



1920 Round 7 Saturday 19th June Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 11

def.

Newtown 5

Lyall WALL
 Dick VEST
 Gordon STETTLER
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Tom McCAULEY
 George McGOWAN
 Alex McPHERSON
 William JOASS
 Jack REDMOND
 Joe REIDY
 Clarrie TYE
 Harold LEDDY
 Edward COURTNEY
 Wally COLLINS

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

Alex MAIN
 George BROWN
 Ernie TATE
 Joe MANSTED
 Henry BOLEWSKI
 Charles KELL
 Alec BOLEWSKI
 George CLAMBACK
 Richard TOWNSEND
 Henry DEEBEE
 Edward BROOKS
 F CHEVELL
 Felix RYAN (c)
 P SHORTUS

Tries Wally COLLINS

F CHEVELL

Goals Lyall WALL (4)

Alec BOLEWSKI (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: L Wall, full-back; R Vest, L Stettler, T McCauley (replaced by W Collins), three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth, G McGowan, half; J Reidy, H J Leddy, W Joass, J Redmond, E Courtney, C F Tye, forwards

Newtown: A Main (injured and replaced by P Shortus, full-back; G Brown, E Tate, J Manstead, H Bolewski, three-quarters; A Bolewski, five-eighth, V Kell, half; F Ryan, Henry Deeble, F Chevell, R Townsend, E Brooks, G Clamback, forwards **T McMahan, referee**

A westerly blew across the ground, and made the ball swerve wildly in the air. Newtown started spiritedly, and the forwards did good work in the scrums. ... Wests made a couple of passing rushes, with Gilbert prominent. Then Brown paced along the wing. The game was fast, and Wall, particularly safe at full-back, cleverly stopped several dangerous rushes. After some loose and ragged play in Newtown's 25, Wall kicked a penalty goal and opened the scoring. Wests 2 to nil. Main retired with a broken finger, and H Bolewski played full-back, P Shortus going on as a three-quarter. Kell and A Bolewski were especially fast off the mark, and Newtown were continually pestering their opponents. Collins replaced McCauley, who had previously been upended with his head twisted under him and was decidedly groggy. Although Wests were unable to work up successful tactics for a try, their score was increased through another penalty goal by Wall, who so far had played fine all-round football. A Bolewski at length kicked a penalty goal, and at half-time Wests led by 4 points to 2.

On resuming, it was Newtown's turn to get relief from a free. Wall had punted and run through, bringing Wests right up to Newtown's line. The early part of the second half resolved itself into a strenuous struggle between the forwards. The tackling was tenacious at times, and several pairs of fresh trousers were requisitioned. McPherson was very neat and smart in defence. Then Wests came with a rattle. McGowan worked the scrum smartly, and Gilbert and Vest showed out, after Stettler had been allowed to get through. Several Newtown men held off, waiting for the pass. The later stages of the game were all in Wests' favour. The forwards put forth their best paces, and Newtown had a trying time. After a log spell of stubborn play, Wall kicked his third penalty goal. Wests 6 to 2. Newtown seemed to be left standing in a passing rush by Wests which followed. Stettler, Gilbert and Collins took part, and the last-named crossed for a try. Wall kicked a fine goal. Reidy let Newtown in immediately afterwards, and Chevell scored a try. A Bolewski failed at goal Wests 11 to 5. The most sparkling incidents in an otherwise drab game took place in the last few minutes. Newtown attacked during the greater portion of the game, and should have won. **(The Sunday Times 20th June 1920)**

Little McGowan (not unwisely nick-named "Fairy" by the fans) is a veritable "Will o' the Wisp' Near the line there is certainly no more dangerous half in Rugby League this season. **(Rugby League News 19th June 1920)**

Notes: This was the third game in a week and players like McGowan and Gilbert were backing up. Again, there was re-shuffling; Farnsworth was again rested and Barney McPherson came in, although Athol White was originally the reserve to take Farnsworth's place. Wally Collins came on as reserve and scored a slashing try. George McGowan, backing up from Wednesday, was very solid. Don't know how happy he'd be to be nick-named "Fairy" by present day fans! One of the Reserves named for this game, who didn't get a match, was Edward Stapleton. He played nearly 40 first grade games over the next few years. The game itself was a dour forward clash with Wests holding out Newtown several times with desperate tackling.