



1926 Round 8 Saturday 19th June RAS Showground



Eastern Suburbs 28

def.

Western Suburbs 21

Ed RIGNEY
Les STEEL (c)
Larry HEDGER
Arthur TOBY
Hubert BYRNE
C MASSEY
Vince OLIVERA
George BODDINGTON
H KAVANAGH
G HALL
William IVES
Arthur OXFORD
N FITZPATRICK

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

Frank McMILLAN (c)
Jack REDMOND
Cecil FIFIELD
Jack HOLMES
Cyril BELLAMY
Jerry BRIEN
Harry OWEN
Jack DREW
Edward COURTNEY Jnr
Jim PARSONS
Frank MATTERSON
Bob LINDFIELD
Bill CARPENTER



Tries

Hubert BYRNE (2)
G HALL (2)
H KAVANAGH
Les STEEL

Jerry BRIEN (2)
Cecil FIFIELD
Harry OWEN
Jack REDMOND

Goals

Arthur OXFORD (5)

Frank McMILLAN (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan (c); three-quarters, C Bellamy, J Holmes, C Fifield, T Redmond; halves, J Brien, H Owens; forwards, F Matterson, E Courtney, R Lindfield, J Parsons, J Drew, W Carpenter

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back, E Rigney; three-quarters, L Steele (c), A Toby, L Hedger, H Byrne; halves, C Massey, V Oliviera; forwards, W Ives, A Oxford, G Hall, G Boddington, H Kavanagh, N Fitzpatrick **Referee: A Thornton**

Those who visited the Show Ground to cheer Western Suburbs on to victory were staggered by the way in which Easts out-played their idols. Wests were 18 points behind at one stage, but rallied magnificently and completely overran their tired opponents in the last quarter of an hour. East opened the scoring after a splendid passing rush. From a scrum at half-way the ball travelled through the three-quarters to L Steel. He shot in field to A Oxford, and, on to G Hall, who threw himself across to score near the posts. A Oxford converted, and shortly after kicked a good goal from a penalty. East led 7-0, but West won a scrum at half-way and H Owens dummied, shot through, and passed to C Fifield. He toed the ball ahead, regained it, and scored. McMillan failed to convert, but East were penalised near the line and he kicked an easy goal. East's backs and forwards, combining well, swept downfield, first H Kavanagh scoring and then L Steel. Oxford and W Ives failed to convert. East 13-5. The next try started from within East's twenty-five. H Kavanagh received from the scrum and the forwards, with short passes, sped straight for West's goal-line. Ives, Boddington, and Oxford handled in turn, Byrne finally dashing up to receive the latter's pass and score near the corner. Oxford failed to convert.

Easts went further ahead in the second half. Oxford kicked a penalty goal, and then McMillan misfielded a kick. Hall picked up the ball, and dived across to score. A Oxford converted. East 23-5. Shortly after, G Boddington was thrown on his head in a tackle, and was forced to retire temporarily. Wests assumed the aggressive during his absence, and in a scramble on the line. T Redmond picked up and dived across near the corner to score. McMillan failed to convert. West now dominated the play till the close, H Owens and J Brien (2) scoring, J Holmes failed to convert the first try, but McMillan converted Brien's two. Once only did East get over half-way in this period, when Byrne intercepted and made a spectacular dash from half-way, scoring near the posts. Oxford converted. Final scores were: East 28, West 21..... T Redmond was resolute in defence, and stopped Byrne repeatedly with splendid low tackles. He was determined in attack, and showed fine dash for one so small. H Owens, half-back, shot the ball out quickly to the backs. J Brien was not seen to advantage until near the finish, when he twice burst past East defenders, to score between the posts. **(Sunday Times 20th June 1926)**

H Owen, who played scrum half for Western Suburbs, is another player who is a product of the President's Cup competition. He was a member of that district's team in 1924, and in 1925 was captain of the side which won the coveted trophy. He was included in the reserve grade team at the end of last season, and his display in the League Cup final marked him as a player of more than ordinary ability.... "Pony" Redmond demonstrated his talents in convincing fashion at Sydney Cricket Ground last Saturday. He is only 19, but he has already "arrived." Playing last season with Lidcombe Juniors, he gravitated to reserve grade, and this season he secured a permanent post on Wests' wing. **(Rugby League News July 24th 1926)**

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Notes: This match was considered as an upset. Wests were expected to win but fell behind by 18 points at one stage. They charged home in the last fifteen minutes, scoring three tries. 'Pony' Redmond again played a blinder and kept Byrne his opposite quiet all day. The match was significant for the debut of Harry Owen, a regular first grader until 1933. Bob Lindfield's return as hooker wasn't enough to win the match.