



1932 Round 1 Saturday 16th April Sydney Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 13

def.

South Sydney 12

Frank McMILLAN
 Alan BRADY
 Ray MORRIS
 Cliff PEARCE
 Alan RIDLEY
 Jack McGLINN
 Les MEAD
 Bert GREEN
 Frank SPILLANE
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Donald McMILLAN
 Cecil RHODES

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

Albert SPILLANE
 Benny WEARING
 Sid HARRIS
 Jack WHY
 Jack MORRISON (c)
 Percy WILLIAMS
 Jim DEELEY
 Harry EYERS
 Frank O'CONNOR
 George TREWEEKE
 Eddie ROOT
 Charlie FENNELL
 Frank CURRAN

Tries

Alan BRADY

Harry EYERS
 Jack WHY

Goals

Cliff PEARCE (3)
 Charlie CORNWELL (1)
 Les MEAD (1)

Benny WEARING (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan; three-quarters: A Brady, C Pearce, R Morris, A Ridley; halves: L Mead, J McGlinn; forwards: B Green, F Spillane, C Cornwell, C Rhodes, R McMillan, W Brogan (capt)

South Sydney: Full-back: A Spillane; three-quarters: B Wearing, J Morrison (capt), S Harris, J Why; halves: H Eyers, J Deeley, P Williams; forwards: G Treweek, F O'Connor, F Curran, C Fennel, E Root **Referee: L Deane (Rugby League News 23rd April 1932)**

Although there were few phases of spectacular combined work so sound was the defence of both teams the play was remarkably close and exciting South Sydney scored two tries against one by Western Suburbs but the honours deservedly went to the winners who played a man short from a few minutes before half time. This was the fifth occasion in the last six matches that Western Suburbs had overcome South Sydney's extra back formation It was surprising that Souths did not gain better results with so much of the ball and with an extra player in the second half. There were several factors contributing to the team's lack of success. The Western Suburbs men backs and forwards tackled in tigerish fashion with those sturdy centres Pearce and Morris giving opponents a gruelling time. Full-back McMillan in this half played superb football, his generalship being a feature. South Sydney's extra back often found the wing men crowded, at other times mistakes were made at critical moments and penalties frequently gave relief to Western Suburbs which had the advantage of the breeze in this half. The scores early were two all after Mead and Wearing had kicked penalty goals. South Sydney went ahead when Eyers with supports trailing cut past McMillan to score behind the posts, Wearing adding the goal and followed with a great penalty goal which made the scores nine to two. R McMillan, who had substituted for the injured. **Lindfield** as the West hooker, had a collar-bone broken shortly before half time but before he left the field he won the ball from a scrum and his side scored its only try. Mead McGlinn and Pearce handled and the ball went back to McGlinn and out to Morris who sent the left winger Brady across well out. Cornwell kicked a fine goal and at the interval South Sydney led by nine points to seven.

It was while F Spillane (W S) was off the field for a few minutes in a groggy state in the second half that Pearce landed his first goal from a scrum breach to level the scores at nine all. When Spillane returned Western Suburbs played only four forwards in the scrums with Green, a splendid tackler, an extra centre. Great tackling by West and spirited passing bursts by South marked the ensuing play with the veteran West captain Brogan in opening play from the rucks and starting determined responses. ... Pearce had kicked two more penalty goals following play-the ball breaches by Williams and Curran and Wests led by 13 to nine before South Sydney's beautiful passing effort resulted in Why, who had trailed the ball from the left wing, taking a pass from Wearing on the right wing. Cornwell forced him to place the ball well out and his presence of mind saved his team as that consistent goal kicker. Wearing could not land the difficult goal. It was a thrilling struggle but if one player has to be singled out from the rest it must be Pearce who capped a great all round exhibition in the centre by kicking three goals. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 18th April 1932)**

Notes: This opening match of the season marked the return of some players and others making debuts. Frank McMillan was back after a broken leg in 1931 and was one of the stars. Interestingly, Brogan kept the captaincy Frank Spillane was back after playing a season in the lower grades because of injury. Jack McGlinn made his First Grade debut after playing brilliantly in the lower grades. Bob Linfield was out injured; his replacement Donald McMillan, who had played 16 games in Seconds in 1931, breaking a collar-bone near the end of the first half. He never played another First Grade game. This meant Wests played with 12 men and this was a heroic defensive effort. Bert Green moved to the centres and Wests played a 3 man pack against a 5 man pack. The stars for Wests were McMillan and Pearce, Pearce having one of his best ever games.