

1950 Round 11 Saturday 24th June Cricket Ground

Balmain 4 def. Western Suburbs 3

W KELLY **Fullback** Robert LULHAM (c) Wing Joe JORGENSON Centre Centre Harold GWYER Leo NOSWORTHY Wing Tom LAWLER Bruce HOPKINS Half John CAMPBELL Lock Bill MARSH Sid RYAN Fred FAYERS Ken FOGARTY Hooker Tom TYRRELL Front Row

BILL KEATO Jack WALL **Bob DIMOND** Jack WOODS Jack LACKEY Five-eighth **Dev DINES** Leo TREVENA Peter McLEAN (c) Second Row **Kevin HANSEN** Second Row Don MILTON Front Row **Brian BEGER** Alan HORNERY Bill HORDER

A N (c)

Tries

Jack WALL

Goals

Joe JORGENSON (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: W Kelly: three-quarters: R Lulham (c), J Jorgenson, L Nosworthy, H Gwyer; five-eighth: T Lawler, half: B Hopkins; forwards; J Campbell, S Ryan, W Marsh, F Fayers, K Fogarty, T Tyrrell

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: J Wall, J Woods, R Dimond, J Lackey; five-eighth: D Dines; Half: L Trevena; forwards: P McLean(c), K Hansen, D Milton, W Horder, A Hornery, B Beger Referee: J O'Brien (Rugby League News 15th July 1950)

A miracle kick from a mud heap 35 yards out, yesterday gave Balmain a last-minute win 4-3 against Western Suburbs in the League match at the Cricket Ground. Jorgenson kicked the goal, a superb effort under the conditions, but some of the credit should go to the quick thinking of front row forward Fayers. As soon as it was decided that the kick at goal should be attempted, Fayers scooped a "runway" from the slush, and enabled Jorgenson to get a firm footing for his run-up. It was a dramatic ending to a match played under wretched conditions and which inevitably was dullened by scrambles in the mud for an elusive ball. Balmain, down 2-3 at-half time, attacked for the greater part of the second half, but the difficulty in holding the ball and the fine defence of Wests, prevented it from scoring. The game was dying when Wests forward Beger was penalised for diving on the ball in a ruck. Lulham, the Balmain captain, and Jorgenson, went into a conference and it was decided the latter should attempt what looked like an impossible shot at goal instead of punting high. The kick never looked like missing. Just as the linesmen signalled the goal the final bell rang and the Balmain hoodoo over West was still maintained. Although Wests scored the only try of the game, Balmain would have been unlucky to lose, as its play was generally the more constructive and in the second half the team was rarely off the attack. The fine cover defence of West lock forward McLean and the sound tackling of centres Dimond and Woods, helped break up many dangerous Balmain attacks. ... The Wests' try was a good one. Wall made a smart dash along the right wing and kicked over full-back Kelly's head. Although he was interfered with, Wall managed to kick the ball across the line and dived on it. Balmain's first penalty goal 'was scored in the first half, after a West forward had stupidly infringed in a play-the-ball movement near the West line. The goal was easy for Jorgenson. The Cricket Ground was inches deep in mud, more than 75 per cent of the playing area, and players frequently had to wash the mud out of their eyes before they could continue. ... There wasn't much between the packs, which slogged it out well. Campbell's cover defence was good and the others toiled in muddy anonymity. Wests was without its star combination, Holman and Stanmore, behind the scrum, but Trevena and Dines did well and are both players of promise. The latter erred in standing too far from Trevena and made things hard for himself, but he showed plenty of resource and intelligence. Centres Dimond and Woods are fine defenders and the former is getting back to the form that made him a Kangaroo tourist. There were 11,535 people whose enthusiasm was enough to take them from a fire for the afternoon, and at least they got a thrilling finish. They were vocal about it, too. (The Sun 25th June 1950)

The constant rain has caused untold damage to the various ovals, and their condition is such that it is practically impossible to play anything like the football our patrons have been used to, but we would like to thank all those people who have come to our games each Saturday notwithstanding the terrible conditions they also have to endure. (Rugby League News 1st July 1950)

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Notes: The conditions were again atrocious, with the Cricket Ground a complete mud heap. Stanmore and Holman were again out, playing for NSW v Qld, and Dines and Trevena again combined as halves. Jack Wall scored an excellent team try, all the better because of the conditions. Brian Beger, after playing 47 lower grade games made a good debut. The game, however, was decided in the last thirty seconds. Beger gave away a penalty for falling on the ball in a slushy part of the field. Fred Fayers used his hands to make a track and others gathered mud to build a tee and Joe Jorgenson kicked one of the best goals ever seen at the SCG. He was chaired from the field to the chagrin of an unlucky Wests.