



# 1959 Preliminary Final Saturday 8th August Cricket Ground



**Manly-Warringah 14**

**def.**

**Western Suburbs 13**

Ron WILLEY (c)  
George HUGO  
Bill LLOYD  
Kevin MOSMAN  
Len WADLING  
Alf MADDEN  
Peter BURKE  
Jim PEEBLES  
Peter DIVERSI  
Rex MOSSOP  
Roy BULL  
George LENON  
Bill DELAMERE

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

Darcy RUSSELL  
Ian MOIR  
Dick POOLE (c)  
Joe RYAN  
Darcy HENRY  
Roger BUTTENSCHAW  
Keith HOLMAN  
Frank CLEGG  
Bill CARSON  
Ray McDERMOTT  
Mark PATCH  
Bede GOFF  
Nev CHARLTON



**Tries** George HUGO (2)  
Roy BULL  
Jim PEEBLES

Ian MOIR (2)  
Darcy HENRY

**Goals** Ron WILLEY (1)

Darcy RUSSELL (2)

### Match Description

**Manly-Warringah:** Full-back: R Willey (c); three-quarters: G Hugo, W Lloyd, K Mosman, L Wadling; five-eighth: A Madden; half: P Burke; forwards: J Peebles, P Diversi, R Mossop, R Bull, G Lenon, W Delamere

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: I Moir, R Poole (c), J Ryan, D Henry; five-eighth: R Buttenshaw; half: K Holman; forwards: F Clegg, R McDermott, W Carson, M Patch, B Goff, N Charlton **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 8th August 1959)**

Western Suburbs yesterday took the field virtually on crutches for the Rugby League final on the Sydney Cricket Ground. But they gave Manly-Warringah a terrific fright, and it was only in the dying stages of a grand game that Wests went under by a single point. Manly-Warringah won 14-13.....Wests were without three star players Kel O'Shea and Harry Wells owing to injury, and their lock Buddy Bowman had influenza. It was felt that such a dislocation would completely disrupt their game. But the remnants of Wests' strongest team rose mightily to the occasion, and nine minutes from the end they led Manly-Warringah at full-strength by 13-11. Even at that stage it looked like anybody's game, especially as the Manly forwards relentlessly stormed the line. Manly clinched the game with eighth minutes to go with Hugo's try that gave them the final lead of 14-13. All the scoring movements of this grand game provided the crowd with exciting moments. .... Nev Charlton, one of Rugby League's big, bold men, saw the opening and raced like a spritely colt with knee action to the wing. He superbly positioned Moir, who scored. Russell converted. Wests 5-3. Wests went to 7-3 with a goal by Russell from a penalty. Wests 7-3. Five minutes from half-time they set up a commanding lead of 10-3 when Holman kicked through and speedy Darcy Henry following on gathered to score a try. Wests 10-3. However, Wests lost a decided moral advantage just on half-time when Mossop, Delamere and Hugo broke through for Peebles to score for Manly from a play-the-ball. Willy converted. Wests 10-8. ... During the first 14 minutes of the second half, Manly kept up a bombardment which ended with a well-deserved try by Hugo after Willey and Mosman had made the run. Manly 11-10. It was a stirring last 20 minutes in which Manly looked like surging strongly to decisive victory. But from a defensive position on Wests' line little Darcy Henry slipped through Manly's defence like an eel evading the net and raced on for 70 yards across field. Wadling shot like a rocket from the wing and nailed Henry yards from Manly's line. Henry's dash inspired Wests. Poole dashed through, positioned sprinter Moir who also was nailed by Wadling for the opposite wing. It was then that Wests rose to the occasion in their final bid. The crowd went mad with excitement. Wests, behind on points, were making their bid for victory. Big Nev Charlton piloted play to Poole on to Moir who flew and then slithered inside the corner post to score a grand try. Wests 13-11. But it was not all over bar the shouting. The Manly Seagulls flew back in a concerted offensive. Mossop sent to Burke who broke through and sent big burly George Hugo hurtling through a tackle by Russell to score the try that gave his team victory. Manly 14-13..... Nev Charlton was quite the pick of Wests' forwards, but I think Wests' backs were the weak spot. They were given a surfeit of the ball from the scrums which Goff won 11-4, but they failed to penetrate. Wests' backs moved sideways in perfect handling but they made little ground..... When Darcy Henry switched to five-eighth in place of Buttenshaw late in the second half, the backs brightened up in penetration. But altogether Wests' weak link was at the scrum base..... Holman had one or two scintillating moments, but he is no longer "the power behind the throne" of scrums in Rugby League football..... **(The Sunday Mirror 9th August 1959)**

**Notes:** This was a very courageous performance by Wests. Harry Wells and Jack Bowman were out, injured, replaced by Clegg and McDermott. Their absence was badly felt. Mark Patch was very critical of the Manly tactics of bash and barge. He said it was outdated and didn't lead to good quality football for the spectators. Wests charged at the Manly line in the last ten minutes in a valiant effort to win. Nev Charlton was his bustling self and Darcy Henry provided some spark when he went into five-eighth. In the end, the season came to a close amid a flurry of injuries.