



# 1920 Round 5 Saturday 29th May Sydney Cricket Ground



## Eastern Suburbs 18

def.

## Western Suburbs 14

Rex NORMAN  
 Wally MESSENGER  
 Fred HUME  
 Ray NORMAN (c)  
 Gordon WRIGHT  
 Harry CAPLES  
 Sid KAUFMAN  
 Jack WATKINS  
 Bill CAMERON  
 Jim DUFFY  
 Charlie LEES  
 Sid PEARCE  
 Robert WILLIAMS

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

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



### Tries

Gordon WRIGHT (2)  
 Wally MESSENGER  
 Jim DUFFY

Wally COLLINS  
 Westley EASTERBROOK  
 Viv FARNSWORTH  
 Herb GILBERT

### Goals

Wally MESSENGER (3)

Lyall WALL (1)

### Match Description

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back, Rex Norman; three-quarters, W Messenger, Ray Norman (captain), F Hume, G Wright; half-backs, H Caples, S Kaufman; forwards, C Lees, S Pearce, R Williams, J Duffy, W Cameron, J Watkins

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, L Wall; three-quarters, R Vest, H Gilbert (captain), V Farnsworth, W Collins; half-backs, Ward Prentice, G McGowan; forwards, C Tye, C W Prentice, E Courtney, W Joass, W Easterbrook, J Redmond **Referee: Mr T McMahon**

The English footballers, who were given place of honour on the ground, received an ovation when they walked on, led by their managers. Prentice set the game going for Wests. .... The game continued fast in mid-field. Ray Norman, snapping up, sent to Caples, who dummied several men and sent to Wright. The latter, outpacing Gilbert and Wall, dived across the line in the corner. Messenger failed at goal. Easts, 3 to nil. .... Wright slipped forward and was endeavouring to pick up the ball when the Western winger illegally tackled him. A penalty was awarded and Messenger goaled. Easts 5 to nil. In play again McGowan at half-way sent to Farnsworth to Vest. The last named passed to Gilbert who scored near the posts. Wall's kick went wide. Easts 5 to 3. The game continued fast, delighting the onlookers. .... Easts were slightly superior, thrice knocking at the door. The Western backs were defending well. Wall in particular found plenty to do.... A kicking duel between Rex Norman and Wall ended in Easts' favour.... Wests returned to the attack. From the ruck on Easts' line, Easterbrook got the ball, and bounded across the line. Prentice failed to add the extras. Wests 6 to 5. .... From a scrum McGowan, Ward Prentice, Gilbert, Farnsworth and Collins all handled, the last-named punting. Rex Norman fielded, and kicked down the field. Wall's return went into touch. From the scrum, a pretty passing rush, in which Kaufman, Caples, Rex Norman, Wright, and Duffy resulted in the forward grounding the ball over the line. Messenger's kick went wide. Easts 8, Wests 5. A moment later, Messenger succeeded with a penalty goal making the half-time scores; Eastern Suburbs 10, Western Suburbs 6.

Soon after the kick-off Caples kicked towards the corner, and in the race Collins was outpaced. .... At mid-field ray Norman sent to Watkins, who running strongly was tackled and thrown into touch. In falling, he threw the ball in, and Wright snapping up scored between the posts. Messenger easily goaled. Easts 15 to 6. .... Prentice was Wests' weak link apparently. .... Easts now outclassed the City Cup winners. Kaufman sent to Caples, to Messenger, who scored a fine try. The same player failed at goal. Easts 18 to 6. By a series of kicks Wests worked into Easts' territory, where Redmond sent to McGowan, to Prentice, to Collins, who when tackled in the corner lost the ball as he grounded it. A try was allowed. Wall kicked a difficult goal. Easts 18 to 11. Right on time Farnsworth, after running strongly with a couple of Easterners hanging on, scored. Wall's kick fell short. Easts 18 to 14. **(The Evening News 29th May 1920)**

...It looked like a veritable Rorke's Drift, with East playing the part of the Zulus...Finally Wests ought to have won. Easts were attacking on the right wing inside the 25. They lost the ball and Collins booted it forward, and getting to it fielded it again and started off. Wright came after him and at the half-way dived, but missed the tackle, and Collins then kicked the ball past Rex Norman and coming to it again, found it bounce nicely. If he could have fielded it there was a try on for a man of his pace, but he knocked it on. A sure try and probably a goal was missed and with it victory. But it is all in the game. **(The Referee 2nd June 1920)**

.....

**Notes:** This was a fast-paced, cracking game and Wests were unlucky to lose in the end, with Collins knocking on with the line open and Clarrie Prentice off for the last 20 minutes injured. Four tries all and Wall's bad kicking was the difference. Ward Prentice continued to get significant criticism. Jack Redmond finally got a first grade game after Harold Leddy pulled out with injury.