



# 1956 Round 10 Saturday 16th June Pratten Park



## Western Suburbs 22

def.

## Canterbury-Bankstown 8



Ray ALDRICH  
Fred DELANEY  
Harry WELLS  
Peter HARGREAVES  
Ernie HILLS  
Ian JOHNSTON  
Keith HOLMAN  
Nev CHARLTON  
Kel O'SHEA (c)  
Bill CARSON  
Mark PATCH  
Bede GOFF  
Bill OWENS

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

Fred DUNN  
Ernie GILLIGAN  
Cec COOPER  
Jim GARTNER  
Ray FREEBODY  
Col GEELAN (c)  
Johnny KELL  
Les McDERMOTT  
Albert PAUL  
Jack BOWMAN  
Kev O'CALLAGHAN  
Fred ANDERSON  
Jack WILLIAMS

**Tries** Peter HARGREAVES  
Ernie HILLS  
Keith HOLMAN  
Nev CHARLTON

**Goals** Keith HOLMAN (5) John KELL (4)

### Match Description

**Canterbury-Bankstown:** Full-back: F Dunn; three-quarters: R Freebody, C Geelan (c), J Gartner, P Lawson; five-eighth: R Thornton; half: J Kell; forwards: N Evans, J Bowman, A Paul, A Lynch, F Anderson, K O'Callaghan

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Aldrich; three-quarters: E Hills, P Hargreaves, H Wells, F Delaney; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: K Holman; forwards: N Charlton, W Carson, K O'Shea (c), M Patch, B Goff, W Owens **Referee: R O'Donnell (The Sun 16th June 1956)**

Uninspiring football marked Western Suburbs Rugby League team's win over Canterbury-Bankstown at Pratten Park yesterday. Wests won 22-8 after having trailed 3-6 at half-time. The game was ragged throughout, with play mainly confined to the forwards. Many attempts to open play by the backlines of both sides were stopped by bad handling. Tempers several times became frayed, and referee O'Donnell cautioned six players for fighting. When leading 6-3 after 20 minutes of play, Canterbury unfortunately lost the services of winger Ray Freebody. After being heavily tackled, Freebody was taken to Western Suburbs hospital with internal injury. This necessitated lock-forward Nick Evans being moved to the wing position. This naturally weakened Canterbury's defence around the scrum base. In addition the cover defence was missing. Aided by a strong wind during the second half, Wests quickly gained the ascendancy. Wests' captain, international half-back Keith Holman, gave a superb all-round display. He was the spear-head of all Wests' attacks, and his defence was excellent. His try in the first half was the highlight of the game. He backed up brilliantly to receive a pass from five-eighth Ian Johnston, and outpaced the opposition in a 50-yard dash. He also kicked five magnificent goals, after full-back Aldrich had missed four easy attempts. Wests' winger Ernie Hills, and five-eighth Ian Johnston were others who stood out in Wests' backline. **(Sunday Telegraph 17th June 1956)**

Displaying vastly improved form, particularly in attack, Wests' galaxy of League stars overran Canterbury-Bankstown yesterday to win 22-8 at Pratten Park. Canterbury were unfortunate to lose winger Roy Freebody late in the first half. He was injured in a tackle and taken to Western Suburbs Hospital. Spearhead of all Wests' attacking movements was Test half Keith Holman, who handled the ball twice to race 50 yards to score the first try, made the opening for another, and booted five goals after Aldrich had missed several sitters. Ian Johnston was a successful connecting link as stand-off half, making many penetrating runs besides tackling soundly. Peter Hargreaves and Ernie Hills, each of whom crossed for good tries were both nippy. Of Wests' mobile and energetic pack, Neville Charlton, Bill Carson and Mark Patch were an indefatigable trio. For Canterbury, Johnny Kell, Col Geelan and Jim Gartner were the most energetic and conspicuous in the rear-guard. **(Truth 17th June 1956)**

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**Notes:** Holman was back to his absolute best; tackling strongly, leading all the attacks and scoring a brilliant 50-yard try. Ian Johnston also played his best game of the season, setting up outside backs, Peter Hargreaves and Ernie Hills, who were both very penetrating. The handling, however, was sub-standard and there were lots of cautions handed out as well. This was now two wins in a row and a sniff of a semi-final chance, although remote.