



1920 Round 4 Saturday 22nd May Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 24

def.

North Sydney 10

Lyall WALL
 Dick VEST
 Viv FARNSWORTH
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Ward PRENTICE
 George McGOWAN
 William JOASS
 Harold LEDDY
 Westley EASTERBROOK
 Clarrie TYE
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Ted TAPLIN
 Harold HORDER (c)
 Herman PETERS
 Henry PIDCOCK
 Cecil BLINKHORN
 Owen SHERRETT
 Wal MURPHY
 Jack IVES
 Jim WARD
 R BRADLEY
 James PYE
 George GREEN
 Joe MURRAY

Tries

Viv FARNSWORTH (2)
 Herb GILBERT
 William JOASS
 George McGOWAN
 Ward PRENTICE

George GREEN
 Herman PETERS

Goals

Ward PRENTICE (3)

Harold HORDER (1)
 Jim WARD (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: L Wall, full-back; R Vest, H Gilbert, V Farnsworth, W Collins, three-quarters; Ward Prentice, five-eighth; G McGowan, half-back; C Tye, C W Prentice, E Courtney, W Joass, W Easterbrook, H Leddy, forwards
North Sydney: E Taplin, full-back; H Horder, H Peters, H Pidcock, C Blinkhorn, three-quarters; D Sherrett, five-eighth; W Murphy, half-back; J Murray, G Green, J Pye, R Bradley, J Ward, J C Ives, forwards **Referee: T Dickenson**

In the first quarter Western Suburbs maintained a stubborn attack. North Sydney battled hard in defence, Horder using his pace well in following the ball from one opponent to another. The persistence of the Western Suburbs backs was at length rewarded. Prentice started Farnsworth, who threw the ball out high to Vest, thence it came to Gilbert, who forced his way past Blinkhorn – a weak tackle. It was not long before strength of forward play brought North Sydney into prominence. Ives and Pye were in the van, and after the ball had fallen short from a free, the whole of the forwards dashed into the goal and carried the ball across. Green emerged with a try, which Ward easily converted, and North led by 5 to 3. The game was fast and even at this stage, attacking movements by both sides being frustrated by insistent tackling. Then Horder, after bringing down Gilbert, raced after Collins, who had received the pass. Farnsworth, however, kicked on, and, shouldering Peters off, scored a fine try. Ward Prentice kicked a good goal, and a few minutes later – just before the half-time whistle – scored a try, which he also converted. Vest made a fine run on the wing and passed in to Gilbert, to Prentice. Wests had plainly played the better game, the tactics of the backs being exceptionally smart. Little time was wasted in passing, and straight dashes were the rule.

Farnsworth's bustling runs made progress early in the second spell. Wests were attacking strongly, but North soon reversed the positions. A light breeze assisted them, and they made headway. The passing by the backs, however, was too straight across field. Wests prevailed by consistent work among the forwards and straight opportune runs by the three-quarters. Easterbrook and Courtney were in splendid form, and Gilbert and Farnsworth shone in fast, nippy runs that made frequent openings. Farnsworth scored a brilliant try. Collins, receiving from Prentice, was running well on the left wing when Farnsworth tore around and followed him, took a neat pass, and ran over. Prentice kicked another fine goal. Each side added a try, Horder converting North's with a fine kick. Wests then led by 21 to 10. Norths improved on their first half showing, but were up against a better team. Wall was good at full-back for Wests, and the whole of the three-quarters displayed smartness to a high degree. McGowan and Prentice also put in good work, the former appearing at his best. Wests' forwards were in good buckle and Joass showed that he is still to be reckoned with. He broke away at a great bat, and after being collared again, secured and scored a try. Horder's chances were very limited. His supports were not strong. Blinkhorn and Peters showed pace but no initiative. Norths' forwards were outplayed by their opponents, who were excellent in the open, and kept pace with the three-quarters in most of the attacking movements. **(The Sunday Times 23rd May 1920)**

Notes: This made it three wins in a row and a strong performance after Week 3 off with a bye. The combination of Farnsworth and Gilbert had become dynamite; they seemed to be making a lot of breaks. Their defence however was also noteworthy; they stopped the ball in this game from getting out to the speedster, Harold Horder. The remarkable aspect of this game was the recovery of Ward Prentice from a cracked rib in two weeks and his selection instead of Barney McPherson. He justified the selection with a very strong game.