



1931 Round 10 Saturday 18th July Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 18

def.

South Sydney 16

Richard DAVIS
 Alan RIDLEY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Harry OWEN
 Harry CAMERON
 Frank MATTERSON
 Charlie WRENCH
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN
 Bob LINDFIELD (c)
 Cecil RHODES

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

Albert SPILLANE
 Benny WEARING
 Pat MAHER (c)
 Jack WHY
 Jack MORRISON
 Jackie JONES
 Jim DEELEY
 Jim TAIT
 Fred CHAPLIN
 George TREWEEK
 Carl EGGAN
 Jack PETERSON
 Frank CURRAN

Tries

Alan RIDLEY (2)
 Ray MORRIS
 Bill BROGAN

Benny WEARING
 Jack MORRISON

Goals

Cliff PEARCE (2)
 Harry OWEN (1)

Benny WEARING (3)
 Jackie JONES (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, R. Davis; three-quarters, R. Morris, C. Pearce, K. Sherwood, A. Ridley; halves, H. Owen. H. Cameron: forwards, F. Matterson, C. Cornwell, C. Wrench, W. Brogan. C. Rhodes, R. Lindfield

South Sydney: Full-back, A. Spillane; three-quarters, B. Wearing, J. Morrison, P. Maher, J. Why; halves, J. Jones, J. Tait, J. Deeley; forwards, O. Treweeke, F. Curran, F. Chaplin, E. Eggen, J. Peterson. **Referee, C. McGrath.**

South Sydney kicked off and were quickly awarded a free, but gained a little advantage. Play was confined to mid-field for a time, until Souths broke away when Trewweek got the ball. From another free Wearing made no mistake. Souths 2, Wests nil. Wests came with a rush, but the attack stopped when Lindfield was tackled hard on the line, and had to receive ambulance attention. Later Wests were given a free for off-side, and Owen brought the scores level with a good kick. Wests 2, Souths 2. Ridley broke away, and went down the wing fast to score near the corner. Cornwell missed the goal. Wests 5. Souths 2. Souths were given a free on Wests' 25 for a scrum infringement, but Wearing was wide with his kick. Play was in Wests' 25 for some time, but Souths could not penetrate the solid defence. Sherwood was playing a great game, his kicking being a feature of the match. Souths got another free inside Wests' 25, and Wearing made no mistake this time. Wests 5. Souths 4. Souths were having by far the best of the game, but could get any advantage. A free gave Wearing another chance for the goal points, but he failed. Wearing scored a good try for Souths from a breakaway. He got the ball from Deeley and went through on his own. A well-timed punt down the field, which he followed up, put him in a scoring position. He added the goal, making the scores South Sydney 9. Western Suburbs 6. Half-time scores:—South Sydney, 9. Western Suburbs. 5. **(The Sun 18th July 1931)**

When play was resumed after half time there was a distinct change in the play. Wests came down the field with a rush, and Brogan dropped on to the ball to score. There was no holding the Western Suburbs men after that. Ridley and Pearce came into the picture and dominated the play. Brogan was a tower of strength. His play from the back of the scrum was excellent. He was always on the ball, and his passing, if not spectacular, was sure. With the scores at 18-16, and a minute to go, Souths three-quarters got going. They should have scored a try, but Why, running down the wing, muffed a pass from Morrison, and the chance of an easy try and a possible goal was missed. Why is not to be blamed. He had only one hand with which to catch the ball, which was thrown awkwardly. **(The Sun 19th July 1931)**

Although it might not be generally known, Wests' First Grade has not fielded the same thirteen on successive Saturdays this season, the state of affairs has been brought about mainly through injuries making vacancies and the gaps that had to be filled while the State team was absent in Queensland. **(Rugby League News 1st August 1931)**

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Notes: Ray Morris was back in this match as was Harry Owen who went into the five-eighth position but switched to his usual half position in the second half. Bob Lindfield very deservedly took up the captaincy. Alan Ridley was playing on his 21st birthday and predictably scored two tries. This was a high grade game where Wests exploded in the second half. They were led in the forwards by Bill Brogan, who proved a tower of strength, although he was injured late in the match. The effect of injuries on the performance of Wests was highlighted in the Rugby League News article. They just were not able to have the stability of the 1930 team and it was to their great credit they were coming second on the table. The previously undefeated Eastern Suburbs went down to St George 17-15, eerily similar to Wests winning their first nine matches in 1930 and then suffering defeat.