



# 1923 Round 13 Saturday 4th August Sydney Cricket Ground



## Eastern Suburbs 22

def.

## Western Suburbs 8

Ed RIGNEY  
 Cyril ABOTOMEY  
 George AGAR  
 Jack DAWSON  
 Les STEEL  
 Harry CAPLES (c)  
 Sid KAUFMAN  
 Jack WATKINS  
 Arthur OXFORD  
 Bill RICHARDS  
 William IVES  
 Harold HOLMES  
 Tom MOLLOY

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

Frank McMILLAN  
 Gordon STETTLER  
 Fred YANZ  
 Neil MATTERSON  
 Wally COLLINS  
 Cecil FIFIELD  
 Eric DOIG  
 Jack DREW  
 Louis YANZ  
 Bill CARPENTER  
 Edward COURTNEY  
 Clarrie PRENTICE (c)  
 Edward STAPLETON



**Tries**  
 Harold HOLMES  
 Bill RICHARDS  
 Les STEEL  
 Jack WATKINS

Neil MATTERSON  
 Fred YANZ

**Goals**  
 Arthur OXFORD (5)

Eric DOIG (1)

### Match Description

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back, E Rigney; three-quarters, C Abotomey, J Dawson, G Agar, L Steel; half-backs, H Caples, S Kaufman; forwards, W Ives, T Molloy, H Holmes, W Richards, A Oxford, J Watkins

**Western Suburb:** Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, G Stettler, N Matterson, F Yanz, W Collins; half-backs, C Fifield, E Doig; forwards, E Courtney, C Prentice, J Drew, L Yanz, E Stapleton, W Carpenter **Referee: W Neill**

.....From a scrum Doig sent to Matterson, who was on the run, and gathering the ball neatly, reached over for a try, which Stettler failed to convert. Western Suburbs 3 to nil. ... After Kaufman had cut through nicely, Watkins secured and ran on, with Steel in attendance. The latter took a pass and scored a try near the corner. Oxford missed the goal – 3 all. Opportune play by Western Suburbs looked promising, and then a series of passes gave Steel a chance. He centred, but Richards mulled, and a force resulted. Oxford, however kicked a penalty goal a little later, and Eastern Suburbs led by 5 to 3. Kaufman made several openings for his three-quarters, but the rapidity with which the Western Suburbs men move in defence saved the side. Again, the pace of the Western Suburbs forwards carried play to their opponents' 25, where Stettler missed the goal from a free in an easy position. ....Western Suburbs kept up an attack until half-time, when their opponents still led 5 to 3.

Several kicks and returns by the full-backs marked the early stages of the second half, until Eastern Suburbs forced after a kick over the line. .... Oxford missed the goal from a mark right in front, but converted a try by Holmes, scored after a scrambling rush by the forwards from close to the touch-line. Eastern Suburbs, 10 to 3. With all speed up, the leaders came away with a surprise attack. Kaufman sent to Caples, who fended several players, and passed to Watkins, who ran straight and fast for the line. He added a try behind the goal, and Oxford made no mistake with the kick. Eastern Suburbs 15 to 3. A dash by Western Suburbs ended in an unsuccessful kick at goal by Doig, and later a force. Continuing aggressive tactics, Western Suburbs made the game attractive, and after the opposing backs had endeavoured to clear by passing. Agar was tackled while attempting to kick clear. Yanz picked up and scored, and Doig converted. Eastern Suburbs, 15 to 8. Kaufman and Watkins made fine efforts in the closing stages, and after a vigorous attack Oxford kicked another penalty goal. Western Suburbs made a final dash near the end, with Abotomey tackling well, but after Oxford had kicked well forward Richards raced after the ball, propelled it over the line, and scored a try for Oxford to convert. Eastern Suburbs thus won by 22 points to 8. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 6th August 1923)**

Western Suburbs forwards were without H J Leddy, who was ill .....and the old stager, E Courtney, did things that made one blink. His shooting tackles and his speed in anticipating the trend of things were extraordinary for a man of his build and years. He is a puzzle. After all these years it is extraordinary to see himself throwing himself into it with the ginger of a twenty-year-old. One cannot see where the wisdom of his playing still comes in. He must know best; but he takes a big risk of over-doing it. **(The Referee 8th August 1923)**

.....  
**Notes:** By all accounts this was a much closer match than the final score. Wests attacked strongly through the forwards early and were on top but dropped off late in the match. It was the match of the day played before 20,000 spectators. McMillan was still suffering from his previous concussion and leg injury and was not at his brilliant best. There was a repeated comment about Cecil Fifield playing too stereotypically, just passing out and not taking any initiative. Note, once again, the brilliance and resilience of Tedda Courtney.