



# 1920 Round 1 Saturday 1st May RAS Showground



## Western Suburbs 21

def.

## South Sydney 5

Lyall WALL  
 Dick VEST  
 Viv FARNSWORTH  
 Herb GILBERT (c)  
 Wally COLLINS  
 Ward PRENTICE  
 George McGOWAN  
 William JOASS  
 Harold LEDDY  
 Westley EASTERBROOK  
 Clarrie TYE  
 Clarrie PRENTICE  
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Dave LINDSAY  
 Gordon VAUGHAN  
 Reg FUSEDALE  
 Clarrie HORDER  
 Vince SHEEHAN  
 E SWINNERTON  
 Alfred BLAIR  
 John KERWICK  
 Ted McGRATH  
 Reuben BAKER  
 Arthur OXFORD (c)  
 Jack LAWRENCE  
 Jack BLINCO

**Tries** Edward COURTNEY (2)  
 Dick VEST (2)  
 Herb GILBERT

Arthur OXFORD

**Goals** Lyall WALL (2)  
 Ward PRENTICE (1)

Arthur OXFORD (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** L Wall, full-back; R Vest, V Farnsworth, H Gilbert (c) and W Collins; three-quarters, Ward Prentice; five-eighth, G McGowan, half-back; C Tye, C W Prentice, E Courtney, W Joass, W Easterbrook and H Leddy, forwards.

**South Sydney:** D Lindsay, full-back; V Sheehan, C Horder, H Fusedale (c) and G Vaughan, three-quarters; A Blair, five-eighth; E Swinnerton, half-back; J Blinco, J Laverson, J Baker, A Oxford, F McGrath and J Kerwick, forwards **Referee: T Dickenson**

..... A game of see-saw was kept up for some time. Neither set of backs showed neatness in handling..... Wests were soon across. W Prentice whipped out a well-directed, two-handed pass to Gilbert, who sent to Farnsworth, who beat his slow-moving opponents for pace, and the evergreen Courtney, who had galloped up alongside, took a short pass and dashed over. Wall converted. Wests 5-0. .... Souths still prevailed in the scrums, but the halves were unable to start the backs. Farnsworth once more bustled into the open and passed to Gilbert, who was well tackled. The ball, however, was brought back through a breach noticed by one of the touch-judges, and Oxford kicked a goal from half-way. Wests 5 to 2 at half-time.

Wall just missed the goal from a free for off-side on resuming. From Wests' half a dashing piece of play by Gilbert brought down the house. He took a flying pass from Farnsworth and ran full 40 yards to the full-back, where he transferred to Vest, who scored easily. Wall a goal. Wests 10 to 2. Wests' backs were now showing excellent form in comparison with their opposing set.....There appeared to be too much bumping of a dangerous nature at this stage; also, indiscriminate pushing, some others passing unnoticed. Vest came through and punted, but was beaten for pace by Sheehan, who secured and relieved in convincing style. Farnsworth was once more prominent in a run after intercepting, and placed Wests in a good position, from which Vest worked his way over at the corner flag. Wests 13-2. Wests were in a scoring mood. McGowan secured from a scrum and went to Ward Prentice, to Gilbert, who tore diagonally for the line. Vaughan tackled him feebly, Gilbert falling over for a try. Wall missed. Wests 16-2. Collins set Courtney moving, and the latter ran in unopposed. Ward Prentice a goal. Wests 21-3. Souths' backs livened up in the last quarter of an hour and enabled Oxford to bustle over. Wests 21-5. The rally was good to see, but Wests won rather easily by 21 to 5. **(The Sunday Times 2nd May 1920)**

Young Ward Prentice has developed a corporation, and was short of a gallop at times, though if he can get into condition he will be one of the top-notchers. **(The Sydney Sportsman 5th May 1920)**

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**Notes:** The new season brought three new quality players. Vivian Farnsworth, Roy's brother, came across from Newtown and immediately showed his quality, being the best back on the field. Lyall Wall, the full-back from the premiership winning Balmain, must have played well in the trials since he kept Athol White as a Reserve. Ward Prentice made his debut, coming across from Rugby Union. From all accounts short of a run, he still showed enough to have fitted in very nicely. This match was also notable because it appeared in the first edition of Rugby League News, which also for the first time printed Second Grade teams, very useful to verify player names. Tom McCauley and Tony Redmond were also listed as reserves so the forward pack was obviously hard to crack into, if a forward of Redmond's class couldn't get in. 1920 also brought in a new team, University, wearing the blue and gold, and this meant a bye would be in play.