



1960 Prelim. Play-off Tuesday 9th August Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 28

def.

Balmain 10

Darcy RUSSELL
Ilan 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

Keith BARNES (c)
Ron MACK
Billy BISCHOFF
John MULLINS
Bobby MARA
Alan MASON
Laurie FAGAN
Jack SINCLAIR
Bob BOLAND
Brian HENDERSON
Harry RAVEN
Jock DELANEY
Billy MARSH

Tries

Denis MEANEY (2)
John MOWBRAY
Keith HOLMAN
Bill TONKIN
Harry WELLS

Jock DELANEY
Ron MACK

Goals

Darcy RUSSELL (5)

Keith BARNES (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

Balmain: Full-back: K Barnes (c); three-quarters: R Mack, W Bischoff, J Mullins, B Mara; five-eighth: A Mason; half: L Fagan; forwards: J Sinclair, B Henderson, B Boland, W Marsh, J Delaney, H Raven **Referee: D Lawler (as per program Rugby League News 9th August 1960 + team changes The Sun 9th August 1960)**

Western Suburbs and Eastern Suburbs yesterday qualified for the Rugby League semi-finals.Wests defeated Balmain 28-10..... Its victory sounded this warning note to competition favourite St George: "Don't take us cheaply." Wests adopted a change in forward strategy similar to that which produces St George's cleverness. The forwards played deeper than usual when in possession. They riddled the Balmain pack with neat switches. Tough front-rower Nev Charlton was the big force. He made short, menacing bursts. The other forwards, particularly front-rower Dennis Meaney and second-rower Bill Carson, had the time of their lives working off him. Numerous attacking raids developed from these bursts. Former Test half-back Keith Holman was the architect of these bursts. Holman was the perfect "traffic director." He worked wide and often worried Balmain in steering play down the blind side. Wests' new lock Bill Tonkin worked splendidly with Holman. He earned this after-match praise from Holman: "Tonkin is the smartest thinking lock I have played with in a long time. Holman – the man of the match – paved the way for two of Wests' six tries with sheer cleverness and scored one himself. Young winger John Mowbray, who substituted for Peter Dimond, scored the first of the Holman-inspired tries. The try which gave Wests a 10-7 lead in the 27th minute, was the turning point of the match. Wests were never in danger afterwards. Holman ran wide from mid-field to the right flank. Mowbray cut in behind him and collected Holman's flick pass in a perfect scissors operation. Mowbray straightened, and, with clever footwork, in a 45-yard run down the flank, left Balmain full-back Keith Barnes and half-back Laurie Fagan sprawling hopelessly on the grass. Lock Tonkin scored the second Holman-inspired try a minute before half-time. Holman turned play down the blind side of a ruck and Tonkin, who went with him from 25 yards out, scored the try inches from the corner post. All of Wests' six tries came from good constructive football. None was better than the first of the match, which Test centre Harry Wells scored. Wells ran wide from mid-field, then veered back in-field towards the goalposts. His sharp change of direction caught Balmain full-back Barnes on the wrong leg. Wells went right through Barnes' tackle and streaked into the open. Balmain put up a traditionally good fight, although the odds were against it. Big second-rower Brian Henderson strained a ligament in each of his knees in the first half. He played on, but his lack of punch in the second half removed a lot of force from Balmain's pack. Balmain badly missed the clever covering work of injured lock Kevin Smyth. ... Balmain's tigerish spirit did not wane as Wests piled up points in the second half. It had a reward in the last minute when winger Ron Mack scored a good try. Balmain will need to improve a lot on yesterday's form to become a premiership threat. **(Daily Telegraph 10th August 1960)**

Notes: This game was played before a very large midweek crowd of 21,308. John Mowbray came in for Peter Dimond who had the flu. Despite John Dawson losing the scrums, Nev Charlton and Keith Holman both had outstanding games, while Denis Meaney had his best game so far for Wests, scoring two fine tries and spending most of the day running off the shoulder of the rampaging Nev Charlton. After the match Holman gave Bill Tonkin a big wrap. He most probably pushed himself to the limits against his old club.