



1962 Grand Final Saturday 15th September Cricket Ground



St George 9

Kevin McDONALD
 Johnny KING
 Reg GASNIER
 Johnny RILEY
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 John RAPER
 George EVANS
 Elton RASMUSSEN
 Norm PROVAN (c)
 Kevin RYAN
 Monty PORTER
 Ian WALSH
 Bill WILSON

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Ken BRAY
 Dave BARSLEY
 Fred NORDEN
 Gil MacDOUGALL
 Peter DIMOND
 Arthur SUMMONS (c)
 Don MALONE
 Kevin SMYTH
 John HAYES
 Jim CODY
 Garry RUSSELL
 Noel KELLY
 Denis MEANEY



Tries Johnny KING

Goals Kevin McDONALD (3)

Ken BRAY (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: K McDonald; three-quarters: E Lumsden, R Gasnier, J Riley, J King; five-eighth: J Raper; half: G Evans; Forwards: E Rasmussen, K Ryan, N Provan (c), W Wilson, I Walsh, M Porter

Western Suburbs: Full-back: K Bray; three-quarters: D Barsley, F Norden, G MacDougall, P Dimond; five-eighth: A Summons (c); half: D Malone; forwards; K Smyth, J Hayes, J Cody, G Russell, N Kelly, D Meaney **Referee: J Bradley (The Sun 15th September 1962)**

A plucky under-strength Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday went within a "hair's breadth" of ending St George's long sequence of premierships. St George defeated West 9-6 at Sydney Cricket Ground in one of the toughest, best and dramatic grand finals in many years. It was St George's seventh successive premiership. ... The second half had been in progress only one minute when St George lost international front-rower Bill Wilson. Referee Jack Bradley ordered Wilson from the field. Wilson and Wests' second-rower Jim Cody were involved in a wild scene. Bradley charged Wilson with punching. ... Luck was with St George: * a stiff north-east wind, which was behind St George in the first half, died in the second half when Wests would have had advantage of it. * In the 20th minute of the second-half winger Peter Dimond narrowly missed scoring a try beside the goal-posts * Wests' front-rower Garry Russell almost snatched a try in the same position seconds before the final whistle. Wests' loss of a wind advantage in the second half just about balanced St George's loss of Wilson. But every neutral spectator in the crowd of 41,184 must have had a touch of sympathy for Wests when Dimond and Russell went so close to scoring. If either had scored so close to the posts a conversion would have almost been certain, to give Wests five points, which would have won it the premiership. Dimond made his bid for a try when St George winger Ed Lumsden dropped the ball 35 yards out. Dimond put his boot to the loose ball. He followed the ball and chose to kick again five yards from the line. As Dimond dived for the ball over the line St George centre Johnny Riley flashed in. Riley tapped the ball away and forced it. Russell's try-scoring bid seconds before the final whistle came from a play-the-ball. St George had possession of the ball inches from its own line. Second-rower Norm Provan, playing dummy-half, fumbled the ball. Russell flashed through and grabbed the ball, but referee Bradley ruled him off-side. After the match Wests' players lamented the near-misses. Dimond said: "I hesitated a fraction of a second to gauge which way the ball would bounce. I had to do it, but it cost me a try." Wests' players claimed referee Bradley erred in ruling Russell off-side in the late try-scoring bid. ... The incident occurred in such a jumble of players that spectators would not have been able to judge accurately. Forwards were in their element. Second-rower Norm Provan and hooker Ian Walsh were outstanding in a great St George pack. But the much lighter Wests' pack, in which 19 year old second-rower Jim Cody and hooker Noel Kelly excelled themselves, cut even with the St George giants. The exchanges were always tough, and often vicious. ... Wests took a great pummeling. Second-rower Cody and front-rower Russell suffered probable fractured noses. Lock Kevin Smyth suffered probable fractured ribs. A doctor reported other Wests' players had suffered broken teeth and severe bruising.... Five-eighth Arthur Summons, who deputized for O'Shea as captain, infused the same enthusiasm into Wests as he did when he led Australia to an 18-17 victory over England in the Third Test on July 14. There is no doubt now that Summons is the great leader Australia has been needing for years. He tried tricks and variety in his efforts to break the rugged St George defence. As Wests applied the pressure its supporters chanted, "West, West, West." To the delight of those supporters Bray landed goals in the 14th and 23rd minutes of the second half to reduce St George's lead to 7-6. Wests seldom eased the pressure. At one stage when St George had possession Wests' defence was so fast and aggressive that it forced St George back 40 yards. McDonald kicked St George's last goal two minutes from the end but West still did not give up. **(Sunday Telegraph 16th September 1962)**

Notes: Kel O'Shea's influenza had worsened to pneumonia and he was replaced by Garry Russell. Parish was also out with the flu and ironically the referee Darcy Lawler was also out with the flu, replaced by Jack Bradley. The match was played on a mud-heap, making it a forward battle. In a typical torrid match nine cautions were handed out and eventually Graham Wilson was sent off. Peter Dimond went within inches of scoring a match-winning try. Wests kept coming at St George right to the final bell.