



1926 Round 7 Saturday 12th June Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 20

def.

Balmain 19

Frank McMILLAN (c)
Cyril BELLAMY
Neil MATTERSON
Cecil FIFIELD
Jack REDMOND
Jack HOLMES
Eric DOIG
Frank MATTERSON
Jim PARSONS
Frank SPILLANE
Bill CARPENTER
Jack PETERSON
Jack DREW

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

Des PONCHARD
Tony RUSSELL
Tommy KENNEDY
Dud MILLARD
Jimmy LOVE
Norm ROBINSON
F ROSS
Reginald LATTA (c)
T NEWBY
Ray ELLIOTT
Les HAYES
Fred FERGUSON
Bill WIGGINS

Tries

Cecil FIFIELD
Frank MATTERSON
Jim PARSONS
Frank SPILLANE

Reginald LATTA (2)
Ray ELLIOTT
Jimmy LOVE
F ROSS

Goals

Frank McMILLAN (4) One field goal

Des PONCHARD (1)
Norm ROBINSON (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, D Ponchard; three-quarters, G Love, A Russell, D Millard, T Kennedy; five-eighth, A Robinson; half-back, F Ross; forwards, L Hayes, F Ferguson, T Newby, W Wiggins, R Elliott, R Latta (captain)

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, C Bellamy, C Fifield, N Matterson, T Redmond; five-eighth, G Holmes; half-back, E Doig (captain); forwards, F Matterson, G Parsons, F Spillane, G Drew, G Peterson, W Carpenter **Referee: T Kerr**

Balmain determined the play in this half, and was constantly on the attack but faulty passing and solid tackling by the opposing team kept the score to 8-5 in their favour. Western Suburbs was first to score, McMillan goaling from a penalty. After repeated onslaughts Elliott opened Balmain's score with a try, which was unconverted. Shortly Robinson added two points with a penalty goal. Balmain 5, Western Suburbs 2. Western Suburbs worked play to Balmain's line, where F Matterson crossed over, making the scores 5 all. Newby now kicked the ball through the Western Suburbs' defence, and Ross, securing, dived across. Balmain 8, Western Suburbs 5. The game up to this stage had been of a desultory nature, the respective full-backs, engaging in numerous kicking duels, which were not appreciated by the onlookers.

After resuming both sides livened up, and Western Suburbs' backs, obtaining more of the ball, made good use of any opportunities that were presented. Fifield, with a fine individual effort from near Balmain's twenty-five, made the scores 8 all. Latta now put Balmain in the lead again with a try which was unconverted. Not to be denied, Western Suburbs rallied, and Parsons, securing, "dummied" the opposition and crossed over after a run from half-way. McMillan converted. McMillan was successful in kicking a field goal immediately afterward. Western Suburbs were now playing splendidly and simply overwhelmed Balmain. Holmes made an opening and transferred to Spillane, who scored. McMillan was again successful with the kick. Western Suburbs 20, Balmain 11. Balmain's halves now changed places, Robinson going to his old position as half-back and Ross to five-eighth. The change appeared to infuse the attack with new life. Their backs handled the ball surely and, and soon had Western Suburbs defending. After a combined movement Latta registered his second try. Following the drop out Love figured in a spectacular run from half-way and scored. Ponchard converted. Western Suburbs 20, Balmain 19. Balmain tried hard to score again, but the final whistle sounded with the scores unchanged. **(Sydney Morning Herald 14th June 1926)**

Wests felt the loss of Brien and Lindfield, and thereafter did well to win. They dropped Stettler, who has been very much below form this year. One of the big successes of the game was Parsons, of Wests' forwards. This chap was the forward star in the game with Souths, and on Saturday he even went better, and was in everything. **(The Sydney Sportsman 15th June 1926)**

Notes: This was a fast game with an exciting finish, although there was a bit of boring kick-to-kick between the full-backs. Wests were again significantly affected by late changes. Jack Holmes was listed in the centres but he went to five-eighth to replace Jerry Brien and Fifield came into the team. Frank Matterson finally returned after three games in Seconds and Jack Petersen replaced Bob Lindfield at hooker. The Balmain halves changed positions late in the game and the team scored two quick tries. This was a refreshing change to win a game with the opposing team's poor goal-kicking. McMillan's field goal eventually proved the difference.