



1923 Round 18 Saturday 8th September Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 28

def.

St George 5

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

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

George CARSTAIRS
 Percy GABBE
 Fred HUME
 Frank SAUNDERS
 Norm SHADOW
 Arnold TRAYNOR
 Tommy BURNS
 Ernie LAPHAM
 Arthur JUSTICE
 Jim MORRIS
 Tom PETERS
 Arthur GORE
 Clarrie TYE (c)

Tries

Wally COLLINS (2)
 Harold LEDDY (2)
 Neil MATTERSON
 Clarrie PRENTICE

Arnold TRAYNOR

Goals

Eric DOIG (4)
 Frank McMILLAN (1) Field goal

George CARSTAIRS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Fullback, F McMillan; three-quarters, W Collins, N Matterson, C Fifield, F Yanz; half-backs, J Breen, E Doig; forwards, L Yanz, C Prentice, E Stapleton, R Lindfield, J Drew, H J Leddy

St George: Fullback, G Carstairs; three-quarters, N Shadlow, F Hume, F Saunders, P Gabbe; half-backs, A Traynor, T Burns; forwards, T Peters, A Gore, C Tye, E Lapham, J Morris, A Justice **Referee: J Murray**

Traynor kicked off for St George, and play was confined to the centre for some time, till an exchange of kicks between the full-backs ended in McMillan's favour. In St George territory, L Yanz snapped up, passed to Fifield, on to Collins, who scored in the corner. Doig failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led, 3-0. From outside the 25, McMillian secured, and steadying himself, dropped a splendid field goal. Western Suburbs, 5-0. Western Suburbs were playing much better together, and St George were continually on the defence. Doig, Brien and Fifield combined in a good passing bout, and then from a scrum Fifield secured and sent it on to Matterson, who scored in a good position. Doig converted, and Western Suburbs led 10-0. Western Suburbs were soon over again. F Yanz intercepted a pass, transferred to Collins, who finished with a try. Doig failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led by 13 to nil at half-time.

St George started off well in the second half, scoring 5 points almost immediately. Saunders secured, ran well before sending it to Traynor, who beat the defence and scored near the posts. Carstairs converted, and Western Suburbs led 13-5. Western Suburbs replied with a great try by Leddy, after Brien and Fifield had shown splendid combination. Doig was successful and Western Suburbs led by 18-5. Western Suburbs rushed play over the line, and Brien was just about to fall on the ball, when Carstairs kicked it touch-in-goal. Doig kicked a penalty goal, and Western Suburbs led 20-5. Western Suburbs kept up the attack, and Prentice, catching a long pass by Doig, scored a try. Doig missed the goal. Western Suburbs 23-5. Doig secured, ran along the wing, and kicked over the line; Leddy, following fast, scored his second try. Doig converted, and the whistle blew with the scores - Western Suburbs 28, St George 5. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 10th September 1923)**

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Notes: Again, J Breen in the newspapers was Jerry Brien as verified by photographic evidence in the Archives. Wests were always in control in this match and the win meant they tied for fourth with Glebe, meaning they had to play off on the Wednesday for a semi-final berth in the City Cup. They lost 15-10. Balmain beat Easts 12-11 meaning there had to be a play-off on the Wednesday for the premiership between Souths and Easts, Easts winning 15 to 12. The rules had been changed for the City Cup. They were: "Each team meets one another. The competition being run in conjunction with the second round of the Premiership competition, the first then plays the third, and the second plays fourth. The two winners then play off for the final." This was an obvious precursor to the eventual semi-final system.