



1926 Round 10 Saturday 3rd July Sydney Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 10

def.

Glebe 5

Frank McMILLAN (c)
Neil MATTERSON
Jack HOLMES
Cecil FIFIELD
Cyril BELLAMY
Jerry BRIEN
Harry OWEN
Roy LISTON
Jim PARSONS
Frank SPILLANE
Frank MATTERSON
Bob LINDFIELD
Jack DREW

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-eighth
Half
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row

Eddie CUMMINS
Jack TOOHEY (c)
Tom HOLDER
J McMAHON
Alfie THOMPSON
F SMITH
Charlie RICKETTS
Albert GRAY
William YOUNG
Frank GRAY
Arthur GRAY
Bill MELVILLE
Tom McGRATH (c)

Tries

Jack DREW
Cecil FIFIELD

Bill MELVILLE

Goals

Frank McMILLAN (2)

Jack TOOHEY (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, J Holmes, N Matterson, C Fifield, C Bellamy; halves, J Brien, H Owens; forwards, F Matterson, J Parsons, F Spillane, R Liston, R Lindfield, J Drew

Glebe: Full-back, E Cummins; three-quarters, J Toohey, T Holder, J McMahan, A Thompson; halves, F Smith, C Ricketts; forwards, A Gray, B Gray, W Melville, W Young, T McGrath, F Gray **Referee: W Neill**

The wet field at Sydney Cricket Ground made fast, open play practically impossible, and a great forward tussle resulted. Glebe made the pace a cracker from the start, and a brisk breeze behind them sent West hurtling back on to their goal line. They hemmed them there for a quarter of an hour, but were unable to score. With splendid cohesion the Glebe forwards packed behind the man with the ball, and then, rushing together, tried to hurl him over the line. But they were out-witted by McMillan, West's captain and full-back. Sometimes he plunged into the thick of things, and brought the man with the ball, crashing to the ground, at others he threw himself bodily at the onrushing Glebe forwards, breaking their mass formation, and enabling his forwards to smother the movement. It was torrid football. Glebe were the first to wilt, and gradually they fell back. Owens received from a scrum near the centre of the field, and, running smartly, sent Brien flying goal-wards before the Glebe defence was aware. Brien burst through between Smith and Ricketts, and then, veering towards the forwards again, repassed to Owens. The half-back swiftly transferred to Drew, who broke through Cummins' tackle, and scored near the posts. McMillan missed at goal. This was the only score of the period, and the half-time scores were: West 3-0.

Both sides attacked in turn in the second term, but West's science non-plussed the Glebe vanguard. Wests had lost Owens at the interval with a broken hand, but Matterson, coming out of the forwards, worked the scrum admirably. Glebe opened the scoring in this period when McGrath ordered a short punt for a penalty awarded near West's goal line. Melville followed rapidly, and, leaping for the ball, took it neatly, dropped to the ground, and scored. Toohey kicked a good goal. Glebe, 5 to 3. Wests made a series of determined attacks immediately, and were rewarded when Holder, attempting to clear behind his own goal line, kicked into Fifield. The little centre doubled round Holder, seized the ball, which was rolling towards the dead ball line, and scored. McMillan kicked a good goal, and, when shortly after West were awarded a penalty near the goal posts, he kicked another. Final scores: West 10, Glebe 5. McMillan was the most outstanding back on the field, his handling and running being excellent. He had always to be reckoned with in attack, for his running in support of his three-quarters was brilliant. Fifield also played splendidly. Brien was a determined defender, and Owens played well all round until injured just before half-time. Parsons, in the forwards, is as speedy as a three-quarter, and combines it with a headiness, trickiness, and courage, which rank him amongst the best in this State. Matterson worked hard, and Liston was a great defender. Spillane played splendidly in the rucks, especially in the early stages..... **(Referee 7th July 1926)**

Notes: This was a very courageous win by Wests. Harry Owen, who had been playing well, went off with a broken hand just before half-time, meaning Wests played the second half with twelve men. Neil Matterson went in to work the scrum very effectively. Tedda Courtney Jnr was listed in the original team, replaced by Roy Liston. The opening 15 minutes was a torrid affair but Wests weathered the storm and prevailed in a very hard-fought courageous win. Again, Frank McMillan was the outstanding player on the field, continuing to grow his already considerable reputation. Not for the first time, there was a comment on the speed of Jim Parsons. He was obviously a quick, hard-running forward.