1960 Round 1 Saturday 2nd April Henson Park

Western Suburbs 20

def.

Newtown 17

Kevin CONSIDINE (4)



Peter DIMOND Wing Laurie McMAHON
Roger BUTTENSHAW Five-eighth Tony BROWN
Keith HOLMAN Half Bobby WHITTON (c)

Doug JONESLockKeith ALLENKel O'SHEASecond RowBarry HARRISBill CARSONSecond RowNoel DOLTONGeorge DOWNIEFront RowFrank NARVOBede GOFFHookerGreg ELLIS

Nev CHARLTON Front Row Alan CAMERON

Tries Peter DIMOND (2) Ray MONEY (2)
Doug JONES Laurie McMAHON

Darcy RUSSELL (4)

Bede GOFF

Match Description

Goals

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: I Moir, H Wells, R Poole (c), P Dimond; five-eighth: R Buttenshaw; half: K Holman; forwards: D Jones, W Carson, K O'Shea, G Downie, B Goff, N Charlton

Newtown: Full-back: R Wright; three-quarters: R Money, A Hill, K Considine, L McMahon; five-eighth: A Brown; half: R Whitton (c); forwards: K Allen, N Dolton, B Harris, F Narvo, G Ellis, A Cameron Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 2nd April 1960)

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday displayed superior speed and better combination for a 20-17 win against Newtown at Henson Park. Former Test half-back Keith Holman was the pivot for Wests' attacking movements. Wests, which led 14-7 at half-time, took some time to settle down, although running with the wind. But then Holman repeatedly made openings to get his backline going. Lock Doug Jones scored an early try from a Holman-inspired burst. Holman secured infield to give Wells an opening. Wells passed to Jones, who beat the defence with a great run. Holman was at his best in initiating two movements from which winger Peter Dimond scored. On each occasion Holman's driving and change of pace made the opening to give Dimond the overlap. Dimond made the last Wests' try for hooker Goff. Running from half-way Dimond broke out of two tackles to give Goff a clear run to the corner. Winger Ian Moir had few opportunities. He missed an easy try when he knocked on with the line wide open. Wests' forwards played well in the loose and the rucks. Wild passing near the finish marred Jones' sound display at lock. Jones, near the Newtown 25, threw a loose lobbing pass to Moir. Newtown winger, Rex Money, gathered the ball to score a try in the first four minutes. Newtown continued the pressure to hold Wests for 30 minutes, but then gradually faded. Newtown recovered only in the last few minutes to score two tries – first Rex Money, then winger Laurie McMahon. (Sunday Telegraph 3rd April 1960)

Loss of Kangaroo centre Harry Wells, with a possible fractured ankle, was the price Western Suburbs paid for their 20 points to 17 win over Newtown at Henson Park. Wells was unable to put his foot to the ground after being hurt and arranged to go to hospital for an X-ray after the game. When Wells was injured, Wests were on the attack deep in Newtown's 25. The ball had travelled from the right wing across to Dick Poole, who, with the line wide open, sent a shocking pass to Ian Moir. Wells, in a desperate effort to retrieve the pass, slewed quickly, but twisted his ankle and fell to the ground. Rex Money gathered the loose ball and outpaced the disorganised defence to score between the posts after a 70-yard dash. On yesterday's form Wests will need to improve remarkably to be a threat to glamour side St George. With the first use of the stiff breeze, they led 14-7 at half-time, then went to a 20-17 margin, but Newtown rallied in the closing stages to add 10 points. Wests' great problem yesterday was five-eighth, Roger Buttenshaw, who lacked the speed to give effective service to centres Poole and Wells. Sharpness in attack is badly needed here. Wests' two flyers on the wings, Ian Moir and Peter Dimond can win matches if given the ball. Moir yesterday handled less than half a dozen times. Dimond fared better, finishing off brilliantly two movements started by Keith Holman. Wests have an excellent prospect in lock, Doug Jones, who, after a season's absence through injury, played splendidly yesterday. He ran well in the open, played his part in the rucks, and frequently was the brake applied to the fast moving Newtown half, Bob Whitton. Neville Charlton showed he has lost little of his tenacity, Kel O'Shea improved during the second half, and Keith Holman is still a master behind the pack. (Sunday Mirror 3rd April 1960)

Notes: Doug Jones returned to Wests after a year off where he had a cartilage removed. He played very solidly, scoring a good try. It was thought that Test centre Harry Wells broke his ankle in this game but an X-ray showed that it was a severe sprain. Keith Holman showed that he would again be a force to be reckoned with in a dominating display. He set up both of Dimond's tries and Peter Dimond also showed dash in setting up Bede Goff's try. This was a promising start to the season.

