



1908 Round 1 Monday 20th April Birchgrove Park



Balmain 24

Joe REGENT
George WILCOX
G FITPATRICK
A WALKER
Alf LATTA
Tommy O'DONNELL
A BRYANT
W FISHER
Alf DOBBS
Ted McFADDEN
Robert GRAVES (c)
A WARD
Joe APOLONEY

def.

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-Eighth
Halfback
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row

Western Suburbs 0

George DUFFIN
Arthur BLAKE
Tom PHELAN
Ted DUGGAN
Percy FRANKS
Edward GORMLEY
Raymond GORMLEY
Ted MEAD
William ELLIOTT
Arthur BROWN
Alfred MOUNT
Jim STACK (c)
Jim ABERCROMBIE



Tries

Robert GRAVES (2)
Alf LATTA (2)
G FITZPATRICK
George WILCOX

Goals

Alf LATTA (2)
G FITZPATRICK (1)

Match Description

Balmain: J. Regent, full-back, G. Wilcox, FitzPatrick, A. Walker, T. Latta, three-quarters; T.O'Donnell, A. Bryant, half-backs; T. Apolony, T. McFadden, W. Fisher, A. Dobbs, A. Ward, R. Graves, forwards.

Western Suburbs: G. Duffin, full-back, Blake, B.Duggan, T. Phelan, P. Franks, three-quarters; R.Gormley, L. Gormley, half backs; J. Abercrombie, T. Mount, J. Stack, E. Meade, W. Elliott, A. Brown, forwards. **Referee: G Seabrook**

The game opened in very lively fashion, both sides showing great willingness, and the ball travelled up and down the ground with great rapidity. From a scrum in Western Suburbs' 25, Balmain secured, and after some splendid passing Latta secured, and got across after a clever dodging run. The attempt at goal failed. Balmain, 3 to nil. For illegal play Balmain were penalised, and Elliott had the kick, but the ball went wide. Balmain kept Western Suburbs on the defensive, and from a scrum in the latter's corner Graves secured, and fell across the line. Latta failed at goal. Balmain, 6 to nil. Exciting play followed, Balmain having the advantage; but they missed an easy chance to score from a free kick right in front of their opponents' goal. At half time the score was unaltered. On resuming, Balmain had their opponents on the defensive, play being mostly centred in the vicinity of Western Suburbs' goal. From a scrum Latta obtained, and dodging the Western Suburbs' backs scored. Latta took the kick himself but failed to add the goal points. Balmain, 9 to nil. Soon afterwards Graves got another try, and Latta kicked the goal. Balmain, 14 to nil. Wilcox, a little later, scored yet another try, and Latta converted. Balmain 19 to nil. Another try for Balmain was scored by Fitzpatrick, who also added the extras. Balmain thus won by 24 to nil. **(SMH Tuesday 21st April 1908)**

Notes: C Blake is Arthur Blake b.1890; A Brown is Arthur (Juncker) Brown (Champion Newington Cricketer 1890): the Gormley brothers are Raymund J.A. b1887 and Edward Lucien b 1876 - it appears the 32-year-old brother was roped in for one match! In letters at the Archive Raymund is referred to as Raymond by his brother so the common name will be used from now on. Ted Mead was written in early reports as Meade. B Duggan is Ted Duggan (verified through Wests Archives). The positions of each player are a matter of some conjecture. The early programs that survive had the players numbered and the fullback and three-quarters match the order in newspaper reports so wingers and centres look straightforward. The halves were listed in order as five-eighth and half. The forwards however didn't always match the order as printed in newspapers and their numbers in the program, although the last forward was always No. 13 (and therefore lock). Some records put the forwards in reverse order from the last as lock to the first as a front-rower. This was not always the case and the records here have attempted to accurately match all programs and newspaper records as closely as possible. As in the modern game it appears that the forwards moved around considerably anyway in position.