effectively slip from their grasp by conceding two tries in the eight minutes after the first interval.

Florimo provided the break for the first try when he split the defence out wide before unloading to Paul Beaven who grubber-kicked into the in-goal. Replacement centre Gary McGuire provided the points when he gave Neil Hunt a start and a beating in the chase.

After displaying speed and a neat step in the first try, Florimo confirmed that strength and ball skills are also prime qualities of his game when he did well to present the corner to an unmarked John McArthur seven minutes later.

After juggling, then retaining a clever blind side grubber kick from halfback Scott Gale following a scrum win, man of the match Florimo fought the tackle of winger Ben Gonzales until he wrestled his arms free for the final pass. The match was all but over.

"I have no doubt Florimo can make the Australian team and he

could even do it this season," McCarthy said. "It wasn't just that he was good tonight. He was also their best player on Sunday against Parramatta. In this game players are normally classified as runners or tacklers. He can do both very well and I wish he had stayed at home tonight. He would look great in a Giants jersey."

North Sydney coach Frank Stanton was more reserved in his assessment of the strapping 21-year-old, who also plays five-eighth and lock.

"It just depends on what (NSW coach) Jack Gibson thinks," Stanton said. "He seems to have pre-selected the list."

No-one can question the willingness or commitment of the Giants defence but the match again highlighted the club's lack of attacking fire power. In five matches this season, the Giants have scored five tries.

Their only try last night came 10 minutes from the end when back-rower Chris Close barged over from close range when the match was all but over.

"We threw the ball around as best we could but what we haven't got is a couple of big gorillas making ground in the middle," McCarthy said. "But it will come together."

NORTHS 13 (J McArthur, G McGuire tries, J McArthur 2 goals, S Gale field goal) **d** **GIANTS 6** (C Close try, P Benson goal).

1989 PANASONIC CUP

Wednesday March 1 (Parkes)

BRISBANE BRONCOS 18 v CANBERRA 13

Favoritism justified at first outing



TERRY MATTERSON ... 12-point tally against Canberra.

PARKES.— The Broncos provided instant justification of their rating as premiership favorites with an 18-13 comeback defeat of Canberra in the Panasonic opener last night.

The 4-1 hotshots for the Winfield Cup premiership blunted a forward barrage from Canberra and covered a magnificent solo attacking performance from Wallaby convert Ricky Stuart to pass the first test.

They were stretched to breaking point at 0-7 in the shadows of half-time, but showed great composure and character to enter the quarter-finals.

"They were dominating, but we kept plugging and soaked up their pressure," said coach Wayne Bennett. "We showed some good qualities for the rest of the season."

Lock Terry Matterson, an almost invisible source of endeavor in this star-studded team, pounced on two try-scoring opportunities to swing the match around, in concert with a sterling second half performance from a pack which had been outplayed to that point.

Last night's Broncos' line-up took up clear front-running for retention in the first grade team for the premiership opener against Penrith at Lang Park on March 19.

Battling a fat error rate and the power of a Canberra pack led by tough second-rower Craig Dimond, Brisbane did well to hold the Raid-

From **PAUL MALONE**

ers to 7-6 at halftime, with the first try by man of the match Matterson six minutes from the break.

The comeback was also a triumph for Gene Miles, who absorbed many of the Raiders' best defensive hits to produce gains in the second half which set Canberra on the back foot.

Bennett admitted the big-match tenacity made it difficult for the players involved in Sunday's trial against the Giants to force a place for the first round of the premiership.

"There's Michael Hancock and Shane Duffy, of course, and Greg Coneseu has to be considered," he said. "But this team will be the nucleus. There were a lot of good qualities in the effort. We had to stick close enough to them in the first half so we were within reach when our roll came."

Fullback Tony Currie expects to miss Saturday's Sevens tournament at Parramatta Stadium with fluid on the elbow. He struck his funny bone in a tackle in the second half and finished the match with his arm heavily bound. "It is all pins and needles there, but I won't need to go for x-rays," he said.

BRONCOS 18 (T Matterson 2, B Tessmann tries; Matterson 2, G French goals) **v CANBERRA 13** (J Ferguson, G Lazarus tries; M Wood 2 goals, R Stuart fld goal).

1989 PANASONIC CUP

QUARTER FINAL

Wednesday May 17 (Townsville)

BRISBANE BRONCOS 42 v PARRAMATTA 6

King claims new ground at third try



STEVE RENOUF ... two tries.

