



1958 Major Semi Saturday 30th August Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 34

def.

St George 10

Darcy RUSSELL
 Don MALONE
 Harry WELLS (c)
 Darcy HENRY
 Bernie KELLY
 Peter DIMOND
 Keith HOLMAN
 Doug JONES
 Kel O'SHEA
 Bill CARSON
 Mark PATCH
 Bede GOFF
 Nev CHARLTON

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

Brian GRAHAM
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 Geoff WEEKES
 Jack FIFIELD
 Brian MESSITER
 Peter CARROLL
 Bobby BUGDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Norm PROVAN
 Harry BATH
 Kevin BROWN
 Ken KEARNEY (c)
 Billy WILSON

Tries

Peter DIMOND (2)
 Bill CARSON
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bernie KELLY
 Darcy RUSSELL

Bobby BUGDEN
 Eddie LUMSDEN

Goals

Darcy RUSSELL (8)

Harry BATH (2)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: E Lumsden, G Weekes, J Fifield, B Messiter; five-eighth: P Carroll; half: B Bugden; forwards: B Clay, N Provan, H Bath, K Brown, K Kearney (c), W Wilson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: D Malone, H Wells (c), P Dimond, B Kelly; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: D Jones, K O'Shea, W Carson, M Patch, B Goff, N Charlton; reserves: J Thompson, J Bowman **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 30th August 1958)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League coach Vic Hey planned yesterday's startling defeat of glamorous St George a fortnight ago. But for a fortnight he had to coax Wests' officials to agree to the positional switch which set up Wests' 34-10 win yesterday at Sydney Cricket Ground. Finally, Wests' officials agreed to let Hey, a former international, switch Peter Dimond from centre to Darcy Henry's place at five-eighth. Last night a jubilant Hey said: "I'd been figuring on a way to beat the mighty St George for a long time. Finally, I got to this idea of playing Dimond at five-eighth early in the match to soften them up. I wanted to give Saints' lock Brian Clay something to tackle, something which would weaken the willingness of the St George inside backs to keep halting our moves before the ball got out to our talent. Yesterday, it worked out beautifully and turned out one of those inspired pieces of coaching which everyone praised but would have got me into a blue if it had failed. There is no risk that we won this match in the first 15 minutes when I had Dimond at five-eighth and Henry at outside centre. Dimond is a very punishing runner indeed and he quietened the entire St George defence with his robust, really gutsy running. Candidly, I had my doubts about whether to pull this switch in the semi-final or keep it for the Grand Final. Then I thought, well we have to get into the grand final so we may as well pull it now to make certain. Now I have to think of something different to pull in the Grand Final." While Hey was speaking, elated Wests' supporters and the team which had laid on this staggering success, kept barging through chattering fans to shake his hand. Prop-forward Mark Patch, one of the players who helped Wests thrash the most glamorous side in League football for several seasons, came up. Patch grabbed Hey's hand and said: "Gee, Vic, heck, in all the time I've played football that was the cleverest bit of coaching I've ever seen." Around the walls of Wests' room, nursing minor hurts, Wests' front-rower Nev Charlton, half Keith Holman, and lock Doug Jones and winger Bernie Kelly nodded agreement. All of them had played superlative football, passing the ball back and forth to each other at precisely the correct moment, whereas previously in an erratic season they had hung on. Russell particularly deserved high praise, for he notched eight goals from 11 attempts and scored a try to total 19 points for the match. Russell, at 29, an accomplished, resourceful player, said: "I caught on early that the wind was only very stiff and gutsy high up, so whenever I kicked, I aimed at keeping the ball low where the wind wasn't so bad." Bill Buckley, acting Chairman of the Australian Board of control, said after the match: "The result wasn't surprising when you remember that St George hasn't been tested for weeks. Wests won on sheer good football. But I suppose the usual cry of "fish-oh: will go up." (Sunday Telegraph 31st August 1958)

Notes: This was seen as a major tactical victory by Coach Vic Hey. He moved Peter Dimond to five-eighth where he was able to outmuscle Brian Clay and the St George inside backs got sick of trying to tackle him. Full-back Darcy Russell had a blinder, scoring a great try and kicking eight goals in a very tricky wind. Nev Charlton played one of his best ever games and Holman, given freedom by the powerhouse display of Peter Dimond, was the mastermind behind most of the movements which led to tries. Bernie Kelly also played his best game for Wests so far while the return of Harry Wells, after a long absence from injury, was also a factor.