



# 1923 Round 1 Saturday 5th May Pratten Park



## North Sydney 17

def.

## Western Suburbs 16

Norm PROCTOR  
 Harold HORDER  
 Herman PETERS  
 Frank RULE  
 Cecil BLINKHORN  
 Roderick HODGINS  
 Duncan THOMPSON (c)  
 James PYE  
 Jack IVES  
 Reg FARNELL  
 Alf FAULL  
 Claud O'DONNELL  
 George JOHNSON

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

Frank McMILLAN  
 Dick VEST  
 Gordon STETTLER  
 Neil MATTERSON  
 William McCABE  
 Cecil FIFIELD  
 Eric DOIG  
 Jack DREW  
 Louis YANZ  
 Harold LEDDY  
 Edward COURTNEY  
 Clarrie PRENTICE (c)  
 Edward STAPLETON



**Tries** Herman PETERS (2)  
 Jack IVES  
 James PYE  
 George JOHNSON

Harold LEDDY  
 William McCABE  
 Gordon STETTLER  
 Louis YANZ

**Goals** Harold HORDER (1)

Gordon STETTLER (2)

### Match Description

**North Sydney:** Full-back, N Proctor; three-quarters, H Horder, F Rule, H Peters, C Blinkhorn; halves: D Hodgins, D Thompson; forwards, G Johnson, J C Ives, A Faull, C O'Donnell, J Pye, R Parnell

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, three-quarters, R Vest, G Stettler, H Matterson, W McCabe; halves, C Fifield, E Doig; forwards, H Leddy, L Yanz, C Prentice, J Drew, E Stapleton **Referee: W Neill**

The weather was threatening and the ground very soft in the centre when Prentice kicked off for Western Suburbs..... From a scrum Thompson secured, and after a tricky run passed to Peters, who crossed in a handy position. Horder failed at goal. North Sydney, 3 to nil. ... The North Sydney full-back was playing a magnificent game and saved his side on many occasions. ....From a scramble Fifield secured, passed to Stettler, to Leddy, who crossed unopposed and scored between the posts. Doig's kick was unsuccessful. Three all. North Sydney immediately attacked, and Peters, following fast, picked up and crossed. Horder failed at goal. North Sydney, 6 to 3. Peters soon scored again. Securing in the centre of the field he beat four opponents before passing to Johnson, who crossed for a try. Thompson failed to convert from an easy position. North Sydney, 9 to 3..... Play continued evenly until half-time, when the scores were: North Sydney, 9; Western Suburbs, 3.

On resuming Thompson started the game and play remained in the centre for some time. ...Courtney again obtained, and passed to McCabe, who after a determined run scored a try. Doig failed at goal. North Sydney 9 to 6. Thompson gained possession, and after a number of "dummy" passes worked his way through the opposition and passed to Ives, who crossed. Horder converted. North Sydney 14 to 6. Pye was the next to score for North Sydney, but Horder failed at goal. North Sydney 17 to 6. From a penalty Stettler kicked an easy goal for Western Suburbs, making the scores North Sydney 17 to 8. Western Suburbs increased the total through a fine individual effort by Yanz, who resolutely forced his way through the North Sydney defence for a try. Stettler missed the goal from an easy position. North Sydney 17 to 11. Stettler further added to Western Suburbs' score by kicking a penalty goal. Western Suburbs were now playing finely. Stettler picked up in the loose and after a brilliant run crossed with two opponents hanging to him. He failed to add the extra points, which would have placed Western Suburbs in the lead. North Sydney 17 to 16. Western Suburbs continued to attack strongly, but at the final whistle the scores were unaltered, North Sydney winning by a single point. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 7th May 1923)**

To H J Leddy, of Western Suburbs, falls the honour of being first to cross the premiers' line this winter. What a good forward he is! Revelling in the "hard stuff", he is always up with the play and knows what to do with the ball when it comes his way... **(The Rugby League News May 12th 1923)**

**Notes:** This was a game that Wests should have won. Doig missed a kick in front trying to convert Leddy's try and Stettler missed a goal in front trying to convert the last try just before full-time. Some records have Herman Peters scoring three tries but all newspaper reports had him setting up Johnson's try after a good break. The rain was the big factor. Before half-time, when dry, Norths were on top, their speedsters on the wings being hard to stop. When the rain poured down, however, Wests' forwards got on top and were very dominant in the second half. Harold Leddy had an outstanding game by all accounts. William McCabe made his First Grade debut after scoring a large number of tries in Second Grade in 1922. Similarly, Cecil Fifield also made his debut. Clarrie Prentice was rewarded for his years of service with the captaincy, which he kept for the rest of the year.