



1923 Round 16 Saturday 25th August Sydney Sports Ground



South Sydney 18

def.

Western Suburbs 9

Hector COURTENAY
Phillip BAGWILL
Oscar QUINLIVAN
Tom BARRY
Vic LAWRENCE
William GILLESPIE (c)
Frank BROGAN
Jack LAWRENCE
Pat MURPHY
Eddie ROOT
Dave WATSON
Ern WILLMOTT
Perc HORNE
Dick BURKE
Alfred BLAIR

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

Fred YANZ
Cyril BELLAMY
Cecil FIFIELD
Neil MATTERSON
Wally COLLINS
Gordon STETTLER
Eric DOIG
Jack DREW
Louis YANZ
Harold LEDDY
Edward COURTNEY
Clarrie PRENTICE (c)
Edward STAPLETON



Tries

Jack LAWRENCE (2)
Tom BARRY
Vic LAWRENCE
Oscar DUNLIVAN
Eddie ROOT

Wally COLLINS
Cecil FIFIELD
Neil MATTERSON

Goals

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back, H Courtney; three-quarters, P Bagwill, V Lawrence, T Barry, O Quinlivan; halves, F Brogan, W Gillespie; forwards, P Horne, D Watson, E Root, E Wilmott, P Murphy, J Lawrence

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F Yanz; three-quarters, C Fifield, W Collins, C Bellamy, N Matterson; halves, G Stettler, E Doig; forwards, H J Leddy, E Stapleton, E Courtney, L Yanz, C Prentice, W Drew **Referee: T McMahon**

Doig kicked off for Western Suburbs, and at once the South Sydney backs opened a passing bout, but they were stopped at midfield. Fifield obtained possession from a kick by Courtenay, and crossed in after a splendid run, and Doig missed the goal. Western Suburbs, 3-0. After an unsuccessful shot at goal by J Lawrence from a penalty Western Suburbs forced. South Sydney quickly resumed the offensive, and J Lawrence crossed in for a try, which he failed to convert. Three all. Exciting incidents were frequent as each side alternatively attacked. South Sydney were the aggressors now, and V Lawrence was pushed out over the corner post after forcing his way through a number of opponents. Western Suburbs cleared, and Fifield passed to Collins, who scored a neat try. Stettler failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led, 6-3. In this half Courtenay and Bagwill retired hurt, and were replaced by Burke and Blair. Towards the interval, a spectacular passing rush took place, and Quinlivan, receiving near half-way, ran strongly, and neatly side-stepping F Yanz, crossed in for a try, from an easy position Gillespie failed to goal. At half-time the scores were 6 all.

.... Good play by F Yanz, Doig, and Fifield brought play to the centre. South Sydney, however, by means of forward movements, pressed, and J Lawrence forced his way over the line from a ruck. Watson failed at goal and South Sydney led 9-6. South Sydney scored immediately after the kick-out, V Lawrence obtaining near the line, and darting over. South Sydney, 12-6. Western Suburbs were now handicapped by the loss of Courtney, who retired injured. F Yanz earned applause by running nicely and beating several opponents. .. Persistent attacks were maintained by South Sydney and from one of these, Root crossed in for an unconverted try. Doig and Fifield combined in a rush which carried the ball into South Sydney's 25. After a series of scrums here, Matterson forced his way over in the corner. South Sydney responded with a movement in which Blair, Gillespie, Root, and Barry took part, and the last-named scored, and the game ended with South Sydney winning by 18 points to 9. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 27th August 1923)**

Western Suburbs had the ill-fortune to lose E Courtney 15 minutes after the second half had commenced. He was playing very ably when he injured the ligaments in one of his legs, and after a while had to walk off... **(The Referee 29th August 1923)**

Notes: The NSW team was away in Queensland so Wests were missing their key player, Frank McMillan. This was an unusual game with no goals being kicked; 6 tries to 3. Wests' goal-kicking problems had plagued them all season and had definitely cost them games. It was ironic that the Rugby League's leading kicker, Matthew Downie, was playing Second Grade He had kicked 24 goals so far. A modern coach would have found a place for him. Wests had their chances in this game but handling let them down.