



1931 Round 1 Saturday 25th April Earl Park



Western Suburbs 19

def.

St George 12

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Alan BRADY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Jack ROSA
 Harry OWEN
 Bert GREEN
 Bill CARPENTER
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Jim McCORMACK
 Eric FREESTONE
 George WARD
 Jack LENNOX
 Jim WEARMOUTH
 Harry KADWELL (c)
 Jim FLOWER
 Ed COURTNEY Jnr
 Arthur JUSTICE
 Joe BRENNAN
 Bill HARDMAN
 Reg SCHUMAN
 Charlie HYLAND

Tries

Alan BRADY (2)
 Harry OWEN

Eric FREESTONE (2)

Goals

Charlie CORNWELL (5)

Charlie HYLAND (2)
 Harry KADWELL (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan (captain); three-quarters, A Brady, C Pearce, K Sherwood, R Morris; halves, J Rosa, H Owen; forwards, W Carpenter, C Cornwell, C Rhodes, R Lindfield, W Brogan, B Green

St George: Full-back, J McCormack; three-quarters, F Freestone, G Ward, J Lennox, J Brennan, J Wearmouth; halves, H Kadwell (captain), J Flower; forwards, C Hyland, A Justice, W Hardman, R Schuman, E Courtney **Referee: Lal Deane (The Sun 25th April 1931)**

There were more than 9000 spectators to see the premierships holders defeat last season's runners-up. Occasionally the premier's lock forward Green, who was substitute for the injured Matternson, dropped out as an extra back, but for most of the game the winners played the orthodox six-forward pack, while St George adopted the South Sydney formation of the forwards, and played Kadwell extra five-eighth, with the diminutive J. Flower as half-back. As was the case against South Sydney last season Western Suburbs gained much better share of the ball, and although the scrummages through illegal work gave away many battles, St George's superior weight told its tale in the end. A tribute must be paid to the sturdy defence in the light, St George backs, who did not break down until the last quarter of an hour against the battering tactics of the West forwards and the big three-quarters Sherwood, Pearce and Morris. Western Suburbs had a lead of seven points to nil after less than 10 minutes of play, Cornwell having kicked a penalty goal and converted a good try by the left winger, Brady. Then Hyland kicked a penalty goal for St George, and Kendall added the two points after Freestone had intercepted and went across for a try. Thus, the scores were 7-all, but before half-time Cornwell added two more goals from penalties.

He kicked his fifth goal early in the second half but Freestone had ended a passing burst with the second St George try, and when Hyland later kicked a penalty goal, Western Suburbs led by a point 13 to 12. Thereafter St George was awarded many penalty kicks because of illegal play by the opposing forwards, Rhodes being a particularly bad offender, but the premiers finished strongly. After a series of attacks, the halfback Owen dashed through a bunch of players to score and Brady displayed determination when he added his second try. For the winners, Owen, McMillan, Sherwood and Brady were the best backs and Brogan who frequently opened up play from the rucks with snappy short passes and Carpenter a fine bustler were the best forwards. **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th April 1931)**

Thomas McColl, Western Suburbs League forward, complained of pains in the leg after a third grade match at Earl Park. At St George Hospital it was found his left leg was broken..... "With St George putting up a valiant showing against their heavier opponents, and holding them practically to the 'death' Wests can thank the great goal-kicking of policeman Cornwell for their success. His first two, each from a difficult angle, from opposite sides of the field, with a cross-breeze to further test his skill, were gems, while two others of his tally of five could not possibly have brought any comment had they missed."**(The Labor Daily 27th April 1931)**

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Notes: This was a tough, hard opening game which was in the balance until late in the match. Eventually, it was Charlie Cornwell's outstanding goal-kicking that made the difference. McMillan was now officially Captain after the departure of Jim Craig and The Referee seemed to think the captaincy was weighing on him. Two new inclusions for Wests were Bert Green (ex-Newtown) who filled in for Frank Matternson and Harry Owen who was back from a stint in the country. St George played a 5-pack but still lost a lot of the ball. Again, Bob Lindfield was demonstrating his superior hooking skill. There was a notable inclusion in the St George team – Ed Courtney Jnr – an ex-Wests player and son of the legendary "Tedda" Courtney. This was a good start to the defence of the 1930 premierships.