



1933 Round 1 Tuesday 25th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 32

def.

University 22

Frank McMILLAN
 Alan BRADY
 Robert SHEPHERD
 Harry CAMERON
 Alan RIDLEY
 Vic HEY
 Les MEAD
 Frank MATTERSON
 Frank SPONBERG
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Tom MONAGHAN
 Rod O'LOAN
 Ernest OGG (c)
 Ray MORRIS
 Jack GRAY-SPENCE
 Ross MCKINNON
 Tom McINERNEY
 Gordon FAVELLE
 Dick LYNCH
 Jim GREGAN
 Greg SULLIVAN
 R FREW
 Francis LIONS



Tries

Les MEAD (3)
 Alan BRADY (2)
 Alan RIDLEY

Jack GRAY-SPENCE (2)
 Ray MORRIS
 Rod O'LOAN

Goals

Frank McMILLAN (7)

Tom McINERNEY (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan; three-quarters: A Ridley, R Shepherd, H Cameron, A Brady; halves: V Hey, L Mead; forwards: F Matterson, C Cornwell, F Sponberg, C Rhodes, R Lindfield, W Brogan

University: Full-back: T Monaghan; three-quarters: R O'Loan, R Morris, E S Ogg, J Gray-Spence; halves: J McKinnon, T McIntosh; forwards: G Favell, R Lynch, J Gregan, G Sullivan, R Frew, F Lions **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 6th May 1933)**

In a thrilling finish that gripped the imagination of a crowd of 6000 at Pratten Park, Western Suburbs defeated a much-improved University team by 32 points to 22. The last 15 minutes of play were hard, and fierce. Players of both teams tightened their sinews, and threw every ounce of reserved strength into the fray. First one side and then the other had possession of the ball, which was tossed about like a cork on an angry sea; although at no time did the tempers of players become frayed through the tense, excited struggle for supremacy. It was the type of football that sent the crowd home in a happy mood, no matter which team had won. University certainly made a deep impression on the crowd. In those last fleeting minutes, the students rose grandly to the occasion, and, despite Wests' lead of 29 points to 20, it was realised that the game was not yet won. Mustering their forces, the students attacked and tackled like demons, But the Westerners did not wilt under the fierce storming of their line, and they emerged from the struggle with a margin of ten points in their favour. The students were little inferior to Western Suburbs, who no doubt took more effective advantage of the openings. In this respect Mead, behind the Western pack, excelled. Three times he cut in brilliantly to score. A rare opportunist, he was a tower of strength to his side, and his display was not marred by a mistake. Ridley, on the wing, was always a thorn in the side of the students. Hurling himself at the line in the first half, he scored a great try, and there were other occasions when he looked dangerous. He ran with great pace and determination. Ridley is already in wonderful form. Wests sorely missed Cliff Pearce, newly-appointed skipper, who is suffering from an injured wrist. His strong running bursts would have made a lot of difference to the Western attack. A feature of West's scoring efforts was the excellent goal-kicking of McMillan who, from nine attempts, kicked seven goals. All goals, with one exception, were from difficult angles. West's forwards, to a man, played their part in the victory but possibly Bill Brogan was outstanding. He was in the thick of every ruck, and quite often he opened up play and put his team in a scoring position by his strong running, fending off tacklers, and accurate passing. Matterson, Cornwell, Sponberg. Rhodes, and Lindfield played a strong, solid game. Hey, Cameron, and Shepherd among the backs did well, but they did not outshine their opponents. Brady, on the wing, scored two tries. Early in the game, Ray Morris, formerly of Western Suburbs, celebrated his first match with University by scoring a really fine try, after running 40 yards across the ground to the wing, where he brushed McMillan aside and dived over the line. **(The Daily Telegraph 26th April 1932)**

Notes: This opening match of the season marked the return of some players and others making debuts. Frank "Dutchy" Matterson was back after spending a year on the North Coast working due to lack of employment in Depression Sydney. Ironically this was his 100th game for the club. Vic Hey replaced Jack McGlenn in a highly anticipated debut. He had been showing dazzling form in lower grades the previous year. Harry Owen and Harry Cameron both returned to First Grade after a year in Seconds. Cliff Pearce was out with an injured wrist and was replaced by a Second Grader making his debut, Robert Shepherd. Star ex-Wests centre Ray Morris made his debut for University and duly scored the first try. Wests ran with the breeze in the first half and McMillan, back to his brilliant best, made good use of it in a fast, exciting match. McMillan also found his kicking boots, kicking 7 from 9, all but one from difficult angles.