Langer caught in crowd stampede

TOWNSVILLE.— Broncos half-back Allan Langer feared for his safety as hundreds of fans trapped him in over-enthusiastic post-match celebrations at Townsville Sports Reserve last night.

Broncos management engaged security guards and police to escort the Test halfback off the field and Langer admitted he was un-nerved by the hero worship.

"I wanted to stay on the field but the crush was so bad I couldn't move," Langer said. "The security guards couldn't stop them. I was glad when the public address announcer asked for them to give me a pat off and they listened to him."

Broncos general manager John Ribot said the Broncos were looking at security measures for the popular Langer. "He is turning into a megastar and we want him around for quite a while yet," he said.

Ribot said he would press man of the match Terry Matterson for an answer in the next week on whether he would re-sign with the Broncos for next season or accept an offer from one of the two Sydney clubs chasing his services.

TOWNSVILLE.— Wally Lewis is last night annexed North Queensland into his rugby league kingdom as the Broncos routed Parramatta 42-6 in the Panasonic Cup quarter-final.

Lewis became the first Bronco to score a hat-trick of tries in first grade as Brisbane turned the eagerly awaited promotion at the Townsville Sports Reserve into a massive anti-climax as a contest.

The Australian captain had the overflow Townsville Sports Reserve crowd chanting his name in best Lang Park tradition barely 10 minutes into a cakewalk which sends Brisbane into a confrontation with the other Winfield Cup joint leaders, South Sydney, at Bathurst on May 31.

From PAUL MALONE

The Broncos' pace and strength was an indication that the attacking skill coach Wayne Bennett has demanded had arrived.

Lock Terry Matterson gave the Broncos management 18 reasons to rush through negotiations with him for a new contract, with a try and seven goals to top off a brilliant all-round performance.

Matterson is the leader in the Cup's best player award, taking the man of the match award last night to add to the maximum three points he gained from Brisbane's first round win over Canberra in March.

The Broncos had Parramatta so utterly mastered by three-quarter time that Bennett was able to take the cheeky step of replacing centres Tony Currie and Peter Jackson and forwards Gene Miles and Greg Dowling. Currie iced an ankle injury on the sidelines.

Brisbane narrowly failed to record their second successive shut-out, conceding a try five minutes from fulltime to Eels' fullback Andrew Leeds.

But the seven-try performance was ample entertainment for the riveted Townsville crowd.

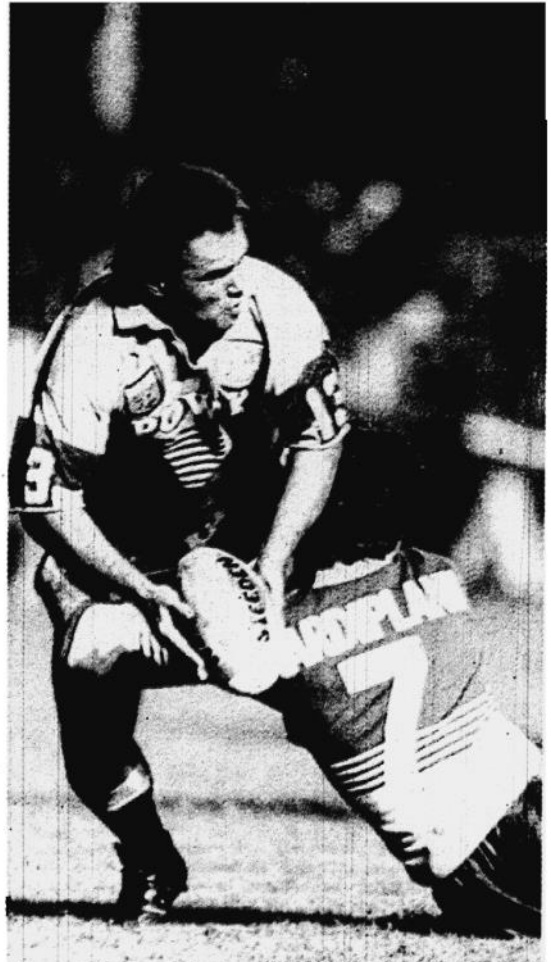
Supporters of Parramatta had a choice of odds of 3-1 or 8½ points start and the Broncos immediately justified their status as hot favorites.

From the opening tackles, the Brisbane forwards, led by Matterson, Miles and Dowling, made easy ground through the middle of the ruck defence, which refused to advance.

