



1927 Round 16 Saturday 20th August Birchgrove Oval



Balmain 7

def.

Western Suburbs 5

Walter McGREAL
 Dudley FITZPATRICK
 Charlie ROBERTS
 Anthony McFADDEN
 Charles YORK
 Les MOORE
 George ROBINSON
 Arthur TENNANT
 Ray ELLIOTT (c)
 Bill WIGGINS
 Bill MAIZEY
 George BISHOP
 Tony RUSSELL

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

Tom STANTON
 Jack REDMOND
 Ray MORRIS
 Neil MATTERSON
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Dave HEY
 George MASON
 Jack DREW
 Les HAYES (c)
 Jim PARSONS
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Frank SPILLANE



Tries Charlie ROBERTS

Jack REDMOND

Goals Anthony McFADDEN (2)

Tom STANTON (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, W McGreal; three-quarters, D Fitzpatrick, A McFadden, G Roberts, C York; five-eighth, L Moore; half-back, Geo. Robinson; forwards, A Russell, W Wiggins, R Elliott (captain), W Maizey, G Bishop, A Tennant

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F Stanton; three-quarters, T Redmond, K Sherwood, N Matterson, R Morris; five-eighth, D Hey; half-back, G Mason; forwards, G Drew, R Lindfield, L A Hayes (captain), F Spillane, J Parsons, F Matterson **Referee: J Murray**

Balmain from the outset adopted the same tactics that had gained victory over South Sydney. The forwards following the kick-off rushed headlong to the attack, and the play was confined to rugged forward work mostly throughout the game. The best combined work of the game was when Redmond scored his try. N Matterson, coming through from his 25, sent to Sherwood, who ran and drew the defence, placing Redmond in a good position to utilise his pace, and although McGreal tackled him from behind, the impetus carried them over the line. Western Suburbs were often penalised for scrum infringements, and this enabled McFadden to kick two goals from handy positions. At half-time Balmain led by 4 points to 3.

Western Suburbs did the majority of the attacking in the second half, but was only able to increase the score by two points, when Stanton landed a penalty goal. Prior to this the Balmain forwards had broken quickly from a scrum, and with a neat dribbling effort, carried play to the Westerners' line, where Roberts secured and crossed over. This finalised the scoring. The game was now fiercely contested, and a good deal of indiscriminate kicking was noticed in the rucks. During one attack on Balmain's line, the play became very heated, and the players were tackled regardless as to whether they had the ball or not. Furthermore, there were instances when the referee's rulings had the players non-plussed, and he allowed too much talking on the field at times.

Full-back Stanton, of Western Suburbs, promoted from Third Grade, showed very good form, his handling being well-nigh perfect, and kicking both accurate and powerful. When he develops position play a little more, and runs his three-quarters into action, he may become a very high-class full-back. N Matterson, in the centre, showed plenty of dash, and repeatedly tried to cut through, but erred in kicking too much, Hey, at five-eighth, also showed plenty of determination and elusiveness. All West's forwards rucked with great vigour, and showed pace in the loose. They had need to do so to hold the fiery Balmain six in check. F Matterson and Spillane were always prominent, but all six were good forwards, with their tackling deadly. **(The Referee 24th August 1927)**

Tom Stanton, who took Frank McMillan's place at full-back for Western Suburbs against Balmain last Saturday, filled the bill nicely. Tom is only a youngster, whose widest experience, so far, had been with the thirds. He shaped very impressively with the coolness of a veteran. His running, handling and kicking were all passed by the critics, who predict improvement by him. **(Rugby League News 27th August 1927)**

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Notes: This was the fourth game in the year Wests lost by two points or less. Frank McMillan was in the original list but he was replaced by Tom Stanton who had been playing Third Grade and kicking goals. This was a very rugged forward clash where the Balmain forwards tried to stop the free-running Wests backs. Wests gave away a lot of scrum penalties resulting in the decisive goals in the first half. There was a lot of bustling and indiscriminate kicking in the rucks and Wests attacked very strongly late, making Balmain repeatedly force in the in-goal.