



1952 Grand Final Saturday 20th September Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 22

def.

South Sydney 12

George BAIN
 Bill CALLINAN
 Col RATCLIFF
 Gerry LOWE
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Dev DINES
 Leo TREVENA
 Peter McLEAN (c)
 Ron WATSON
 Don SCHOFIELD
 Bill HORDER
 Hec FARRELL
 Kevin HANSEN

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

Don MURDOCH
 John GRAVES
 Malcolm SPENCER
 Frank THRELFO
 Cliff SMAILES
 Norm SPILLANE
 Ken BROGAN
 Ray NEILSON
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Ken MACREADIE
 Denis DONOGHUE
 Ernie HAMMERTON
 Bryan ORROCK

Tries

Don SCHOFIELD (2)
 George BAIN
 Dev DINES
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Peter McLEAN

Ken MACREADIE
 Cliff SMAILES

Goals

George BAIN (2)

Johnny GRAVES (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs (Minor Premiers): Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: W Callinan, G Lowe, C Ratcliffe, J Fitzgerald; five-eighth: D Dines; half: L Trevena; forwards: P McLean (c), D Schofield, R Watson, K Hansen, H Farrell, W Horder

South Sydney: Full-back: D Murdoch; three-quarters: C Smailes, M Spencer, F Threlfo, J Graves; five-eighth: N Spillane; half: K Brogan; forwards: R Neilsen, K Macreadie, J Rayner (c), D Donoghue, E Hammerton, B Orrock **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 27th September 1952)**

Minor premiers Western Suburbs, showing better condition in the second half, scored four tries in the last 10 minutes to beat South Sydney 22-12 in the 1952 Rugby League Grand Final at Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. The game was marred by much illegal play just before half-time and 10 minutes after the interval. Souths' prop Brian Orrock and Wests' hooker Hec Farrell were sent off. Several other players of both sides received cautions from referee George Bishop. The game was rugged and hard, and held the interest of the crowd of 41,090 until near the end, when Wests took control. Just before half-time Souths second-row forward Ken Macreadie was cautioned after a scrum broke up and Western Suburbs hooker Hec Farrell was left lying on the ground. As the half-time bell rang, forwards of both teams were milling around and a free-for-all was likely. When the teams came back on the field after half-time it was obvious certain players were to be marked. When the second scrum packed down Souths' hooker Ernie Hammerton reeled out of the pack and collapsed on the ground. In the next scrum there was a flurry of boots and fists and referee George Bishop immediately sent off Orrock and Farrell. Wests' captain Peter McLean finished the match with a probable dislocation of the left shoulder, which he said he received early in the game. Throughout the game both packs of forwards kicked wildly in play-the-ball movements. ... Western Suburbs concentrated more on playing the ball than the man. Souths, with a major share of the ball, made little use of it, and their backs were often caught flat-footed. Wests would have won by a much greater margin had their full-back George Bain kicked a couple of easy penalty goals. At half-time Souths led 7-5. After Wests' hooker Farrell was sent off, Souths won most of the scrums and had every chance to win. But they made too many mistakes and seemed to lack condition to play out the full 80 minutes. The win for Wests was a triumph for captain Peter McLean, who was playing his last game, Coach Tom McMahon, who coached a premiers team at his first attempt, and former international forward Ray Stehr, who assisted in the coaching of the forwards this week. with 15 minutes to go Souths led 12-10. From then on Wests' better condition told and they took complete control of the game. Bain started a movement from his own 25, beat several tackles before sending to Dines. Seven Wests' players handled the ball, then Dines threw a pass on the ground for Bain to kick through, follow on, and touch down just before the ball went over the dead-ball line. ... Wests were by far the better team and thoroughly deserved their win. Trevena, Wests' half-back, was the best player on the field and was well supported by Watson and Don Schofield. **(The Sun 21st September 1952)**

Notes: This became a famous brawling Premiership win. Both hookers were knocked out in a roughhouse match which continually threatened to become an all-in brawl. Eventually Bryan Orrock and Hec Farrell were sent off but the damage had been done. Souths had been battered into submission and although leading 12-10 with 15 minutes to go, Wests ran riot and scored four late tries. Peter McLean dislocated a shoulder early on but still scored a brilliant 40 yard try late in the match. Don Schofield, the 21 year-old Cessnock forward, played a brilliant match in his first season. Dev Dines, playing despite suspect residential qualifications, made a huge difference to the attack. The referee, George Bishop, was booed off the field and announced his retirement after the match.