



1935 Round 1 Thursday 25th April Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 16

def.

St George 8

Jim SHARMAN
 Vince SHEEHAN
 Ron KNIGHT
 Alan BRADY
 Alan RIDLEY
 Vic HEY
 Les MEAD (c)
 Jack KINGSTON
 Athol SMITH
 Max GRAY
 Ron EATON
 Gordon PUGH
 Alan BLAKE

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

Stan ROBINSON
 Les GRIFFIN
 Bill RYAN
 Jack LYNCH
 Fred GARDNER (c)
 Bill MCGRATH
 Robert GROTTTE
 Bill KILLIBY
 Jim RUTHERFORD
 Len KELLY
 Eddie ROOT
 Percy FAIRALL
 Reg SCHUMAN

Tries

Vic HEY (2)
 Les MEAD
 Alan RIDLEY

Les GRIFFIN
 Jim RUTHERFORD

Goals

Les MEAD (2)

Les GRIFFIN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: A Ridley, A Brady, R Knight, V Sheehan; halves: V Hey, L Mead; forwards: J Kingston, A Smith, M Gray, A Blake, G Pugh, R Eaton

St George: Full-back: S Robinson; three-quarters: L Griffin, W Ryan, J Lynch, F Gardner; halves: W McGrath, R Grotte; forwards: W Killiby, J Rutherford, L Kelly, E Root, P Fairall, R Schuman **Referee: K Deane (Rugby League News 25th May 1935)**

Finishing brilliantly, Western Suburbs, 1934 Rugby League premiers, staved off a determined challenge by St. George at the Cricket Ground yesterday, and won by 16 points to 8. The struggle provided a fine opening to the season, and also marked the return to the Cricket Ground by the League, which had not staged a club game there for about eight years. Assisted by a breeze, St. George had much the better of the first half territorially, though the side was down 5-3 at half-time. Robinson, St. George full-back, after a brilliant run, had opened the way for a try by Griffin, but almost immediately Hey, running strongly, forced his way over the St. George goal-line, bursting through tackles, and pulling Lynch and another defender over the line with him to score. Mead goaled, to give Wests the 5-3 lead. St. George had attacked almost incessantly in the first half, P. Fairall giving the backs a feast of the ball. On the only occasion the play was changed a score followed. A reverse pass caused the defence to open up, and Robinson, dashing up; sped through, to send Griffin over. ...

There was a different tale in the second half. Fairall, who had been nursing an injured shoulder, was now beaten for the ball by Pugh, thus giving Wests chances which, its players were quick to grasp. Mead, Hey, and Ridley in particular sparkled. They flashed through repeatedly, backing each other up finely, reverse-passing, and always galloping at their top when they took the ball. It was combined work of a high order. Mead, in all, scored two tries and kicked two goals. Hey notched two tries — he nearly had four — while Ridley added the remaining West's try. The St. George players, however, did not let their rivals have matters fill all their own way. They launched many counter-attacks, and fought to the last. A summary of the scrums shows that St. George won 25 to 6 in the first half, while Wests won 14 to 9 in the second. St. George was awarded 16 penalties in all and Wests 14. While Hey, Ridley, and Mead were the stars of the winner's back line. Brady also did fine things in both defence and attack. Knight tackled well, and he certainly had much to do in this department in the first half, when the St. George bombardment was at its height. Sheehan was seen to advantage on the wing. Sharman was solid at full-back. M. Gray revealed a rare turn of speed among the forwards. Eaton, in the close, and Blake also showed up. St. George was far from disgraced. It had been placed at a disadvantage through injuries to players in the trials, and so maybe expected to show a big improvement. Griffin had a bandaged ankle in the closing stages, and though Grotte saw the game through, he will be out of action to-morrow. The St. George forwards more than held their own with the opposing six, all performing well, with Killiby making several good runs. **(The Daily Telegraph 26th April 1935)**

Notes: There were, again, significant changes for this opening game of the season. Canterbury had come into the competition as a new team and Jack Hartwell, Bob Lindfield, Jack McConnell and Frank Sponberg had transferred to them. Frank McMillan had apparently retired and Charlie Cornwell was forced to give up the game with serious injuries. Ray Hines, the exciting winger, had transferred to Newcastle; forced to move because of unemployment. In their places came Jack Kingston, an ex-Cootamundra player who had been a 1929-30 Kangaroo; Gordon Pugh, another country player and a rep. in the 1934 NSW Firsts. He had big shoes to fill as hooker replacing Lindfield. Athol Smith and Ron Knight had been solid performers in Reserve Grade, while Ron Eaton had transferred from North Sydney. The old firm of Mead and Hey was still in the halves and a big influence. This was a fast and exciting game and in the end it was Wests' solid defence that held out the rampaging Saints. This was a solid win to start the season with a revamped side.