



1961 Grand Final Saturday 16th September Cricket Ground



St George 22

Brian GRAHAM
 Johnny KING
 Reg GASNIER
 Dave BROWN
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Bobby BUGDEN
 John RAPER
 Norm PROVAN
 Kevin RYAN
 Kevin BROWN
 Peter ARMSTRONG
 Bill WILSON (c)

def.

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

Western Suburbs 0

Don PARISH
 Dave BARSLEY
 Bill MARTIN
 Bill BROWN
 Peter DIMOND
 Keith HOLMAN
 Arthur SUMMONS
 Kel O'SHEA
 John HAYES
 Bill CARSON
 Mark PATCH
 Noel KELLY
 Nev CHARLTON (c)



Tries Eddie LUMSDEN (3)
 Johnny KING

Goals Brian GRAHAM (5)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: E Lumsden, R Gasnier, D Brown, J King; five-eighth: B Clay; half: R Bugden; forwards: J Raper, N Provan, K Ryan, K Brown, P Armstrong, W Wilson (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: D Barsley, W Brown, W Martin, P Dimond; five-eighth: K Holman; half: A Summons; forwards: K O'Shea, J Hayes, W Carson, M Patch, N Kelly, N Charlton **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 16th September 1961)**

St George yesterday won their sixth successive Rugby League premiership when they crushed Western Suburbs by 22 points to nil in the Grand Final. It was almost a massacre before an enthusiastic crowd of 61,196 – almost equal to the record of 62,283 set up by the same two clubs in 1958. Wests will now go to roost for next season. In their pre-publicity they said they had secret moves to shock St George. The secret is still with them. The Grand Final, as a spectacle, was as tame as kiss-in-the-ring There was none of the usual fury..... Yet it proved a feast for the Dragons whose play was so nice and clean, I thought they must have been waging war with mermaids. The Saints almost dehydrated the Magpies in the true Christian spirit of clean, fair, academic and, at times, brilliant football. The final 20 minutes were pathetic. The crowd fell silent, rarely rousing a cheer..... St George dominated from kick-off to final bell. It may be said, with deference to the world's greatest footballer, Reg Gasnier, that St George won without calling upon his usual brilliance. St George won solely with superior football by their powerful forwards. Wests failed miserably in their cover defence – indeed it was no defence at all. Time after time, Brian Clay, the man of the hour, broke through Summons and Holman down the middle to set his supports going. St George were allowed to run too far, too often. The Wests' centres, Bill Martin and Bill Brown, were non-existent. Arthur Summons, alone, displayed penetration. He was the sole danger signal for St George. But he could not win the game on his own. The switch of Kel O'Shea to lock forward was disastrous. Over the years O'Shea has proved the "best-worst" lock forward in Australia. He is a brilliant second-row forward. St George ran away with the game in the first half when they set up a lead of 17-0. A big contributor to this was Peter Armstrong with a scrum success of 14-8 against Noel Kelly, Test hooker. In the second half Kelly made some atonement, and finished behind 18-16. Yet Wests did not know what to do with the ball when in possession. The Saints crossed Wests' line no fewer than four times. Their very fine winger, Eddie Lumsden, did the trick with three sparkling tries which were the very champagne of Rugby League football..... The game began to form its pattern 12 minutes from the start when the Saints scored a gem of a try. Graham, full-back, shot through down the middle. From a play-the-ball Clay ran wide and sent infield to Lumsden, who had an open passage of 30 yards to the line. Graham, who had previously kicked a penalty goal, converted. St George, with a lead of 7-0; was all set for victory. Nine minutes later the Saints were through again for a try that was a masterpiece of co-ordination and understanding. It started from the 10th scrum won by St George. Raper threw a long pass on the blind side to winger Johnny King. This was quick thinking. Raper saw the opening; Wests' cover defence was completely absent. King fairly scorched the grass in his 20 yards diving run to the corner for a try. St George led 10-0 – and only 21 minutes had gone. The big show had become a donkey's serenade. Clearly, Wests were outplayed in every department. They made a desperate effort to break through after the resumption following a pep talk by Jack Fitzgerald, their coach. But poor Wests would have been more mobile with a dosage of the old treacle and sulfur. The crowd barely raised a cheer from then on. Out of courtesy for the brilliant football of St George, they waited until the bell sounded its sorrowful notes – or were they pleasant, for Western Suburbs? .. Summons, alone, shone for Wests. **(Sunday Mirror 17th September 1961)**

Notes: Wests were never in this match; a very disappointing end for Keith Holman in his last game. For Wests, Arthur Summons was the only one to keep his reputation intact. They gave up many easy shots at goal but could not penetrate St George's rock-like defence. After a strong semi-final performance this was a very disappointing end to the season.