



1948 Round 1 Saturday 10th April Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 17

def.

Eastern Suburbs 10

Bill KEATO
 Pat LEAL
 Eric BENNETT
 Colin MAXWELL
 Fred YANZ Jnr
 Frank STANMORE
 Neville HOGAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Bernie PURCELL
 Don MILTON
 Jack WALSH (c)
 William BROWN
 Jack PIPER

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

Vic BULGIN
 Pat QUINN
 Ted ROBINSON
 Milton ATKINSON
 Norm ROGERS
 Wally O'CONNELL
 Ken McCAFFREY
 Ernie HAWKINS
 Sid HOBSON
 Brian HOLMES
 Jack ARNOLD (c)
 Don SINCLAIR
 Bill BRAY

Tries Colin MAXWELL
 Jack WALSH
 Fred YANZ Jnr

Ernie HAWKINS
 Don SINCLAIR

Goals Bill KEATO (4)

Vic BULGIN (1)
 Ken McCAFFREY (1)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: V Bulgin; three-quarters: N Rogers, M Atkinson, E Robinson, P Quinn; five-eighth: W O'Connell; half: K McCaffrey; forwards: E Hawkins, B Holmes, S Hobson, W Bray, D Sinclair, J Arnold (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: P Leal, C Maxwell, E Bennett, F Yanz; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards: P McLean, D Milton, B Purcell, J Piper, W Brown, J Walsh (c) **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 17th April 1948)**

Western Suburbs hooker, Bill Brown, was carried off the field and Eastern Suburbs forward, Bill Bray, was ordered off in the first round match at the Sports Ground. Wests defeated Easts 17-10 after leading 7-3 at half-time in a fast match. Brown collapsed on the field and was taken by ambulance men to South Sydney Hospital. His jawbone is believed to be broken. Five minutes before half-time, Bill Bray, Easts' prop, was sent off by referee Aubrey Oxford. Nev. Hogan, Wests' half, was lying on the ground, allegedly after receiving a stiff-arm tackle. Up to this period it was very even football. Eastern Suburbs was a different team to that beaten in the trials. When Wests lost its hooker, it had a lot of defending, to do. Hogan, Stanmore, Maxwell, and Bennett tackled hard. Jack Walsh's try was excellent. He obtained possession near half-way, and, with Purcell in support, started his run. He "dummied" the two Eastern backs and went on to score in the corner. **(The Sun 11th April 1948)**

Eastern Suburbs players exploited the illegal stiff-arm tackle during their match against Western Suburbs at the Sports Ground yesterday. Western Suburbs won 17-10, after having led 7-3 at half-time. Victims of stiff-arm tackles were Western Suburbs hooker Bill Brown, who received a probable fracture of the jaw, and half-back Neville Hogan, who was knocked out. Bill Bray, who knocked out Hogan, was ordered off the field. He will appear before the League's judiciary committee tomorrow night. Brown is unlikely to be able to play again for several weeks. His jaw will be X-rayed this morning. Brown and Hogan were injured before half-time. Eastern Suburbs players claimed referee Aub Oxford had disallowed them two good tries during this half. The captain, Jack Arnold, said he scored when Western Suburbs winger Pat Leal failed to force the ball. Norm Rogers said he was over the Western Suburbs' line when he was penalised for not playing the ball. Eastern Suburbs lost much of its vigour after Bray left the field. A brilliant try by Western Suburbs centre Col Maxwell shortly after half-time swung the game in his team's favour. Maxwell's run was as good as any seen in grade football for several years. Maxwell's tackling also was brilliant and he repeatedly upset Eastern Suburbs' centres. **(The Daily Telegraph 11th April 1948)**

A newcomer in Frank Stanmore should strengthen our back line. Stanmore hails from Cessnock.....that grand centre, Col Maxwell, has returned after two years coaching at Newcastle. Col, on his form in the trials, is playing better than ever....Jack Walsh will captain the club and is keener than ever. We hope Jack will go further than State honours this year....Cliff Peime has been unfortunately lost to the club, having accepted a coaching position at Parkes. We all wish him well, and hope he makes a success of the job. **(Rugby League News 10th April 1948)**

Notes: The first match of the season brought new faces and increased violence. Colin Maxwell, who would be selected as Kangaroo captain, was back from Newcastle and played brilliantly. Frank Stanmore, from Cessnock, made his debut in an illustrious career. He forced Eric Bennet out to the centres. Bennett relinquished the captaincy in favour of Jack Walsh. The loss of Cliff Peime to Parkes was a big loss. Bill Brown, the hooker, was floored with a stiff-arm tackle which broke his jaw and he was taken to St Vincent's at half-time. Later, Neville Hogan was knocked unconscious by Bill Bray who was sent promptly from the field. Hogan collapsed later in the dressing room. Despite the Easts' tactics Wests were able to hold on tenaciously for a winning start to the season.