



1956 Play-off for 4th Tuesday 14th August Redfern Oval



Western Suburbs 10

def.

Newtown 5

George BAIN
Peter HARGREAVES
Harry WELLS
Darcy HENRY
Ernie HILLS
Ian JOHNSTON
Keith HOLMAN (c)
Nev CHARLTON
Kel O'SHEA
Bill CARSON
Mark PATCH
Jim FLEMING
Ron WATSON

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

Gordon CLIFFORD
Laurie MCMAHON
Dick POOLE (c)
Kevin CONSIDINE
Ray PRESTON
Tony BROWN
Bobby WHITTON
Peter RYAN
Frank NARVO
Henry HOLLOWAY
Don STAIT
Greg ELLIS
Les HAMPSON

Tries

Bill CARSON
Peter HARGREAVES

Kevin CONSIDINE

Goals

George BAIN (2)

Gordon CLIFFORD (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: E Hills, 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, R Watson

Newtown: Full-back: G Clifford; three-quarters: L McMahon, D Poole (c), K Considine, R Preston; five-eighth: T Brown; half: B Whitton; forwards: P Ryan, F Narvo, H Holloway, D Stait, G Ellis, L Hampson **Referee: D Lawler (as per program Rugby League News 11th August 1956 + Teams validated Daily Mirror 11th August 1956)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday defeated Newtown 10-5 in a grim play-off at Redfern Oval. The win put Wests into the semi-finals. Wests on Saturday will meet South Sydney at Sydney Cricket Ground in the first semi-final. Newtown players yesterday disputed two decisions which they claimed cost them a place in the semi-finals. The Newtown players claimed referee Darcy Lawler had wrongly: *disallowed Newtown centre Dicky Poole a try * Allowed West's second-rower Bill Carson's first try. The disputed decisions happened late in the first half. Seven minutes before half-time Poole ran 35 yards to touch down near the goalposts after second-rower Henry Holloway had broken through a ruck. Referee Lawler ruled Holloway's pass to Poole had been forward. Holloway and Poole denied a forward pass. After the match Holloway said: "I had to wheel around to pass to Poole, who was backing me up from behind." Carson scored his try for Wests four minutes after Poole's incident. Clifford, who tackled Carson, said later: "I stopped Carson three yards from the line. He scrambled through in the tackle to put the ball over the line." Holloway, who had been close to the incident said: "Instead of awarding a try, the referee should have penalized Carson for proceeding after a tackle." Newtown players' claims were entirely their own opinion. Spectators in the crowd of 20,920 opposite the incidents did not shout disapproval. No-one should begrudge Wests its place in the semi-finals. Wests this year outlayed £4000 to rebuild a team which had finished at the bottom of the competition last year. After a bad start this season West rallied and won eight successive matches to qualify. Wests deserved its win yesterday. It was by far the more constructive team in a drab match. Although two forwards were injured, Wests' pack battled out the issue with grim determination. Front-rower Ron Watson broke his cheekbone 15 minutes after the start, but carried on. Second-rower Kel O'Shea injured a shoulder about the same time and "carried" his right arm for the remainder of the match. Test half-back Keith Holman spearheaded Wests' attack. During the first half Holman exploited the wind with cleverly placed kicks from the base of scrums and rucks. He forced Newtown into a lot of trouble.... **(The Daily Telegraph 15th August 1956)**

.... Western Suburbs, on the day, was the better team. The Wests forwards were in command towards the end, a breakthrough by Kel O'Shea paving the way for the final try by winger Peter Hargreaves a minute from the final bell. Terrific cover defence by Keith Holman, Ian Johnston and Nev Charlton stopped many Newtown rushes.... the game was hard, but lacking class..... Wests' five-eighth Ian Johnston prevented Tony Brown from running, and Whitton was outplayed by Keith Holman. Western Suburbs prop Ron Watson sustained a jaw fracture late in the first half but carried on. His left eye was completely closed at the end of the match. Former Newtown captain Frank Farrell said "Newtown missed chances late in the second half when the forwards lost possession in the sorties near Wests' line. The backs didn't combine. "Wests played tough, crisp football and deserved its win." **(Herald 15th August 1956)**

Notes: Referee Darcy Lawler was again at the centre of controversial decisions. Newtown players thought Bill Carson was short when he scored his try and they were adamant that Dick Poole had scored, even though he was recalled for a forward pass. Holman again dominated for Wests and he stood tall when Kel O'Shea injured a shoulder and was a passenger for the rest of the match. Wests' back, led by Harry Wells, stymied the Newtown attack for most of the second half and eventually Ernie Hills scored a try right near fulltime to put the game out of reach. Wests now had to back up quickly to play Souths in the minor semi-final on Saturday.