



1923 Round 17 Saturday 1st September Pratten Park



Balmain 20

Charles FRASER (c)
 Jack ROBINSON
 Jimmy LOVE
 Billy CRAIG
 Dud MILLARD
 Tommy KENNEDY
 George ROBINSON
 Reginald LATTA
 Alf FRASER
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Mick RUSSELL
 Horrace WATT
 Les HAYES

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Frank McMILLAN
 Fred YANZ
 Cecil FIFIELD
 Gordon STETTTLER
 Wally COLLINS
 Jerry BRIEN
 Eric DOIG
 Jack DREW
 Louis YANZ
 Harold LEDDY
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Clarrie PRENTICE (c)
 Edward STAPLETON
 William McCABE



Tries

George ROBINSON (2)
 Jack ROBINSON (2)
 Billy CRAIG
 Les HAYES

Eric DOIG
 William McCABE

Goals

Mick RUSSELL (1)

Eric DOIG (1)
 Gordon STETTTLER (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, C Fraser; three-quarters, J Love, D Millard, J Robinson, W Craig; half-backs, T Kennedy, G Robinson; forwards, W Schultz, H watt, M Russell, L Hayes, A Fraser, R Latta

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, G Stettler, C Fifeild, F Yanz, W Collins; half-backs, J Breen, E Doig; forwards, R Lindfield, C Prentice, J Drew, E Stapleton, L Yanz, H J Leddy **Referee: W Neill**

Balmain pressed, the two Robinsons being prominent, but McMillan stopped a rush by kicking into touch. ...Western Suburbs' forwards, headed by Leddy, carried play back, and Doig, picking up, passed to Collins, who ran well and returned to Doig, who scored a clever try. Stettler failed at goal. Western Suburbs 3-0. Balmain came again and were looking dangerous when McMillan snapped up, eluded the forwards, and ran 40 yards before being stopped. Balmain again attacked, and after the whole of the backs had handled in a passing rush J Robinson finished with a try. M Russell failed at goal. 3 all. From outside the Balmain 25 Stettler kicked a good goal, and Western Suburbs led, 5-3. Balmain were attacking when McMillan secured, and after beating the forwards passed to Breen, to McCabe, who scored a try, but Stettler failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led by 8-3 at half-time.

On resuming, play remained about the centre for some time, and then Balmain attacked strongly, and eventually scored as the result of a great run by Millard, who passed to Kennedy, to Craig, who finished the movement with a try. M Russell failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led by 8-6. Latta blocked a kick of McMillan's, and Hayes securing scrambled across for a try. Russell converted, and Balmain led 11-8. After a strong dribbling rush G Robinson picked up and dashed over. M Russell failed at goal. Balmain, 14-8. J Robinson, following on a high kick, secured and scored a try, but Russell missed the goal. Balmain 17-8. G Robinson was the next scorer, and again Russell failed at goal. Balmain 20-8. Near the finish Doig kicked a goal from a penalty, and full-time arrived with the scores Balmain 20, Western Suburbs 10. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 3rd September 1923)**

Dick Vest is playing for Wyalong against Temora for the Tulk Cup. " R Vest, the inter-state three-quarter dropped a goal from the field for the winning team. **(Referee 5th September 1923)**

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Notes: Wests were completely on top early and seemed ready for an easy win but fell away badly in the last 15 minutes. McMillan was again the outstanding player on the field, cementing his already blooming reputation. William McCabe came on to replace the injured Fifeild who went off with an unidentified illness. The mystery of why Dick Vest wasn't playing for Wests was solved with an item in *The Referee*. It showed Dick playing for Wyalong against Temora for the Tulk Cup, where he kicked a field goal for the winning side. He obviously decided to go bush for the year and liked it. He was listed as playing a match for Cootamundra in 1924 and coached Barmedman in the Riverina. He was later a club selector and lower grade coach at Wests during the 1930s. He played 85 First Grade games, 12 City Cup for 25 tries, 11 goals, 97 points, a great player and a great club stalwart. Jerry Brien is listed as J Breen in the last two games of the season but there is no James Breen in Second Grade. Jerry Brien had been playing Second Grade and made his debut here. He played many First Grade games in the following years. Some records have Wally Collins as the try scorer but all newspaper reports have Eric Doig scoring off a Collins pass.