



## 1923 Round 4 Saturday 26th May Pratten Park



### Western Suburbs 19

def.

### Eastern Suburbs 14

Frank McMILLAN  
Fred YANZ  
Neil MATTERSON  
Gordon STETTLER  
Wally COLLINS  
Arthur MENDEL  
Eric DOIG  
Harold LEDDY  
Louis YANZ  
Jack DREW  
Edward STAPLETON  
Clarrie PRENTICE (c)  
Edward COURTNEY

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

Ed RIGNEY  
Gordon WRIGHT  
Les STEEL  
Jack DAWSON  
Edward CONNERTON  
Harry CAPLES (c)  
Sid KAUFMAN  
Jack WATKINS  
Arthur OXFORD  
Bill RICHARDS  
William IVES  
Harold HOLMES  
Tom MOLLOY  
Jim CROWELL

#### Tries

Eric DOIG  
Wally COLLINS  
Jack DREW  
Harold LEDDY  
Neil MATTERSON

William IVES  
Les STEEL

#### Goals

Gordon STETTLER (2)

Arthur OXFORD (4)

#### Match Description

**Eastern Suburbs** – full-back, E Rigney; three-quarters, G Wright, L Steel, J Dawson, E Connerton; half-backs, H Caples, S Kaufman; forwards, W Ives, T Molloy, H Holmes, A Oxford, W Richards, J Watkins

**Western Suburbs** – Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, W Collins, N Matterson, G Stettler, F Yanz; half-backs, A Mendel, E Doig; forwards, E Courtney, C W Prentice, E Stapleton, J Drew, L Yanz, H J Leddy **Referee: W Neill**

For a few minutes play was in neutral territory. ... Western Suburbs' forwards toed it on, and Drew, picking up, dashed over for a try. Stettler failed at goal, and Western Suburbs led by 3 to nil. Eastern Suburbs were awarded a penalty, and from near half-way Oxford kicked a great goal, making the scores; Western Suburbs 3, Eastern Suburbs 2. Shortly after the kick-out Steel followed up his kick, and hustled McMillan who dropped the ball. Ives was handy, and, gathering it in, scored in a good position. Oxford converted, and Eastern Suburbs led by 7 points to 3. The game was fast and open. Western Suburbs were attacking when Kaufman secured from the scrum; he sent it to Caples, who passed to Wright, and the latter, cutting in, sent it on to Steel, who got over the line. It was the best try of the day. Oxford again converted and his side led by 12 to 3. Kaufman now retired and Crowell took his place. Western Suburbs forwards carried play to Eastern Suburbs territory, and Leddy, picking up, scored a try, which Stettler converted, making the scores – Eastern Suburbs 12, Western Suburbs 8. Just before half-time Doig secured, and, running through the ruck, scored a try, which Stettler failed to convert. Eastern Suburbs 12, Western Suburbs 11.

Western Suburbs attacked immediately... Then Stettler, who was playing well, cross-kicked, and Collins, beating Connerton for the ball, scored a try. Stettler missed the goal, and Western Suburbs led by 14 to 12. With the scores so close, the game became very fast and open. Eastern Suburbs were awarded a penalty, and from outside the 25 Oxford kicked a great goal, and made the scores level. Connerton fielded the ball, but Matterson intercepted, cut through, and scored under the bar, for Stettler to kick an easy goal, making the scores Western Suburbs 19, Eastern Suburbs 14. Eastern Suburbs made desperate efforts to even the scores but their opponents were now playing great football, and their defence was equal to every demand. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 28th May 1923)**

Full-back McMillan played very fine football for Wests. The centres – Stettler and Matterson – were also excellent. The whole of the backs were nippy, quick in getting to the man, and tackled solidly. The Western forwards were in a good form as a team, with every man doing his share, and the combination sound. It is astonishing how the veterans, such as Leddy and Courtney, continue to keep their form and rival the younger men. **(Referee 30th May 1923)**

**Notes:** This was an upset and a very strong win by Wests. Most of the commentaries highlighted the form of the forwards and particularly the continuing form of the evergreens, Tedda Courtney, Clarrie Prentice and Harold Leddy. There was also a strong write-up in Rugby League News on the fine form of Gordon Stettler. He had speed to burn.