Brisbane piled on three tries in the opening 23 minutes to book their semi-final appearance and move within two wins of the \$175,000 winner's cheque.

The first try was a replica of the match-winner in a meeting between the two clubs at Lang Park last year, with an Allan Langer grubber being fumbled by two Eels as Lewis swooped underneath them to force the try after only five minutes.

BRONCOS 42 (W Lewis 3, S Renouf 2, T Matterson, G French tries; Matterson 7 goals) d PARRAMATTA 6 (A Leeds try; A Fitzhenry goal). First scores (and first try scorers): Brisbane 6, Parramatta 1.



BRONCOS lock Terry Matterson looks for support as Parramatta halfback Andrew Fitzhenry grabs him during last night's Panasonic Cup quarter-final in Townsville.

1989 PANASONIC CUP

SEMI FINAL

Wednesday May 31 (Bathurst)
BRISBANE BRONCOS 24 v SOUTH SYDNEY 4

Jacko puts clincher on comeback

BATHURST.— "Another town visited, another job done" — that is how Bronco rugby league coach Wayne Bennett summed up last night's 24-4 Panasonic Cup semi-final win over Souths.

Despite the professionalism of the win, Bennett was far from satisfied with the 80-minute performance. He believes the players' effort "dropped off" in the last 30 minutes — although he was pleased with the man of the match performance of centre Peter Jackson.

"We're not as good as the score indicates," Bennett said. "It was just another match we had to win and now we will concentrate on beating St George in Sunday's premiership match."

The win means the Broncos will play the Illawarra Steelers in next Wednesday's Panasonic Cup final.

It will be the first time that a side from Queensland has played in the final since Bob McCarthy's Brisbane, skippered by Wally Lewis, won the Panasonic Cup in 1984.

Lewis went into last night's match with the spectre of a \$2000 fine hovering over his head, but he did not let the fine get to him... he narrowly missed out on the man of the match award.

Jackson said he needed to turn in such a performance and added that he knew it would come eventually.

He said the Broncos pack was

From STEVE RICKETTS

probably even more devastating than the one fielded by his former club Canberra.

Bennett said the gamble with Sam Backo in the starting line-up had paid off and he thought he had regained form.

Souths coach George Piggins acknowledged the brilliance of the Broncos, but he said referee Mick Stone had not done the Rabbitohs any favors. "I don't think we'll ever win a game under Stone," Piggins said.

The Souths camp was confident centre Steve Mavin would escape disciplinary action as a result of his dismissal early in the third quarter on a charge of kneeing Bronco winger Joe Kilroy.

Souths secretary Terry Parker said the video clearly showed that there was no malice in Mavin's attempted tackle of Kilroy.

The Broncos reported that Kilroy had suffered bruised kidneys, but they did not expect him to be sidelined for long.

In fact, the Brisbane squad finished the match virtually free of injury and they travelled to Sydney by bus last night, as requested by Bennett, with Sunday's St George match in mind.

The Broncos led 6-0 at quarter time and 16-0 at halftime.

Jackson's two tries sealed his man of the match award, but the stylish centre did much more than put the ball down twice over the line. He ensured that the Broncos' attack kept on a roll and despite a couple of heavy knocks he kept coming back for more.

Bennett would not comment on the efforts of Souths halves Craig Coleman and Phil Blake, but their performance did little to solve the problems the New South Wales selectors face before the return Origin match on June 14.

Coleman was particularly quiet, and although Blake showed flashes of brilliance, there was little to suggest that he would trouble Queensland if he was given a blue jersey.

BRONCOS 24 (P Jackson 2, T Currie, B Le Man, S Renouf tries, G French 2 goals) d SOUTHS 4 (P Blake try).



PETER JACKSON... powerhouse performance.

1989 PANASONIC CUP FINAL

Wednesday June 7 (Parramatta Stadium)
BRISBANE BRONCOS 22 v ILLAWARRA 20

Fiery Reds test steel of Broncos



WALLY LEWIS... enjoys the spoils.

From PAUL MALONE

SYDNEY.— The Broncos defied a fiercely-committed Illawarra and an entire state to win a dramatic Panasonic Cup final at Parramatta Stadium last night.

Playing with the contagious enthusiasm fuelled by a maniacal crowd of 16,968, Illawarra showed enormous heart to turn a looming 16-0 Broncos cakewalk after 23 minutes into one of the great finals of the 16-year-old competition.

