



1956 Minor Semi-Final Saturday 18th August Cricket Ground



South Sydney 45

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Clive CHURCHILL
 Ian MOIR
 Martin GALLAGHER
 Greg HAWICK
 Dale PUREN
 Johnny DOUGHERTY
 Col DONOHOE
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Bernie PURCELL
 Denis DONOGHUE
 Ernie HAMMERTON
 Jim RICHARDS

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

George BAIN
 Cliff SMAILLES
 Harry WELLS
 Darcy HENRY
 Peter HARGREAVES
 Ian JOHNSTON
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bill CARSON
 Kel O'SHEA
 Mark PATCH
 Jim FLEMING
 Bill OWENS



Tries
 Ian MOIR (3)
 Les COWIE (2)
 Martin GALLAGHER (2)
 Jack RAYNER (2)
 Col DONOHOE
 Johnny DOUGHERTY

Peter HARGREAVES

Goals
 Bernie PURCELL (5)
 Greg HAWICK (1)

George BAIN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: C Smailles, H Wells, D Henry, P Hargreaves; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, K O'Shea, W Carson, M Patch, J Fleming, W Owens

South Sydney: Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: G Hawick, I Moir, M Gallagher, D Puren; five-eighth: J Dougherty; half: J Donohoe; forwards: L Cowie, J Rayner (c), B Purcell, D Donoghue, E Hammerton, J Richards **Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 18th August 1956)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League officials yesterday bitterly criticized New South Wales League after South Sydney had steam-rolled West, 45-7, in a semi-final at Sydney Cricket Ground. This was the biggest landslide in a semi-final in Rugby League history. The win put Souths in the final for the eighth successive year. Wests became leg-weary after 15 minutes play. Wests officials blamed the League's decision to meet Newtown in a play-off last Tuesday. The play-off compelled Wests to play three hard games within eight days. Wests' secretary (Mr Lou Moses) in a heated outburst after yesterday's match said: "The league's policy on play-offs before semi-finals stinks. I will tell the League this at its next meeting on Monday week. At this meeting I will submit a notice of motion to have this policy changed. Earlier this year we had the New Zealand Kiwis criticizing the League for not getting a week's rest before Tests. I can see how right the Kiwis were. Today, West players were so weary at half-time they were not keen to return to the field. I congratulate Souths and referee Col Pearce for fine performances. But I say the League, not Souths, beat Wests." Weariness after Tuesday's play-off certainly had a lot to do with Wests' crushing defeat. It would be foolish to accept South as a 38 points better side than Wests if they met in equal circumstances. It would also be foolish to suggest that Souths should not have defeated Wests yesterday. ... Wests started with the right idea. For 15 minutes it drove hard down the middle and rattled South. West missed two try-scoring chances during this period. Half-back Keith Holman knocked-on with the try-line open and centre Darcy Henry failed to capitalize an opening. All Wests could get out of it during that period was a penalty goal which full-back George Bain kicked. If Holman and Henry had accepted the try-scoring chances, Wests probably would have led 10-0. That would have been a great morale booster. Then West's weariness began to show. South took the initiative and began to pile up points. ... Moir scored two more tries late in the match. Within 10 minutes after Moir's first try South led 13-2. South went on to lead 18-2 at half-time and the match was as good as over. Souths streamed through Wests during the second half, adding 27 points. Weary Wests had no chance as Souths, with brilliant backing-up, threw the ball about. **(The Daily Telegraph 19th August 1956)**

...Western Suburbs made the mistake of playing Nev Charlton and Kel O'Shea who were not 100 per cent. Front-row forward Mark Patch received an ankle injury in the first half. Five-eighth Ian Johnston was outstanding for Wests. He broke through often and did a tremendous amount of cover defence. Wests has had a good year after a mediocre opening. Wests has the nucleus of a great team for 1957. **(Sun-Herald 19th August 1956)**

Notes: The Tuesday play-off match against Newtown took its toll. Secretary Lou Moses was livid after the match at the League policy on play-offs. All the players showed signs of extreme weariness, although Ian Johnston played a blinder. Down 18-2 at half-time they had no answer to Souths' open style of play as they ran riot in the second half.