



1926 Round 16 Saturday 14th August Birchgrove Oval



Balmain 22

Des PONCHARD
 Tony RUSSELL
 Dud MILLARD
 Tommy KENNEDY
 J CAIRNS
 Jimmy LOVE (c)
 Norm ROBINSON
 Bill WIGGINS
 Fred FERGUSON
 A LATTA
 Les HAYES
 Ray ELLIOTT
 Bill MAIZEY

def.

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

Western Suburbs 17

Frank McMILLAN
 Cyril BELLAMY
 Cecil FIFIELD
 Fred YANZ
 Neil MATTERSON
 Jerry BRIEN
 Eric DOIG
 Jack DREW
 Roy LISTON
 Jim PARSONS
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Frank SPILLANE



Tries

Les HAYES
 Tommy KENNEDY
 Jimmy LOVE
 Norm ROBINSON

Jerry BRIEN (2)
 Jim PARSONS

Goals

Tony RUSSELL (4)
 Des PONCHARD (1)

Eric DOIG (4)

Match Description

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

Balmain: Full-back, D Ponchard; three-quarters, J Cairns, D Millard, A Russell, T Kennedy; halves, J Love, N Robinson; forwards, Wal Maisey, A Ferguson, W Wiggins, H Latta, R Elliott, R Hayes **Referee: T Kerr**

McMillan won the toss, and at once was compelled to stave off Balmain's early rushes, headed by Hayes and Elliott. Balmain kept up the pressure, and Robinson picked out of the scrum and, dummying cleverly, ran round the wing side of the park and scored in the corner. Russell kicked a splendid goal, and Balmain were 5 to 0. Exchanges of kicks between the full-backs gave honours to Ponchard, who was in good form, and then a bad fumble by McMillan enabled Love to pick up and dash over the line. Russell again goaled, and Balmain were 10 ahead after 15 minutes play. Some minutes later Doig landed a good goal from near half-way, and then the crowd was on its feet cheering some splendid work by the Western backs. Fifield accepted a short pass from McMillan and raced away, cutting down many opponents in his stride. He then passed to Yanz, who gave Matterson a chance. The winger went ahead a few yards, and threw to Brien, who raced across near the posts and scored. It was a grand try, which Doig had no trouble to convert. Balmain 10-7. Again Fifield cut in nicely, and the same combined play between Yanz and Matterson saw the speedy Parsons take advantage of a good transfer and race over near the posts. Again, Doig converted, and West were ahead by 12-10.

Hostilities between Love and Brien commenced the second half, and then West attacked hotly. Brien picked up in the loose and dodged his way over, for Doig to kick his fourth goal. Wests, leading by 17-10, appeared to have the game well in hand, but an injury to McMillan, and faulty handling by N Matterson and Bellamy allowed Balmain to assume a strong aggressive. ... Russell kicked a goal from a free and, from another free against Lindfield, the same player landed another two points, making the scores 17-14 in West's favour. Millard was injured, but remained on the field, and then Hayes' resolution earned a good try, making the scores 17-17. Elliott was injured in some rough play, and, from a very faulty kick by N Matterson, Ponchard snapped up a nice field goal, and the locals were two points in front. Nearing the end Kennedy dashed past the Western centres, and, beating the lame McMillan to a "pick up", scored between the posts. A wretched kick by Russell kept the scores 22-17. Robinson played wonderful football, and was easily the outstanding player of the field. McMillan (until injured) was brilliant, and Parsons, Brien, F Matterson, and Spillane all did good work. Balmain's wings were weak, but Ponchard, Love, Hayes, and Elliott were in good form. **(Sunday Times 15th August 1926)**

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Notes: Wests were leading 17-10 and seemingly in control when McMillan, who had been playing brilliantly, was injured and the game changed dramatically. Balmain charged home; the last try being scored past a 'lame' McMillan. Dave Hey was in the original list but was replaced by Cyril Bellamy. Bellamy, last season's leading try scorer, had played 11 games in Second Grade and the strength of the back-line had seemed to keep him out.