



1934 Final Saturday 8th September Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 15

def.

Eastern Suburbs 12

Frank McMILLAN (c)
Vince SHEEHAN
Stan TANCRED
Alan BRADY
Alan RIDLEY
Vic HEY
Les MEAD
Frank SPONBERG
Max GRAY
Jack McCONNELL
Charlie CORNWELL
Bob LINDFIELD
Alan BLAKE

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

Tom DOWLING
John LANE
Dave BROWN (c)
Jack BEATON
Harold THOMPSON
Ernie NORMAN
Viv THICKNESSE
Andy NORVAL
Henry PIERCE
Joe PEARCE
Max NIXON
Tom McLACHLAN
Ray STEHR

Tries

Alan RIDLEY (2)
Vince SHEEHAN

Andy NORVAL
Viv THICKNESSE

Goals

Les MEAD (2)
Frank McMILLAN (1)

Jack BEATON (2)
Dave BROWN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan (capt); three-quarters: A Ridley, A Brady, S Tancred, V Sheehan; halves: V Hey, L Mead; forwards: F Sponberg, J McConnell, M Gray, C Cornwell, R Lindfield, A Blake

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: T Dowling; three-quarters: J Lane, D Brown (capt), J Beaton, H Thompson; halves: E Norman, V Thicknesse; forwards: A Norval, S Pearce, H Pierce, M Nixon, T McLachlan, R Stehr

Postponed from Saturday September 1st - Referee: J Murphy
Rugby League News 15th September 1934)

Thousands of wise heads who had the 'inside oil' that the Rugby League final was a 'stew' for Easts, so that big money would be grabbed in a Grand Final, left the Sports Ground yesterday with only their return half tramway tickets when the Minor Premiers, Wests, took out the premiership by beating the Tricolors, 15-12, before a crowd of 25,174, the second best gate of the season. ... Probably the man who had most to do with Easts' downfall was Alan Ridley. The 'Kangaroo' winger covered himself with glory, and though he would persist in going for Lane's collar stud his weight and dash in attack were too much for 'Dinny', and foremost of Easts as well. Wests ran with the strong breeze in the first session, for the wind had been chopping and changing all the afternoon. Bright and early Mead put Wests in the lead with a penalty goal, but that was just about the only thing worth recording for nearly half an hour, though referee Murphy did lend a vaudeville aspect by his 'physical jerks' and friendly little chats with the players, who didn't seem to like it at all. Near 'lemons' things took a turn for the better, and Thompson had the fans gasping when he sold Vic Hey, of all people, a pup. Didn't come to anything, for after Dave Brown and Harry Pierce had looked dangerous, and run Sid Pearce in for almost a sure try, the big boy from Double Bay dropped the pass. Still, there was a reward when Beaton goaled, and the tally was two each. Then despair for the Tricolors. One of their forwards kicked along the ground to Ridley, who snapped it up, shook off several tacklers and dashed over for a try. McMillan landed a dandy goal from away out on the line, and Wests were in front 7-2 at halftime.

..... They made up for it by being first to score when Thompson and Norman ran through on the wing, where McMillan dropped Ernie, but not before he sent out his pass. It was low, but Sid Pearce miraculously scooped it up and sent it to Thicknesse, who only had to step on it to score. Wests 7-5. Bandages round his head didn't affect Dave Brown, for he sent Easts right up in the air with a goal that evened things at seven all. The odds couldn't be laid on Easts at this stage. Beaton, shaken badly by a hot tackle, dropped the ball and down the field went Ridley. A wonderful pick-up and he looked a moral until Tommy Dowling came from the clouds and dashed his hopes. But Wests were on top, and a great passing burst saw Sheehan walk over in the corner, Ray Stehr complaining bitterly to the referee over some allegedly missed breach. But the score went on the board and Wests led 10-7. Easts couldn't go right now. Another minute and Wests were in again when Ridley brushed Lane aside before shooting out a pass to Hey, who beat Norman and others. In it went to Ridley again, and with only pals nearby the big chap walked over under the bar. Mead couldn't miss the goal and Wests were home on the pig's back with a lead of 15-7 and only a few minutes to go. **(Truth 9th September 1934)**

Notes: Some of the Wests players were battling influenza but it was quickly forgotten as Wests claimed their second well-deserved premiership. It didn't have the excitement of previous clashes but was a dour struggle where Wests had it won with 5 minutes to go, Easts scoring a converted try right on the bell. Alan Ridley was the best player on the field, showing why he was the leading Kangaroo try scorer. This match marked the retirement of Frank McMillan and Bob Lindfield who were both chaired off the field. What a fitting way to finish two stellar careers! This match was played a week after it should have been when it was postponed the previous week because of the water-logged state of the field.