



# 1952 Round 1 Saturday 29th March Kogarah Oval



## Western Suburbs 31

def.

## St George 30



Jack RUDD  
 Bill CALLINAN  
 Col RATCLIFF  
 Gerry LOWE  
 Jack FITZGERALD  
 Frank STANMORE  
 Keith HOLMAN  
 Peter McLEAN (c)  
 Arthur COLLINSON  
 Don SCHOFIELD  
 Bill HORDER  
 Hec FARRELL  
 Kevin HANSEN

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

Doug FLEMING  
 Noel PIDDING  
 Johnny HAWKE (c)  
 Matthew McCOY  
 Tommy RYAN  
 Paul CARROLL  
 Ron STANTON  
 Billy WILSON  
 George JARDINE  
 Norm PROVAN  
 Jack HOLLAND  
 Ken KEARNEY  
 Harry MELVILLE

### Tries

Col RATCLIFF (3)  
 Arthur COLLINSON (2)  
 Jack FITZGERALD  
 Keith HOLMAN

Peter CARROLL  
 George JARDINE  
 Tommy RYAN  
 Billy WILSON

### Goals

Keith HOLMAN (5)

Noel PIDDING (9)

### Match Description

**St George:** Full-back: D Fleming; three-quarters: N Pidding, J Hawke (c), M McCoy, T Ryan; five-eighth: P Carroll; half: R Stanton; forwards: W Wilson, G Jardine, N Provan, J Holland, K Kearney, H Melville

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Rudd; three-quarters: W Callinan, C Ratcliffe, G Lowe, J Fitzgerald; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards: P McLean (c), D Schofield, A Collinson, W Horder, H Farrell, K Hansen   **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 12th April 1952)**

West Wyalong centre Colin Ratcliffe made a brilliant grade debut in Western Suburbs' win over St. George at Kogarah Oval. Ratcliffe made three tries in his team's thrilling 31-30 victory. Ratcliffe and fellow-centre Gerry Lowe of Tamworth, showed themselves class players by their efforts. Other highlights of the game were: \* Nine goals from 12 shots by Noel Pidding. \*Disagreement of touch judges on a Pidding kick which was ruled no goal late in the day. \*Surprising successful hooking by Harry Farrell, who held St. George star Ken Kearney to a 27-24 margin. \*Frequent opportunity for backs under the new rule. Ratcliffe strode through the St. George defence for his tries and was well served by Lowe. Touch judges twice disagreed on kicks for goal, referee Aub. Oxford allowing Holman a goal the first time. Wests had a solid pack with Collinson and Schofield, the second-rowers, as stars. ... **(The Sun 30th March 1952)**

Two decisions on goals by referee Aub Oxford yesterday cost St. George the Rugby League match against Western Suburbs. Both times the linesmen disagreed. Western Suburbs defeated St. George by 31 points to 30 at Kogarah Oval, after trailing 11-16 at half-time. Referee Oxford allowed a Western Suburbs goal by Holman when the score was 24-21 in Wests' favour. He disallowed a kick by Pidding when St. George trailed 28-31 a minute from the final bell. Pidding said later: "I thought the ball was inside the upright, but I never question decisions." St. George also missed a try two minutes from the end, Jardine dropping a simple pass a yard from the line. But Wests were the better side on the day, scoring seven tries to four. St. George failed because lock-forward W. Wilson could not counter Holman's moves, and the centres, Matt McCoy and Johnny Hawke, were slower than countrymen Jerry Lowe and Col Ratcliffe. The St. George forwards, too, allowed Peter McLean and Arthur Collinson to run long distances. Former West Wyalong centre Col Ratcliffe shared the match honours with Keith Holman. Ratcliffe scored three tries. Only one player has done better in his first-grade debut. He was Tony Nash, of Canterbury, who scored four tries. Fittingly, Ratcliffe scored the final West try. Ten minutes from the end each side had scored 26 points. Then Wests won a ball at half-way. Holman worked Ratcliff into position 15 yards from the line. Ratcliff cut past McCoy and was tackled high by Ryan five yards from the line. Ratcliff struggled out of the tackle and stumbled over. Ratcliff could be the find of the season. Wests coach Tom McMahon said: "A month ago I said Ratcliff could win a place in the team for England." That was an understatement. Ratcliff should now be a tour certainty." Holman was superb. He made the openings that provided West with four tries. ... **(The Daily Telegraph 30th March 1952)**

**Notes:** The first match of the season saw the debut of a number of players, most notably Col Ratcliff from West Wyalong and Gerry Lowe from Tamworth. Bill Callinan and Don Schofield were also strong, after good displays in the trials. Don Worne was injured in the trials and was replaced by Jack Rudd at full-back. St George, running with the wind, led 16-11 at half-time but Wests came back strongly to score a well-deserved win. There were two disallowed goals by the touch judges, one up, one down but Aub Oxford ruled Holman's goal was good but Pidding's had missed. Even so, most judges felt Wests were the better team with Keith Holman the star at half-back, while obviously Ratcliff and Lowe were dominant in the backs. The new play the ball rule seemed to make the game more open.