



1952 Round 12 Saturday 5th July Leichhardt Oval



Western Suburbs 10

def.

Balmain 8

George BAIN
 Bill CALLINAN
 Col RATCLIFFE
 Gerry LOWE
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Dudley BEGER
 Leo TREVENA
 Keith CULLEN
 Ron WATSON
 Don SCHOFIELD
 Bill HORDER
 Bede GOFF
 Kevin HANSEN (c)

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

Jack SCANLON
 Alf ROACH
 Jack FIFIELD
 Joe JORGENSON
 Bob LULHAM
 Leo NOSWORTHY
 Stan PONCHARD (c)
 Roy DYKES
 Bill MARSH
 Pat HYDE
 Jim THOMSON
 Neville WATT
 Jack WILLIAMS

Tries

Bill CALLINAN
 Gerry LOWE

Jack FIFIELD
 Bob LULHAM

Goals

George BAIN (2)

Joe JORGENSON (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: J Scanlon; three-quarters: A Roach, J Fifiel, J Jorgenson, R Lulham; five-eighth: L Nosworthy; half: S Ponchard (c); forwards: R Dykes, W Marsh, P Hyde, J Williams, N Watt, J Thomson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: W Callinan, C Ratcliffe, G Lowe, J Fitzgerald; five-eighth: D Beger; half: L Trevena; forwards: K Cullen, D Schofield, R Watson, W Horder, B Goff, K Hansen **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 26th July 1952)**

Down 10-8 against Western Suburbs at Leichhardt yesterday, Balmain League captain Des Ponchard tried for a field goal after the bell in an effort to snatch a draw. Ponchard's kick was straight enough but went well under the bar, and Wests held the competition lead. Balmain had many chances in the second half, when Wests could not improve their half-time score. Late in the day Balmain played without a full-back, Jack Scanlon standing up in the three-quarter line in an effort to make the extra man. He had a strong wind behind him and with Wests not kicking his tactics were justified. In the final minute Balmain looked like pulling the game out of the fire when Ponchard, Nosworthy, Fifiel and Jorgenson whipped the ball across to young winger Alf Roach. Roach, went for the corner, beating George Bain's tackle and Balmain fans, roared with delight as he dived over. Roach, however, had been pushed slightly off balance by Bain and had trodden on the touch-line. A few minutes earlier the ball had come to Roach in similar circumstances and Bain had stopped him with a great tackle on the 25. Balmain did most of the attacking in the second half after Wests had led 10-2 -at half-time. Balmain won a fair share of the scrums and Wests had to defend hard. Apart from Ponchard, however, none of the Balmain backs looked likely to penetrate, and Wests' tackling was sound enough. Ponchard was the sharpest attacking player on the field, but bad handling farther out from the scrum off-set much of his smart work. In the first half a try seemed certain when Ponchard burst away from a scrum, but Jorgenson failed to take his pass. Lowe ran hard along touch for the first try and the second Wests' try was particularly well executed. Half-back Trevena, who made a most capable substitute for Holman, broke away, on the blind side of a scrum near touch at half-way. He flicked a pass to Callinan as the winger moved inside him and Callinan stepped past Scanlon to go on and score. Two fine goals by Bain provided Wests with the winning margin as Jorgenson goaled only once for Balmain. Jorgenson's successful kick was from a yard inside half-way and with the wind. **(The Sun 6th July 1952)**

A weakened Western Suburbs survived a spirited second half attack by Balmain to win 10-8 and retain the premiership lead in the match at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. Wests were weakened by the loss of six of its first grade players. Wests had gained a quick 10-0 lead in the opening stages and led 10-3 at half-time. Wests' centre Gerry Lowe scored a quick try soon after the start with a 30 yard lone run down the sideline. Winger Bill Callinan followed up soon after to score from an opening made by replacement half-back Trevena. Full-back George Bain converted both the tries. Veteran centre and goal-kicker Joe Jorgenson had a chance to pull the game out for Balmain with his goal-kicking, but was troubled by the wind. He kicked only one of eight attempts at goal throughout the game. Twice in the last 10 minutes the Balmain winger Alf Roach almost went over as Balmain trailed 10-8 and seemed likely to draw or win. **(The Sunday Herald 6th July 1952)**

Notes: Wests had a significantly reshuffled side for this match. Peter McLean was out with an injured back sustained at the SCG when he was thrown onto a steel spike! Holman, Stanmore and Collinson were picked for the Kangaroos and so were not allowed to play, being replaced by Dudley Beger, Leo Trevena and Ron Watson. Bede Goff also came in for the injured Hec Farrell who was sidelined for three weeks. In the circumstances, this was a very good win and meant Wests led the Premiership outright. They led 10-3 at half-time and tackled ferociously in the second half when playing against a gale. Both Wests' tries were scored from half-way. Balmain pounded the line and had chances in the last ten minutes but Wests held on grimly.