



1945 Round 1 Saturday 21st April Pratten Park



Balmain 22

Charlie MILLAR
 Joe JORGENSON
 Tom BOURKE (c)
 Harry LEO
 Keith PARKINSON
 Stan PONCHARD
 Jim QUEALEY
 Jack HAMPSTEAD
 Sid RYAN
 Athol SMITH
 Jack SPENCER
 Tom FRENEY
 Dawson BUCKLEY

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Dick JOHNSON
 Jack NICHOLSON
 Bob ANDREWS
 Fred YANZ Jnr
 Jack SNARE
 Eric BENNETT
 Jack RUSSELL
 Arthur CLUES
 Jim SEERY
 Cliff PEIME
 Jack WALSH (c)
 Frank DODSON
 Wal TAYLOR



Tries

Joe JORGENSON (2)
 Tom BOURKE
 Harry LEO

Bob ANDREWS
 Eric BENNETT
 Jim SEERY
 Fred YANZ Jnr

Goals

Joe JORGENSON (4)
 Charlie MILLAR (1) Field Goal

Bob ANDREWS (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: C Millar; three-quarters: K Parkinson, J Jorgenson, T Bourke, H Leo; halves: S Ponchard, J Quealey; forwards: J Hampstead, S Ryan, A Smith, J Spencer, T Freney, D Buckley

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: J Nicholson, F Yanz, R Andrews, J Snare; halves: E Bennett, J Russell; forwards: A Clues, J Seery, J Russell, J Walsh, F Dodson, W Taylor **Referee: J O'Brien (Rugby League News 29th April 1945)**

About 6000 were present when the game started, with the playing surface in excellent condition. Nicholson was injured and after treatment went out to the wing..... Wests quickly scored, however, when they won a scrum on their own 25 and Bennett kicked downfield. The bounce favoured Clues at halfway and he went hard down the centre of the field before passing to Andrews, who had just enough pace to reach the line as Parkinson and Leo tackled him. Andrews failed to convert and Western Suburbs led 3-2. A similar try came almost immediately when Bennett put the ball into the air, and Yanz, securing it, ignored Russell and went alone in an effort to beat Miller and Leo. Balmain won the ball there, but when Quealey attempted to kick the ball it struck a team mate and went across past the goal post and bounced over the line, where Yanz won the race for it. Clues failed to convert. Western Suburbs 6, Balmain 2. Quealey quickly made amends when Balmain won a scrum inside the Western Suburbs 25 . The five-eighth dummied his way through, and then drew Johnson and sent Jorgenson over between the posts. Quealey was injured and had to receive treatment before Jorgenson kicked the ball over the post and out into the street. Balmain 7, Western Suburbs 6. Half-time scores: Balmain 7, Western Suburbs 6.

Johnson, Andrews and Yanz took play into the Balmain 25, where Russell made a sharp move, and Bennett, moving at his top, gathered a pass and went over between the posts. Andrews' kick hit the cross-bar and went underneath. Western Suburbs 9, Balmain 7. Jorgenson made a great solo run, cutting through at half-way, and leaving Johnson standing, to score near the posts. He was injured in scoring, but quickly recovered, then kicked the goal, to give Balmain a 12-9 lead, Jorgenson having scored all the points. From the scrum Quealey, running diagonally, pierced the defence, and, close to the line, slipped the ball to Bourke, who scored. Jorgenson kicked his fourth goal and Balmain led 19-9.... Seery scored an unusual try. Clues toed the ball from halfway, and after kicking over the line, Seery and Burke both dived for it and missed. Seery, rolling over twice, just managed to beat Burke to it. Andrews converted. Balmain 19, Western Suburbs 14. Buckley put the issue beyond doubt by forging ahead from a ruck, and Leo crossed in the corner. Jorgenson missed the goal, and the bell rang. Balmain 22, Western Suburbs 14. **(The Sun 21st April 1945)**

Wests; supporters will see some new faces amongst the various teams this year, notable gains being J "Duck" Walsh, Dick Johnson, Jim Seery, Jack Nicholson and Frank Dodson; also several young players from our Junior Leagues. **(Rugby League News 21st April 1945)**

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Notes: Some significant players made their debuts in this match. Dick Johnson was back after a very serious injury in 1943 but the champion Jack "Duck" Walsh (ex-Souths) made his debut along with Jim Seery, Jack Nicholson and Frank Dodson (ex-Union). Col Maxwell (ex-St George) had been picked for the game after good form in the trials but he was injured and replaced by Fred Yanz Jnr. Wests were right in this game up until Balmain scored a converted try right on full-time. It was a fast and exciting game and considering Balmain had been the 1944 Premiers, this was an encouraging start to the season. The major problem was the lack of a goal-kicker: Andrews, Clues and Yanz all missed very easy shots at goal. Dodson was also significantly out-hooked by Freney.