



# 1923 Round 7 Saturday 16th June Sydney Sports Ground



**Western Suburbs 31**

**def.**

**South Sydney 10**

Frank McMILLAN  
 Fred YANZ  
 Neil MATTERSON  
 Gordon STETTLER  
 Wally COLLINS  
 Cecil FIFIELD  
 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**

Howard HALLETT  
 Benjamin WEARING  
 Oscar QUINLIVAN  
 Viv LAWRENCE  
 Tom BARRY  
 William GILLESPIE (c)  
 Alec JOHNSON  
 Jack LAWRENCE  
 Pat MURPHY  
 Alf O'CONNOR  
 Fred FUNNELL  
 Ern WILLMOTT  
 Bill CAMERON

**Tries**

Neil MATTERSON (2)  
 Gordon STETTLER (2)  
 Edward COURTNEY  
 Harold LEDDY  
 Fred YANZ

Bill CAMERON  
 Benjamin WEARING

**Goals**

Eric DOIG (5)

Jack LAWRENCE (2)

**Match Description**

**South Sydney:** Full-back, H Hallett; three-quarters, B Wearing, V Lawrence, O Quinlivan, T Barry; halves, W Gillespie, A Johnston; forwards, W Cameron, F Funnell, P Murphy, E Wilmott, A O'Connor, J Lawrence

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, N Matterson, W Collins, G Stettler, F Yanz; halves, C Fifield, E Doig; forwards, H J Leddy, C Prentice, E Courtney, E Stapleton, J Drew, L Yanz **Referee: T McMahon**

South Sydney kicked off, and immediately the Western Suburbs' forwards rushed the ball over the line, and South Sydney were compelled to force. After close work in South Sydney's 25 Hallett, receiving the ball from McMillan, sent to Wearing, who gained ground with a fine run. McMillan and Hallett then indulged in a kicking duel, which ended in the favour of the Western Suburbs full-back. The powerful Western Suburbs forwards were forcing the game, and play was mostly in South Sydney's area. Western Suburbs continued the pressure, and were winning the ball from the majority of the scrums. ....At length, Stettler, after a clever run, was tackled, but twisted out of his opponents' grasp, and crossed in for a try, which Doig converted. Western Suburbs 5-0. Stettler repeated this effort a few minutes later, scoring a try after a forceful run along the wing. Doig's attempt at goal failed. Western Suburbs 8-0. Half-time came with the scores unaltered. Western Suburbs were much the superior team in this half.

On resuming South Sydney attacked vigorously, and their backs endeavoured to open up the game. .... From a fast-breaking scrum Cameron joined up with the backs in a passing rush, and scored a try, which J Lawrence converted. Western Suburbs 8-5. Within a few minutes Western Suburbs opened a brilliant attack, and Matterson scored near the corner. Doig goaled, and Western Suburbs led by 13-5. Cameron secured from a scrum, and, after the ball was handled by Quinlivan and V Lawrence, Wearing caused excitement by brilliantly crossing the line. J Lawrence again goaled, making the scores: Western Suburbs 13-10. Play was now fast and open, and the ball travelled rapidly up and down the field. Matterson, following on a short kick, beat Hallett, and although tackled by Wearing touched down. No goal resulted. Western Suburbs 16-10. South Sydney now made determined efforts but the brilliancy of the Western Suburbs team was undeniable, and F Yanz, cutting through nicely after a scrum, scored a try, from which Doig goaled. Western Suburbs 21-10. Towards the close South Sydney endeavoured to rally but Western Suburbs were too strong, and Leddy broke through the defence for a try. Doig added the goal. Western Suburbs 26-10. South Sydney were now demoralised and just on time Courtney scored a try., which Doig converted. Western Suburbs 31-10. These were the final scores. **(Sydney Morning Herald 18th June 1923)**

... Finally, the five eighth, Fifield, broke through on the right wing, and at the 25 gave a pass to Courtney, who ran through to score amidst cheering, the crowd realising that he had played a wonderful game for a man who has been at it so many years. **(The Referee 20th June 1923)**

**Notes:** This was a very big upset since Souths were previously unbeaten and they were truly thrashed. Wests were looking like premiers even though this only moved them to equal third, two points behind the leaders. Although Doig finally kicked some goals he still missed two in front, so goal-kicking reliability was still obviously a problem. The forward pack was formidable at this stage with the veterans, Courtney and Prentice still being outstanding. Clarrie Prentice resumed the captaincy and relished being back. Frank McMillan's representative potential was now being fully recognised.