



1927 Round 18 Saturday 3rd September Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 8

def.

Eastern Suburbs 6

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Ken SHERWOOD
 William McPHERSON
 Ray MORRIS
 Jack REDMOND
 Dave HEY
 George MASON
 Les HAYES
 Jim PARSONS
 Jack DREW
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Frank SPILLANE

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

F JEFFRIES
 Les STEEL
 Larry LEDGER
 Nelson HARDY
 Hubert BYRNE
 S SHARP
 Norm POPE
 George BODDINGTON (c)
 P BURTON
 G KEYS
 Arthur OXFORD
 Dick BROWN
 William IVES



Tries Frank MATTERSON
 Jack REDMOND

Goals Frank McMILLAN (1) Field goal Arthur OXFORD (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, R Morris, K Sherwood, W McPherson, J Redmond; halves, D Hey, G Mason; forwards, F Matterson, J Parsons, F Spillane, J Drew, L Hayes, R Lindfield

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back, F Jeffries; three-quarters, L Steel, N Hardy, L Hedger, H Byrne; halves, S Sharpe, N Pope; forwards, W Ives, G Keys, A Oxford, G Boddington, R Brown, P Burton **Referee: W Neill**

Eastern Suburbs had the advantage of a strong breeze, and taking up the attack they at once gained the upper hand, carrying play well into their opponent's territory. Here, off-side play brought a penalty against the locals, and Oxford opened the scoring with the easiest of goals. Western Suburbs, who was winning more than a fair share of the scrums in the opening stages, made many attempts to open up the game, but, although the halves got the ball away from the scrums in the majority of cases, there seemed to be a lack of understanding among the three-quarters, and this, combined with faulty handling, lost the side many possible points. After a period of even play among the forwards, the 'tri-colours' momentarily gained the ascendancy, and they were now winning a fair share of the scrums, the local players were hard put to it to keep them out. McPherson caused a stir when he made a great run along the line, but a grand tackle by full-back Jeffries saved his side. Eastern Suburbs were awarded a penalty at mid-field, and Oxford kicked a splendid goal. Just prior to half-time the local players were again penalised, and Oxford, by kicking the goal, gave his side the lead – six to nil.

On resuming the Western Suburbs players carried all before them, and had the leaders sorely pressed. From neutral territory, Hey started a movement, and after being handled by Sherwood, Morris and Redmond, the ball went to Matterson, who scored in a good position, but McMillan failed with the kick. On securing from a kick-out shortly afterwards, McMillan made amends for his previous poor attempt by kicking a brilliant field goal from just on the half-way mark. The concluding stages were very keenly contested, and at times the tackling was unnecessarily hard. After a mix-up on the Eastern Suburbs' line the linesman ran on to the playing arena, and made a report to the referee, as the result of which Matterson was ordered off the field. With a minute of time, from a scramble in a handy position Redmond snapped up and ran across to score, and thus gave his side victory by two points. **(Sydney Morning Herald 5th September 1927)**

Notes: Wests needed to win this match to make the semi-finals; Newtown would have been in if they lost. Dave Hey moved to five-eighth with Jerry Brien out. William McPherson came up from Seconds to play centre. Lindfield was on top early in the scrums but repeated penalties meant the champion goal-kicker Arthur Oxford kicked three goals and Eastern Suburbs led 6-0 at half-time. Wests worked their way back into the game and Frank Matterson scored a good try before being sent off for the second time in the season. Once again, he wasn't suspended and played in the semi-final. 'Pony' Redmond scored late to the cheers of the crowd in a memorable win. McMillan's field goal from half-way would once again prove to be a match-winner.