

1920 Round 9 Saturday 17th July Sydney Cricket Ground

def. Western Suburbs 5

Fullback Lyall WALL Dick VEST Wing Athol WHITE Centre Centre Ward PRENTICE Wing **Gordon STETTLER** Five-eighth Alex McPHERSON Half George McGOWAN Frank LANE Lock Second Row Harold LEDDY Second Row William JOASS Front Row Edward COURTNEY (c)

Harry TANCRED Front Row Clarrie TYE

Tries **Tommy JAMES** Clarrie TYE

Eddie SUMMERS (penalty try)

Goals Frank BURGE (1) Lyall WALL (1)

Laidley BURGE (1)

Glebe 10

Norm PROCTOR

Eddie SUMMERS

Mick SCANNELL

Tommy JAMES

Fritz THEIRING

Frank BURGE (c)

BILL BENSON

Albert GRAY Laidley BURGE

William IVES

Jack KNIGHT

Ted SWINSON

Charlie OGLE

Match Description

Glebe: Full-back, N Proctor; three-quarters, C Ogle, M Scannell, E Summers, J James; half-backs, F Theiring, W Benson; forwards, E Swinson, J Knight, W Ives, L Burge, E Gray, F Burge

Western Suburbs: Full-back, L Wall; three-quarters, R Vest, A White, Ward Prentice, L Stettler; half-backs, A McPherson, G McGowan; forwards, C Tye, F Lane, W Joass, H Tancred, H Leddy, E Courtney Referee: T McMahon

Hooker

The centre of the field was practically under water, and whenever the play was restricted to the area covered by Bulli soil the players found it difficult to keep their feet. From penalty kicks each side scored a goal. The Western Suburbs backs initiated several promising movements, but in the first half Glebe were prominent through superior work by the forwards. F Burge, always conspicuous, spoilt a number of openings by running too far in front of the ball, but he was instrumental in starting the advance which resulted in the first try obtained by James. At halftime Glebe led by 5 points 3 points to 2, and in the second half they maintained their advantage.

Western Suburbs, however, made many fine efforts in their endeavour to win. They were unsuccessful, more through than own faults than the defence displayed by Glebe. Vest was given several opportunities, and McGowan contrived to open up the game for his side. The Western Suburbs forwards were over-anxious. Tancred, the ex-New Zealander, was often conspicuous, but he just as often penalised his side. Glebe were awarded a try in the second half through the illegal play of their opponents, and then held the lead by 10 points to 2. A fine dash by the Western Suburbs forwards ended in Tye scoring a try, but Glebe won a well-contested game by 10 points to 5. (The Sydney Morning Herald 19th July 1920)

Wests, who went down last week to the Glebe, have not been quite so happy recently as they ought to be. The selectors have not given complete satisfaction, and unconstitutional means are said to have been used to bring them round to the way of those who think differently. The selection of the forwards last week did not meet with general endorsement, Redmond having been given a place and Courtney omitted. With both at their best it is a case of Tweedledee and Tweedledum, one about as good as the other. However, as Wests have failed to win more than two of the last five matches, things have not gone as smoothly with them on the field as they ought to, seeing the character of the talent at the disposal of the selection committee......The penalty try awarded to E Summers, of Glebe, against Western Suburbs was hard to follow. The obstruction was there, but surely the ball could not have been reached by Summers before anyone else – an opponent or F Burge, for instance. Mr Referee McMahon evidently thought it could - perhaps he was right. It will always be fixed in my mind as a Summers-Burge try. The former caught the ball with wonderful cleverness from the low, hard kick by Ward Prentice, and then broke through to Wall. It occurred on the end of the mud patch, and with such a ball it was a feat of legerdemain...... (Arrow 23rd July 1920)

Notes: The Representative season continued to weaken Wests with Gilbert (injured ankle) and Viv Farnsworth (injured shoulder) both out and Vest backing up after a hard run of games. The condition of the ground was rain-sodden, the famous Bulli soil centre particularly muddy. Some reports questioned the Summers' penalty try but Glebe seemed to have handled the conditions better. The comment above in the Arrow related to the following game where Courtney, remarkably, appeared to have been dropped. There were indeed some strange selection decisions going on. This game was also significant for the return of Frank Lane, who had last played First Grade in 1914, before going to War. He had played seven Second Grade games and was duly rewarded.

