



1920 Round 6 Thursday 17th June RAS Showground



Western Suburbs 4

drew with

Balmain 4

Lyll WALL
 Dick VEST
 Gordon STETTLE
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Tom McCAULEY
 Alex McPHERSON
 Athol WHITE
 William JOASS
 Jack REDMOND
 Joe REIDY
 Clarrie TYE
 Harold LEDDY
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Charles FRASER
 George POTTER
 Paddy CONAGHAN
 Jack ROBINSON
 R PROUST
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 Jim CRAIG
 Reginald LATTA
 Edward CUMMINGS
 Alf FRASER
 Mick RUSSELL
 Horace WATT
 Bill SCHULTZ
 George ROBINSON

Tries

Goals

Lyll WALL (2) – one field goal

Jim CRAIG (1)
Mick RUSSELL (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, C Fraser; three-quarters, G Potter, P Conaghan, J Robinson, D Brien; halves, A Halloway (injured in first half and replaced by G Robinson) and J Craig; forwards, R Latta, E Cummins, A Fraser, M Russell, H watts, W Schultz

Western Suburbs: Full-back. L Wall; three-quarters, T McCauley, H Gilbert, L Stettler, R Vest; halves, A McPherson, A White; forwards, J Reidy, H J Leddy, W Joass, J Redmond, E Courtney, C Tye **Referee: T McMahan**

Western Suburbs were the first to attack. Balmain was defending for some time, but Conaghan and Robinson relieved. The game was exceptionally fast and strenuous. Balmain contrived to work up to their opponents' line, but Western Suburbs responded, and the struggle became intense. The Balmain line was besieged but without avail. Then Balmain came through, and compelled Western Suburbs to touch down. Fast play followed, and the solid tackling by both sides evoked considerable enthusiasm. White, though new to the position of half-back, showed exceptional dash, and he played splendidly. Western Suburbs were cheered for some surprising rushes. Gilbert, snapping up neatly, sent a pass to McCauley, which was missed, and Conaghan, just beating Redmond in a race for the ball, touched down just in time. Balmain were pressing strongly just before the interval and one of the most exciting spells in premiership matches this season looked like ending without a score. The tackling throughout was so sure and swift that neither side could gain the advantage. Craig, however, kicked a penalty goal, and Balmain led 2 to nil at half-time. Balmain had a slight advantage in the scrums when play was resumed, and on one occasion the ball went out to Wall, who scored a goal from a drop-kick, making the scores two all. The game continued to be contested very stubbornly, and when Wall kicked a penalty goal, giving Western Suburbs the lead by 4 points to 2, the spectators were in a state of intense excitement. Splendid defence by Gilbert and Vest prevented Balmain from crossing the line. Then Courtney penalised his side by getting in front of the ball and Russell kicked a penalty goal. The scores were now even at four points all, and although both teams exerted themselves to the utmost there was no further scoring, and the game ended in a draw. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 18th June 1920)**

The test to which Ward Prentice was put last week was very thorough.....On this form the old champion of the Wests is not quick, nor nippy enough for the five-eighth position, even though he shot off the mark to bottle his man with grim determination. He strikes me as having thickened out much since his palmiest days in the position..... **(The Arrow 4th June 1920)**

The reason that A McPherson had not been playing once or twice with Wests is, I believe, that he had not been training.... **(The Arrow 18th June 1920)**

On Ward Prentice: "Obviously fat, he was as slow as a shell-smashed tank." **(Rugby League News 5th June 1920)**

Notes: There was a lot of re-shuffling for this game due to the Saturday and Wednesday Test matches against England (where McGowan, Gilbert and Viv Farnsworth played). Athol White was originally selected at full-back but took Farnsworth's place at half (a very unusual position for White but he played very well there, apparently). Tom McCauley came up from Seconds, as did Joe Reidy who replaced Clarrie Prentice. The full extent of Prentice's injury, which forced him off against Easts, was now apparent. He had broken the smaller bone in his leg. The criticism of Ward Prentice continued in Rugby League News; he was being given plenty of stick by supporters and the media alike and there was a push to bring in Stettler and another player starring in Seconds, R Ritchie. The game itself was a very hard fought affair, with intense barracking by both sets of supporters.