



1923 Round 8 Saturday 30th June Pratten Park



Balmain 12

Jimmy LOVE
 William COONAN
 Charles CUNEO
 Billy CRAIG
 Dud MILLARD
 Charles FRASER (c)
 George ROBINSON
 Reginald LATTA
 Alf FRASER
 C RUSSELL
 Mick RUSSELL
 Horrace WATT
 Les HAYES

def.

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

Western Suburbs 5

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



Tries William COONAN
 Reginald LATTA

Wally COLLINS

Goals Mick RUSSELL (3)

Eric DOIG (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, J Love; three-quarters, W Coonan, C Cuneo, W Craig, D Millard; half-backs, C Fraser, G Robinson; forwards, H Watt, M Russell, A Fraser, C Russell, R Latta, L Hayes

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

Western Suburbs attacked, but were repulsed by Coonan. Then Yanz gained ground with a good run, and, Balmain being penalised, Doig had a shot at goal without success. Balmain attacked, but McMillan saved, and then Fifeild secured the ball from Doig, cut through, and passed to Courtney, who ran well till tackled by Love. Stettler was the next to gain ground, but clever play by C Fraser carried play back to Western Suburbs' territory. McMillan secured, and skirting the touchline ran right to the opposing full-back, then short-kicked, and Collins following on gathered the ball and scored a try. Doig converted and Western Suburbs led by 5 points to nil. From a long kick by McMillan, Loved failed to hold the ball, and Western Suburbs attacked strongly till G Robinson and Craig drove them back. A short kick by Doig beat the defence, and Stettler, who had followed on, slipped just as he was looking dangerous. Back in Western Suburbs' 25, G Robinson secured from a scrum, passed to C Fraser, back to G Robinson, then to Latta, who scored in a good position. M Russell converted, making the scores level. Play was in the centre for some time until C Fraser getting possession cut through the defence, and passed to Coonan, who crossed over. M Russell again converted, and Balmain led by 10 points to 5 at half-time.

C Fraser restarted play, and from a long kick by McMillan, Balmain forced. Western Suburbs were now making strenuous efforts to overtake Balmain, but the defence of the latter was very sound. Play was in the centre when Craig secured, and ran well till pushed into touch at the 25. Matterson drove Balmain back, and then a kicking duel ensued between the full-backs, from which McMillan got the advantage. Balmain were now awarded a penalty, and M Russell kicked a good goal from outside the 25, making the scores Balmain 12, Western Suburbs 5. Western Suburbs rallied, and McMillan made a great run, but he was thrown into touch. A fierce struggle took place near Balmain's line, but Western Suburbs were unable to penetrate the defence, C Fraser and G Robinson being very prominent in this department. For the remainder of the game Western Suburbs tried hard, but their backs were not handling too well. The defence of Balmain was very solid. The game ended with the scores Balmain 12, Western Suburbs 5. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 2nd July 1923)**

Notes: After four straight wins this was a game Wests were expected to win. Balmain's defence proved too strong in the end and the try-scoring spree of the last four weeks was finally stopped. Doig again missed goals that could have influenced the result. McMillan again starred at fullback.