



# 1927 Round 9 Saturday 18th June Pratten Park



## Eastern Suburbs 10

def.

## Western Suburbs 8

Arthur TOBY  
 Les STEEL  
 Nelson HARDY  
 Larry LEDGER  
 Hubert BYRNE  
 George HARRIS  
 Norm POPE  
 George BODDINGTON (c)  
 Tom FITZPATRICK  
 George CLAMBACK  
 Dick BROWN  
 Arthur OXFORD  
 William IVES

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

Frank McMILLAN (c)  
 Jack REDMOND  
 Neil MATTERSON  
 Dave HEY  
 Ken SHERWOOD  
 Jerry BRIEN  
 Harry OWEN  
 Jack DREW  
 Les HAYES  
 Jim PARSONS  
 Frank MATTERSON  
 Bob LINDFIELD  
 Frank SPILLANE



**Tries** George BODDINGTON  
 Hubert BYRNE

Dave HEY  
 Jim PARSONS

**Goals** Arthur OXFORD (2)

Harry OWEN (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, McMillan; three-quarters, Redmond, N Matterson, Hey, Sherwood; halves, Brien, Owen; forwards, F Matterson, Parsons, Spillane, Lindfield, Drew, Hayes

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back, Toby; three-quarters, Steel, Hardy, Hedger, Byrne; halves, Pope, Harris; forwards, Fitzpatrick, Ives, Boddington, Brown, Clamback, Oxford **Referee: W Neill**

Eastern Suburbs kicked off, and attacking soon reached the opposition's twenty-five. McMillan, however, relieved with a long kick down field, when an exchange of kicks followed between the respective full-backs. The Easterners, however, continued to press, when from a mix-up in front of Western Suburbs' line Boddington scrambled over. Eastern Suburbs, 3 nil. Both forward divisions were conspicuous, but the treacherous state of the ground hindered the backs. Oxford was next to score, the result of a long penalty kick, and Eastern Suburbs led 5 nil. Western Suburbs now took a hand in attack, and took play to the Easterners' twenty-five. Here Toby's kick was charged down, and Parsons, racing through, scored, for Owen to convert, making scores 5 points each. Shortly afterwards, however, Hey secured, and, after a short dash down the wing, scored in the corner, making half-time scores Western Suburbs 8-5.

Play was fast and interesting in the second half, a feature being the excellent passing rushes of Western Suburbs' backs. The defence of the Easterners, however, was excellent, the tackling being very fine. During the term Toby received first-aid for an injury, but remained playing. The Eastern Suburbs players later added to their score after a passing movement initiated by Harris to Hedger to Byrne, who scored for Oxford to convert, making the scores Eastern Suburbs 10-8, which remained unaltered at the conclusion of the game. Western Suburbs tried valiantly to score over the concluding stages, but failed to penetrate the opposing defence. McMillan again performed splendidly with accurate line kicks and time and again effected good saves for his side. Matterson and Parsons were conspicuous amongst the forwards, while Redmond acquitted himself very creditably in the three-quarter line. Hardy was the outstanding player in Eastern Suburbs' back division, whilst Boddington and Oxford were the pick of the forwards. **(Sydney Morning Herald 20th June 1927)**

...Twice F Matterson went within an ace of scoring. Then frantic cheering from hundreds of Western barrackers as a player dived over the line, but he was held up, and the ball went to earth smothered by players. The Eastern forwards time and again brought play back to half-way by determined dribbling rushes. Western Suburbs were soon back. But they could not score. **(The Referee 22nd June 1927)**

W McPherson, of Western Suburbs, brought off something similar in Wests' game with Easts – a titanic struggle by the way – at Pratten Park. McPherson was making progress when he resorted to the short punt. He kicked. The ball hit an opponent's head and shot in the air. McPherson gathered it again, and continued his run, scoring nicely. **(Rugby League News 25th June 1927)**

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**Notes:** This was one of the most exciting games of the season and Easts tackled themselves to a standstill in the final stages to hold Wests out and cause an upset. It was played on a very heavy ground, with McMillan, Frank Matterson, Parsons and Redmond playing very strongly. Note the extract on William McPherson above. He scored three tries in Reserve Grade along with stalwarts, Bill Carpenter and Tedda Courtney Jnr. Wests were now leading Reserve Grade, emphasising the depth of the playing squad.