

1923 Round 10 Saturday 14th July Sydney Sports Ground

North Sydney 27

Henry WATERHOUSE Alan STEELE Herman PETERS Frank RULE Jack COURTNEY Roderick HODGINS Duncan THOMPSON (c) Reuben BAKER Jack IVES Reg FARNELL Alf FAULL F CHEVELL George JOHNSON

Herman PETERS (3)

Roderick HODGINS (6)

Reg FARNELL Alan STEELE Fullback Wing Centre Centre Wing Five-eighth Half Lock Second Row Second Row Front Row Hooker Front Row

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Frank McMILLAN Fred YANZ Gordon STETTLER Neil MATTERSON Wally COLLINS Cecil FIFIELD Reginald DARKE Jack DREW Louis YANZ Harold LEDDY Edward COURTNEY Clarrie PRENTICE (c) Edward STAPLETON

Wally COLLINS Cecil FIFIELD

Gordon STETTLER (3)

Match Description

Tries

Goals

North Sydney: Full-back, D Thompson; three-quarters, H Waterhouse, F Rule, H Peters, J Courtney; half-backs, D Hodgins, A Steele; forwards, F Chevell, G Johnson, J Baker, J Ives, R Farnell, A Faull

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, G Stettler, N Matterson, F Yanz, W Collins; half-backs, C Fifield, R Darke; forwards, J Drew, C Prentice, E Courtney, E Stapleton, L Yanz, H J Leddy Referee: T McMahon

... Then from an infringement in a scrum Western Suburbs carried play to North Sydney's line, where from a ruck Fifield dashed over for a try. Stettler, with a magnificent kick, goaled, and Western Suburbs led 5-0. North Sydney were handicapped by the loss of Blinkhorn and Horder; and Thompson, suffering from an injured shoulder, played full-back..... The following scrum brought a free to Western Suburbs, from which Stettler with another good effort goaled. Western Suburbs, 7-0. North Sydney, now somewhat anxious, re-arranged their backs, Steele going to the wing, and Thompson took up his customary position behind the scrum. Waterhouse also resumed his position at full-back. Soon after the change, Hodgins opened North Sydney's score by goaling from a penalty. Western Suburbs, 7-2. ... From another of the penalties Hodgins again goaled, making the scores Western Suburbs 7-4. The relief was only temporary, and a splendid concerted movement by the North Sydney backs resulted in Peters crossing the line for a try, which Hodgins converted. North Sydney 9-7. Towards the interval Western Suburbs were attacking, but there was no further score.

On resuming Western Suburbs attacked, but in stopping a counter-movement by North Sydney McMillan came into heavy contact with Ives, and though carried off the field he came on later. The game was now exciting, each side making strenuous efforts to score. From a ruck at centre, Prentice sent the ball to Collins, who after a splendid run crossed in. No goal resulted, and Western Suburbs were now in the lead 12-9. North Sydney opened up a splendid burst of play, and Farnell, running strongly, passed to Peters, who scored a try. Hodgins goaled, and the scores were North Sydney 14-12. A few minutes later McMillan failed to gather a short kick, and the North Sydney forwards, headed by Ives, came through with an irresistible rush. Farnell capped the movement with a try and again Hodgins goaled. The game was now in favour of North Sydney who showed their best form. Hodgins once more goaled from a penalty, this being his sixth successful effort. North Sydney 22-13. ... Peters and Steele, in the closing stages, each scored a try after great running along the wing, and the final whistle blew with North Sydney winners by 27 points to 12. **(Sydney Morning Herald 16th July 1923)**

...Then the change came! It began with McMillan, the Western Suburbs full-back, crashing into Ives, of North Sydney, in a chest-on collision. Ives must be at least three stone heavier than McMillan. McMillan went down like a pitched bullock. He was carried to the touch-line, but in a couple of minutes staggered back to the field, reeling like a drunken man. He was no good afterwards. Neither was his side. In the last five minutes McMillan received another hard knock, and was carried to the dressing-room by the ambulance men. **(Sunday Times 15th July 1923)**

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Notes: This was a game of two halves. Wests supporters were jubilant when Wests hit the front and looked like they would go on and win. They were completely on top until the incident where McMillan was pole-axed and tried to continue with obvious concussion. Suddenly, the Norths forwards took control and Wests couldn't get back into the game. This match was played before 20000 spectators and was critical for Wests' premiership chances. They were in 4th, four points off the three leaders, which now included North Sydney. It again served to emphasise what an influential player McMillan was becoming.