



1923 Round 9 Saturday 7th July Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 16

def.

St George 11

Frank McMILLAN
 Fred YANZ
 Neil MATTERSON
 Gordon STETTLER
 Wally COLLINS
 Cecil FIFIELD
 Eric DOIG
 Harold LEDDY
 Louis YANZ
 Bob LINDFIELD
 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
Reserve

George CARSTAIRS
 Huatahi PAKI
 Frank SAUNDERS
 Fred HUME
 Norm SHADLOW
 Arnold TRAYNOR
 Tommy BURNS
 Ernie LAPHAM
 Harry FLOWER
 Edward CIMMINGS
 T PETERS
 Arthur GORE
 Clarrie TYE (c)
 Jim MORRIS



Tries Wally COLLINS (2)
 Neil MATTERSON
 Edward STAPLETON

Tommy BURNS

Goals Frank McMILLAN (1)
 Eric DOIG (1)

George CARSTAIRS (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, McMillan; three-quarters, G Stettler, N Matterson, F Yanz, W Collins; half-backs, C Fifield, E Doig; forwards, C Prentice(c), R Lindfield, E Courtney, E Stapleton, L Yanz, H J Leddy

St George: Full-back, G Carstairs; three-quarters, F Saunders, B Paki, F Hume, N Shadlow; half-backs, T Burns, A Traynor; forwards, C Tye (c) A Gore, T Peters, E Cummings, E Lapham (retired injured, replaced by Morris), H Flower. **Referee: A Thornton**

This was a really great game of Rugger. Pratten Park turf was slippery with rain during the greater part of the play. But the men handled the ball with wonderful accuracy. About three thousand people watched the game and enjoyed every moment of it. In the first half Lapham, the speedy St George forward, left the field injured, and Morris took his place.In a thrilling race between Matterson and Shadlow for the ball over the St George line, referee Thornton gave the decision to Matterson – a try which Doig converted. West, 5-0. This looked a very doubtful decision to those at the Press table. Soon afterwards St George were awarded a free kick, after a lot of keen attacking, and Carstairs kicked a very fine goal. Wests 5-2. Carstairs made another brilliant run from full-back, and the game hummed. St George were getting the ball from nearly every scrum, but the Western forwards were playing very solidly in the loose, thus making up in some degree for being beaten in most of the scrums. Courtney was very conspicuous in one rush towards the St George line, but Lapham, showing great pace, saved. Following a collision between Collins and McMillan, after a short kick by Burns, the latter dribbled on over the line, and in a keen sprint for it, scored a try, which Carstairs converted. St George, 7 to 5. Though it had been raining heavily, the players were handling the ball very well indeed. Paki was very strong in defence for St George. Just on half-time Tye saved a bad position for St George by going down on the ball under Fifield's nose. St George led 7-5 at the interval.

On restarting McMillan made a splendid run after getting the ball from a high kick by Carstairs in his own 25. He sped to St George 25 and passed to Collins, who scored a very fine try. West 8-7. McMillan's effort here was a wonderful one under the conditions, and brought down the house. Soon afterwards a mistake by Shadlow led to Leddy and Stapleton making a fine rush, finished by Stapleton scoring a good try in the corner. West 11-7..... Carstairs had another go at goal from a good distance out, but straight, and landed a fine goal. West 11-9. Next, from well beyond the twenty-five McMillan kicked a brilliant field goal, and Wests led by 13-9. Matterson made a very good opening for Collins, but the winger was forced out right on the line. Now St George rose to it. Their backs executed a splendid movement but Saunders just overran the ball. Then Carstairs kicked another goal similar in excellence to the preceding one. West 13-11. Nearing the end Paki, securing the ball from a long kick by McMillan, passed to Shadlow, who dropped it, and Collins, getting hold, scored in the corner. West 16-11. The better side won a very fine game. **(Sunday Times 8th July 1923)**

The best player on the ground was West's fullback, McMillan, his handling of the ball being wonderful..... So Long Leddy was out on his own as the winner's best forward. **(The Sydney Sportsman 10th July 1923)**

Notes: Wests seemed to have the wood on St George in these early years but this was a very close, hard fought match. Carstairs missed a goal by inches when Wests led 13-11 and one of Wests' tries was doubtful. The goal-kicking was again a problem but there were excuses as it was played in very heavy rain. Again, McMillan was noted as the best player on the field but, in the conditions, the heavy and experienced Wests pack led the way. Bob Lindfield again was called up to Firsts at the expense of Jack Drew.