



1927 Round 4 Saturday 7th May Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 19

def.

North Sydney 5

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Dave HEY
 Cecil FIFIELD
 Jack REDMOND
 Les DOLAN
 Harry OWEN
 Les HAYES
 Jim PARSONS
 Jack DREW
 George CAMERON
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Frank SPILLANE

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

L HILL
 Jack COURTNEY
 Carl ARNEMAN
 Frank RULE
 Arthur BERECRY
 Joe MONTGOMERY
 Jimmy JOHNSON
 Leo O'CONNOR (c)
 Jack COSTA
 Leo McGRATH
 Neil REYNOLDS
 George SEWELL
 William HUMPHRIES

Tries

Jack REDMOND (2)
 Harry OWEN
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Frank SPILLANE

Jack COURTNEY

Goals

Frank McMILLAN (1)
 Harry OWEN (1)

Jack COURTNEY (1)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back, L Hill; three-quarters, J Courtney, F Rule, T Arneman, A Berecry; halves, J Montgomery, J Johnson; forwards, W Humphries, L McGrath, J Costa, G Sewell, N Reynolds, L O'Connor

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, J Redmond, C Fifield, K Sherwood, D Hey; halves, L Dolan, H Owen; forwards, G Cameron, J Parsons, E Spillane, J Drew, R Lindfield, L A Hayes **Referee: W Neill**

Three thousand enthusiasts, whose ardour was not dimmed by frequent heavy showers, saw a game bristling with incident. Western Suburbs handled astonishingly well, considering the conditions, and worthily upheld their reputation. After a spell of attack by North Sydney, which ended when Courtney scored a great try, after Rule drew the defence from a scrum in front of goal, Western Suburbs had all the better of play. Their forwards were more on the ball, and seemed to revel in the heavy going, while North Sydney's six were very tired before the close. All the Western backs handled well, whereas North Sydney were often at fault in this regard. The two full-backs, McMillan and Hill, received cheer after cheer for their handling. Hill, a recruit, playing his first game, was given a great deal of work on account of the dribbling rushes of the Black forwards, but his handling, kicking, running, and general headwork were really first-class. Many times, he beat would-be tacklers with a swift sidestep, and in conjunction with J Courtney, was always on the look-out for a try-getting move. McMillan also handled very safely, and did many clever things, but was also uncertain. However, he showed great coolness on several occasions. Parsons, the Wests forward, practically made Redmond's second try for him, and, incidentally, this was the try of the match. From a scrum on his own side of half-way Parsons broke away with the ball at toe, and, dribbling past the full-back, kicked on till he was past the line; he tried to fall on the ball, but it just eluded him, for Redmond to score. The ease with which he kicked the heavy ball roused the fans to enthusiasm. **(Sunday Times 8th May 1927)**

Owen, at half-back, was conspicuous time after time for his tackling and feeding the backs. L Dolan made some nippy dashes and defended grimly.The event of the match was the effort of Hayes that led to the second try by Redmond. He dribbled like a star of the round-ball game. **(Referee 11th May 1927)**

.... The original No. 6 was J Brien, and J Brien no other than the former interstate half who, with Jacky Johnson of Norths, served behind the pack last year when the youthful New South Welshmen twice defeated the Queenslanders in Sydney. What was Brien doing with the reserves. It seems that early in the season he was claimed by both Wests and St George owing to some peculiarity in his geographical whereabouts. It was another case of "how happy I could be with either, were the other dear charmer away." The Western magnet drew the hardest and Brien, as a matter of formality with the reserves. He should be a distinct acquisition to Wests' firsts in the near future. **(Rugby League News May 7th 1927)**

.....
Notes: George Cameron replaced Frank Matterson in the forwards, being rewarded for a strong season in Seconds in 1926. Heavy rain fell during the match and the field was also heavy but Wests played attractive open football anyway and started the season with three wins. Redmond's second try was apparently a beauty. There was a continuing explanation for the absence of Jerry Brien due to eligibility problems.