



1930 Round 1 Saturday 26th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 18

def.

North Sydney 7

Frank McMILLAN
 Alan BRADY
 Jim CRAIG (c)
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Norm JOHNSON
 Les MEAD
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bill CARPENTER
 Bill BROGAN
 Frank SPILLANE
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Les CARROLL
 Claude BLUNDELL
 Ken WOOD
 Carl ARNEMAN (c)
 W HAGNEY
 Joe MONTGOMERY
 J PAGE
 William HUMPHRIES
 Jack SPROUSTER
 Jack COSTA
 Joe BAIRD
 Jack SAVAGE
 C McQUARRIE

Tries

Norm JOHNSON
 Frank MATTERSON
 Alan BRADY
 Ray MORRIS

W HAGNEY

Goals

Les MEAD (2)
 Jim CRAIG (1)

Les CARROLL (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F McMillan; three-quarters, R Morris, C Pearce, J Craig, A Brady; halves, N Johnson, L Mead; forwards, F Matterson, W Carpenter, R Lindfield, F Spillane, C Rhodes, W Brogan

North Sydney: Full-back, L Carroll; three-quarters, W Hagney, K Woods, C Arneman, C Blundell; halves, J Page, J Montgomery; forwards, C McQuarrie, J Baird, W Humphries, J Savage, J Costa, J Sprouster. **Referee: J Murray**

Western Suburbs made an auspicious commencement of the season at Pratten Park yesterday, convincingly trouncing North Sydney in all three grades. North Sydney had all the best of the first half of the principal encounter and led 5-0. Their forwards were crude in the scrums, but the backs threw the ball about and always went straight. ... The only try of the first half was the result of a brilliant cut through by Woods, who clapped on the pace and drew the defence before passing to Hagney to score. Carroll converted.

In the second half, Norths continued to press, and went within an ace of scoring. Wily Craig, however, reversed the position, and assisted by Mead, sent Morris over. After a determined run, Craig goaled. Thereafter, North Sydney began to lose its advantage. Western Suburbs continued to press, and the visitors gradually became disorganised. Several of the North Sydney players began to "mix" matters, and in the concluding stages, the game was all Western Suburbs. After receiving medical attention and returning to the field, Arneman was compelled to retire to the pavilion, his face cut and a severe wound on the crown of his head. For Western Suburbs, Craig's general-ship triumphed when his side was apparently beaten. He galvanised his men from a scrambling team to a resolute, victorious force. In Brady's try, Craig traversed three quarters of the field before passing. Though not as fast off the mark as yore, he still retains the genius of a leader, and will have to be carefully watched by opponents. McMillan caught and kicked cleverly, but was often in trouble through many of his tricky ruses failing. Morris, after a disappointing first half, showed pace and determination. Brady was inclined to run across the field and wasted several opportunities. Pearce was off his game. Johnson, the Newcastle five-eighth, played nicely, displaying a good turn of speed and an accurate pair of hands. Mead was comparatively slow away from the back, and lacked cohesion with his partner. Of Wests forwards, Spillane, Rhodes and McMillan were the best. ... (Sunday Times 27th April 1930)

Craig, full of vigour, led the way, and opened up play from all positions. He got fine assistance from Johnson, the five-eighth from Newcastle, who gave glimpses of that form which will make him a much admired player before many rounds of the premiership have gone by. (Referee 30th April 1930)

Notes: Pratten Park was full to the rafters with fans expecting a big season and were further revved up when Wests won both lower grade games. Frank McMillan and Bill Brogan were back from the Kangaroo tour, with the other Kangaroo, Cecil Fifield, transferring to Balmain. McMillan went straight back to work, putting in another solid display, while Jim Craig also continued to be an inspiring leader by example. Wests had a new set of halves with Norm Johnson coming down from Newcastle and making an immediate impression. Les Mead finally came into Firsts after starring in both Third and Second Grade teams. He was ready to take up the mantle of his famous father "Bally" Mead. This was a very aggressive, hard-hitting game where Wests gradually got on top in the second half; Brady, the try-scoring machine getting over in the corner late in the match.