



1948 Round 12 Saturday 10th July Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 18

def.

South Sydney 17

Bill KEATO
 Pat LEAL
 Lindsay RODDA
 Eric BENNETT
 Jack LACKEY
 Frank STANMORE
 Neville HOGAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Bernie PURCELL
 Don MILTON
 Jack WALSH (c)
 William BROWN
 Jim SEERY

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

Clive CHURCHILL
 John GRAVES
 Barry REDDING
 Howard HALLETT Jnr
 Len ALLMOND
 Jimmy O'CONNOR
 Ken BROGAN
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Denis DONOGHUE
 Bruce DEVLIN
 Keith AITKEN
 Bill COLLINS

Tries

Pat LEAL (2)
 Eric BENNETT
 Don MILTON

Len ALLMOND (2)
 Denis DONOGHUE

Goals

Bill KEATO (3)

Johnny GRAVES (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: J Lackey, L Rodda, E Bennett, P Leal; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards: P McLean, B Purcell, D Milton, J Seery, W Brown, J Walsh

South Sydney: Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: J Graves, B Redding, H Hallett, L Allmond; five-eighth: J O'Connor; half: K Brogan; forwards: L Cowie, J Rayner (c), D Donoghue, B Devlin, K Aitken, W Collins **Referee: J O'Brien (Rugby League News 31st July 1948)**

Jack Walsh, captain of Western Suburbs Rugby League team, played at the SCG, yesterday, when his club beat South Sydney 18-17, with a septic abrasion on his right leg. Walsh will not play next week, Western Suburbs deciding to rest him for a week. Yesterday, Walsh played a tough game, with crashing runs, moving often with the backs. South Sydney could have won when Barry Redding missed a try by a fraction late in the second half. Western Suburbs forwards were given far too many liberties, and Wests' five-eighth, Frank Stanmore, permitted to stand wide and play too many tricks on the open and blind sides. One of the most effective pieces of football was South Sydney centre, Howard Hallett's incessant tackling of Eric Bennett, quietening the master-mind of Western Suburbs victory last week over Canterbury-Bankstown. Souths took a drubbing in the scrums, losing the ball by a margin of 33-18, and lost it in the loose rucks as well. Western Suburbs winger, Pat Leal, gave a great display, his mighty charges at Johnny Graves being an entertaining diversion for the crowd. South Sydney winger, Len Allmond, was effective with his straight running. Soon after the opening of the second half, Souths had an unlucky break when Bruce Devlin was across the Western Suburbs line, but the ball squirmed from his hands. It was a game of mobility, with speed, variation of play and backing up by both sides. South Sydney tightened its play in the second half, but too late. Len Cowie, in the lock position, and Clive Churchill, at full-back, stopped many dangerous Western Suburbs thrusts with their tackles. But Western Suburbs merited its win, with full use of the big service of the ball. In the opening minutes, Souths looked as if it might be too nippy for the bigger Western Suburbs runners, but a sudden try, clinched by Leal, with four men handling before him, was the prelude to Western Suburbs building to a 13-4 lead at half-time. It was just too big a start. **(The Sun 11th July 1948)**

..... Here are the facts. Every try that was scored in the game, and there were seven of them, was preceded by such shockingly weak tackling that it would not have knocked a chop off a plate. .. Pat Leal, Wests' winger, simply ploughed through Australia's full-back Clive Churchill, to score two tries. Churchill's attempts to stop the burly winger brought a lump in the throats of the crowd as Leal simply brushed him aside like an annoying fly. Churchill's tackling was unfortunate, for he otherwise ran and kicked for position brilliantly. Then the other Kangaroo - South's star winger - Johnny Graves. He was not worth a bumper yesterday, and was totally eclipsed by his opponent Leal who ran through his tackles with the ease of a crushing machine on the road. Best player on the ground was West's captain, Jack Walsh, both in attack and defence. He played under great distress for his shin bone was heavily bandaged to protect a septic ulcer. He will be unable to play next week. Rodda, Leal, Bennett and Lackey were too fast and resourceful for Souths, Keato was uncertain. Nobody played an outstanding game for South Sydney, but nobody did worse than at least three of the Kangaroos, Churchill, Graves and Cowie. **(Truth 11th July 1948)**

Notes: This was a very fast, open game after the Wests' forwards set the platform. Jack Walsh, playing with a septic leg, led the charges through the rucks and Bill Brown won the scrums 31-18 to set the backs going. There were four Kangaroos, Churchill, Graves, Cowie and Raynor in the Souths side and Wests were without Col Maxwell but Pat Leal dented two of their reputations. He played all over the legendary Johnny Graves and in both of his tries he ran straight through Churchill. Don Milton dislocated a finger and both sides missed tries in the last ten minutes.