The 22-20 result gave Brisbane the least popular Cup win, with skipper Wally Lewis booed and catcalled as he was heaved shoulder-high by Tony Currie and Greg Dowling.

Lewis' victory speech was drowned out in an ill-mannered display of parochial support but the crowd's lack of courtesy should not be allowed to detract from Illawarra's courage.

Led by man of the match Andy Gregory, Illawarra fought back to turn for the last quarter-down 14-16. In frantic scenes late in the final, reminiscent of Combined Brisbane's



BRONCOS 22 (J Kilroy, P Jackson, S Backo, G Miles tries; T Matterson 3 goals) **ILLAWARRA 20** (B Rodwell, R Wishart, S Hampson tries; Wishart 4 goals).

1984 Cup win, the Steelers came up short despite tugging at the fraying composure of the Broncos.

Brisbane looked safe at 22-14 when Gene Miles crashed over from a Peter Jackson burst with seven minutes left, but Illawarra's determination sent the match into a frantic last few minutes with a try by fullback Steve Hampson.

But Brisbane, battling their own fallibilities as well as the Steelers, held on to take their deserved \$87,500 share of the cheque.

Steelers fans cloaked the stadium in scarlet to support the 5-2 underdogs, but Illawarra's kicking game must have been caught in traffic along with many of the 40-bus convoy from Wollongong.

Illawarra were over-anxious in their first final and conceded two quick penalties which gave Brisbane field position for their first try after only two minutes.

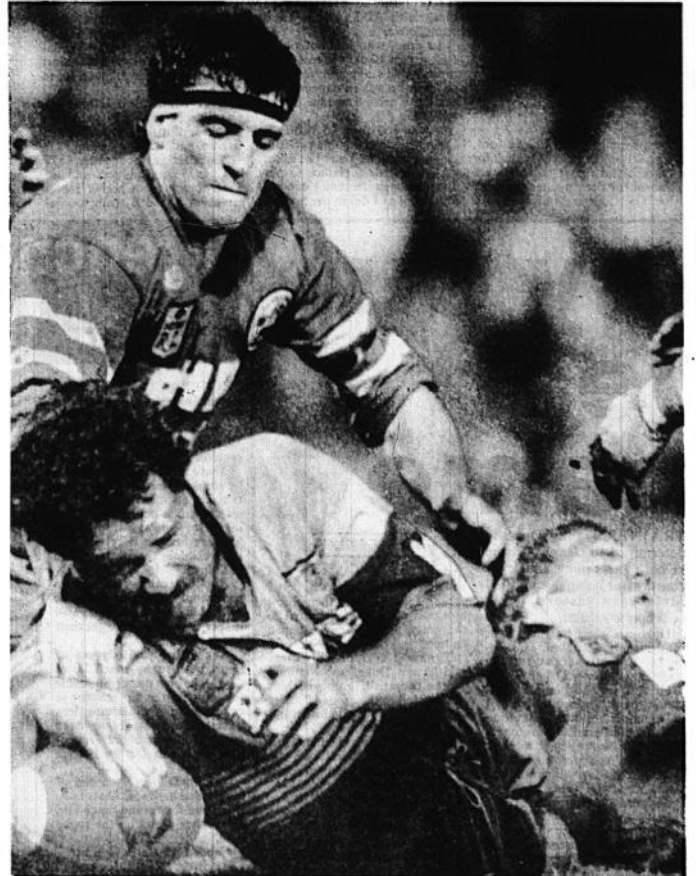
Brisbane attacked with the wide-running Miles, and his popped pass was relayed through Currie to winger Joe Kilroy for a 4-0 lead.

By the 10th minute, the rattled Steelers were twice caught in possession on the sixth tackle and the Broncos pressed home the opportunity for a 10-0 break.

When prop Sam Backo, in a return to his 1988 best, battered down three defenders from 5m for a 16-0 lead three minutes into the second quarter it seemed like a bleak trip home was in store for the "men of steel".

But Illawarra's two tries in six minutes scrapped the results of the prolonged superiority and brought the crowd, successfully screaming penalties out of referee Graham Annesley, back as a factor.

Gregory gradually instilled some order into the Steelers and his piercing grubber cannoned off Kilroy to centre Brett Rodwell for the Steelers' breakthrough try.



BRISBANE prop Sam Backo crashes over for the Broncos third try in last night's 22-20 Panasonic Cup win over the Illawarra Steelers at Parramatta Stadium.



