



# 1954 Round 1 Sunday 28th March Cumberland Oval



## Western Suburbs 21

def.

## Parramatta 14

George BAIN  
 John THOMPSON  
 Jack FITZGERALD  
 Dev DINES  
 Barry OWEN  
 Don GRAHAM  
 Keith HOLMAN (c)  
 Nev CHARLTON  
 Doug SMITH  
 Brian OGLE  
 Max CALDWELL  
 Peter WOODEN  
 Eddie HOOPER

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

Johnny SLADE  
 Maurice McCLINTOCK  
 Ian JOHNSTON  
 Max BAILEY  
 Don FERGUSON  
 Alec PERKINS  
 Don TOSH  
 Mick CROCKER  
 Ken SLATTERY  
 Bruce MANN  
 Bob HOBBS  
 Keith AGGETT  
 Charlie GILL (c)

### Tries

Dev DINES  
 Keith HOLMAN  
 Barry OWEN

Ian JOHNSTON  
 Don TOSH

### Goals

George BAIN (6)

Maurice McCLINTOCK (3)  
 Bob HOBBS (1)

### Match Description

**Parramatta:** Full-back: J Slade; three-quarters: M McClintock, I Johnston, M Bailey, D Ferguson; five-eighth: A Perkins; half: D Tosh; forwards: M Crocker, K Slattery, B Mann, R Hobbs, K Aggett, C Gill (c)

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: J Thompson, J Fitzgerald, D Dines, W Owens; five-eighth: D Graham; K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, D Smith, B Ogle, M Caldwell, P Wooden, E Hooper **Referee: L Williams (as per program Rugby League News March 27-28th 1954)**

Rugby League Test half-back Keith Holman yesterday spearheaded Western Suburbs to a 21-14 win over Parramatta. Wests had led 7-6 at half-time in the match at Cumberland Oval. Wests fought an uphill battle, losing possession in the scrums at the rate of 1-4. Holman scored a brilliant try and paved the way for another which winger Barry Owens scored. Holman, alert, started each of them from Parramatta's mistakes. In scoring his try, Holman snapped up the ball which Parramatta winger Dave Ferguson had dropped on the half-way line. He sped downfield and dived over the line to escape a tackle. Holman started the move which resulted in Owens' try by again snapping up a dropped pass. He ran Owens into position to score in the corner. Parramatta backs, throughout the match, failed to take advantage of the big share of the ball they got from scrums. They frequently lost ground. Parramatta withdrew Test lock Mick Crocker from the scrum to play as extra five-eighth. This was a move to help Parramatta backs penetrate, but it was not successful. The scrummaging was tough. Referee Les Williams broke up scrums three times to caution rival forwards. **(The Daily Telegraph 29th March 1954)**

..... The numerous penalties emphasised beyond all reasonable proportion the importance of the goal-kicking skill of both teams. G. Bain, of West, kicked six splendid goals out of nine attempts, and was a big factor in the win. Hooper and Hobbs, opposing front row forwards, were cautioned after a mix-up in a scrum. "Mick" Crocker received a caution for clashing with G. Bain, after that player had kicked the ball. Front-rowers Caldwell and Gill also received cautions. Wests, with a lively young pack of forwards was too strong in defence for what was a feeble Parramatta back-line. Parramatta received eighty per cent, of possession from the scrums, but simply lacked the ability among the inside backs to take advantage of the situation. The exception was young D. Tosh, Parramatta half, who played a skilful and whole-hearted game. It was a pity the Parramatta backs could not capitalise on the running and skilful penetrating of Johnny Slade, the Parramatta full-back. **(Sydney Morning Herald 29th March 1954)**

Several new players have made the first-grade team, among them being John Thompson, a convert from Rugby Union and in the trials he has played outstanding football....Another newcomer is Doug Smith, a former country player who plays second row and big things are expected of this player.....former Canterbury lock Nev Charlton is now with us and in the trials has shown out. This is one position we have been weak in and Nev was just the player we were seeking. **(Rugby League News March 27-28th 1954)**

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**Notes:** There were a number of new players for the start of the season. John Thompson (winger) was an ex-Rugby Union player, Doug Smith a Country second-rower and Nev Charlton, ex-Canterbury lock, a very good player. In a match that had an extraordinary number of cautions, Holman showed that he had started the season in the same dazzling form he showed at the end of the 1953 season. Playing behind a pack that lost the scrums at a ratio of 4-1, he still was the dominant player on the field. The program had W Owens as playing and scoring a try but it was definitely Barry Owen who was playing on the wing. Bill Owens didn't make his debut until Round 3, playing second row against Manly-Warringah. After such a disappointing 1953 season this was a good start.