

St George 22 def. Western Suburbs 5 Fullback **Doug FLEMING George BAIN** Lance FITZGERALD Jack FITZGERALD Wing Tom RYAN Centre Gerry LOWE Centre Alan STAUNTON Col RATCLIFF **Bill CALLINAN** Ross KITE Wing Johnny HAWKE (c) Five-eighth Frank STANMORE Pat CARROLL Half Leo TREVENA **Billy WILSON** Lock Peter McLEAN (c) Norm PROVAN Second Row **Ron WATSON** Barry PASSFIELD Second Row Arthur COLLINSON Jack HOLLAND Front Row **Kevin HANSEN** Ken KEARNEY Hooker Hec FARRELL **Robert BOWER** Front Row **Bill HORDER** Col RATCLIFF Tries Ross KITE **Bill WILSON** Alan STAUNTON Tom RYAN Norm PROVAN Barry PASSFIELD Goals Doug FLEMING (2) George BAIN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: W Callinan, C Ratcliffe, G Lowe, J Fitzgerald; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: L Trevena; forwards: P McLean (c), R Watson, A Collinson, W Horder, H Farrell, K Hansen St George: Full-back: D Fleming; three-quarters: L Fitzgerald, T Ryan, R Kite, A Staunton; five-eighth: J Hawke (capt); half: P Carroll; forwards: W Wilson, N Provan, B Passfield, J Holland, K Kearney, R Bower Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 12th July 1952)

Three forwards were sent off in a stirring Rugby League game between St. George and Western Suburbs at Pratten Park yesterday. They are Arthur Collinson (West. Subs), R. Watson (West. Subs) and Ken Kearney (St. George). Collinson had been cautioned twice early in the game. Kearney, who had won 19 scrums to seven for St. George, was ordered off after a skirmish with Farrell. In the second half cautions were frequent and Watson was sent off. St. George, much too speedy throughout, won 22 to 5. It was Wests' first defeat of the season. Star of the game was Johnny Hawke (St. George). He used the short kick cleverly when Wests' inside backs stood close. Late in the second half he made a try for Passfield when he edged his way around the blind side. Stanmore was "starved" right through the first half but defended dourly. Ryan and Staunton gave good displays in the centre. Hansen gave a great display for Wests in the second half. Horder, McLean and Watson gave him grand support. One incident late in the second half caused a stir; Staunton made a long run down the centre before sending to Ryan, who flashed across in the corner. He lost the ball over the line and referee Bishop ruled it no try. Full-backs Bain and Fleming had many kicking duels, with Fleming always on top. Wilson was always prominent in the St. George attack and, with Holland and Provan, revelled in hard play. **(The Sun 22nd June 1952)**

.... Hawke was the best player on the field. He brilliantly outplayed his opposing international five-eighth, Frank Stanmore. Ryan and Staunton, ably served by Hawke, were always dangerous in possession, and defended excellently. With St. George getting the greater share of the ball, Wilson broke through consistently, and put his three-quarters on the attack. For 30 minutes in the first half, play was in West's territory. St. George won the scrums, 21-11. Until Kearney was sent off, it was 19-7 in St. George's favour. St. George at one time won 13 successive scrums before Wests won one. In the second half Wests won the scrums, 18-5, using only three men in the pack after Watson had been sent off. At this stage St. George had only four in the pack. St. George second-row forward Bob Bower had taken Kearney's place as hooker. In spite of this scrum advantage and the wind in its favour, Wests missed the skill of international scrum-half Keith Holman. ... Centre Col Ratcliff scored Wests' only try after he had gathered a loose ball from a ruck 30 yards out. He outpaced his opponents and scored in the corner. In the last 14 minutes of play St. George scored three tries. **(The Daily Telegraph 22nd June 1952)**

Notes: This was a roughhouse match where three players were sent off; Arthur Collinson and Ron Watson for Wests and Ken Kearney for St George, while three other Wests players were cautioned. Hec Farrell was laid out in a scrum and duly lost the scrums heavily in the first half. Kevin Hansen came back to top form but the speedy St George backs got on top with a glut of possession and 12 men to 11 in the second half. Keith Holman was sorely missed as a buffer against the brilliant Johnny Hawke.

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