ILLAWARRA'S Les Morrissey collars Allan Langer.

Lewis rates crowd 'worst of career'

SYDNEY.— Wally Lewis rated the giggling Parramatta Stadium crowd the worst he had encountered in his turbulent career.

The Broncos camp was angry at the refusal of the crowd to acknowledge the club's first title.

"Full credit to Illawarra's comeback but our blokes deserved a lot of credit," Lewis said. "We had a fair bit against us."

Broncos chairman Barry Marantz said: "If we behaved like that at Lang Park, we would be roundly criticised. If we ever do, we will pull out of the game."

"There were two teams out there and the better team won. But our win was not recognised."

Coch Wayne Bennett said it was

psychologically important for the Broncos to win the title and prove themselves in a final.

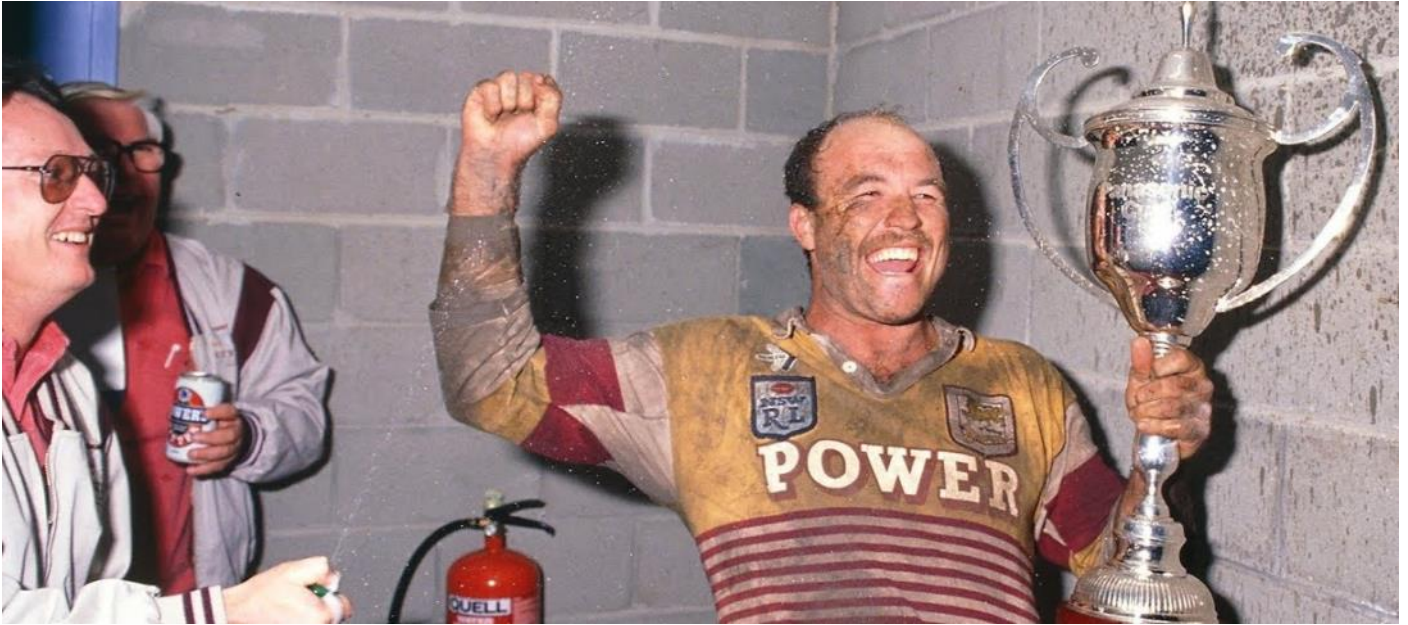
"We're content but we're not worried about the grand final now — only our next match," Bennett said. "If we don't get the recognition due to us because the attention is on Illawarra, too bad. The players made the decision in Townsville that they wanted to win this thing and good luck to them."

Bennett said the loss of a 16-point lead in the second quarter had not been due to relaxation. "It was a few individual mistakes by players," he said.

Lock Terry Matterson won the \$20,000 worth of electrical goods as the series' best player.

1989 PANASONIC CUP FINAL

**Wednesday June 7 (Parramatta Stadium)
BRISBANE BRONCOS 22 v ILLAWARRA 20**



**To the victors goes the spoils!
Wally Lewis celebrates winning the 1989 Panasonic Cup
with the Brisbane Broncos.**