



1931 Final Saturday 5th September Sports Ground



South Sydney 17

def.

Western Suburbs 3

Albert SPILLANE
 Benny WEARING
 Pat MAHER (c)
 Jack MORRISON
 Jack WHY
 Percy WILLIAMS
 Jim DEELEY
 Harry EYERS
 George TREWEEKE
 Frank O'CONNOR
 Frank CURRAN
 Eddie ROOT
 Carl EGGEN

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

Clyde CANT
 Alan BRADY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Alan RIDLEY
 Harry CAMERON
 Harry OWEN
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bert GREEN
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES



Tries Jack WHY (2)
 Benny WEARING

Frank MATTERSON

Goals Benny WEARING (3)
 Percy WILLIAMS (1)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back, A Spillane; three-quarters, B Wearing, P Maher (capt), J Morrison, J Why; halves, P Williams, J Deeley, H Eyers; forwards, G Treweek, F O'Connor, F Curran, C. Eggen, E Root

Western Suburbs: Full-back, C Cant; three-quarters, A Brady, C Pearce, K Sherwood, A Ridley; halves, H Cameron, H Owen; forwards, F Matterson, E Green, C Cornwell, C Rhodes, W Brogan (capt), R Linfield **Referee, L Deane (The Rugby League News September 12th 1931)**

Wests played well, but it would have taken an international team to have held the Southerners in that glorious second half. Hard tackling, vigorous rucking and glorious passing saw the premiers slowly played into the game. The 1931 South Sydney side worthily upheld the traditions of the club. The story of the game can be confined to the second half. At the interval South Sydney had a 5-3 lead after having had the advantage of a stiff breeze. Wearing opened the scoring with a goal from ten yards inside half-way, and before the bell Matterson crossed for Wests, and Why crossed for Souths. During the half Root gave away endless penalties in the scrum. South seldom won the ball from the pack. However, he redeemed himself by starting the movement that resulted in Why's try. He whipped it out from a loose ruck, and before Why crossed, Eyers and Maher handled.

At the interval, the experts agreed that South's prospects were not too bright. Contrary to anticipation the side swung into attack. Root commenced to win the scrums, and in the first couple of minutes Eyers was almost in. Then followed one long offensive. ... A forward charged down a kick by Pearce, and Eggen touched down under the posts. Referee Deane ruled a knock-on. Williams kicked one in front, and Souths led 9-3. The time was slipping by, and the Wests offensive had not been launched. Suddenly Cliff Pearce broke through. At half-way he had only Spillane to beat. At the twenty-five the South Sydney man made his tackle. Pearce was spreadeagled. Souths rushed it back to half-way, and Sherwood was injured and had to retire. From then it was no race. Treweek dropped a "sitter" on the line after Deeley had broken through. From the next scrum Treweek gathered, pushed aside Brogan and two other forwards, and sent Why over in the corner. Wearing converted with a glorious kick. Eyers was dropped on the line, and after a great movement, in which Williams, Curran and O'Connor handled, Eyers knocked-on on the line. O'Connor got over but was penalised. To cap everything, Benny Wearing scored on time. The ball was kicked to his wing, and the sprinter gathered like a star cover-point and was over before Wests realised what had happened. That try gave Wearing his century of the season. The fans gave him a wonderful ovation. Benny deserved it. Right to the final bell South kept up its battering. The 17-3 margin might easily have been greater. One regarded Matterson and Brady as Wests' best. Pearce was quieter than usual, Morrison saw to that. South Sydney and Eastern Suburbs meet next week. If Saturday's form is reproduced South might win its tenth premiership. The attendance was 23,767. **(The Labor Daily 7th September 1931)**

Notes: The Wests forwards were outplayed in this match even though Lindfield, as usual, dominated the scrums. Ken Sherwood injured his leg in the second half and had to be carried off, forcing Frank Matterson to go to the centres. At half time Wests were favoured to go on and win as they were running with a strong breeze but the Souths' defence was far too solid. Clyde Cant was able to retain his spot at full-back and missed some easy penalty shots, a problem Wests had had all year. It seemed the continuing run of injuries finally took its toll, although Souths were a very good team.