



1931 Round 12 Saturday 1st August Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 13

def.

South Sydney 12

Bill RYAN
 Alan BRADY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Alan RIDLEY
 Harry CAMERON
 Harry OWEN
 Frank MATTERSON
 Charlie WRENCH
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Bert GREEN

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

Billy HONG
 Hilton DELANEY
 Jack LYNCH
 Dave BROWN
 Fred TOTTEY
 Ernie NORMAN
 Norm POPE (c)
 Les ROGERS
 Joe PEARCE
 Max NIXON
 Perc ATKINSON
 Dick BROWN
 Ray STEHR

Tries

Alan RIDLEY
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ken SHERWOOD

Fred TOTTEY (2)

Goals

Charlie CORNWELL (1)
 Harry OWEN (1)

Jack LYNCH (2)
 Dave BROWN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, W Ryan; three-quarters, A Ridley, K Sherwood, C Pearce, A Brady; halves, H Cameron, H Owen; forwards, F Matterson, C Wrench, C Cornwell, W Brogan (capt), B Green, R Lindfield

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back, W Hong; three-quarters, F Totty, D Brown, J Lynch, H Delaney; halves, E Norman, N Pope(capt); forwards, L Rogers, S Pearce, M Nixon, P Atkinson, R Brown, R Stehr **Referee L Deane (Rugby League News 8th August 1931)**

The game was memorable because of the many exciting incidents, the fierceness of the tackling, and the sensational finish, Cornwell kicking the winning goal when only a few minutes were left for play. Eastern Suburbs had effected a fine recovery in the second half, but the winners were actually the better side and deserved the success. They were plentifully supplied with the ball from the scrums, and that was a great advantage. It was in the first half that Western Suburbs superiority was pronounced, although they led at the interval by only six points to two. Western Suburbs did most of the attacking. Two tries were scored, the first by the alert centre, Sherwood, after the left winger, Brady, had kicked, and the second by the other winger, Ridley, who finished a passing burst by pushing off Delaney, and crossing in the right corner. Western Suburbs' forwards prevailed in the scrums by a big margin, and the side exerted every effort to break through, Pearce and Sherwood, in the centre, often troubling the defence. Only the superior speed of the Eastern Suburbs men stopped further tries. Several times Brady appeared dangerous, but he could not get through. On top of the stubborn defence there was a lack of success by Western Suburbs' goal-kickers, although Owen once had bad luck, the ball striking a post and dropping back. In the first half Eastern Suburbs had been favoured by the light breeze from the eastern end, but in continued hard play Wests were nearly always the dangerous team. Then, when they scored a try which was converted, following a second scrum in the second half, they led by 11points to two. and appeared to have the game in their keeping, Cameron and Pearce were responsible for the try, the five-eighth hesitating and then shooting through, and Pearce breaking free from a tackle and forcing his way across near the posts, for Owen to goal. It seemed that Eastern Suburbs would be easily beaten, but now they rallied, and, although Owen twice cleared his line after scrums, penalties helped the attackers, and eventually Pope went round the "blind" side of a scrum and the right winger, Totty, scored in the corner. D. Brown kicking a remarkable goal. Soon after the turn of events became sensational, for again Totty scored, diving determinedly after Rogers had passed the ball, and when Lynch goaled Eastern Suburbs led by 12 points to 11. Spells of thrilling up-and down play followed, with Wests' back not handling as safely as in the first half, but at last came that winning goal from the boot of Cornwell, after which Western Suburbs just missed scoring another try. The play was terrifically hard, and there had been many stoppages while injured players received attention. Fortunately for Western Suburbs, Brogan's injured ankle did not prevent him from playing, and the front row forwards played a great part, continually opening up the play in characteristic fashion. Pearce many times broke through in the centre, and Cameron was cool and resourceful. Matterson was a smart forward back, and the full-back, Ryan, was always eager to place his men on the attack. Eastern Suburbs, beaten in the scrums, had a torrid time in defence, and but for the speed of the backs the winning margin must have been greater. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 3rd August 1931)**

Notes: Alan Brady was promoted from Seconds and was a star on the day. Harry Cameron suffered a back injury, putting him out of the match against Group 9 which was to be played on Monday. Bob Lindfield was again dominant in the scrums, giving Wests a slight edge in a thrilling, tough match where there were many injuries. Charlie Cornwell was the hero, landing the winning goal from near half-way after six shots were missed in the second half.