



1909 Round 1 Saturday 24th April RAS Showground



Western Suburbs 10

def.

Newtown 3

Percy FRANKS
 Albert ABBOTT
 Claude McFAYDEN
 James SPEIRS
 Harry BLOOMFIELD
 Claude WALLIS
 Raymond GORMLEY
 Ted MEAD
 Robert MEREDITH
 Tom PHELAN (c)
 William ELLIOTT
 Richard CASEY
 Robert ELLIS

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

W KENNEDY
 John SCOTT
 E WILLIAMS
 Edward BURDETT
 C MEREDITH
 H LEE
 C MANTON
 W CROMPTON
 Thomas McINTOSH
 H HOCKING
 W WRIGHT
 W MURRAY
 J CHEVALL

Tries Claude McFAYDEN
 Claude WALLIS

C MEREDITH

Goals Robert ELLIS (2)

Match Description

Newtown— W. Kennedy, full-back ; J. Scott, J. Williams, E. Burditt, C. Meredith, threequarters ; H. Lee, C. Manton, halves ; J. Chevall, W. Murray. W. Wright, P. Hocking, T. McIntosh (captain), W. Crompton, forwards.

Western Suburbs.-P. Franks, full-back :A. Abbott, C McFayden, H. Bloomfield, J.Spears, three-quarters ; T. Wallis R Gormley ,halves; R Ellis, W. Elliott. F. Casey, T. Phelan. R. Meredith, E. Meade. forwards. **Mr. Edward Hooper, referee.**

In the early match at the Agricultural Ground, in the presence of a handful of spectators, Western Suburbs defeated Newtown by 10 points to 3 in a poor exhibition of the game.

Newtown, winning the toss, played with the sun at their backs, and at once invaded Western Suburbs' territory, where play remained for almost the whole of the first half. Newtown forwards were far superior in the scrummages, and with good halves in Lee and Manton numerous opportunities were given the backs. West, however, were very sound in defence, and had a considerable amount of work to do to repel the repeated onslaughts of the Blue backs, who showed flashes of splendid combination. One attack only was successful. Manton secured from a scrum near half-way, and, running to West's 25, lost the ball. Meredith, following up, gathered in cleverly and crossed near the corner. Murray's kick failed. Newtown, 3 to nil. Half-time. On resuming Western Suburbs rallied considerably, and by a good passing rush carried play to Newtown line. A great deal of needless talk was indulged in by the players, as well as any amount of unnecessary roughness. Indeed, some players showed a decided inclination to resort to fisticuffs. After a series of very willing scrums and loose play near the centre McFayden succeeded in crossing near the corner. Ellis converted. Western Suburbs, 5, Newtown 3. Another rush by W.S. immediately after, led by Abbott, ended in Wallis scoring near the corner. Ellis again converted. Western Suburbs 10, Newtown 3. R. Meredith, a Western Suburbs' forward, broke his leg just above the ankle in running for the ball. From this to the final whistle play was even, Newtown doing a spell of attacking. **(Sunday Times 25th April 1908)**

.....

Notes: *Sunday Times* reported a lot of needless talk was indulged in leading to fisticuffs. Robert Meredith, Wests' forward, broke his leg, the *SMH* reporting the snap of the bone could be heard all over the ground. A. Abbott is listed in the *Sunday Times* and the *SMH* as a back and A. Abbott had played as fullback for Cumberland in 1908 and he was actually recorded as passing to Wallis who scored but the *Evening News* had Albert Halling in the team, not Abbott, and recorded "... Almost immediately Halling got hold and passed to Wallace, who scored..." Halling was also in the *Sunday Sun* team list. Halling also scored a try in the trial game in the previous week. The *Sportsman* also recorded that "Halling improved on his previous Saturday's condition..." Despite this, it is difficult to ignore the references to Albert Abbott and he has been included as playing his one and only game for Wests (Abbott, Halling, James Speirs, Claude Wallis, Richard Casey and Harry Bloomfield had all come from the disbanded Cumberland team). Note the absence of Jim Abercrombie who did not play in 1909 after the 1908/9 Kangaroo tour. James Speirs appeared in most newspaper reports as Spears.