



## 1925 Round 5 Saturday 6th June Birchgrove Oval



### Balmain 14

Charles FRASER (c)  
 Jack ROBINSON  
 Frank McMILLAN  
 Dud MILLARD  
 Tommy KENNEDY  
 Norm ROBINSON  
 Jimmy LOVE  
 Reginald LATTA  
 A LATTA  
 Ray ELLIOTT  
 Les HAYES  
 Horrace WATT  
 Alf FRASER

### def.

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

### Western Suburbs 5

Gordon DAISLEY  
 Cyril BELLAMY  
 Neil MATTERSON  
 Frank McCAULEY  
 Gordon STETTLER  
 Jerry BRIEN  
 Eric DOIG  
 Jack DREW  
 Frank LANE  
 Bill CARPENTER  
 Edward COURTNEY Jnr  
 Edward STAPLETON (c)  
 Cecil GILBERT



**Tries** Jack ROBINSON (2)  
 Reginald LATTA  
 Norm ROBINSON

Frank McCAULEY

**Goals** Frank McMILLAN (1)

Gordon STETTLER (1)

#### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back, C Fraser; three-quarters, T Kennedy, D Millard, F McMillan, J Robinson; halves, N Robinson, J Love; forwards, L Hayes, H Watt, A Fraser, R Elliott, H Latta, R Latta

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, G Daisley; three-quarters, C Bellamy, N Matterson, F McCauley, G Stettler; halves, J Brien, E Doig; forwards, C Gilbert, E Stapleton, E Courtney, W Carpenter, F Lane, J Drew **Referee: J Murray**

Good play by Fraser, Robinson and Love gained ground, and from a loose scrum Latta picked up and passed to J Robinson, who ran hard for the corner and scored. No goal resulted, and Balmain led 3 to nil. Western Suburbs responded, and fast play by McCauley and Stettler speedily changed the scene of operations. Bellamy broke away and approaching Fraser he kicked, following fast, he out-distanced the full-back in the race for the ball, but failed to reach it. It was a close call for Balmain. Keeping up the pressure, Brien cleverly picked up in the 25, and after beating several opponents, he passed to McCauley, who used his pace to advantage and scored between the posts, for Stettler to goal. Western Suburbs 5-3. Balmain then stormed the line, and Love and Latta were pulled down in rapid succession, when within inches of a score. At half-time the score was unchanged.

After the resumption, Daisley's kick was charged down, and Hayes gaining possession passed to Love to R Latta, who scored, McMillan to convert. Balmain 8, Western Suburbs 5. Balmain continued to attack, and from a loose scrum in the opposing 25, the ball was passed to J Robinson, who found his way over in the corner for his second try. McMillan made a good, but ineffectual, attempt at goal, and the score was 11-5 in favour of the home team. Balmain were now playing a greatly improved game, and N Robinson led many onslaughts on the Western Suburbs' line. Brien and Doig, however, excelled themselves, and frustrated scorers. N Robinson, who had been playing a great game, "burrowed" his way past a converging set of forwards, and scored a well-merited try, which was unconverted. This was the final score, and the game ended in favour of Balmain by 14 points to 5.

Viewed as a spectacle the game was a failure, the brilliant individual efforts of N Robinson saving it from mediocrity. Daisley, the young Western Suburbs back, played soundly, but his habit of low kicking brought trouble to his side, as in the North Sydney match. He would be well advised to sacrifice length for accuracy, and to kick with a higher trajectory. Fraser, in the corresponding position, was responsible for lots of errors. Of the Western Suburbs backs McCauley and Brien showed up prominently, while the forwards were outshone by their more experienced opponents. Of the Balmain vanguard, R Latta, Elliott and Hayes were perhaps the best of an evenly balanced set. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 8th June 1925)**

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**Notes:** It was interesting to see Frank McMillan in the backline for Balmain. Norm Robinson seemed to have been the difference in this game, being the best player on the field. Wests were starved of possession and had now lost three in a row. Frank Matterson was a reserve for this game, being replaced by Cecil Gilbert. Gilbert was a typical club player; having played 22 games in Second Grade and was rewarded for his outstanding form. Forcing "Dutchy" out was no mean feat. Remarkably, there was a match of NSW v Queensland on the Monday, with Gordon Daisley at full-back, Jerry Brien at five-eighth and Eric Doig as reserve. This was a meteoric rise for Daisley and Brien.