



1960 Play-off Saturday 13th August Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 18

def.

Eastern Suburbs 7

Darcy RUSSELL
 Ian MOIR
 Harry WELLS
 Dick POOLE (c)
 John MOWBRAY
 Bill BROWN
 Keith HOLMAN
 Bill TONKIN
 Bill CARSON
 Garry RUSSELL
 Denis MEANEY
 John DAWSON
 Nev CHARLTON

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

Gordon CLIFFORD
 Boyce BEETON
 Peter GALLAGHER
 Doug RICKETSON
 Bob LANDERS
 Bill MCNAMARA
 Bruce RAINIER
 Dick SEE
 Don HARDY
 Brian WRIGHT
 Jack GIBSON (c)
 Ken ASHCROFT
 Bob McDONAGH

Tries John MOWBRAY (2)
 Bill BROWN
 Darcy RUSSELL

Doug RICKETSON

Goals Darcy RUSSELL (3)

Gordon CLIFFORD (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: I Moir, H Wells, R Poole (c), J Mowbray; five-eighth: W Brown; half: K Holman; forwards: W Tonkin, W Carson, G Russell, D Meaney, J Dawson, N Charlton

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: G Clifford; three-quarters: B Beeton, P Gallagher, D Ricketson, B Landers; five-eighth: W McNamara; half: B Rainier; forwards: R See, D Hardy, B Wright, J Gibson (c), K Ashcroft, R McDonagh **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 13th August 1960)**

Keith Holman, the discarded battleship of the Rugby League whom the Test selectors were justified last year in dropping from the Australian team for England, yesterday was the 'difference' that gave Western Suburbs decisive victory over Eastern Suburbs 18-7 on Sydney Cricket Ground. He pioneered two glorious tries with his initiative and football sense, and nearly every time he got the ball, he speared the defence with weaving burst turning defence into attack. Holman laid the foundation for Wests' first try 22 minutes from the kick-off. After some terrific rucking in which Meaney, Carson and Garry Russell excelled, Holman cut off the defence, running wide before straightening up. He short-punted on Easts' 25 line, and full-back Darcy Russell, following on, gathered to score the try which gave Wests the lead 7-2. Holman pioneered a second try 20 minutes after half-time. Showing uncanny football sense, he dummied his way through the field with his opponents hanging off from the tackle. At the 25 line he kicked, and winger Mowbray gathered after beating Landers and Wright to the ball, to score a fine try. The only blemish on Holman's all-round effort yesterday was his ball-starvation of ace winger Ian Moir who did not get a run the whole match. His avoidance of Moir in fact suggested he was afraid of making contact to avoid some contagion. The game never reached the heights and rarely evoked sustained applause from the crowd except when referee Darcy Lawler was cheered when he penalised the "one-eyed barracker's" opponent. In the first 20 minutes, the game was in fact void of character other than ragged loose attempts by both teams to break through. Easts started off with a bang, bustling Wests off their feet, and preventing them from settling down until Holman's pioneering effort. Wests then began to function, and for the next 15 minutes they sustained a burst for the line. Their winger Mowbray weaved through the field almost from his own line, raced on, beat Landers, kicked and the ball went out in Easts' corner. Charlton and Meaney led the next assault which ended with Mowbray crossing the line with an off-side pass and he was re-called. ... Wests maintained a virile attack almost the whole of the second half. It began when Wells sidestepped with his bellicose knees pirouetting like a ballet dancer, through the congestion out into the open. Tonkin, Wells, Poole and Mowbray carried the attack further downfield, but Holman dropped the ball, with the starving Moir ready to receive it in a good position. The assault ended when hooker Dawson gathered a loose ball from the ruck, sent a long, low pass to winger Mowbray who raced on 20 yards outside Landers to score the try. Wests 10-3. ... But it was Holman who stood in the way when the next try that Mowbray scored clinched the result for Wests who led 15-5. Easts were not in the hunt in the dying stages of the fight. Charlton, Dawson, Meaney, Garry Russell, Carson and Tonkin were like a wall of concrete against which the virile Easts merely kept bumping their heads. ... The display of Test centre Harry Wells was one of concealed merit. He did not shine in the sense that he did not catch the crowd's eye for applause, but his tackling was the most punishing seen on SCG this season. Wells simply buried his opponents. Wests have found a potential star in their new young winger John Mowbray who will be hard to displace for next Saturday's semi-final against St George. (Sunday Mirror 14th August 1960)

Notes: Keith Holman, although in the twilight of his career, was the absolute standout in this game. Bill Carson damaged his knee but bravely played on. Most commentators thought he was lucky to stay on the field after a vicious head-high tackle on Boyce Beeton. Meaney and Charlton led most of the forward charges in another excellent display. The absurdity of the play-off system was highlighted with Wests having to win two play-off games just to make the semis, while St George had two weeks to recuperate.