1950 Final Saturday 16th September Sports Ground

South Sydney 21   def.   Western Suburbs 15

South Sydney	Position	Western Suburbs
Clive CHURCHILL	*Fullback*	Bill KEATO
Johnny GRAVES	*Wing*	Jack WALL
Kevin WOOLFE	*Centre*	Jack WOODS
Milton ATKINSON	*Centre*	Dev DINES
Cliff SMAILES	*Wing*	Jack LACKEY
Greg HAWICK	*Five-eighth*	Frank STANMORE (c)
Bill STEWART	*Half*	Keith HOLMAN
Les COWIE	*Lock*	Peter McLEAN
Jack RAYNER (c)	*Second Row*	Don MILTON
Ken MACREADIE	*Second Row*	Kevin HANSEN
Bernie PURCELL	*Front Row*	Don STAIT
Ernie HAMMERTON	*Hooker*	Alan HORNERY
Denis DONOGHUE	*Front Row*	Bill HORDER

	South Sydney	Western Suburbs
Tries	Johnny GRAVES (2) Cliff SMAILES	Keith HOLMAN
Goals	Bernie PURCELL (5) Johnny GRAVES (1)	Bill KEATO (6)

Match Description
South Sydney (Minor Premiers): Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: J Graves, K Woolfe, M Atkinson, C Smailes; five-eighth: G Hawick; half: W Stewart; forwards: L Cowie, J Raynor (capt), B Purcell, K Macreadie, E Hammerton, D Donoghue
Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: J Wall, D Dines, J Woods, J Lackey; five-eighth: F Stanmore (c); half: K Holman; forwards; P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, D Stait, A Hornery, W Horder   **Referee: T McMahon**   **(Rugby League News 23rd September 1950)**

South Sydney, in a riot of speedy and rugged football, yesterday broke a long spell of 18 years to win the 1950 Rugby League premiership. They convincingly defeated Western Suburbs 21-15 in the final played on Sydney Sports Ground. The game, which was played almost at a blistering pace, held the crowd's interest right until the final bell. Hundreds of wildly excited spectators then jumped the fence to join in the frenzy of rejoicing at South Sydney's great victory. Souths' dressing-room was mobbed. Police were called to control the camp followers who beat upon the doors to gain admittance. By doleful contrast there was no wild scene of excitement outside Wests' dressing-room. The players inside dressed to the quiet condolence of their officials who all sportingly agreed that South Sydney deserved the victory they had so convincingly achieved………….. South Sydney won because their forwards, notably Purcell, Rayner and Donoghue, dominated the game by their total eclipse of the lazy, sluggish and, at times, nondescript opposition provided by Wests' forwards, who failed to protect their backs because of ragged, around-the-neck tackling, or no tackling at all. It was pathetic at times to see the Western forwards allowing Souths to run 20, 30, 40 yards with scarcely a hand being placed on them. Souths won also because of the almost total lack of support that Holman and Stanmore received from their two centres, Woods and Dines………… Otherwise, Holman and Stanmore, who both took a battering because their forwards left them unprotected, were outstanding players of what might be described on yesterday's form as only a near-premiership team. The Holman incident, by the way, when Clive Churchill, who was Souths' match-winner, unnecessarily barged into him late in the game with the scores 15-13 in Souths' favour, was something of which Australia's Test captain had nothing to be proud in achievement. Referee Tom McMahon might have acted with credit had he sent Churchill off the field or else awarded Western Suburbs a penalty try. Holman was racing for the line at the time with only Churchill to beat. Holman kicked hard when he was five yards away, but Churchill continued to race towards him and, with an elbow jolt, laid his opponent out in agony on the field. By so doing, Churchill prevented Holman from racing on to recover the ball for a possible try. The incident was reported by a touch judge, but the referee was content merely to award a penalty. Churchill was hooted by a section of the crowd. It was unfortunate that such a fine player as Churchill marred an otherwise brilliant display, because he was unquestionably the pivot of South Sydney's success yesterday. Standing up with the play, he initiated many penetrating moves and outkicked his opponent, Bill Keato. Holman refused to discuss the incident afterwards, but on the other hand he paid Churchill the compliment of being 'South's best player who turned the scales in their favour. He is a great player,' Holman said. Wests' captain, Frank Stanmore, agreed that Churchill was South Sydney's sheet anchor, but he also thought that Souths' forwards won the day. 'We have no complaints. The better team won. Wests did not play true to form,' Stanmore said. Souths' superiority was reflected by the fact that though Wests had more than their share of the ball South Sydney scored three tries to one. …. **(Truth 17th September 1950)**

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Notes: In a match played at a frenetic pace, Souths proved the superior team mainly due to the brilliance of Clive Churchill. He was an incisive runner and resolute tackler but most probably should have been sent off late, when he knocked out Holman with an elbow when he was about to score. Most commentators seemed to think a penalty try should have been awarded. Keato was also knocked out and, while dazed, missed two easy penalty goals. Had they won, Wests would have had to challenge Souths again in a Grand Final.