



1934 Playoff Saturday 11th August Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 7

def.

Eastern Suburbs 2

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Ray HINES
 Stan TANCRED
 Alan BRADY
 Alan RIDLEY
 Vic HEY
 Les MEAD
 Frank SPONBERG
 Max GRAY
 Jack McCONNELL
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Alan BLAKE

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

Tom DOWLING
 John LANE
 Dave BROWN (c)
 Harold THOMPSON
 Fred TOTTEY
 Ernie NORMAN
 Viv THICKNESSE
 Andy NORVAL
 Henry PIERCE
 Joe PEARCE
 John CLARKE
 Tom McLACHLAN
 Ray STEHR

Tries Les MEAD

Goals Charlie CORNWELL (2)

Dave BROWN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan (capt); three-quarters: A Ridley, A Brady, S Tancred, R Hines; halves: V Hey, L Mead; forwards: F Sponberg, J McConnell, M Gray, C Cornwell, R Lindfield, A Blake

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: T Dowling; three-quarters: J Lane, D Brown (capt), H Thompson, F Tottey; halves: E Norman, V Thicknesse; forwards: A Norval, S Pearce, H Pierce, J Clarks, T McLachlan, R Stehr **Referee: L Deane (Rugby League News 18th August 1934)**

... Mead, the Western half back, who was injured in Brisbane, reappeared, also Lindfield the hooker. Hines was preferred to Sheehan as left wing man. ... Such was the case for no team could have defended as stubbornly under pressure as did the Western men in the second half. With only 12 players at that period for Lindfield had been injured tackling Stehr just on half time, they survived a fierce spell of heavy and rapier-like thrusting introduced by the opposition. McMillan had a great day, being in bright form. Repeatedly he tricked the onrushing Eastern players with his wily play and gained considerable territorial advantage upon occasions with fine line kicks. Mead made a pleasing reappearance and Hey rose to great heights by his devastating burst which paved the way to the only try scored. Tancred and Brady were reliable centres and Ridley shone in the exchanges throughout. He often initiated movements and then flashed up into position to handle the ball a second time. The forwards were seen to great advantage, Sponberg and Cornwell gaining prominence by their play in the open. McMillan elected to face the sun in the opening half in which play commenced at a great pace. ... The ball was kicked to McMillan who cleverly feinted a kick, puzzled the opposition and sprinted away then punted up-field to gain the touch line over fifty yards away. McLachlan contrived to kick the ball along the ground shortly afterwards just as McMillan gathered. The full back had sustained an injury to his wrist which had to be bandaged. This did not deter him from snapping up finely and sending Ridley away. Brady next had the ball and passed again to Ridley who had backed up well. He transferred to Hines on the other wing and in came the ball to Sponberg but it was too high to accept. ... Then Western Suburb scored from a scrum. Thicknesse passed to Norman to Thompson who again dropped the ball. Brady scooped it up and gave to Hey. On went the latter pushing defenders aside and, pushing through tackles, he broke clear and Mead received the ball near the line to score. Cornwell converted. Ridley caused a stir when he toed the ball clear of Lane, and followed it through, but he collided with Dowling and it bounced into touch. From a penalty Cornwell advanced the total to seven points to nil which was the half time score.

When play was resumed Lindfield, did not reappear; he had been injured tackling Stehr and had to be assisted from the field just as the bell had rung for the interval. Hines was hurt in a crush. Eastern Suburbs then set up a sustained siege. ... Stehr was then thrown back when within a few feet of the line. Brown and Thicknesse also dashed through to be repulsed. Mead was penalised and Brown registered a goal. The play had progressed for 23 minutes when Lindfield made his reappearance amid applause. ... Sponberg then caught the ball as Thompson knocked it forward. He came clean through and sent Tancred onward. The centre went swiftly ahead but Tottey, displaying a great turn of speed saved a certain try when he brought him down close to the line. Hey was nearly over upon two occasions which was followed by a great dash by Tancred down the centre after Ridley and Brady had handled. Even exchanges were then maintained until the game finished. The attendance was 20 098. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 13th August 1934)**

Notes: It seems inconceivable that the top two teams would have to have a play-off for the Minor Premiership but the right of Challenge it would bring was of great importance. Wests defended grimly in this game, especially considering that they played a great deal of the second half with Lindfield off injured. Ray Hines was in for Sheehan and the old firm of Hey and Mead was back as halves. McMillan injured his wrist but played on bravely.